

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

December 2011

Query: Live adventurously. When choices arise, do you take the way that offers the fullest opportunity for the use of your gifts in the service of god and the community? Let your life speak.

Proposal submitted to the Ministry and Worship Committee of Atlanta Friends Meeting from Quaker Voluntary Service November 13, 2011

Dear Friends,

The Board of Quaker Voluntary Service, with joy and humility, submits the proposal below to the Ministry and Worship Committee of Atlanta Friends Meeting. We hope and pray that you will receive it as an invitation to deeper engagement and discernment with the meeting as the leading that has brought us to this point continues to unfold. In faith and service,

The QVS Board

John Holding (clerk) (San Francisco Friends Meeting, sojourning with Lopez Island Preparatory Meeting), Cheryl Keen (recording clerk) (Yellow Springs Friends Meeting), Bruce Birchard (Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting), Noah Baker Merrill (Putney Friends Meeting), Kristina Keefe-Perry (Rochester Monthly Meeting), Christina Repoley (Atlanta Friends Meeting)

Overview

Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) is working to launch a pilot project in Atlanta, our first *service house* where six QVS interns will live and serve for one year. QVS is open to any young person interested in living in intentional Quaker community, experiencing Quaker worship and process, and openly engaging questions of faith and service in the world. QVS interns will live together in community, simply, and immersed in Quaker spiritual practices. QVS will partner with agencies that offer direct support to marginalized individuals and communities, and that strive to transform unjust structures.

We hope to partner with Quaker organizations when possible. QVS will place energetic and committed young people in full time positions in these agencies for 11 months. These QVS interns will receive housing, food, health insurance, training, and spiritual support from QVS. We believe this year-long experience has the potential to orient interns to a whole life committed to service and justice, deeply grounded in a living Quaker faith, committed to being a vital part of the present and future of Friends.

QVS is seeking to partner with the Atlanta Friends Meeting in this effort. We believe that the relationship between the meeting and the QVS interns will be one of the most vital and important elements of a successful QVS experience, and we also believe that this relationship will be enlivening to the Atlanta meeting.

Proposed Process

We invite Atlanta Friends Meeting to enter into a discernment process with us about the nature of this partnership. Below are highlighted some of the elements we think will be important to consider. Please note that this list is intended to be illustrative and to set broad outlines of what a partnership might look like, and not to require that either community provide support in all of these areas. We suggest that, if clear, AFM might appoint a small committee to work on these details together with the QVS board, and then bring back a more formal proposal to AFM as a whole. After consultation with several Atlanta Friends Meeting members, we have been encouraged to present this to the Ministry and Worship committee as an initial step. (Continued page 3)

Announcements

Using the Newsletter, or not

Where does the Meeting have opportunity to consider questions of policy and fiduciary responsibility in depth? We hear dialogue in the Meetings for Business that isn't recorded in the minutes and, thus, is not considered for a major portion of members and attenders.

Consider deliberations in the Administrative and Finance Committees. Some opinions are batted around by e-mail rather than subjected to the discipline of meeting for business. Such considerations would be ripe for inclusion in the AFM Newsletter for wider contemplation. I invite explanations of actions anticipated to be taken to the Business Meeting to be submitted to the newsletter. Food for thought is better digested when well seasoned. Perry

Looking at costs

It's that time of year when the Finance Committee looks at the budget for next year.

Consider the newsletter costs of printing and mailing. You may have noticed that we have reduced the size from eight to six pages, when appropriate. Mailing still costs stamps which will go up soon. If you can get it easily by e-mail, let afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com know by sending a blank email. It would help reduce the costs. We presently have 118 e-mail subscribers. Be Green! Thank you!

Help us keep an active donor list. In sending out requests for donations, the finance committee found that many names were not recognized or had moved and the letters were returned. Please, if you want to continue contact with the Atlanta Friends Meeting let Nina Gooch know by e-mail at ninagooch@gmail.com or by phone 404-371-9873. Again, we are trying to save paper and mailing costs.

Movie Night, December 9th at 7:00

Join us for "Saved", a comedy, rated Pg-13. Mary (Jena Malone) is entering her senior year at American Eagle Christian High School. She seems to be in an ideal social position as one of the "Christian Jewels," the most devout and popular clique of girls in the school, led by the aggressively cheerful Hilary Faye (Mandy Moore). But things take an unexpected turn when she believes she is called to "cure" her boyfriend from being gay. Movie Night in January will feature "Gandhi".

These movies will be shown on the big screen in the Meeting Room. Attenders will be asked to donate whatever admission price they can afford and feel to be appropriate. Free Popcorn! You are welcome to bring snacks and drinks.

Submitted by David Payne "The Quaker religion which [Fox] founded is something which it is impossible to overpraise. In a day of shams, it was a religion of veracity rooted in spiritual inwardness, and a return to something more like the original gospel truth than men had ever known in England. So far as our Christian sects today are evolving into liberality, they are simply reverting in essence to the position which Fox and the early Quakers so long ago assumed. No one can pretend for a moment that in point of spiritual sagacity and capacity, Fox's mind was unsound. Everyone who confronted him personally, from Oliver Cromwell down to county magistrates and jailers, seems to have acknowledged his superior power. Yet from the point of view of his nervous constitution, Fox was a psychopath or detraque' of the deepest dye."

-- William James, *Varieties of Religious Experience* (1902)

(The Quaker historian William Braithwaite quoted this excerpt, omitting the last sentence, as an epigraph to chapter 3 of *The Beginnings of Quakerism* (1912).)

Potential ways in which AFM could partner with QVS on this pilot project

- providing volunteers for a local support committee for the Atlanta launch
- welcoming this group of young people into the life of the meeting, developing relationships as you get to know these Friends, inviting them for social events, meeting events, potlucks, etc.
- offering spiritual support and pastoral care for volunteers: support committee members, clearness committee members, one-on-one spiritual friendships, etc.
- providing assistance finding service sites for intern work placements
- supporting QVS to find a house and set it up by 9/2012
- help identifying or serving in support for emotional or other personal needs that may emerge
- providing space for local QVS news in the AFM newsletter
- as opportunities arise, AFM members might offer training, workshops, or skill-building for volunteers in areas where AFM has gifts or experience
- considering whether Friends are led at this time to provide corporate as well as individual financial support
- considering any additional ways that AFM might provide assistance that would reduce up-front costs, e.g., donating used furniture or appliances, helping with meals once or twice a week, or making an appropriate house available for low or no rent
- input and feedback on program development, especially in terms of how to continually improve the partnerships between Friends meetings and QVS
- sharing this journey with us, as we all learn and grow together

Support QVS could offer through this partnership to AFM

- a network of national financial support
- QVS staff coordinator's time and energy
- recruitment and placement process
- access to expertise from other faith-based voluntary service programs
- networks and resources, including bringing trainings from the wider Quaker world that could enrich the life of the wider meeting as well (School of the Spirit, FGC Traveling Ministries Program, our QVS spiritual formation and activism curriculum)
- publicity and outreach (visibility through a series of articles in Friends Journal, our website and Facebook page, and more)
- another opportunity that "puts Atlanta Meeting on the map" among Friends and beyond
- partnership with QVS as an opportunity to amplify the witness of the meeting, participate more fully in work that needs to be done in the wider community, and amplify the collective witness of the meeting
- offers a potential unifying element for AFM's work as a meeting
- QVS board oversight and ultimate responsibility for the project
- QVS designed and administered admissions process that screens for difficult and challenging issues, and discerns strategies to address them (mental health, etc)
- a local community of young adults, living the Quaker way, and participating in at least some aspects of the life of the Meeting

Quakers, in my perception, have arrived at a novel position. The response to any direct, precise question on faith or morals has to be silence.

-- I. Cowie (1990), quoted in Dandelion, *Introduction to Quakerism*

Time to Pay as We Went (To War)

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid recently proposed a 5% surcharge on the income tax owed by millionaires. While a decent piece of political theater, especially with the angry protesters on Wall Street, his proposal will go nowhere.

Unsurprisingly, Republicans immediately denounced it as yet another act of class warfare directed at the beleaguered wealthy. Admittedly, it fails to reflect a sense of shared sacrifice.

Perhaps the time has come to take up the basic principle of the "pay-as-we go" advocates, but we need to enact it retroactively as the:

Pay as We Went (to war) Patriot Income Tax Surcharge.

When our country engaged in the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, justified at the time as essential to our national security, no sacrifices were asked of us as a country. We made *no* effort to pay as we went to war in 2002. Worse, we *cut* taxes. Finally, then President Bush urged us to shop, lest the terrorists win.

Subsequently, hundreds of thousands of young men and women were sent to these wars, and thousands died. Now is the time to make a small national sacrifice that no political leader advocated back then.

My proposal is simple: Impose a five per cent surcharge on all owed personal income taxes for the next 10 years. Those owing \$1000 dollars would pay an additional \$50; those owing 1 million dollars would pay an additional \$50,000

In deference to the weak economy, this surtax would not start until the 2013 tax year. Current income tax revenue projections, presuming no prolonged second recession, estimate the personal income tax will raise over \$1.8 trillion in that year, so the surcharge would bring in an additional \$90 billion.

Extended over 10 years, this tax might raise well over \$1.2 trillion. Imposing a similar surcharge on owed corporate income taxes could raise more than an additional \$250 billion over a decade.

These wars were funded through increased deficit spending. I propose, therefore, that the surcharge revenues be directly applied to paying down our accumulated debt. Such a policy would permit smaller reductions in the defense budget and social welfare programs than otherwise would be required.

Since the men and women who served in these wars have already sacrificed for us, I advocate exempting them from the surcharge. I also propose exempting the immediate family of any soldier killed in the wars.

For those of you who sent us to war, it's time to pay.

For those who supported the wars as a necessary evil, it's time to pay.

For all of us, who lived our lives this past decade without sacrifice, while others fought and died, it's time to pay.

And it's time for Congress to step up and do their patriotic duty.

Peter C. Sederberg (Note, this submission was not printed by NYTimes, ed)

[The British evangelical Quaker Anna] Braithwaite queried how her understanding of the Spirit could be so markedly different from [Elias Hicks's]; how should a choice between the two interpretations be made? Hicks responded that he did not know but that he hoped the day would come when the Discipline would deal not with doctrines but only with immoral conduct. What would happen to Friends, pressed his visitor, if one minister said one thing and one another? "[Hicks] said he would like to see it tried."

-- Larry Ingle, *Quakers in Conflict*

Atlanta Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Eleventh Month 20, 2011
Recorded Pending Approval

Georgia Lord presented the Query: “How does Truth prosper among you? How many Friends have suffered for Truth in the past year?”(London Yearly Meeting, 1660s)

In attendance were: Mark Bryans, Steve Collins, Jenny Foster, Judith Greenberg, Roland Heath, Kathy Johnson, Elizabeth Lamb, George Lamb, Lynn Leuszler, Paul Mangelsdorf, Beth Martinson, Jonah McDonald, Karen terHorst Morris, Ronald Nuse, Terri O’Neil, Christina Repoley, Beth Ruddiman, Peter Sederberg, Bert Skellie, Ellie Soler, Joan Thompson, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Maggie Wise, Alexandra Zinnes, Caroline Noyes (Recording Clerk), Georgia Lord (Clerk), (27 Friends).

Ministry and Worship: Ron Nuse reported that Ministry and Worship has received a letter requesting membership from Alex Zinnes. Jenny Foster clerked her clearness committee and Ministry & Worship recommends her for membership, final approval of which will be sought in Twelfth month. Ministry and Worship has also received a letter of transfer for David Foster from his home meeting. A welcoming committee has been formed, and will meet with him.

Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following minute of appreciation:

Minute 11-20-01: Atlanta Friends Meeting thanks Valerie Joy (Executive Secretary of Friends World Committee for consultation [FWCC]—Asia-West Pacific Section) and Abel Sibonio (Pastor, Evangelical Friends International) for facilitating our Spirit-filled workshop on October 14-16, 2011 at our meetinghouse. Together we explored deeply the theme of the 2012 World Conference of Friends: what it means to be ‘salt and light’ as we live ‘the kingdom of God in a broken world.’ We also thank Louisa Salinas (Associate Secretary FWCC—Section of the Americas) for her vital role in bringing this workshop to our meeting.

Ministry and Worship has received a letter from the Board of Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) indicating that they anticipate sponsoring their first project in Atlanta in the fall of 2012, and that QVS hopes to work with Atlanta Friends Meeting to determine the right relationship between the meeting and the QVS volunteers.

Minute 11-16-02: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the formation of an ad hoc committee to explore the relationship between Quaker Voluntary Service and Atlanta Friends Meeting. The precise means by which the committee will be formed will be determined at a later date. Friends who are interested in serving on this committee should contact Jonah McDonald.

Finance Committee: Paul Mangelsdorf reported that the proposed 2012 budget represents slightly higher revenues and expenditures than the 2011 proposed budget. Additionally, any surplus in the 2011 budget will be moved to the Permanent Improvement fund. There are no changes in Administrative Costs, but increased budgets for Maintenance and Grounds and the Permanent Improvement fund reflect anticipated expenditures. There are also increases in the budgets for hospitality and for the newsletter, as these have recently run over budget because of increased costs. In recognition of easing economic circumstances, funds for the library have been restored to historical amounts, and the amount budgeted to Gifts and Affiliations has been increased slightly.

Ferguson Cabin Committee: Joan Thompson and Kathy Johnson reported that the Cabin committee is requesting that Mark Smith and Mark Bryans be added as Cabin Stewards. They both worked very hard at getting the building up, and have been active attenders of Cabin Committee meetings. Final approval will be sought in Twelfth month. The Cabin Committee also reports that the roof of the new cabin now has shingles. The Committee will sponsor a table at the December bazaar, and will revisit rental fees in 2012. The Committee will provide a full report in December on usage, and progress towards completion.

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): Sue May provided a summary of the 2011 FCNL Annual meeting. As part of her attendance at the Annual Meeting Sue visited with the staff in both Senator

Chambliss and Senator Isakson's offices. FCNL is in the feasibility stage of a capital campaign to support the intern program, do more outreach, and support a Friend in Residence. A legislative focus of FCNL for 2012 is on the comprehensive test ban treaty. FCNL has asked meeting representatives to identify five Friends who might be interested in attending Lobbying Training in Washington in April 2012. Sue May also indicated that she is interested in stimulating the formation of a Young Friends (ages 18-35) group at Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Social Concerns: Kathy Johnson reported that the Social Concerns Committee requests approval of a minute noting the involvement of AFM Friends in the development of the Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition (GPJC) since its inception in December 2002. Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following minute:

Minute 11-16-03: Atlanta Friends Meeting has strongly supported GPJC with participation in events and with funds since its beginning. Several Friends, notably Kathy Johnson, Bert Skellie, Joe Parko, and Courtney Siceloff worked on the initial development of GPJC, and Kathy continued as the primary liaison from Atlanta Friends Meeting with GPJC over the past 10 years, serving on the GPJC Steering Committee for the first five year of that. During that time, GPJC has become an important vehicle for progressive social action in the greater Atlanta area interacting strongly with the American Friends Service Committee—Southeastern Regional Office. Some GPJC events held at Atlanta Friends Meeting now regularly attract 100-300 people. We wish to note the important role of Friends in this coalition working in greater Atlanta as well as state-wide and to encourage greater participation of Atlanta Friends Meeting Friends in this peace, justice, and now environmental work.

Bert Skellie presented the 2011 Social Concerns budget and expenditures, and also presented the proposed 2012 budget for Social Concerns.

Nominating Committee: Steve Collins brought forth Susan Cozzens for final approval as an upper elementary school teacher.

Minute 11-20-04: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Susan Cozzens as an upper elementary religious education teacher.

Nominating Committee also brought forward for initial consideration Friends for the following positions: Clerk: David Foster (2 years); Ministry and Worship: Caroline Noyes (3 years); Clerk of Hospitality: Terri O'Neal (3 years); Co-Clerk of Fundraising: Mina Rhee (3 years); SAYMA representative: Bill Holland; Georgia Peace & Justice Coalition representative: Susan Cozzens. Final approval will be sought in Twelfth month.

Jim Tolmach presented the revised text for the Nursery Caregiver for the AFM handbook. The modifications are designed to ensure that the handbook text accurately reflects practice. Final approval for the changes will be sought in Twelfth month, and any comments and suggestions should be addressed to Karen Morris or Jim Tolmach.

Clerk's items: Georgia Lord reminds Friends that it's time to start thinking about the State of the Meeting report for 2011.

Other items: Bert Skellie reported that around 60 people attended the Quaker Quest workshop on November 5th. A meeting for those interested in discussing possible next steps will be held at the rise of Meeting on November 27, 2011.

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

Minute 11-20-05: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes of Tenth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business without corrections.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia Lord, Clerk;

Caroline Noyes, Recording Clerk

Calender for 12th 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, afmqakers@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

Clerk of the Meeting Georgia Lord	Treasurer Peter Sederberg 404-968-9309	Ministry & Worship Bill Holland 404-692-2358	Social Concerns Al Natanagara 404-797-1677 John Roberts	Web Master Aaron Ruscotta arxaaron@gmail.com
Assistant Clerk of the Mtg Bill Holland 404-692-2358	Finance Paul Mangelsdorf 770-677-4280	Religious Education Alison Mawle 404-944-9142	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	

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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 1 ST Month newsletter: 11TH Month 17**

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