

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



July 2015

Summary of 2014 Ministry for Julie Hilboki

This is the last of three reports from individuals whose ministries are under the care of the meeting. Previous reports appear in March and June newsletters.

It is with great joy that I report to you about my rich and varied experiences as a Quaker interfaith chaplain during 2014. I wish to begin by thanking my Anchoring Committee – Mary Ann, Maggie, and Jenny – for their engagement in this ministry. Their encouragement, wisdom, and consolation have supported me through this meaningful journey, and their faithfulness to the Quaker clearness committee tradition has been an inspiration.

The year began with five months of volunteering as part of the Spiritual Care team at Hospice Atlanta and at the Emory University Hospital Hospice Unit. Several days each week I ministered to patients, their families, and the nursing staff. My work enabled me to share my chaplaincy gifts within a full spectrum of opportunities. These included holding unresponsive patients in the Light, praying with families and their loved ones, feeding patients, sitting vigil during the dying process, consoling families, and connecting deeply with everyone on site – patients, staff, families, and other volunteers.

Also during these five months, my mother-in-law, Carolyn, stopped responding to her treatment for Acute Myeloid Leukemia. I flew to California several times to be with her, participate with the family in her care, and provide research and education about selecting a home hospice. I became the on-site hospice go-to person. Carolyn died on June 1st.

In June, I entered a full-time, 10-week Clinical Pastoral Education internship program at Emory University Hospital. I was assigned to the Emergency Department (ED) and to the Neurology unit. These units offered experiences that spanned the full breadth of what patients and their families might experience in a hospital setting. In the ED, the encounters were typically one-time and short in duration. Sometimes I would minister to the to-be-patients in the waiting room, but not see them again in the ED. For patients who were in the ED, after they were admitted to the hospital, they were assigned to another floor to be

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 you 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?
When decisions have to be
made, are you ready to join
with others in seeking
clearness, asking for God's
guidance and offering counsel
to one another?*

- adapted from Advices
and Queries, Quaker
Faith and Practice, Britain
Yearly Meeting

tended to by one of my colleagues. I would most likely not see them again after my initial visit. On the neurology floor, many of the patients were unresponsive. They were on the unit for a longer duration, typically a week, and I was able to offer chaplaincy spiritual care to them and their families repeatedly over time.

During my 12- and 24-hour “charge shifts,” I was the sole Chaplain for the entire 600-bed hospital and handled multiple situations – including “code blues”, deaths, and traumas of every kind – in the ICU, hospice, oncology, transplant, and other units.

I enjoyed both the units and the diversity of patient encounters. I offered silent presence and prayer to the unresponsive patients who were alone. My comfort with silence served this type of encounter well. In the ED waiting room and on the unit, I offered chaplaincy support, a listening ear, and reassurance to patients and their families. I found that simply stopping by to see patients and to offer an attentive presence reduced their anxiety in this period of waiting and not knowing what may happen next. Seeing “that of God” in each patient, and meeting him or her in their immediate need, kept me on my toes and increased my ability to relate comfortably to people with a diversity of attitudes, personalities, and theologies. Both the rapid nature of the ED and the public nature of the waiting room called upon my ability to quickly assess (often via intuition) how to relate to a patient and respond to his/her need. All told, during the first 8 months of 2014, I provided spiritual care to nearly 1,000 persons.

When this intensive internship concluded in August, I began in earnest to put the finishing touches on the book I was writing, *Breathing Light: Accompanying Loss and Grief with Love and Gratitude*. The work was a collection of my experiences as a chaplain over the past several years expressed in poetry and prose, and intended for anyone who had suffered loss or grief, especially the loss of a loved one. The book was published in November, 2014. During this period, I continued to minister to people at Hospice Atlanta and Emory Hospice unit, and to several people within my and the AFM communities.

This year, I have also applied my skills to developing a Center for Compassion & Global Health (CCAGH) with my beloved, David Addiss. Two primary goals are 1) to bring compassion back into the center of public health discourse and 2) encourage the US Public Health Services (USPHS) to include chaplains as part of their workforce. Unlike the military uniformed services, the USPHS does not have chaplains. This means, for example, that there is no chaplaincy or spiritual support afforded to the hundreds of CDC staff deployed for the Ebola crisis who are witnessing and responding to horrendous suffering.

Beginning in January 2015, my plan is to dedicate five months full-time to providing chaplaincy to children and their families at Children’s Hospital of Atlanta. I am then considering continuing my spiritual care work through programs with the VA Hospital, Emory Rehabilitation Center, or St. Luke’s Outreach Center. Throughout this coming year, I hope to continue to write about my experiences so that I may share my gifts with a larger audience in need of accompaniment. I also hope to formalize CCAGH into a 501c3 non-profit organization. (For information about the center, visit: www.ccagh.org.)

In addition to what I’ve offered others, I have been greatly enriched by my work as a chaplain. I have grown personally, professionally, and spiritually, and have written extensively about this. One paper that may be of interest to M&W speaks to my ever-developing theology of pastoral care. If this is something you would like to read, please let me know.

With Gratitude,
Julie Hliboki

Interactive Workshop on Disrupting Bias – July 26

On Sunday July 26, 11:45-1:15pm, Rebecca Sullivan and Kelsey McNicholas will lead an interactive workshop based on sessions they attended at the White Privilege Conference. The workshop will explore disrupting incidents of bias, and may also include a conversation on recognizing racism in organizational structures.

Friends Journal Book Reviews Now Free Online

Friends Journal is pleased to make [all book reviews available online](#), so more readers can connect with the Quaker and Quaker-friendly titles that keep us thinking and talking. Go ahead, browse the [Friends Journal Book Reviews](#) and find something worth adding to your library. By buying Quaker books, you can help keep a very special ecosystem alive. Most titles reviewed in *Friends Journal* are available online from [QuakerBooks.org](#). Thanks for being a reader.

Women’s Weekend at the Ferguson Cabins

Around a dozen women gathered at the cabins the last summer with plenty of room for more. We enjoyed hiking, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, sharing meals, playing games, reading, sunning and conversations as we got to know each other better in many ways. Just sitting on the dock looking out at the lake and the mountains in the distance restores one’s soul and brings a sense of peace. Quaker women have been retreating to the cabin/s for many years and reveling in the beauty of nature. What a gift Dwight and Irene Ferguson gave the Meeting to share. Waking to the calls of a wood thrush, seeing the sun rise while kayaking through morning mists, sharing a campfire and singing after sunset, eating our traditional spaghetti dinner, taking a hike to nearby waterfalls, and very meaningful Meetings for Worship on Sunday mornings have all been part of our gatherings. Please join us this summer! Contact Karen Skellie at 404-378-5883 to reserve your space at the cabins.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – June 21, 2015

Recorded pending approval

Attendance: Ella Addison, Mike Aland, Jennifer Dickie, Julia Ewen, Carol Gray, Roland Heath, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Paul Mangelsdorf, Kelsey McNicholas, Karen terHorst Morris, Ronald Nuse, Erica Schoon, Erin Schroder, Bert Skellie, Damon Stewart, Rebecca Sullivan, Perry Treadwell, Sarah Walton, Steve Collins (Acting Clerk), Elizabeth Lamb (Recording Clerk) (21 Friends).

Query: Rebecca Sullivan presented the query: “Do our lives reflect Quaker testimonies? Are we open and responsive to continuing revelation, and do we incorporate it in our spiritual life? Is our Quaker witness characterized by humility and a willingness to learn from others? Do we recognize that the Spirit works in the world through us?”

Administration Committee: On behalf of the Administration Committee Karen Morris brought forward the revised description for the position of Friend in Residence, which clarifies the term of service and the duties.

- **Minute 06-21-2015-01:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the revised description for the position of Friend in Residence.*

On behalf of the Administration Committee Steve Collins reported on the proposed meetinghouse projects for the remainder of 2015 and 2016, which total an estimated \$63K. These projects include replacing the carpet in the meeting room (\$8.5K), renovating the library (\$11.5K), replacing the gutters

(\$3K), installing a new exterior sign (\$4K), removing or trimming diseased trees (2K) and kudzu remediation (\$2K) in 2015 to be followed in 2016 by siding and trim repair or replacement and exterior painting (#32K). It was noted that the Permanent Improvement Fund currently contains \$19K with another \$7K scheduled to be transferred in later this year. In addition there is \$8K in the General Maintenance Fund. This will cover the 2015 work. \$14K will be transferred to the Permanent Improvement Fund in 2016, as is traditionally done each year, but this will still leave us short for the 2016 projects. If we finish the year with a surplus that amount will be transferred to the Permanent Improvement Fund, but it is possible that a capital improvement campaign may be required. In addition to general stewardship of our facilities, it was noted that these improvements will enhance our potential for rental income as the areas cited for improvement are the most sought after by those seeking rental space. It was suggested that improved lighting for the exterior, including the walkway and the parking lot, should be added to the list. The proposed list of improvements will be brought to the 7th Month Meeting for Business for discernment. Please see a member of the Administration Committee if you have any questions.

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee Carol Gray brought forward the following names for discernment:

- **Minute 06-21-2015-02:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Elizabeth Valera as a teacher for 3-year old through 1st grade First Day School.*
- **Minute 06-21-2015-03:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Liz Nicholson as a teacher for 3-year old through 1st grade First Day School.*
- **Minute 06-21-2015-04:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Dee deBra as Assistant Treasurer.*

Carol Gray then brought forward the following names for discernment in 7th Month Meeting for Business:

- Brittney Thornbury as a teacher for 2nd through 4th grade First Day School,
- Dwight Harriman and Beth Ensign as teachers for 5th through 7th grade First Day School, and
- Katie Smillie as member of the Care and Council Committee.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee and the Religious Education Committee Jennifer Dickie brought forward the revised description of the Religious Education Committee. The revision will make the Religious Education Committee be a committee, such as Ministry and Worship, for which all of the members are nominated by the meeting. Positions and their descriptions and duties were updated to reflect the current structure of First Day School. For a complete copy please contact Jennifer Dickie or Carol Gray. The revised committee description will be brought to 7th Month Meeting for Business for discernment.

Karen Morris reported on an interfaith group, **Create Community 4 Decatur: Black Lives Matter**, to which she and a number of other members of the meeting belong. The group is working on numerous projects to reduce racism and bring about justice in four areas: equality in the justice system, neighborhoods, housing, and education. If you would like to know more or attend the monthly meetings please contact Karen Morris.

Minutes of May 2015:

- **Minute 06-21-2015-05:** *The Minutes of the May 2015 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved as submitted.*

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

Respectfully submitted by: Elizabeth Lamb, Recording Clerk; and Steve Collins, Acting Clerk.



Please Hold in The Light:

Frank Cummings;
Julia Ewen;
Bianka Kucelin and her family;
the Charleston victims, their families
and loved ones, and the congregation
of Emanuel AME church.

*Those wishing to have requests for
Holding included in this monthly
newsletter may give the names to a
member of Care & Counsel.*



Atlanta Friends Meeting Contacts

Clerk of the Meeting: Nan O'Connor, afmclerk1@gmail.com
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Calendar for Seventh Month (July) 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, judson30116@yahoo.com or 678-378-3368; carrolltonfriends.org .
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.
<i>Currently on hiatus</i>	Canton Friends Worship Group. Contact Roy Taylor at 770-720-4669 or wrlldpeas@mindspring.com .

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 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. Emily Lawson is also the contact to request mailing list removal.

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.

To receive the Newsletter via e-mail, 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; 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. To receive announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting, send the same note to afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.