

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



May 2014

What are Your Myths to Live By?

Submitted by Perry Treadwell

As a boy many years ago I, like many others, became fascinated with Greek mythology. As my world expanded, I learned that there were many other myths. One of my teenage books was “Truth is One” explaining the mythologies of the major religions of the world. Joseph Campbell expanded on this theme with his several books and his television series with Bill Moyers. Soon the Judeo-Christian myths could also be laid out and examined. Bible scholars have pretty much reduced the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament to erroneous history and mythology with some “just so stories” thrown in.

If myths are common to all world religions, what do they serve? One reason for myths is the stabilization of community. Common myths bring people together to sing, to pray, to listen to one another and to eat with one another. Unfortunately, myths can also separate. Every world religion has suffered one schism after another. Even Quakers in America split and split and split again over doctrine. Some of this restructuring of Quaker practice was caused by the 19th century rise of the Baptists and Methodists on the frontier. Isolated Quakers tried to emulate the programmed meetings of these evangelicals. They even took their evangelism to Africa.

But Quakers claim that they have no doctrine, just suggestions to be examined: Advices and testimonies. Is Quaker mythology that each of us will honestly examine our relation to the testimonies of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Environment without exhortation?

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

QUERY

Do we share our deepest beliefs and values with each other and with our children, while leaving them free to develop as the Spirit may lead them? Does the Meeting give the children loving care, and promote their spiritual life through religious education and other activities? Do we encourage our children's participation in the Meeting's work and cultivate their desire for service to others?

FWCC Gathering in El Salvador: Que Fluya el Agua Viva: Let the Living Water Flow

From February 21-23 in the mountains of El Salvador Frank Cummings and Judy Lumb attended the first of four gatherings sponsored by the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas to follow up the Sixth World Gathering of Friends held in 2012 in Kenya. The other three will be held in the next two months in California, Bolivia, and North Carolina. All branches of Friends were represented with the majority being from the programmed and evangelical churches in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Cuba. Worship experiences were shared from each branch, including a somewhat modified unprogrammed meeting for worship or open worship. Using a tradition brought to the Friends World Conference by the youth called "home groups" at the World Conference, *grupos de base* met several times to allow participants to share their reflections of the experience. It was a great opportunity for Judy to renew friendships made in Kenya at the World Gathering and in Chiquimula, Guatemala, where she had visited in 1998. Frank noted the attendance of relatively younger adults and the self-identity of the groups as Quaker and left valuing again the power of expectant silence as a form of worship. He enjoyed learning of the support of AFSC for a training institute in Cuba as a peace center.

Participation Request from Julie Hliboki

Dear Friends,

I hope this note finds you well. I have an invitation for you... I am working on my next book. It is intended for hospice chaplains, volunteers, and families of patients. My hope is that the book will be both a resource for care givers and an inspiration to those under their care.

As I have participated in providing spiritual care to hospice patients, I have found myself wanting to understand better the end-of-life practices for various faith traditions. Part one of my book will explain the end-of-life rituals for each of the major world religions, and the dying process in general. I have also found myself wanting light-filled stories, poems, and prayers to read to my patients. Therefore, the second part of my book will include written pieces about light, transformation, equanimity, and peace during times of transition including end-of-life. The poetry, prayers, and stories will be accompanied by David Foster's photographs (www.davidfosterimages.net) depicting the uplifting quality of nature's light.

I am in the active process of writing the poetry, prayers, and stories, but would love to receive writings from other Friends for possible inclusion in the book. The submissions could be pieces written by the person submitting, or a recommendation of a writing by another Friend (historical or otherwise, with permission to include). To give you a sense of what I am seeking, imagine that if you were dying what you might wish to hear about moving into the light, and if you were a care giver, what you might wish to share with your beloved. The pieces may be faith-specific or secular, traditional prayers or original works.

Would you be interested in submitting a piece for possible inclusion, or would you like to recommend another source? If yes, please respond to me at this e-mail address: JulieHliboki@gmail.com.

Regarding guidelines, stories should be no more than 1,500 words, and prayers and poems no longer than 60 lines. I am hoping to receive all submissions by July 1, 2014, roughly two months from now.

Thanks in advance for your consideration. Please feel free to send this invitation to other F(f)riends you know who may be interested.

With love and gratitude,
Julie

John Calvi's Weekend Retreat May 2-4

Friday May 2 from 7-9 pm, Friend John Calvi will speak about the work of Quakers Initiative to End Torture, QUIT, an organization he created with other Friends. Saturday morning, 10-4, we will focus on deep relaxation for better spiritual seeking and release from the noise of the world to receive spiritual guidance. Calvi will discuss his book, *The Dance of Hope and Fear* in the library for our religious education class Sunday morning before meeting and a discussion with him after meeting and potluck. Books will be available for sale and signing. Ministry and Worship is sponsoring his visit and more information is available from Mary Ann Downey.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – April 20, 2014 Recorded pending approval

Attendance: David Addiss, Paul Baker, Don Bender, Muireann Brennan, Steve Collins, Diana Day, John Day, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, David Foster, Clive Gordon, Judith Greenberg, Julie Hliboki, Bill Holland, Kathy Johnson, Lynn Leuszler, Rick Martinson, Karen ter Horst Morris, Kelsey McNicholas, Erin Schroder, Rebecca Sullivan, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Sarah Walton, Lara Wik, Ashley Wilcox, Blake Williamson, Merrill, Nan O'Connor (Clerk), Elizabeth Lamb (Recording Clerk) (31 Friends).

Query: Bill Holland presented the query: "How can we make the meeting a community in which each person is accepted and nurtured, and strangers are welcome? Seek to know one another in the things which are eternal, bear the burden of each other's failings and pray for one another. As we enter with tender sympathy into the joys and sorrows of each other's lives, ready to give help and to receive it, our meeting can be a channel for God's love and forgiveness."

Ministry and Worship Committee: On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee Bill Holland brought forward the following items for discernment:

1. We have received a letter from our member Daphne Clement asking to transfer her membership to Durham Meeting, which has become her "spiritual home." We recommend we release Daphne from our membership and transfer her to the tender care of Durham Meeting.

Minute 4-20-2014-01: On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee we ask Durham Monthly Meeting to accept the transfer of Daphne Clement's membership in the Religious Society of Friends. We are grateful for the time Daphne spent with our meeting and for all of her service. We will greatly miss her presence in our meeting.

2. Mary Ann Horne, a member of the meeting, has lived away from Atlanta for several years and requests to lay down membership. Mary Ann says she made this request a year ago. We recommend

we lay down Mary Ann Horne's membership and convey our hope she continues to deepen her spiritual life.

Minute 4-20-2014-02: *On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, and at the request of Mary Ann Horne, we release Mary Ann from her membership in Atlanta Friends Meeting and wish her continued growth as she continues her spiritual journey.*

3. Denny Webster is presently living in Greenville, South Carolina and requests that we minute our support for her as a sojourning member of that meeting.

Minute 4-20-2014-03: *Atlanta Friends asks Greenville Friends Meeting to accept Denny Webster as a sojourning member of your meeting. Denny has been a faithful member of Atlanta Friends Meeting and brought many gifts and service to our life together. We ask you to tenderly care for her spiritual life for the time she will be sojourning with you.*

4. In June of last year, the Ministry and Worship Committee was asked to bring a recommendation on place and conduct of the meeting for worship the first Sunday in June, held recently in Adair Park. In the last year, we have become aware that members of meeting with mobility challenges have difficulty attending and participating in this meeting. The open setting and ambient noise makes hearing ministry difficult. Members with environmental sensitivities (allergies) are unable to participate in this meeting. Parents with children must be especially mindful of young friends during worship due to the attractive playground and the proximity of a busy street. In addition, the logistics of setting up potluck in the park places a burden on the Hospitality Committee. The full-hour alternate meeting in the meetinghouse is well attended. After prayerful consideration and consultation, Ministry and Worship recommended that the meeting discontinue the practice of holding our regular Meeting for Worship and Potluck in Adair Park.

There was considerable discussion and concern about this proposal within the meeting. A representative from Green Friends said that Green Friends would be willing to handle the logistics of continuing to meet at Adair Park. Another Friend suggested that having the picnic on our newly renovated grounds could serve as an outreach to our neighbors and as a means of connecting the meeting more closely to our own outdoor space. Since there was not unity around discontinuing holding the first meeting in June at Adair Park, the meeting agreed that the Ministry and Worship Committee, with input from anyone in the meeting who wished to contribute, would re-write the minute to include an aspect relating to our care of the environment and bring it forth at the Fifth Month Meeting for Business.

5. Meeting attender and former QVS volunteer, Liz Nicholson has been recognized by the Pickett Fund as an emerging Quaker Leader. She has proposed a project and received partial funding to travel to Palestine and Israel for three weeks this summer with a group led by Max Carter. We recommend a Meeting minute of support for this project and the appointment of an anchoring committee to assist her with this project. We recommend, Mary Ann Downey, Jenny Foster and Christina Repoley to serve on this committee.

Minute 4-20-2014-04: *Atlanta Friends Meeting supports Liz Nicholson's Pickett Fund Project to visit Israel and Palestine in the summer of 2014. We ask Mary Ann Downey, Jenny Foster and*

Christina Repoley to serve as a support committee for her project. We look forward to learning ways we can support this project and encourage Liz to share her experience with meeting.

6. Ministry and Worship brought Julie Hliboki's membership request to Third Month meeting for business and recommended her membership.

Minute 4-20-2014-05: *On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, we welcome Julie Hliboki as a member in the Atlanta Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. We look forward to growing in community with Julie.*

Ministry and Worship Committee: On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee Bill Holland reported that funds are available from Ministry and Worship to support Friends needing assistance to attend FGC and SAYMA this year. He asked that those interested contact Steve Collins, clerk of the subcommittee for these scholarships, as soon as possible.

Treasurer: Judith Greenberg presented the first quarter Balance Sheet and Income & Expense Report to the meeting, explaining a few items as needed.

Perry Treadwell reported that we still need contributions of about \$5000 by April 30, 2014 to remove the stump and put in the Garden House, thus completing this phase of the outdoor renovation project.

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee, co-clerk Blake Williamson brought forward the following names for discernment Fifth Month:

Lynn Leuszler as Treasurer

Ashley Wilcox as member of the Ministry and Worship Committee

Steve Collins as clerk of the Administration Committee

Report from the Macon Quaker Worship Group: Diane Day reported that the second attempt to establish a Monthly Meeting in Macon began with the first meeting held June 11, 2011. Currently they meet for worship on the second first day of each month with attendance ranging between three and eleven (of fourteen regulars). They have also started a book group which meets between Meetings for Worship which is well attended. She reported that it is a struggle to attract members in the conservative atmosphere of Macon and that a number of prior attenders have moved out of the area. She suggested a "gathering of worship groups" be held, possibly online, so that small meeting groups like the Macon group could share ideas and support each other. Bill Holland said that Ministry and Worship would consider this and see how Atlanta Friends Meeting can help.

Minutes of March 2013:

Minute 4-20-2014-06: *The Minutes of the March 2014 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved as submitted.*

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Lamb, Recording Clerk and Nan O'Connor, Clerk

Love After Love

The time will come
when, with elation,
you will greet yourself arriving
at your own door, in your own mirror,
and each will smile at the other's welcome
and say, sit here. Eat.
You will love again the stranger who was your self.
Give wine. Give bread. Give back your heart
to itself, to the stranger who has loved you
all your life, whom you have ignored
for another, who knows you by heart.
Take down the love letters from the bookshelf,
the photographs, the desperate notes,
peel your own image from the mirror.
Sit. Feast on your life.

-- Derek Walcott, from *Collected Poems 1948-1984* ©1986 Farrar Straus Giroux

Self Portrait

It doesn't interest me if there is one God
or many gods.
I want to know if you belong or feel
abandoned.
If you know despair or can see it in others.
I want to know
if you are prepared to live in the world
with its harsh need
to change you. If you can look back
with firm eyes
saying this is where I stand. I want to know
if you know
how to melt into that fierce heat of living
falling toward
the center of your longing. I want to know
if you are willing
to live, day by day, with the consequence of love
and the bitter
unwanted passion of your sure defeat.

I have heard, in *that* fierce embrace, even
the gods speak of God.

-- David Whyte, from *Fire in the Earth* ©1992 Many Rivers Press



Please Hold in The Light:

Buntu Dignite
Her family:
Jeannine Nitereka
Dieudonne Ntibayazi
Eddy, Edithe-Rose, Dianne.

Those who wish to have requests for Holding included in this monthly newsletter may give the names to any member of Care & Counsel.



Atlanta Friends Meeting Contacts

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Calendar for Fifth Month (May) 2014

Area Meetings for Worship

Every First Day (Sunday)	10:00 a.m. – Meetinghouse, with a smaller group in the Library.
Every Third First Day	12:30 p.m. – Carrollton Friends Worship Group. St. Andrew's UMC Youth Center, 1106 Maple St.; contact Jean Hudson, judson30116@yahoo.com or 678-378-3368; carrolltonfriends.org .
Every Second and Fourth First Day	10:00 a.m. – Canton Friends Worship Group. 360 E. Marietta St.; 779-720-4669 or wrlldpeas@mindspring.com .
Every Second First Day	10:30 a.m. – Macon Friends Worship Group. Contact Diana Day, 478-227-8892; maconquakers.org
Every Fifth Day (Thursday)	12:10 p.m. – East Lake Commons, Decatur. Contact Bert Skellie at bertskellie@gmail.com or 404-680-4799.
Sixth Day (Friday)	(Mid-August through May), 9:00 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, Library 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 Third Day (Tuesday)	7:00 p.m. Silent Meditation, Library
Every Fourth Day (Wednesday)	7:00 p.m. Mid-Week Worship, Library
Every Fifth Day (Thursday)	7:30 p.m. Bible Study, Library

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING
701 W. Howard Ave.
Decatur, GA 30030-2902

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Office: MWF 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; 404-377-2474

Web: atlanta.quaker.org atlantaquakers@gmail.com

Clerk: Nan O'Connor, afmclerk1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, afmtreasurer1@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.

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 (Word, not PDF). Pictures should be in .jpg format. Submissions may be edited for length and format.

THE DEADLINE FOR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS IS THE 20TH DAY OF EACH PRECEDING MONTH.

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