

# ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



## January 2015

### **Walking Through the Door: A guide to Doorkeeping in First Day School Submitted by Jennifer Dickie**

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*"A threshold is very important. It divides, but also invites one to come through. At one time Jesus called himself a door, the way into a deeper reality."*

--Jerome W. Berryman, Teaching Godly Play

#### **Who is a Doorkeeper?**

Friends who:

- Wish to grow in their relationships with the youngest members of our Meeting.
- Wish to share in the richness of worship as it happens in the religious education classrooms every First Day.
- Want to support the dedicated adults who teach First Day school throughout the year.
- Are looking for a way to serve our community in a new and special way.

#### **What does a Doorkeeper do. . . and why do they do it?**

*Doorkeeper:* "Good morning Graham. Are you ready to join the circle for the story today?"

*Graham:* "Yes."

*Doorkeeper:* "Okay, walk in quietly and find a place in the Circle."

The doorkeeper is the first person a child encounters when coming to First Day School. This is the person who gently guides the child from parent to story teller, the person who slows down the child who is in a hurry to be "done" with silence and get on to play, the person who welcomes all with a friendly smile and a focused interest in each child who crosses the threshold into the story circle. This single interaction sets the tone for the rest of the class. To welcome and ask a child if she is ready to join the circle allows each child a sense of belonging and sets the stage for a thoughtful lesson.

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 our Meetings for Worship held in expectant waiting for Divine guidance, with a living silence in which we feel drawn together in the Light by the presence of God?

Do we respond to the Spirit's prompting to minister, whether in silence, through the spoken word or through action after the Meeting for Worship?

*-Tampa Monthly Meeting*

*Doorkeeper:* “Good morning Anna. Are you ready to join the circle for the story today?”

*Anna:* “I need a drink.”

*Doorkeeper:* “Okay, get a drink, and when you are ready you may join the circle.”

The role of the doorkeeper continues within the classroom. The doorkeeper listens to the story and is available to sit with a child who is unable to manage quietly through the lesson. If a child doesn't seem ready to listen to the story she joins the doorkeeper outside of the circle. The two sit together and listen. This allows the child to continue to be part of the storytelling, without disrupting the other children or the storyteller. The story is for everyone. . . even those who have trouble listening all the time.

Following the story the children choose their reflective work. The doorkeeper helps the children “help themselves” to get out their reflective work—drawing, journaling, gluing and “sticker,” building, etc. When the work is done, or time is up, the children work together to clean up the space with the doorkeeper. Children who wish to continue interacting with the story, may stay with the storyteller. When they are ready, the doorkeeper and storyteller dismiss children to their parents who have come to pick them up, or walk them together into meeting.

### ***How old are the children?***

We have three classrooms that need doorkeeper support: Our Lower Grades Class, ages 3 to first grade (6 yrs). Our Middle Grades Class is 2nd grade (7 yrs) to 4th grade (10 yrs). Our Older Grades Class is 5th grade (11 yrs) to 7th grade (13 yrs).

### ***Do I sign up, or can I just show up?***

Signing up allows us to know in advance that our doorkeeping needs are met, but if you don't have a chance to sign up, you may check to see, if a doorkeeper is needed in any class any First Day. Doorkeepers are requested to join the teacher/storyteller at the start of Meeting at 10:00 a.m. so that s/he can read the doorkeeper guidelines, meet the teacher/storyteller for the day, and prepare for her/his work and worship with the children.

### ***If I still have questions, whom should I talk to?***

Jennifer Dickie is the clerk of the Religious Education committee and would be delighted to speak with anyone who has questions about the role of the doorkeeper (404-313-8770, or [michaeljen@bellsouth.net](mailto:michaeljen@bellsouth.net)).

## **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – December 21, 2014**

### **Recorded pending approval**

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**Attendance:** Don Bender, Steve Collins, Linnis Cook, Betsy Eggers, Sally Ferguson, Susan Firestone, Julie Foster, Larry Foster, Clive Gordon, Carol Gray, Judith Greenberg, Roland Heath, Kathy Johnson, Chris Kohler, Georgia Lord, Becky Lough, Paul Mangelsdorf, Karen ter Horst Morris, Caroline Noyes, Ronald Nuse, Erica Schoon, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Rebecca Sullivan, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Sarah Walton, Pat Williams, Nan O’Connor (Clerk), Elizabeth Lamb (Recording Clerk) (29 Friends).

**Query:** Caroline Noyes presented the query: “How do we center our lives in the awareness of God the Spirit, so that all things may take their rightful places? When we exist fully in the present moment, we

are likely to act out of a centered place. For many of us, this sense of awareness is the awareness of the Spirit. ”

### **Discernment Items**

**Ministry and Worship Committee:** On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee Caroline Noyes reminded the meeting that in 9<sup>th</sup> Month they had recommended that the meeting take under our care the marriage of Nylgia and Kelly Callaway-Singer. A clearness committee has met with the couple and found them clear.

- **Minute 12-21-2014-01:** *On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, we take the marriage of Nylgia and Kelly Callaway-Singer under our care.*
- **Minute 12-21-2014-02:** *On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, we ask Sally Ferguson, Karen Gold and Jeremiah Gold-Hopton to serve as the marriage/joining committee for the Nylgia and Kelly Callaway-Singer wedding.*

**Finance Committee:** On behalf of the Finance Committee Paul Mangelsdorf presented the 2015 budget for approval. During discussion it was agreed that the Scholarship Committee and the Finance Committee meet to determine how best to honor our members and attenders graduating from high school, in a manner other than a monetary scholarship. The line item for Scholarship is set to zero pending a proposal from these committees. The Advancement line item is also set to zero, with the understanding that should a need arise the meeting may run a deficit for that line pending further discernment. A committee composed of Georgia Lord, Sarah Walton and Susan Firestone will further discern this item. It was suggested that there should be a committee or a staff member responsible for each line item in the budget in order to better adhere to Quaker practice and discernment.

- **Minute 12-21-2014-03:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the 2015 budget as presented by the Finance Committee.*

**Nominating Committee:** On behalf of the Nominating Committee Carol Gray brought forward the following names for final approval:

- **Minute 12-21-2104-04:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Chris Kohler as co-clerk of the Social Concerns Committee.*
- **Minute 12-21-2104-05:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Sarah Walton as co-clerk of the Social Concerns Committee.*

### **Reports**

**Care and Counsel Committee:** On behalf of the Care and Counsel Committee Clive Gordon and Susan Firestone presented the Guidelines for Assistance Fund for Members and Attenders. Briefly, the purpose of the fund is to provide members and attenders who have an acute need for financial assistance with short-term, emergency help. Assistance from the Meeting may take the form of a loan, grant or help with finding other resources for meeting financial needs. Applicants should be members or regular attenders with the Meeting for a minimum of six months and participate in the life of the Meeting through worship and other activities such as First Day School and volunteering, as they are able. To apply for assistance, the applicant should contact the clerk of Care and Council or a designated Care and Counsel point person, read the fund guidelines, and fill out a request form. Then the clerk of Care and

Counsel and/or a group assigned by Care and Counsel will meet with the applicant to consider the request. If an individual makes a request for more than \$600 or requests totaling more than \$600 within one year, the matter would be brought to Business Meeting for approval, with the name of the applicant kept confidential within the Care and Counsel Committee. These guidelines do not apply to the Refugee Fund, which will be a separate subcategory of the Assistance Fund for Members and Attenders. Money from the Refugee Fund will be disbursed according to prior commitments. When the Refugee Fund is depleted, that category will be eliminated, and all requests will be handled according to these guidelines. For a complete copy of the guidelines, see Susan Firestone or Clive Gordon. The complete guidelines will be brought for discernment by the Meeting in early 2015. Please note that this is a separate fund, not a line item in the budget, under the care of the Care and Counsel Committee. It can be funded by special request or inserted in the General Fund Budget at a later time as the need arises. (The Finance Committee has verified the amount remaining in the Refugee Fund as requested last month and reports that the error was one of entering data.)

**Nominating Committee:** On behalf of the Nominating Committee Carol Gray brought forward the following for discernment next month: Mike Aland, personnel liaison with the staff

**Hospitality Committee:** On behalf of the Hospitality Committee Carol Gray expressed her gratitude for the list of folks willing to host our FGC visitors at the end of February. This list was generated at a prior Meeting for Business. Since then a sub-committee of 8 volunteers has formed and we will be dividing up the coordinating of various tasks including, but not limited to, housing, food, set-up, clean-up and transportation. This will make my job much easier and I am feeling very supported. We are currently in a bit of a holding pattern until we get a list of those who are coming and any specific needs. The final number should be in our hands by the end of January. The meeting for the FGC Nurturing Ministry will be February 26-March 1, 2015.

**Minutes of November 2014:**

The Minutes of the November 2014 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business are corrected to read that the Finance Committee report was given by Paul Mangelsdorf, rather than Paul Baker and to add Paul Mangelsdorf to the list of those in attendance.

- **Minute 12-21-2014-06:** *The Minutes of the November 2014 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved as corrected.*

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

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



**Please Hold in The Light:**

MJ Robinson  
Lynn Leuszler

*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](mailto:afmclerk1@gmail.com)  
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Social Concerns: Michael Allison, 770-832-3539  
Administration Clerk: Steve Collins, [shcollins75@gmail.com](mailto:shcollins75@gmail.com)  
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**Calendar for First Month (January) 2015**

**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, <a href="mailto:jhudson30116@yahoo.com">jhudson30116@yahoo.com</a> or 678-378-3368; <a href="http://carrolltonfriends.org">carrolltonfriends.org</a> .
Every Second and Fourth First Day	10:00 a.m. – Canton Friends Worship Group. 360 E. Marietta St.; 779-720-4669 or <a href="mailto:wrlldpeas@mindspring.com">wrlldpeas@mindspring.com</a> .
Every Second First Day	10:30 a.m. – Macon Friends Worship Group. Contact Diana Day, 478-227-8892; <a href="http://maconquakers.org">maconquakers.org</a>
Every Fifth Day (Thursday)	12:10 p.m. – East Lake Commons, Decatur. Contact Bert Skellie at <a href="mailto:bertskellie@gmail.com">bertskellie@gmail.com</a> 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 9:30 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](http://atlanta.quaker.org) [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com)

Clerk: Nan O'Connor, [afmclerk1@gmail.com](mailto:afmclerk1@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, [afmtreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF EACH PRECEDING MONTH.**

To receive the Newsletter via e-mail, send a blank e-mail to [afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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; hit reply and you will be added to the list at no charge. To receive general announcements and to participate in discussion, follow the same instructions, but address the note to [afmdiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:afmdiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). To receive announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting, send the same note to [afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).