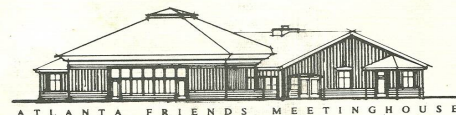


# Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter

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

## June 2012

**Query:** Do you encourage and make due provision for the spiritual development of your children and for their understanding of the principles and traditions of the Society of Friends? Are you an example in your loyalty to the religious ideals you profess?

### ***Proposal for an Annual Meeting for Welcoming Babies into our Meeting***

Over the last several months, Care and Counsel and Ministry and Worship Committees have been discerning over a concern to formally welcoming our youngest newcomers, babies, into the meeting. Many liberal Friends Meetings in the United States have developed traditions of welcoming new babies and lifting up new parents. Our outgoing Clerk, Georgia Lord, has been listening inwardly and was able to compose a draft document. We find clarity over a leading to find a practice for our meeting that names our intentions and commitments to children from the beginning of their lives. These committees, along with ad hoc committee of Friends, submit this proposal for an annual meeting to welcome children. The proposal will be put forward at the July meeting for worship with attention to business.

*Our children are given to us for a time to cherish, to protect, to nurture, and then to salute as they go their separate ways. They too have the light of God within, and a family should be a learning community in which children not only learn skills and values from parents, but in which adults learn new ways of experiencing things and seeing things through young eyes.*

-- Elizabeth Watson, 1980, as quoted in SAYMA Faith and Practice

### **Promises by the Meeting Community:**

Will you promise to welcome these children as full participants in this spiritual community, forming a community learning together across all ages?

Do you acknowledge that these children bring many valuable gifts to our community and that we would be the poorer without the love, insights and questioning they provide?

Do you promise to see our children as individuals we want to know and care for, and provide opportunities when they can get to know and care for us, growing together through sharing prosperity and adversity?

Do you recognize that this Meeting as a whole shares a responsibility to impart to every child within it those values and practices that are central to our practice as Friends?

Will you always strive to be mindful that the manner in which we live our lives should serve as patterns, as examples, of the Light within, teaching by example how to speak and to listen with love?

We welcome these children into this spiritual community!

[At this time, any parents who wish to make promises or wishes on behalf of their children may do so.]

We rejoice in the presence of children and young people in our Meeting and recognize the gifts they bring!

We close with a period of silence, during which I ask each of you to hold in the Light all of the parents and children that we have acknowledged today. Each child will be given a certificate that contains the text of the promises this Meeting has made today. I ask all of you from the Meeting to sign each of these certificates as your acknowledgement that these children are part of our Meeting community.

[Text for certificates:

*Whereas, \_\_\_\_\_, child of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, has been acknowledged as a part of the spiritual community of the Atlanta Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, this is to certify to whom it may concern, that on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of the \_\_\_\_\_ month, in the year \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ appeared in a meeting for worship of the Religious Society of Friends, at which Members and Attenders of the Meeting declared that they promised, with divine assistance, to [insert text of promises made by Meeting as a whole].*

And we, having been present and entered into these promises, as further confirmation thereof, then and there, to this certificate set our hands.]

Earlier discussion of this topic revealed that there is a wide range of views among parents regarding whether they want to make specific promises to their children and, if so, what those should be. The current structure is intended both to strengthen the bonds between the Meeting and the children and also to provide parents with an opportunity to make commitments to their children. In addition, repeating this each year and including all children could enrich the experience for children as they grow up in the Meeting. Certificates are used to give each child a visible reminder of their tie with the Meeting community.

A few queries for discernment over this proposal:

- What committee(s) should be responsible for organizing/stewarding this?
- Would this meeting take place during worship time once a year like the annual First Day school recognition of children?
- Would this interfere with worship or invite all people to be present at a welcoming so that it would become an occasion for building community rather than expressing the interests or preoccupations of a smaller group?

## ***Summer Sharing: Religious Education***

Because it has been so successful in past years, this summer the Religious Education Committee would like to again invite committees and organizations to help teach our K-5th graders about what Friends do to sustain a Meeting like AFM and to represent Friends in the world.

What you can do to help us:

1. Please share the dates below with your committee or other like minded Friends.
2. Pick at least 2 people who would like to create and teach a lesson with the K-5th grade Friends at AFM this summer (we must have 2 adults present for each Sunday).
3. Let me know the date your group can commit to and the people interested.

Our summer First Day School dates are:

**June 3 (Father's Day), 10 (SAYMA), 17 and 24;  
July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 (5th Sunday--children in Meeting);  
August 5 and 12**

*(Note: The nursery will be open every First Day.)*

Kindergarten through rising 5th graders will be in a shared classroom with weekly age-appropriate lessons from AFM committees about the work of Quakers in our Meeting. Rising 6th graders through 12th grade will join Maggie Hasbrouck for the summer in the senior high classroom for our upper level multi age First Day School.

We so greatly appreciate your participation in the lives of our young people. This summer schedule exposes Young Friends to new adults in the Meeting, gives adults the chance to interact with future Quaker leaders, and creates a learning experience for Young Friends around Quaker work. It also gives our teachers a chance to rejuvenate over the summer in order to come back in 10 weeks and start again.

***Please contact Jennifer Dickie (michaeljen@bellsouth.net, 404-313-8770) for more information.***

\* \* \* \*

## **Classes and Forum on Theologian Howard Thurman (1900-1980)**

During the summer months we will have many opportunities to become acquainted with the writings and thought of Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian and minister, co-founder of Church for the Fellowship of all Peoples (San Francisco), student of Rufus Jones at Haverford, and professor at Howard University, Boston University and Earlham School of Religion. He wrote, "You must wait and listen for the sound of the genuine that is within you. When you hear it, that will be your voice and the voice of God." Thurman identified with Quakers although he never became a member. In adult First Day School the focus for reading and discussion during June and July will be the life and writings of Thurman. Our reading for June is *With Head and Heart: The Autobiography of Howard Thurman*; for July, the writings of Thurman included in *Black Fire: African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights*. Books will be available from Bill Holland. All are welcome. The class meets at 9am in the meetinghouse library.

The culminating event will be the Forum after Meeting for Worship on July 29, co-sponsored by Ministry and Worship and the Committee for Undoing Racism in the Atlanta Friends Meeting. The forum will feature Thurman scholar and professor Dr. Luther Smith of Emory's Candler School of Theology speaking about Thurman's life and religious thought, followed by worship sharing led by Christina Repoley. Readings will be provided ahead, although it is not necessary to have read them to participate. If you need childcare, please notify Karen Morris in advance of the forum (karenthmorris@comcast.net).

**Atlanta Friends Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**May 20, 2012**  
**Recorded Pending Approval**

Meeting opened with a period of silent worship, after which Clerk David Foster read an excerpt from Elisabeth Yarnell in *Daily Readings from Quaker Writings Ancient & Modern, Volume II* (1995).

**Query:** On behalf of Ministry and Worship, Caroline Noyes presented the query, “Do you attend Meeting for Business regularly? Do you participate in a spirit of love and understanding, recognizing that you may need to accept a decision of the Meeting with which you are not entirely in agreement?”

**In attendance were:** Mike Aland, Micheal Allison, Mark Bryans, Steve Collins, Linnis Cook, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Jenny Foster, Judith Greenberg, Roland Heath, Bill Holland, Kathy Johnson, Chris Lahowitch, Georgia Lord, Caroline Morris, Karen terHorst Morris, Ronald Nuse, John Roberts, Aaron Ruschetta, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Ellie Soler, Joan Thompson, Myrna Trapp, Denny Webster, Maggie Wise, Caroline Noyes (Recording Clerk), David Foster (Clerk) (28 Friends).

**Matters for Discernment**

**Social Concerns Committee:** on behalf of the Social Concerns committee, Bert Skellie reported that Social Concerns recommends that Atlanta Friends Meeting make a one-time gift of \$2,000 to Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS), drawing the funds from the Social Concerns Fund. The Social Concerns committee believes that QVS participants under the Meeting’s spiritual care will be providing community service or work for an advocacy group that is consistent with Social Concerns, and the Social Concerns Fund is an appropriate source for this donation.

**Minute 12-05-01:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves allocating \$2,000 from the Social Concerns fund as a one-time gift in support of Quaker Voluntary Service.

**Nominating Committee:** on behalf of the Nominating committee, Steve Collins brought forth for final approval Rick Martinson as clerk of the Administration committee, serving through 2013.

**Minute 12-05-02:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Rick Martinson as clerk of the Administration committee.

**Reports**

**Finance Committee:** On behalf of the Finance committee, Judith Greenberg reported that there has been \$31,955 raised through March 31 and expenses of \$36,232. Total income for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter (25%) represents 21.4% of the amount budgeted. Contributions are at \$23,210 which represents 19.5% of what was budgeted for, while rental income is on target.

**Nominating Committee:** On behalf of the Nominating committee, Steve Collins reported that Dana Goldman and Jonah McDonald are being nominated for co-teachers for high school Religious Education. Final approval for both will be sought in Sixth month. Nominations for Religious Education teachers for the middle school group are being sought.

**Care and Counsel:** On behalf of the Care and Counsel committee, Mary Ann Downey presented the memorial minute for Alex Horsley.

**Ferguson Cabin:** On behalf of the Ferguson Cabin committee, Mark Bryans reported that the cost remaining to finish the cabin is approximately \$1,500, out of a total budget of about \$35,000. There is now an operational toilet, sink, while the shower awaits the plumbing connection. There are two upcoming work weekends: June 2-3 and July 20-21. Recent fundraising activities have raised \$1841, and Friends are able to purchase a place on the naming plaque for \$100. Joan Thompson is the contact person for reserving time at the cabin, and Joan reported that the cabin is currently booked on weekends in June and July, and for half of August. Currently, the cost for using the cabin is \$10 per person per night, although discussions are under way about a sliding scale for the new cabin because of the indoor plumbing.

**Quaker Quest:** on behalf of the Quaker Quest planning committee, Bert Skellie reported that Quaker Quest (QQ) public sessions will likely occur from 1:30 – 3:30pm on Sunday afternoons from September 16 through November 4. The committee anticipates offering light refreshments from 1:00 – 1:30 and extra discussion from 3:30 – 4:00pm. Topics to be covered include *Friends and the Worship Experience*, *Friends and Equality*, *Friends and Peace*, and *Friends and Jesus*. The budget is being developed, and we may qualify for matching funds from Friends General Conference of up to \$1,500. A brochure will be professionally produced, free advertising will be sought, the website will be updated, and social media will be used.

Friends expressed concerns about the how best to integrate the Quaker Quest sessions with existing Sunday commitments, particularly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays) and committee days (2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays). Questions were raised about how we could optimize the welcoming experience for participants in these public sessions. In exploring this, concerns were raised about timing the sessions to allow for full participation of interested Friends, about faithfully carry out all these activities without over scheduling ourselves, about assuring that we care for our spiritual and mental energy so we can bring our best to the work, and about the best space within the meetinghouse to hold the sessions. Friends are encouraged to talk with Bert Skellie or David Foster about ideas or concerns regarding the details of the Quaker Quest outreach plan. A further seasoned plan will be presented in Sixth Month.

**Other business:** John Roberts provided an update on the landscaping plans. The landscape architect and the engineer have been hired and are working on the technical details. Once an up-to-date property survey is completed, a contractor will be hired and a detailed preliminary plan will be developed before ground is broken in late June or early July. Construction will take approximately four weeks, and should be finished in late summer/early fall. Questions regarding the landscaping plans should be addressed to John Roberts, Jack Honderd, or Peter Sederberg.

**Clerk's Items:** David Foster reported that because State of the Meeting Reports are now due by the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, a draft must be completed by the January Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, meaning that preparations should begin in fall. The handbook states that the Clerk of the Meeting should write the report, and David proposes that there be a drafting committee comprised of the Clerk of the Meeting and a representative from both Ministry and Worship and Care and Counsel. David recommends that this drafting committee start collecting data in early September from other committees. The clerk proposes that Care and Counsel and Ministry and Worship consider this proposal at their joint meeting in July, and then bring recommendations to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business for approval.

Approval of Minutes of Fourth month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business:

**Minute 12-05-03:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the Minutes of Fourth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business without corrections.



Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Foster, Clerk

Caroline Noyes, Recording Clerk

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***Assist Our Quaker Students***

The Educational Scholarship Committee has received 4 applications from our young people to help fund next year's undergraduate studies. We are hoping to be able to provide \$500 each for tuition, books and supplies. Help these students stay connected with their Quaker roots by reminding them of our support.

Make your check out to Atlanta Friends Meeting for the Educational Scholarship Fund.

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Young Friends at the 2012 Gathered Meeting Retreat:  
Sounding the Divine or shouting "Ice Cream"?

## Calendar for Sixth Month (June) 2012

### Area Meetings for Worship

- Every First Day (Sunday), 10:00 a.m. – Meetinghouse, with a smaller group in the Library.  
Every First Day, 12:30 p.m. – Carrollton Friends Worship Group.  
St. Andrew's UMC Youth Center, 1106 Maple St.; Margaret Bray, 770-830-8705.
- Every 2d and 4th First Day, 10:00 a.m. – Canton Friends Worship Group.  
360 E. Marietta St.; 779-720-4669 or wrldpeas@mindspring.com.
- Every 2d First Day, 10:30 a.m. -- Macon Friends Worship Group.  
Contact Diana Day, 478-227-8892; maconquakers.org.
- Every 4<sup>th</sup> Morning (Wednesday) Worship, 8:30 a.m. – Library.  
Contact Jonah McDonald, 404-377-2474; afmquakers@hotmail.com.
- Every 4<sup>th</sup> Evening (Wednesday), 7:00 p.m. – Meeting Room.  
Contact Christina Repoley, 404-840-3005; christinarepoley@gmail.com.
- First 5<sup>th</sup> Morning (Thursday) – AFSC office, 60 Walton St. NW, Atlanta.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Day (Thursday) (except 1st of the month), 12:10 p.m. – East Lake Commons, Decatur.  
Contact Bert Skellie, 404-378-5883, bertskellie@gmail.com.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Day (Friday) (2<sup>nd</sup> week of August through May), 8:45 a.m. – Friends School of Atlanta.  
Community Meeting Room, 862 Columbia Dr., Decatur, 404-373-8746.

### Weekly Events at the Meetinghouse

- Every First Day (Sunday)  
9:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education  
9:15 a.m. Singing, Classroom A/B  
10:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship
- Every Second-Fifth Day (Monday-Thursday)  
8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Smart Toddlers, Nursery playground
- Every Fourth Day (Wednesday)  
8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Morning Silent Worship, Library
- Every Third Day (Tuesday)  
7:30 p.m. Silent Meditation, Meeting Room  
7:30 p.m. Bible Study, Library

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Clerk of the Meeting: David Foster, 404-941-7337

Recording Clerk: Caroline Noyes

Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, 404-968-9309      Ministry & Worship: Bill Holland, 404-692-2358

Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280      Care & Counsel: Laura Norlin, 404-762-3540

Religious Ed.: Alison Mawle, 404-944-9142      Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald

Social Concerns: Michael Allison, 770-832-3539; Bert Skellie, 404-378-5883

Newsletter Editor: David Payne, atlquakerltr@gmail.com

Webmaster: Aaron Ruscetta, arxaaron@gmail.com

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING  
701 W HOWARD AVE  
DECATUR GA 30030-2902

**ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING**  
**701 West Howard Ave., Decatur, GA 30030**  
**404-377-2474; atlanta.quaker.org**  
**Office: MWF 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; afmquakers@hotmail.com**  
**Clerk: David Foster, 404-941-7337; afmclerk1@gmail.com**  
**Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, 404-968-9309; afmtreasurer@yahoo.com**  
**Newsletter Editor: David Payne, atlquakerltr@gmail.com**

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 and contact information to Nina Gooch at ninagooch@gmail.com or 404-371-9873. Please indicate if you want to be in the directory, receive the newsletter by mail, or both.

Contributions to the Atlanta Friends Meeting may 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!

*This newsletter is a publication of the Atlanta Friends Meeting. Views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Meeting.*

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**DEADLINE FOR 7<sup>TH</sup> MONTH NEWSLETTER:  
JUNE 16**

Readers are encouraged to submit letters, articles, notices and anything else of interest to Friends. Items should be sent directly to atlquakerltr@gmail.com **in plain text in the body of the email. Texts may be edited for length and format. Pictures should be in .jpg format.**