

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



September 2014

First Day School for 2014-2015

Making Meaning of Scripture: Finding Our Inward Teacher.

Quaker theologian Robert Barclay in his Apology for the True Christian Divinity, reminds us that we can only know the bible, ". . . by the inward testimony of the spirit" and this comes only by listening to the Inward Guide. We believe that God, the Spirit, is our guide to all Truth, and that divine inspiration is available to everyone, no matter their age. In First Day School, our year's work is not only to reveal the stories of the Old Testament to our children, but also to teach them *how* to access that deeper meaning by finding the inward guide. This year we will work on how to listen for God's voice. Some weeks our teachers will use our Faith and Play model which guides children to the inward teacher with wondering questions while honoring each child's voice and other weeks children will work on the outward journey inspired by these lessons through our own experience, current and historical human example, and service.

This year we have five classroom dedicated to our children.

Class	Age/Grade	Teachers
Nursery	0-3years	Camille Jackson plus volunteers
Pre-school Plus	3 years old – 1 st grade	Angie Love, Lynn Leuszler, Carolyn Manley (singing)
Elementary	2 nd – 4 th grade	Julia Ewen & Alison Mawle, Kacy Burbaker, Blake Williamson, Betsy Eggers & Beth Martinson (singing)

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

Are you honest and truthful in all you say and do? Do you maintain strict integrity in business transactions and in your dealings with individuals and organisations? Do you use money and information entrusted to you with discretion and responsibility? Taking oaths implies a double standard of truth; in choosing to affirm instead, be aware of the claim to integrity that you are making.

- Britain Yearly Meeting

Middle School	5 th – 7 th grade	Folami Adams, Gwen Davies, Betsy Eggers & Beth Martinson (singing), Perry Treadwell
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High School	8 th – 12 th grade	Jonah McDonald plus volunteers
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Our preschool, elementary and middle school classrooms reach their optimal teaching potential when the teacher is supported by a **doorkeeper** each week. A doorkeeper is a Friend who is available to welcome each child to the class and who participates in the lesson with the children offering support as needed by the teacher. Parents are welcome and encouraged to be doorkeepers once a month. The preschool room welcomes volunteers to help hold and play with infants and toddlers, and the High School class welcomes adults interested in sharing in spiritual conversation with these Young Friends. Friends can commit to these opportunities by signing up on the volunteer list passed around following the rise of Meeting, or by contacting the Religious Education Clerk or the main office.

Thank you for bringing your child to Meeting regularly. It helps to build, friendly bonds between children and teachers, and allows children a continuous curriculum.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Jennifer Dickie, Religious Education Clerk, michaeljen@bellsouth.net, 404-313-8770.

Conscious Aging/Mindful Dying Groups

A talk about life's end and the aging, if we're lucky, that precedes it, doesn't sound like everyone's cup of tea. But a movement that started in Europe a few decades ago and came to this country about ten years ago is proving that many people do want to talk about the subject we can't escape, death/dying.

Called Death Cafes (a take-off on the "philosophers' cafes" or "scientists' cafes" in Europe), these groups consist of people of all ages who gather just to share thoughts on aging/death/dying, meeting regularly in almost 40 cities, including Atlanta. The hope is that by normalizing what may be a difficult or even morbid subject, participants can breathe life into an avoidable topic. About 94% of people believe it's important to have discussions with loved ones, for example, about care and planning around death, but only 27% have done so.

Based on responses after a recent forum on aging/death/dying, Care and Counsel committee is forming groups based on the Death Café model, which we are calling Conscious Aging/Mindful Dying. These groups will be informal and peer led, though the first meetings, held this fall, will be facilitated by a Care and Counsel member. For more information, or to sign up, please contact Don Bender, Beth-Ann Buitekant or Chris Lahowitch.

Conversations that matter, in friendly, supportive settings, about death/dying end up being not so much about how we die, but how we want to live . . . mindfully, consciously. Thoughtfully. Please join us.

Worship and Bag Brunch in the Park - September 21

Atlanta Friends invites everyone to a worship time in Adair Park on Sunday, September 21st from 10:00 - 10:30 a. m.

Many AFM Friends have felt strong spiritual meaning in worship out of doors, where we are closer to nature and are reminded of our dependence on the natural world. Using and supporting our public parks is also felt to be important.

The park is on the corner of Adair Street and Ponce de Leon, within walking distance of the Meetinghouse. Parking is also available along curbs of Adair Street and side streets.

For those who are interested, many of us will bring our own bag brunches for eating in the Park following worship. We suggest that Friends bring their own plates, utensils, beverages, and folding chairs or blankets as needed. This plan will allow those who wish to attend Meeting for Business at 11:45 a.m. to be back at the Meetinghouse in time.

For more information contact Pat Williams, pwwpathome@gmail.com, [770-565 7016](tel:770-565-7016) (home phone)

Poetry Corner: Submitted by Perry Treadwell

The World Is Too Much With Us

By William Wordsworth

The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;—
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not. Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathèd horn.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – August 17, 2014
Recorded pending approval

Attendance: Cathy Amanti, Susan Bacher, Don Bender, Linnis Cook, Betsy Eggers, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, Susan Firestone, David Foster, Jenny Foster, Eric Glenn, Clive Gordon, Judith Greenberg, Roland Heath, Julie Hliboki, Kathy Johnson, Chris Kohler, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Becky Lough, Alison Mawle, Caroline Noyes, Aaron Ruscetta, Erica Schoon, Erin Schroder, Barbara Seal, Rebecca Sullivan, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Sarah Walton, Austin Wattles, Nan O'Connor (Clerk), Elizabeth Lamb (Recording Clerk) (34 Friends).

Clerk's Reading and Reflections: The clerk read excerpts from A Testament of Devotion by Thomas Kelly.

Query: Steve Collins presented the query: "Are you concerned for responsible use of natural resources and their nurture for future generation? Do you try to avoid wasteful consumption and pollution? Do you seek to preserve the beauty and balance of God's world?"

Ministry and Worship Committee: On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee Steve Collins brought forward the following items:

* Marriage Under the Care of the Meeting

In 6th Month, Ministry and Worship received a letter from Caroline Noyes and Susan Bacher requesting that the Atlanta Meeting take their marriage under our care. A clearness committee met with the couple and joyfully united in recommending this marriage. M&W recommends that we take this marriage under our tender and loving care. We will ask for the meeting discernment in 9th month.

* Report on Marriage of Elaine Ruscetta and Chad Gilmartin

Because the marriage of Elaine and Chad took place at some distance from the meeting, we have asked Aaron Ruscetta to briefly report on the marriage. He reported that a lovely wedding took place at a summer place in New York which allowed the guests to stay and celebrate with the couple. The service included vows and hand-fasting. The couple will be in Atlanta next month and will hold another commitment service here on September 13, 2014.

Finance Committee: On behalf of the Finance Committee Lynn Leuszler shared the Income and Expense report through August 14, 2014, pointing out that contributions to the general fund are approximately \$10,000 below where they were at this date two years ago. There have been many contributions to off-budget items which might partially explain the difference. It was asked that the committee make clear to the meeting that such contributions are in addition to and not instead of contributions to the regular budget. It was also asked that the committee provide a report separating the budgeted and non-budgeted segments so the meeting can understand the situation more clearly. Lynn further reported that rental income is also down, due to the loss of one of our renters. He asked that everyone consider increasing their contributions now rather than waiting until the end of the year.

Lynn also reported that the Finance Committee has been struggling with finding a fund to replace the PAX World Fund following a concern expressed by Green Friends regarding their investment in Occidental Petroleum. The committee has been informed that PAX World Fund has divested their interest in Occidental Petroleum, so this is no longer a concern.

Administration Committee: On behalf of the Administration Committee Steve Collins reported that most of the large tree at the edge of the playground has been removed. Also the playground slide and a temporary fence around the playground have been installed by volunteers. The volunteers also mulched around the edge of the new grass. There will be additional day(s) for volunteer mulching this fall once the undergrowth has been removed. Soil testing has been completed and we are awaiting the report to provide an engineering basis for footing design for the garden house. Jack Honderd will evaluate it and involve a structural engineer, if appropriate, so we can come up with a cost estimate for the garden house. Then AFM can decide whether or not to proceed with the garden house in the current planned location (on the edge of the ravine). He also reported that the Meeting has been informed about a potentially dangerous tree near the property line beyond the parking lot. The committee is currently seeking bids to have it removed. Finally he reported that they are still looking into the best way to remove the kudzu from the ravine.

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee Steve Collins brought forward the following names to serve in Religious Education. They will be brought forward for approval next month.

- High School (8th – 12th grade) – Jonah McDonald
- Upper Grades (5th – 7th grade) – Gwen Davies, Folami Adams, Perry Treadwell (new)
- Middle Grades (2nd-4th grade) – Julia Ewen (new), Alison Mawle, Kacy Burbank, Blake Williamson (new)
- Middle and Upper Grades singing – Betsy Eggers, Beth Martinson
- Lower Grades (3 year old-1st grade) – Angie Love, Lynn Leuszler (new), Carolyn Manley (new)

If you have questions or concerns please speak with Jennifer Dickie, Mary Jahntz, or a member of the Nominating Committee.

Minutes of June 2014:

Minute 8-17-2014-01: *The Minutes of the June 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.



Please Hold in The Light:

John Adam's mother; Panchita Alba
Connie LaMonte, Birmingham Friends Meeting

*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

Clerk of the Meeting: Nan O'Connor, afmclerk1@gmail.com
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Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com
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Calendar for Ninth Month (September) 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 wrlpeas@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

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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: Lynn Leuszler, 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 Emily Lawson at elawson7@gmail.com or 404-200-8479. 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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