

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

October 2011

Query: Do I come to Meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship? In both silent and vocal ministry, do I respond to the leadings of the Holy Spirit, without pre-arrangement and in simplicity and truth?
San Francisco Friends Meeting

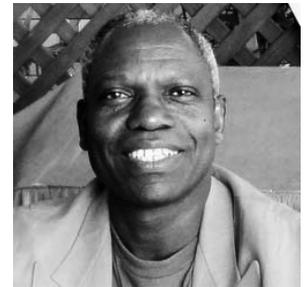
BEING SALT AND LIGHT, weekend of 10/14-16

Join us for conversations and reflections on “Being Salt and Light: Friends living the kingdom of God in a broken world” (Matthew 5:13-16; 6:33), the theme of the 2012 World Conference of Friends, Nakuru, Kenya. Our facilitators will be:



Valerie Joy—Executive Secretary of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)—Asia-West Pacific Section (from Australia)

Abel Sibonio—a Friends pastor who experienced the *broken world* of Tanzania refugee camps (from Australia, formerly from Burundi)



The weekend events will take place at the Meetinghouse. The agenda includes:

Friday (10/14): 5:30 pm—Potluck (African food); 7-9:00 pm—Program.

Saturday (10/15): 9:30-11:30 am—Intergenerational stories; Noon—Lunch (soup); 1-4:00 pm—Discussions.

Come to any or all of the events. [Salt&LightFlyer_091311.pdf](#) (228KB)

Presented by Atlanta Friends Meeting’s Ministry and Worship Committee and FWCC—Section of the Americas, this is an opportunity to join a global conversation that is connecting local Friends. Suggested donation, \$25. To register or to volunteer to help, contact Mary Ann Downey, 404-892-2358, madowney@mindspring.com.

Gay Pride

Atlanta Friends Meeting, led by Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer Concerns, will be marching in the Atlanta Pride Parade, Sunday October 9. The parade leaves from the Civic Center MARTA Station at 1 pm and heads up Peachtree Street to 10th Street and Piedmont Park.

We hope you'll join us. It's a wonderful opportunity to let people who aren't quite convinced God loves them, because they're lesbian or gay or bisexual or transgendered or queer, see another religious group that welcomes them as they are. It's also a wonderful celebration, like a small town or neighborhood parade and festival grown (very) large. And it's a great way to feel like you've made a difference. After PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays--and also bisexuals and trans people) and Youth Pride (for high school and college-aged lgbtq people), lgbtq-supportive religious groups get the most cheers. Clearly, our presence matters.

We'll march with the Atlanta Friends Meeting banner, but if you'd like to make and bring a sign with a particular message, that would be great too. (Continued next page)

The beginning of the parade will step off promptly at 1 pm, but we will probably not start moving for half an hour or so. Once we know our place in the line up, we'll share that information on the discussion list and in the announcement sheet. A map of the parade route and the line up area are at: <http://atlantapride.org/parade>. For questions about the Pride Parade or about Atlanta's FLGBTQC, please contact Nina Gooch at 404-451-5974 or ninagooch AT gmail DOT com

SIGN UP FOR QUAKER QUEST!

Ever wish you could talk about your spiritual life more clearly with non-Quakers? with fellow Quakers? Many meetings throughout the US and England have been working on the same thing in their communities. FGC has developed a program called Quaker Quest that includes both outreach and internal conversations. Last spring, some 30 members of the Atlanta Friends community attended a demonstration of how it works, and meeting for business approved spending the money to continue in the program and have a workshop November 5 led by trainers of Quaker Quest from FGC.

Quaker Quest is a dynamic and transformative inreach and outreach process based on the experience that the Quaker way is a spiritual path for our time that is simple, radical, and contemporary. Quaker Quest is much more than the public sessions: it is an experience that the whole meeting shares over many months.

How does it work? Quaker Quest workshops are led by volunteer Quaker Quest Travel Team members who are trained by Friends General Conference. The workshops consist of fast-paced exercises that: *Help meetings consider how to include newcomers. Build community. Share what Quaker Quest is all about.*

For more details see <http://www.fgcquaker.org/quakerquest>

LOST MEMBERS

As Membership Recorder, I've realized that I don't have addresses or other contact information for many of the people listed in our membership list as "Inactive." If you could help me find any of the following people, please email me at ninagooch AT gmail DOT com or call me at 404-451-5974: John McCutcheon, joined 2006; Sara Butler, joined 2005; Derek Coulson, joined 2004; Donnie Jester, joined 1999; Cynthia Houghton, joined 1999; Nancy Wilson, joined 1997; John (or Jeff) Emmons, joined 1995; Elizabeth (or Lisa) Hudgins, joined 1995; Ann-Marie Germain, joined 1994; Mary Lynah, joined 1994

Adult Religious Education

During September, and October, we will continue to 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.

Support a member's leading

Judy Lumb is following a leading to go to Africa with three components:

- 1) COP-17, the Climate Change Summit in Durban, South Africa, in December, 2011,
- 2) A volunteer position with the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) January through March, 2012, and then
- 3) World Conference of Friends in Kenya in April.

AGLI asks their volunteers to raise funds to support their work. Friends can contact Judy for more information at judylumb@btl.net. If you want to make a tax-deductible contribution to support this effort, please send checks to AGLI/FPT, 1001 Park Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63104. On the memo line write "Judy Lumb." You can also make donations online at aglifpt.org. (See minutes for this month for more information.)

Africa "That was my Malawi epiphany. Only Africans were capable of making a difference in Africa. Everyone else, donors and volunteer and banker, however idealistic, were simply agents of subversion." Paul Theroux, *Dark Star Safari*, overland from Cairo to Cape Town. Houghton Mifflin Co, 2003, p 327

Book Review

The Beautiful Soul of John Woolman, Apostle of Abolition by Thomas P. Slaughter, 2008

I have finally plowed through this book describing the life of John Woolman as a prophet in the sense of the Old Testament prophets. I use the term plowed both as the intensity of the writing and as the metaphor, often used by ministers, of farmers plowing and seeding their fields. Slaughter annotates Woolman's Journal, but more importantly he brings in contemporary writings enhancing the picture of Woolman's life. Woolman's journal was the first Quaker book I read and it changed my life.

Nevertheless, I would recommend the reader start at the back of the book: the epilogue. Here the reader is put into the continuing importance of Woolman's life which is much more than the famous journal reveals. For example, I had no idea the number of stained glass windows devoted to Woolman on both coasts as well as one of several in the Prayer Chapel at Boston University's School of Theology memorializing the famous mystics of centuries past.

In trying to summarize Woolman's impact on abolition as well as simplicity, payment of taxes for war, and Quaker religious practice, Slaughter concludes: "Woolman took the same lesson from the prophets and reminded himself frequently that God did not want him to judge others or to argue his message but to work for what is right and good. The Enlightenment and its liberal offshoots are all about reasonable compromise, about negotiation for betterment with a realistic eye to what is possible in this flawed world. Woolman was not a liberal in our modern understandings of the word; he was a radical spirit, as are the inheritors of his social legacy. The rhetoric of radical reformers shares with Woolman and the prophets before him a sense of mission; they communicate by exhorting, a frightened, self-indulgent, or otherwise reluctant audience . . . Prophetic Truth is absolute, and the radical reminds his audience of principles that it already knows, fundamentals that are honored rhetorically more often than lived."

The narrative covers chronologically the various phases of Woolman's life including his sojourn in the north country of England where he died of small pox. There he drew crowds as much for his strange clothing as for his messages but he left a permanent and positive impression on the whole Quaker community. He refused to take carriages because the horses were so badly treated. He refused to use utensils or food if it had come in any form from the labor of slaves. He wore himself out and thus was susceptible to the ravages of small pox.

So his life was a progression of leadings always with the approval of his monthly and yearly meeting. His writings up until his death included much more than the journal and all were submitted to various Quaker publishers for their approval before publication.

This inspiring book must be read slowly with reflection. His life is an example, a model, which no one today can equal. He is compared to Gandhi, King and Bayard Rustin whom he may have influenced.

I am placing this "extraordinary biography" in the Meeting library. Perry

Is Environmentalism Hopeless?

A recent review in the New York Times Book Review predicts that the destruction of the earth by global warming is irreversible. Bill McKibben says in his book *Eaarth* (sic), "Forget about saving the planet 'for our grandchildren' We are already standing in their shoes." The same week an article in the New Yorker about Saul Griffith an inventor and alternative energy technician presents a pessimistic view of ever producing enough nonpolluting energy fast enough. McKibben predicts a drying planet with water and land wars and starvation. The overbreeding human species has become the next asteroid. At least the dinosaurs did not produce their own annihilation.

Off-Shore Oil

I became an environmentalist in 1968 finding oil covered birds on a beach near San Diego following the blow-out of oil in Santa Barbara 200 miles north. Forty-two years later an even more disastrous blow-up in the Gulf of Mexico reminds us how dangerous off-shore oil drilling is. ED

Atlanta Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Ninth Month 18, 2011
Recorded Pending Approval

Georgia Lord presented the 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, Stony Run).

In attendance were: Micheal Allison, Don Bender, Steve Collins, Diana Day, John R. Day, Mary Ann Downey, Betsy Eggers, Julia Ewan, David Foster, Jenny Foster, Roland Heath, Bill Holland, Kathy Johnson, Lynn Leuszler, Beth Martinson, Susan May, Karen terHorst Morris John Roberts, Beth Ruddiman, Aaron Ruscetta, Peter Sederberg, Bert Skellie, Joan Thompson, Perry Treadwell, Pat Williams, Caroline Noyes (Recording Clerk), Georgia Lord (Clerk), (27 Friends).

Social Concerns: John Roberts reported that Social Concerns is seeking to strengthen the relationship between Atlanta Friends Meeting and the Georgia Peace & Justice Coalition by creating the designated position of “Atlanta Friends Meeting representative to the Georgia Peace & Justice Coalition” and finding a replacement for Kathy Johnson, who has served as the unofficial GPJC rep since 2002. Social Concerns will draft a general description of the position, and will present that at the 10th Month meeting when the matter will be reconsidered.

Judy Lumb is going to Africa 12/11-4/12 where she will a) serve as an unaligned rep for COP-17, b) work with the African Great Lakes Initiative for an HIV/AIDS clinic in Burundi, and c) be a representative to the World Conference of Friends in April. Judy’s expenses will be considerable, and Social Concerns agreed to contribute \$600 to her trip from its Committee’s “undesignated” fund. Social Concerns is asking the Meeting to contribute up to \$1,000 from the Special Leadings fund to AGLI on her behalf.

Minute 09-18-01: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the allocation of \$1,000 from the Special Leadings Fund to the AGLI designated to support Judy Lumb’s work in Africa.

Julia Ewen reported on deteriorating conditions in the Tanzania refugee camp, as a result of a severe drop in food and money donations to support agencies. The Tanzanians will not permit resettlement agencies into the camp to repatriate refugees into areas other than Burundi. Twenty-nine members of Obede’s family remain in the Tanzania refugee camp, and suggestions for strategies to address this issue are actively being sought. Julia will provide a draft of talking points to include in a letter to Senator Isaacson.

Ministry & Worship: On behalf of Ministry and Worship, Bill Holland brought forth for final approval the membership request of John and Diana Day.

Minute 09-18-02: on the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, we welcome John and Diana Day as members of the Atlanta Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. Bill Holland reported that plans for the “Being Salt and Light” event are progressing. A planning committee consisting of Mary Ann Downey, Maia Carter, Ron Nuse, Bill Holland and Christina Repoley is coordinating the event. Abel Sibonio will speak about what it is like to be a refugee on Friday evening after a potluck, and Saturday morning the focus will be on intergenerational activities, while Saturday afternoon will focus on more adult themes (with childcare provided) following a lunchtime potluck. Ministry and Worship is asking AFM to

contribute the event up to the amount of \$1,000 from the unallocated general fund to help FWCC defray some of the expenses of the visit associated with travel from Australia, and the provision of translation and childcare services. The Friday night event is seen to be as broadly interesting to people interested in refugee interests and African issues, and is being advertised to the wider community. Contributions and donations are also being sought. Abel and Valarie will share their spiritual journey with Adult First Day School, and serve as a resource for First Day School before they head to Columbia South Carolina.

Minute 09-18-03: On the recommendation of Ministry and Worship, we approve the general plan for the *Salt and Light Gathering*.

Minute 09-18-04: On the recommendation of Ministry & Worship and the support of the Finance Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the allocation of up to \$1,000 to support the Salt and Light Gathering, October 14-16, with the understanding that the planning committee anticipates Friends will also be contributing to the event through donations and the full amount may not be required.

Ministry & Worship has received a request from Glen Satell and Lissa place to take their intention to marry under our care. A clearness committee has been formed and will bring a recommendation when it is in right order.

Ministry and Worship is responsible for the care of our Meeting for Worship, and continues to explore a variety of ways that we may be gathered and united in our Meeting for Worship. In seeking to deepen the experience of worship for those who are gathered and to foster a sense of sacred place during our time of worship, a series of practices are being recommended. Final approval for the plan will be sought in Tenth Month, with initiation in Eleventh Month. The practices being recommended are:

Meeting for Worship begins with the first person to enter into worship. We will close the doors when the first person enters and ask those arriving until 10:00 am to enter in reverent silence through the sound-lock doors. As worship has begun, after the doors have been closed, greeters will encourage reverent silence in the greeting room. Friends arriving after 10am will enter into worship in the Library until the doors open at 10:15, at which time they may choose to enter the Meeting room or continue their worship in the library.

SAYMA rep report : Bill Holland serves as Recording Clerk for SAYMA, and provided a report on the 127th meeting of the representative body in Memphis. As a result of a surplus in the 2011 budget, a number of anticipated cuts have been restored in the 2012 budget. There was a discussion of the role of the Yearly Meeting Social Concerns Committee, and the Faith and Practice Revision Committee is producing a new version of the SAYMA Guide to Faith and Practice. The Ministry & Nurture committee is holding a retreat on deepening the spiritual life of the meeting being led by Mary Ann Downey, with Bill Holland as her support. A new census form will be coming, and they are trying to make it simpler.

Nominating Committee: Steve Collins is bringing forth David Payne for Newsletter editor starting in January 2012. Final approval will be sought in Tenth Month. The marriage guidelines and the SAYMA revised guidelines are on the AFM website, and paper copies are on file in the library. Nominating has approximately 50 positions to fill every 2-3 year rotation, and meets every Fourth Sunday.

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

Minute 09-18-04: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes of Eight Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business with corrections.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia Lord, Clerk

Caroline Noyes, Recording Clerk

Business Meeting

“The reason that business meeting feels different than meeting for worship is because business meeting is work. It is where the faith that arises from an experience of gathered worship is put to the test. It is where we must sacrifice our egos to try to find that which is the best for the whole community. It is where we must forgive others for not seeing things our way... If business meeting is defined as just another worship service, why bother attending business meeting?” Excerpted from a letter to Friends Journal August, 2011, from David Rose
I selected this to remind ourselves that business meeting requires respect for the process. It requires that we stand to speak when moved by the Spirit, are recognized by the clerk, and that we speak to the clerk when recognized. Back and forth discussion directed as response to individual attenders (as experienced at the last business meeting) detracts from the process. According to the contributor, calling a business meeting worship confuses the two processes. Both are intended to build community. ED

Does anyone read the newsletter? I asked that question at the recent Meeting for Business and received a lot of positive feedback. I think that editors like to get both positive and negative feedback. Do you really enjoy or dislike the quotations that are used as fillers? Once I receive the Minutes I rush to get the copy to the printer and the web site. Last month I had a meltdown when I didn't check which copy I sent and got the header August instead of September. That is corrected on the web. But it just goes to show some of the machinations necessary to paste it together. For example, any attachments on Windows Doc must be reformatted because the formatting is different than the wpd I use. The deadline for the next month is on the address page but Friends still call about when it is. Nevertheless, the newsletter does well when Friends do contribute. I hope that Friends give face to face support for the next newsletter editor. Every bit of feedback does help. I have been asked to reestablish the Newsletter Committee so here is the proposed duties when I became editor. If you are inclined to help the new editor let me know. Printing costs, 8 pages, \$194.29 = 2331.48/year. Perry

Newsletter Committee

Membership: Four to five members or attenders with an interest in the newsletter. Preferably the members should be representative of some of the diversity within the meeting community. The Newsletter Editor may also be clerk.

Term: Usually for three years.

Meetings: As needed.

Purpose: To assist the Newsletter Editor in producing the monthly newsletter.

Duties:

1. To provide material for the newsletter and to solicit material from members and attenders of meeting for the newsletter.
2. To consult with the Newsletter Editor on issues concerning the content and format of the newsletter.
3. To actively assist the Newsletter Editor by suggesting materials for inclusion in the newsletter.
4. To offer guidance and support to the editor as needed

Joseph Campbell “... [W]e are at this moment participating in one of the very greatest leaps of the human spirit to a knowledge not only of outside nature but also of our own deep inward mystery.” *The Power of Myth*, 1988

Calender for 10th 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

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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 11TH Month newsletter: 10TH Month 24**

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