

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

September 2011

Query: Do you regularly seek God's guidance? Are you open to guidance and support and do you give thanks for them? Do you share your spiritual insights with others and willingly receive from them in turn?
Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run

Transforming Service, Living Faith: Introducing Quaker Voluntary Service

By Christina Repoley

Imagine with me a time in the not-so-distant future when a young Quaker is graduating from college and discerning what to do with her life. She knows she wants to make an impact in the world and she knows she wants to seek opportunities to be transformed herself. Imagine that she knows many others who have done a year of service in a Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) community. She knows this means the opportunity to live together with others, to work for justice and transformation in partnership with communities of the deepest needs. She knows that doing a year of service with QVS will mean the chance to participate in trainings and workshops in nonviolent direct action, anti-racism, Quaker business process, and vocational discernment. She knows that through her QVS placement she will be in relationship with the local monthly meeting or Friends church, where there will be mentors and friends to support her in her year of service. She knows that the QVS experience is not simply about community service but is rather about what Rufus Jones called "prophetic service," that is, direct engagement with others, led by the Spirit and giving oneself fully. She knows that others who have done a year with QVS have gone on to commit their whole lives to the work of service and justice, and these are people she looks to as models of the kind of person she aspires to be. Imagine a time when Quakers will talk about our service in the world and we will not be referring to something that happened 50 years ago or more, but we will be talking about exciting, dynamic work we ourselves are engaged in right now. This is the vision that Quaker Voluntary Service sees in the future and that we are laying the groundwork to enact. We believe that it is time for Quakers to reclaim and re-envision our tradition of spiritual activism and prophetic service.

Several years ago I began to seriously consider the question of why so many Friends in my young adult(age group who grew up in a Meeting are no longer active with Friends. Certainly that is a problem for many churches and faith communities, but it seemed a bigger issue for us. At the time, I was living in community with some Mennonites my age, and the situation was very different for them. Though they had many questions and concerns about their faith, they nevertheless remained committed to their faith community, were active in their local congregation, and were part of a large network of other young Mennonites who were at a similar point in their lives. Though there are many complicated historical and theological reasons that the sense of self identity for Mennonites and Quakers is different, I found that one reason kept coming up. For them, there were many opportunities to engage in meaningful work as young Mennonites, work that was firmly rooted in and explicitly part of the overall Mennonite faith and church structure. Examples they gave included the fact that Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS), a program designed for young adults to live together in community and work in service related internships, as well as Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), facilitated these kinds of experiences. Many of them and many in their families and friendship circles had done a year of service with MVS, or had spent time overseas with MCC. (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

These experiences were well known and accessible, and, most importantly transformative. They served to firm up)their identities as Mennonites, their commitment to the church, as well as their convictions about social justice and their role in the world.

Where was this kind of experience in my own Quaker community, I asked. I knew that in the past AFSC workcamps played that kind of role, but they had been laid down and nothing had arisen to fill its place. For older generations of Quakers, when asked what was the most important event in their lives, or what had caused them to become or remain a Quaker, or what had given rise to their long standing work for justice, the answer was more often than not an AFSC workcamp. Nothing was filling this role for Quakers of my generation. At the time I myself was a recent college graduate looking to be of service in the world and live in community. It was extremely challenging to find anything within the Quaker community that could support me in this. Those programs that did exist seemed to be small, often not directly recruiting Quakers, and certainly were not connected to each other so that it would be easy to find them all at once. It was easier to find programs like the Peace Corps, or other non-Quaker programs, like MVS. I became convinced that Quakers needed a program that would fill this need.

Since 2008, I have been actively working to create Quaker Voluntary Service, a national network of programs, projects, and interested individuals who carry this concern and vision for opportunities for prophetic and transformational service in an explicitly Quaker context. QVS intends to strengthen and nurture the Religious Society of Friends by providing transformational opportunities for individuals to live their Quakerism in an experience of direct service and faithful community. The QVS volunteers, who may be mostly young adults (though older Friends have expressed interest as well), will make a commitment to a full year of service, living with other volunteers in a QVS house or community. These QVS participants will work in organizations and placements that are consistent with some of our most deeply held commitments, such as an immigrant or refugee rights organization, a project of earthcare or environmental concerns, an anti-death penalty organization, or even a local American Friends Service Committee office, depending on the region or city to which they are assigned.

QVS is new and young and in formation. I have never felt so clearly led in any endeavor I have been a part of. There is so much hunger in our Religious Society of Friends, and in our travels among Friends as we share this vision, it speaks so clearly to that hunger. QVS is excited to explore this vision more fully with the Atlanta Friends Meeting because we hope to launch our first service house here in Atlanta in the fall of 2012. We hope this house, if successful, will be the first of many more in multiple locations. We invite and welcome your support in prayer, financial contributions, time, and information. We hope individuals within AFM will be excited by the vision and find ways to get involved. We especially invite you to a forum after worship on Sunday October 30 when the national QVS Advisory Board will be present to share more and listen to your ideas and feedback.

For more information, please visit our website, www.quakervoluntaryservice.org, or find us on Facebook. You can also email me, christina@quakervoluntaryservice.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stamps for Peace

Many thanks to those of you who have been faithfully saving your commemorative postage stamps “for peace” and dropping them in the envelope hanging on the bulletin board in the Greeting Room. Karen Morris sends the stamps to a Meeting in Mattapoisett, MA that sells them to stamp dealers. The proceeds are then donated to various Quaker organizations like Right Sharing of World Resources, American Friends Service Committee, Quaker International Aid, Great Lakes (Africa) Initiative, Quaker UN office and so forth. In the years they have been doing this, they have raised many tens of thousands of dollars for these good works. Keep the stamps coming! Torn or damaged stamps are not usable, nor are the common flag stamps, Liberty stamps and nonprofit stamps. All others are great, especially international stamps.

From John Calvi

by way of Mary Ann Downed

Dear Friends,

I recently gave a plenary on American Torture at a national Quaker conference. This talk was recorded and is now available. It is an mp3 audio file called To Go Where There is No Light. I discuss America's use of torture and the Quaker Initiative to End Torture's (QUIT) call to end it.

To hear a preview of the talk, go to- www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/social-media/john-calvi
<<http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/social-media/john-calvi>> .

To purchase the whole talk as an mp3 audio file go to-
http://www.quakerbooks.org/to_go_where_there_is_no_light.php
<http://www.quakerbooks.org/to_go_where_there_is_no_light.php>

Also – here is a link to a radio interview I did in July on Healing and Torture with Northern Spirit Radio-

The Little Cabin that Can ----- From Jennifer Thompson with editing by Kathy Johnson

I didn't really get just how wonderful the new building at the Friends' Ferguson Cabin property is going to be until I was walking up the driveway one evening during a work weekend. I had spent the day moving dirt. Literally. Others were measuring, sawing, welding, designing, and hammering. Still others were picking up, cooking, making cold drinks for thirsty workers, and taking pictures of all the work. I had been so busy that I had not really stopped and looked at the structure as a whole.

So after taking a break in the embracing waters of Lake Burton, I began to walk slowly back up the drive to start pitching in again, and that's when I saw it: A place of fellowship, of family, of friends, and communion with nature. Though its footprint is small, when you combine the two stories the new building will not only offer heat, and bathrooms with showers, it will also be the largest there. By Quaker terms, it will be like the Hilton. Best of all, it's in this beautiful area that was given with generous love by Dwight Ferguson in loving memory of his wife, Irene. I was tired, but that was wiped out by my amazement at what I saw. What all started as a little wash house was turning into a cabin that looks out in serenity and can stand tall.

With a lot of work and commitment, the little cabin that can has taken shape. The drawings have become a reality with walls to enclose and a roof to shelter. We have been taking photos to share our work and are eager to display them so all can see that what seemed terribly ambitious is actually coming true. There's another work wknd. in late August and an update of the summer's progress will be out soon. But now, we need to make a final push for the last bit of money we need to get the little cabin that can to become the cabin that is.

We could not have done this without the help of all our Friends in the meeting, whether from support of our bake sales, donations or applied skills. We are coming to the end of the summer and need another \$3000 to complete the next phase, which includes wiring, the rest of the plumbing, shower stalls, loft stairs, and (most important for the upcoming winter) insulation. This is truly remarkable. With recent usage fees and some extra generous donations, that \$3000 has actually been whittled down to \$2350. Whatever you can give, whether \$1, \$10, 200 or more- any amount is needed as it all mounts up little by little. Every bit brings us closer to the goal. And when it's done, we can all enjoy the new cabin standing so tall in the trees.

To donate please make checks to Atlanta Friends Meeting, marked for "Cabin Building Project. Contributions are tax-deductible. You can mail checks to AFM, 701 W. Howard Ave, Decatur, GA 30030, or put them directly into the Contributions slot in the Greeting Room. For more information – Kathy Johnson: 404-371-4440, or kathbjohnson09@gmail.com

Adult First Day in September, and October, we will read and discuss Nancy Bieber's book, *Decision Making & Spiritual Discernment: The Sacred Art of Finding Your Way*. Copies are available from Bill Holland and the class meets every week at 9am in the meeting library. All are welcome.

Being Salt and Light

October 14--16, 2011

WITH Friends from Australia Valerie Joy & Abel Sibonio
at the **Atlanta Friends Meeting**

701 W. Howard Ave., Decatur, GA 30030 (404)377]2474

Friends, globally, are exploring a common theme: 'Being Salt and Light,' in preparation for the 2012 Sixth World Conference of Friends.

You are invited to be part of this conversation now.

Valerie Joy is the Executive Secretary of FWCC's Asia West Pacific Section. Valerie will share some of the special aspects of the lives, projects, difficulties and triumphs, in the context of 'Being Salt and Light,' of Friends in Asia and the West Pacific.

Abel Sibonio, Friends pastor originally from Burundi, will talk about the 'broken world' of life in refugee camps in Tanzania. He will share why he and his family migrated to Australia and how his Quaker experience has carried him

through the difficulties of becoming established in a new country. Friday – Sunday

AFM Movie Night! Friday, September 9th, at 7:00.

The featured movie will be, "The Milagro Beanfield War": One man's quixotic struggle as he defends his small beanfield and his community against much larger business and New Mexico state political interests. (Rated R).

Plus, Enjoy a Cartoon Before the Movie. We Invite You To Make A Donation In An Amount You Can Afford And Feel to Be Appropriate. Free popcorn! You are welcome to bring your own drinks or snacks.

A New Insight While on the Chesapeake by Perry Treadwell

On the first night of the trip down the Chesapeake to Jamestown a woman dressed in Colonial costume presented a row of men and women shipmates with types of bonnets and hats. She then went on to explain what each hat represented. The three different tricorners for the men designated three classes of gentry: landowners, lesser officials and tradesmen. I happened to be assigned a large broadbrim resembling a Quaker one. I was the lesser of the four, far down on the pecking order. Women equally had bonnets as well as accessories designating their status in the community.

The reenactor followed with a description of hat honor: who tipped their hat to whom. Who removed their hat with a sweeping bow. For me, this explanation emphasized the original Quaker protest to hat honor. Something as common as refusing hat honor made obvious the Quaker testimonies of equality and integrity.

I did recall the origin of the military salute was tipping the hat to an officer. When this made things cumbersome the salute replaced the tipping. My grandfather always wore a fedora and would touch the brim of his hat to the women he knew in Albany, Missouri. A reminder to me of the hat honor practice continuing into recent times.

The origin of a "big wig" is similar. Wigs were costly and the bigger the wig either in height or length below the shoulders determined the wealth and status of any colonial. You had to be a "big wig" to wear one. Thus, Quakers didn't wear wigs.

Atlanta Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
8th Month 21, 2011
Recorded Pending Approval

Georgia Lord presented the 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)

In attendance were: Micheal Allison, Steve Collins, Lili Crymes, Diana Day, John R. Day, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Jenny Foster, Judith Greenberg, Roland Heath, Bill Holland, Kathy Johnson, Lynn Leuszler, Judy Lumb, Beth Martinson, Alison Mawle, Laura Norlin, Ronald Nuse, Terri O’Neil, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Ellie Soler, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Denny Webster, Caroline Noyes (Recording Clerk), Georgia Lord (Clerk), (28 Friends)

Ministry and Worship: Bill Holland reported that a letter of application for membership has been received from John and Diana Day, who are leaders of the worship group in Macon, and who have attended AFM periodically over the past 10 years. A clearness committee of Mary Ann Downey, Elizabeth Martinson, and Bill Holland met with the Days at their home in Macon and are clear that the membership is in right order. Ministry and Worship recommends that the Meeting welcome the Days into membership and support their efforts to establish an ongoing worship group in Macon. Approval will be sought in Ninth Month.

For the past three years, a support committee of Jonah McDonald, Elizabeth Valera, Ceal Wutka, and Mary Ann Downey has been meeting with Christina Repoley as she followed her leading to obtain an M.Div. degree at Candler School of Theology and to work with other Friends to create a network for Quaker Voluntary Service. Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following minute:

Minute 08-21-01: Atlanta Friends Meeting recognizes the leading of Christina Repoley to deepen and enrich the spiritual vitality of the Religious Society of Friends by developing opportunities for Quakers, particularly young adults, to engage in voluntary service. Christina is under the care of a support committee that is regularly meeting with her. We are excited to hear how the spirit has moved among Friends with similar leadings and to learn of the formation of the Quaker Voluntary Service Network. We look forward to learning of ways the Meeting can support these efforts.

Christina will be leading a forum with the board of Quaker Voluntary Service on the last Sunday in October so Friends can learn more about the organization.

Steve Collins presented the revised set of marriage guidelines. The last set of guidelines was written in 1990, and the proposed guidelines combine two existing documents into one document while resolving contradictions across the two documents, and bring the AFM guidelines into better alignment with the 2010 revisions to the SAYMA guidelines.

Minute 08-21-02: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the revised set of marriage guidelines with modifications.

Bill Holland also reported that Ministry and Worship has received a letter from Christina Repoley and Dean Leper requesting to be married under the care of the Meeting. A clearness committee has been formed.

Mark Wutka has completed a 2-year course of study at School of the Spirit on being a spiritual nurturer. A care committee composed of Jim Tolmach, Daphne Clement, Ceal Wutka, and Bill Holland has been meeting with Mark every month for the past two years to support this effort.

At the end of October, Mary Ann Downey will be leading a retreat for SAYMA Meetings on Deepening the Spiritual Life of the Meeting. Marthajane Robinson, Elizabeth Martinson, and Mark Wutka will be attending. Additionally, the FGC Traveling Ministry Program will be holding consultation on Eldering in December, and

Bill Holland, MaryAnn Downey and Mark Wutka will be attending.

The *Being Salt and Light* gathering will be held in the weekend of October 14-16 at Atlanta Friends Meeting. Valerie Joy, the Executive Secretary of FWCC's Asia-West Pacific Section and Abel Sibonio, a Friends pastor originally from Burundi will speak on Friends living the kingdom of God in a broken world. Friends are invited to be a part of this conversation.

Ministry and Worship is committed to maintaining the worship space and is welcoming thoughts and concerns regarding the effect of latecomers and people leaving Meeting early on the quality of our worship.

Finance/Administration: Judith Greenberg presented the minute for Joe Clay. (minute in the agenda text). The Care Committee will be Clerked by Karen Morris, and Joe has approved this ministry. Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following minute:

Minute 08-21-03: In light of the unique circumstances surrounding Joe Clay's retirement, the Finance Committee will establish a ministry for Joe that incorporates four elements, including a) a retirement care fund of \$5,000; b) administration of the retirement care fund by a Care Committee who will provide supportive care; c) retirement at the end of 2011; and d) a reduction in the hours through the end of 2011 to facilitate an orderly transition to a new custodian.

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

Minute 08-21-04: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes of Sixth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business without correction.

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

Minute 08-21-05: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes of Seventh Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business without correction.

Clerk's Items: Georgia Lord reported that she had received an email from Charles Bennett, son of Erline Bennett who was a member of AFM in the 1990's. Erline recently passed away at the age of 95, and left a small bequest of \$300 to Atlanta Friends Meeting.

There will be a meeting on August 28th to discuss the subject of 'Acknowledging New Children in our Meeting's Families.'

Meeting closed with silent worship.

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.

Calendar for 9th 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 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 Editor has deferred the usual weekly announcements to the Weekly Announcement Sheet which is more extensive.

A Different Genesis by Perry

When God made the first human, she took one look and said, “My God, what have I done?” She looked at him up and down, down and up, until, embarrassed, he covered himself. She was inspired and decided, “I will make another in my own image.” And men have pictured her image ever since in sculpture (recall the neolithic “Venus”), painting (all the Madonnas of the Renaissance), and dance & ballet. The goddesses images through the ages are much more interesting than the gods: Athena, Isis, Kali for example. Even Mary the mother of Jesus has been raised to goddess stature by some. So let us celebrate the beauty of women *from inside out*.

It is in the spirit that marriage takes place. In the flesh there is connection, but only in the spirit is there a new thing created out of the two different antithetic things. In the body I am conjoined with the woman. But in the spirit my conjunction with her creates a third thing, an absolute, a Word which is neither me nor her, nor of me nor of her, but which is absolute. D.H. Lawrence, *D,H, Lawrence and Italy* 1916

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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 10TH Month newsletter: 9TH 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