

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

August 2011

Query: Do you strive to develop your physical, emotional, and intellectual capacities? Do you care for your body as a vessel of the Spirit? Do you choose recreations that will renew your physical, emotional, and intellectual abilities?
SAYMA Faith and Practice

The Future of Quakers in Britain: Holding Spaces for the Spirit to Act by Linda Murgatroyd

Editors note: Mike Mykel sent this essay as one of the winners of an essay contest which can be found complete at <http://www.thefriend.co.uk/fq/> I thought her reasons for writing were significant for AFM (Note some interesting spelling. Now I know what my British origins mean for my problems with spelling.)

Prologue: How I came to write this essay

When I heard about a competition for an essay about the future of the Religious Society of Friends in Britain, my first reaction was a mild curiosity. I would be interested to see what people might say, but no more. Yet somehow the issue took hold of me. I realised that some of the things I have been dwelling on recently seemed surprisingly relevant to the topic and I began to see this competition as a timely opportunity to re-inspire British Quakers. I realised I had been assuming that the Society would continue in something like its present form, perhaps changing slowly over the years, and that this assumption might have been a mistake. Indeed there are some big challenges ahead. I began to discern that I felt called to explore the question more seriously myself, in case I had a contribution to make.

This has been a challenging process: not just the work of researching and writing, but also the implications of bringing some big issues into the Light which had been lying in wait for me in the shadows. So I am grateful to those organising this competition for the challenge, and for what I have learned; my own thinking has developed considerably as a result. Two questions follow. The first was to discern whether to share my writing and with whom. I have little doubt that others are more erudite and visionary than me, but perhaps some of my insights or images may be of value to others, so I offer this in that spirit.

The bigger challenge remains; trying to live up to the light that has been given me. My experience of the Quaker Way is encouraging; it offers a way to address big issues, as well as bringing energy and healing, comfort, friendship and joy. I hope that future generations will be able to find similar succour and from a strong and welcoming Quaker community, living joyfully and adventurously under the guidance of the Spirit.

Contents I Why British Quakers Matter II A changing World: Our Place in Creation; The British context

III Challenges and Opportunities: Diverse Beliefs; The demands of Quakerism; Looking Ahead

IV Addressing the Challenges: Acting from the Spirit; The role of our community; Holding spaces; Expressing our faith; Attention to young people; Working with our neighbours; Continuing review and reflection

Announcements

New Newsletter Editor

Perry Treadwell will retire as newsletter editor at the end of this year. If you would like to have the control/pleasure of editing the AFM Newsletter ask Perry what it entails and tell the Nominating Committee. In retiring, I wonder if the newsletter has outlived its purpose now that the weekly announcement sheet is so extensive. I have modified the format to shorten the number of pages and decrease the duplication with the weekly announcements. Ed

Support for Friends School New High School

Friends,

I hope this message finds you enjoying your summer. I am writing this letter to let you know about a project that is near and dear to my heart; the launching of a Quaker High School in Atlanta.

Early this summer the Friends School of Atlanta Board of Trustees approved the addition of a High School program to FSA's existing K-8 school. Now the biggest hurdle is raising funds. To that end, I have written and self-published a novel, *Love Like a Hurricane*. I have designated 80% of all book profits for the funding of the High School. This fictional adult novel is currently available on line through Lulu publishing and as a Kindle download through Amazon.

http://www.amazon.com/LOVE-LIKE-A-HURRICANE-ebook/dp/B00571L6Z0/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&m=AG56TWVU5XWC2&s=books&qid=1309195006&sr=1-2

<http://www.lulu.com/product/paperback/love-like-a-hurricane/16128960>

Please consider supporting FSA's mission by helping to support this book. The most direct way that you can help is to buy the book. If you like what you read, please consider spreading the word through e-mail lists, Facebook, word-of-mouth, book-clubs, etc.

Posting a review on Amazon would be a tremendous help as well. Ultimately, I am hoping to generate enough interest in the book to attract a publishing house. Any and all help towards that goal would be much appreciated. Thank-you sincerely, Maggie Hasbrouck maggiehasbrouck@mac.com

Gathered Meeting Retreat

The Gathered Meeting Retreat Committee would like to request a favor. We are in the process of evaluating the way we do retreats at Meeting, with the purpose of trying to fill the needs of as many of us as possible. Toward this aim, we are asking that you spend a few minutes asking the question, "What would your ideal retreat be?"

We are trying to see if the meeting prefers the retreat to be a more spiritual/deep experience or a time where we focus more on getting to know one another. We are also open to other ideas on how you think a retreat should be. Also, we recognize that the Gathered Meeting Retreat has not included children because we used to have the family retreat in the fall. As the family retreat has not been happening, we are trying to see if we need to change the format for the Gathered Meeting Retreat.

Any feedback you could give us would be greatly appreciated. Gathered Retreat Committee

Movie Night in August will feature "King of Hearts". This very popular comedy from the late 1960s ultimately poses some questions about waging war and peace. It is set during the latter part of World War I, when Private Charles Plumpick (Alan Bates) is chosen to go into the French town of Marville and disconnect a bomb that the German army has planted. Several in our Meeting consider this their favorite movie of all time! Unrated.

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| Clerk of the Meeting Georgia Lord | Treasurer Peter Sederberg 404-968-9309 | Ministry & Worship Bill Hölland 404-692-2358 | 404-797-1677 John Roberts |
| Assistant Clerk of the Mtg Bill Holland 404-692-2358 | Finance Paul Mangelsdorf 770-677-4280 | Religious Education Mary Jahntz 404-627-7699 | Office Coordinator Jonah McDonald |
| Recording Clerk Caroline Noyes 770-452-0736 | Care & Counsel Lora Norlin 404-7623540 | Newsletter Editor Perry Treadwell | Friend in Residence John Roberts 917-902-3719 |
| | | Social Concerns Al Natanagara | Web Master Aaron Ruscotta arxaaron@gmail.com |

Atlanta Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Seventh Month 17, 2011
Recorded Pending Approval

Georgia Lord presented the 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)

In Attendance were: Micheal Allison, Mark Bryans, Steve Collins, Herb Edwards, Betsy Eggers, Julia Ewen, Jenny Foster, Nina Gooch, Roland Heath, Kathy Johnson, Lynn Leuszler, Paul Mangelsdorf, Susan May, Karen terHorst Morris, Ronald Nuse, Terri O’Neil, Priscilla Padron, John Roberts, Marthajane Robinson, Beth Ruddiman, Aaron Ruscetta, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Henry Slack, Joan Thompson, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Caroline Noyes (Recording Clerk), Georgia Lord (Clerk), (29 Friends).

Ministry & Worship: on behalf of Ministry & Worship, Steve Collins brought forth the recommendation that Atlanta Friends Meeting support the request of Pete and Renda McCaughan to transfer their membership to Wilton Meeting in Wilton, Connecticut.

Minute 07-17-01: Pete and Renda McCaughan have been valuable members of Atlanta Friends Meeting and deeply shared their lives and gifts with the Meeting in many capacities during their time with us. We are pleased they have found a new Meeting and commend their membership to the tender care of Wilton Meeting. On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, we approve certificates of transfer for the memberships of Peter McCaughan and Renda McCaughan to Wilton Monthly Meeting in Wilton, Connecticut.

Religious Education: Mary Jahntz reported that the planning session for 2011-2012 was held in June, and the curricular emphasis will be on the Old Testament, while the theme will be “Trusting God’s Voice: Growing and Acting in the Light.” The theme and study of the Old Testament will help young friends connect stories in the Old Testament to the community at large. John Adams will lead Conscientious Objector training for middle school students once a month. Friends are encouraged to volunteer for teaching and/or door keeping roles once a month (training will be provided).

Ferguson Cabin: Joan Thompson reported that the new cabin now has walls and a partially completed roof covering the sleeping loft. The next work weekend is likely to be held in September. The new cabin has a loft that will accommodate up to 3-4 people. The new toilet in this cabin is non-functioning as a result of clay in the main line. The cause is being investigated and a solution developed. Construction is coming in on budget, but additional fundraising will be needed. The Women’s Weekend at the Cabin is scheduled for August 4-8.

Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns: Nina Gooch asked the Meeting’s approval to march under the Atlanta Friends Meeting banner in the 2011 Gay Pride Parade. If Oakhurst Baptist Church again produces fans listing area congregations that are welcoming to LGBTQ worshipers, Nina will try to get Atlanta Friends Meeting listed.

Minute 07-19-02: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves FLGBTQC’s request to march under the Atlanta Friends Meeting banner in the October 2011 Atlanta Pride Parade.

Social Concerns: On behalf of the Social Concerns Committee, Bert Skellie reported that Atlanta Friends Meeting has the opportunity to be a sponsor of the 'Windows and Mirrors' exhibit presented by American Friends Service Committee at the AFSC Georgia Peace Center from August 25 – September 21. Christina Repoley is the point person.

Minute 07-19-03: Atlanta Friends Meeting will serve as a sponsor for the American Friends Service Committee exhibit "Windows and Mirrors."

Nominating: Steve Collins brought forth for final approval Alison Mawle as clerk of the Religious Education Committee. Religious Education teachers will be brought for approval next month, following successful background checks.

Minute 07-19-03: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Alison Mawle as Clerk of the Religious Education Committee.

Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf provided the Treasurer's report. At the end of the second quarter, we are running a deficit of only \$3458. Contributions received in 2011 to date (\$42,191) equal 35% of this year's budget while total income received so far (\$59,574) equal 42% of the budget. With most expenses coming in slightly on the lower side, expenses (\$63,032) represent 44% of the budget half-way through the year.

A concern was brought to Finance from the Administration Committee regarding Atlanta Friends Meeting's custodian Joe Clay who has worked at the Meetinghouse 3-4 times/week for the past 11 years. He is approaching his 81st birthday and is nearing retirement. The Meeting has never had an employee retire before, and because all paid employees are employed part-time, does not provide retirement benefits. The Finance Committee proposes establishing a ministry for Joe that incorporates five elements, including a) a retirement care fund of \$5,000; b) administration of the retirement care fund; c) establishment of a care committee to provide supportive care through 2011; d) retirement at the end of 2011; and e) a reduction in hours through the end of 2011 to facilitate an orderly transition to a new custodian. Approval for the proposal will be sought in Eighth Month. Questions about the situation or proposal should be directed to Paul Mangelsdorf or Karen Morris.

Clerk's Items: Georgia Lord encourages Friends to recognize the richness of Quaker business process and actively use this process in their committees. The Clerk will host a forum on August 28th on ways in which AFM welcomes and recognize births, adoptions, and new young friends to the Meeting.

Approval of Minutes of Sixth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business: Approval of the minutes for Sixth Month will be held over until Eighth Month.

Announcements: Perry Treadwell is retiring at the end of the year as editor of the newsletter. He raises the question of whether the newsletter is still needed. John Roberts reported that Atlanta Friends Meeting has received correspondence requesting the Meeting to serve as a sanctuary. Social Concerns will be taking up the issue in coming weeks, and Friends involved in earlier discussion regarding sanctuary status of the Meeting are encouraged to participate in these discussions.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

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

Calender for 8th 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.

Friends School of Atlanta, Fridays, 8:45 am, Community Meeting Room, beginning the 2nd week of August, ending the last week of May. 862 Columbia Dr., Decatur, GA 30030; 404-373-8746; www.friendsschoolatlanta.org

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

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.

“In three hundred minutes there are five hours, and he that improperly detains three hundred people one minute, besides other evils that attend it, does an injury like that of imprisoning one man five hours without cause.” John Woolman’s Journal

Atlanta Friends Meeting
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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@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. 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