

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



September 2015

Lives and Callings: the Spiritual Journey *Submitted* by Mary Ann Downey

In some countries the question "How are you called?" is simply a request for your name. When Friends use this question we are asking about God's leadings to live and work in the world. Building on NPR's Story Corps and This I Believe, the Atlanta Meeting began our own version of these programs in 2007. On the first Sunday of each month, we listen to how one Friend in our meeting answers questions of God's leadings as well as questions about what brings them to the this meeting, what led them to become members or why not, and what do they believe now. We call these stories of spiritual journeys, stories where Friends describe their understanding of God and religion in their life.

If you are new to our meeting, considering membership or a long-time member who enjoys hearing a story, you are invited to come to the meeting library at 9 a.m. on the first Sunday in each month to hear these stories. You are also invited to tell your story and can call Mary Ann Downey at 678-938-8030 to volunteer or to get more information.

Come hear these Friends:

September 6 Ashley Wilcox, sojourning member
October 4 Betsy Eggers, member
November 1 Tara Doyle, fellow traveler
December 6 Julie Hliboki, member
January 3 Jack Hondred, member

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 rejoice in the presence of children and young people in your meeting, recognizing the gifts they bring and remembering that the meeting as a whole shares a responsibility for every child in its care? How do you share your deepest beliefs with them, while leaving them free to develop as the spirit of God may lead them?

- Britain Yearly Meeting

Alternatives to Violence (AVP) Workshop September 19-20

Do you want to be better at knowing what to do to resolve conflict non-violently? Have you ever been shown methods you can implement to help reduce violent conflict? You can be part of a learning workshop that lets you practice using creative conflict resolution!

- **Who: Open to all.**
- **When: September 19-20, 9:30am-5:30pm** (Saturday & Sunday)
- **Why:** To learn how to respond nonviolently to situations where injustice, prejudice, frustration and anger can lead to violent behavior.
- **What:** Learn proven strategies and methods for implementing nonviolent alternatives in your life.
- **How:** Two day workshop where participants learn via interactive exercises, games and role-plays new ways to find alternatives to violence. (Lunch is provided)
- **Cost:** Suggested donation: \$20.00 (No one excluded due to lack of funds)

More detailed information:

- **On the Web:** Facebook at “AVP Atlanta” and www.avpusa.org
- **By Phone:** Call Heather at 315-263-1502.
- **To Register:** Email Heather at heather.pincock@gmail.com.

All facilitators at AVP workshops are unpaid volunteers. The AVP Workshop series consists of 3 workshops: Basic, Advanced and Training 4 Facilitators. Those who complete all three workshops are eligible to apprentice on workshop facilitation teams and to become AVP facilitators. This workshop will be a Basic/Advanced hybrid workshop. Those attending their first AVP Workshop will earn their Basic certificate and those attending their second AVP workshop will earn an Advanced certificate.

SAVE THE DATE! AVP-ATL will host a Training 4 Facilitators Workshop on October 17-18 (9:30am-5:30pm, location TBD). Those who attend two Basic/Advanced hybrid workshops and the T4F will become Apprentice Facilitators and can start working on teams to deliver AVP workshops!

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – August 16, 2015

Recorded pending approval

Attendance: Mike Aland, Don Bender, Steve Collins, Tara Doyle, Betsy Eggers, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, Susan Firestone, Gray Folger, Clive Gordon, Roland Heath, Bill Holland, Kathy Johnson, Chris Kohler, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Caroline Morris, Ronald Nuse, Christina Repoley, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Elizabeth Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Sarah Walton, Nan O’Connor (Clerk), Elizabeth Lamb (Recording Clerk) (26 Friends).

Clerk’s Reflection: The clerk shared her reflection about how strong and uplifting Atlanta Friends Meeting feels since every member and attender participates as clergy and so many are very

actively involved in the meeting. She contrasted this with an acquaintance's experience in his church which is in danger of dissolving due to the departure of the pastor.

Query: Bill Holland presented the query: "Is your meeting one to which all can feel a sense of belonging, taking their full share in its concerns and practical work? Do you as a meeting maintain a loving and watchful care over all who worship with you including those who are unable to attend?"

Discernment Items

Ministry and Worship: On behalf of Ministry and Worship Bill Holland reminded the meeting that we approved taking the marriage of Rebecca Burley and Brittney Thornbury under our care in fifth month. He then brought forward the names of those on the marriage committee.

- **Minute 08-16-2015-01:** *On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, we ask Rebecca Sullivan, Kelsey McNicholas and Ashley Wilcox to serve as the marriage committee.*

Reports

Care and Council Committee: On behalf of the Care and Council Committee Clive Gordon reported that the minute they are proposing on marriage equality, arising from the Supreme Court's recent decision, is not something new, but rather a continuation of a Minute first passed in June 1990. He gave a much appreciated historical perspective on the openness and perseverance of AFM in this matter. The following proposed minute will be brought forth next month for approval. "Early Friends wrote: 'We marry none; it is the work of the Lord and we are but witnesses.' Our Meeting continues in this tradition, recognizing that marriage is a commitment of two people to each other, before God. Atlanta Friends Meeting affirms and celebrates the Supreme Court decision to uphold the equality of legal marriage to couples regardless of gender. We lift up those within the Atlanta Friends Meeting who have worked tirelessly on this issue for many years. We are grateful that through a long process of listening to the Spirit within and among us over twenty years ago, as a Meeting, we reached unity concerning the justice of marriage equality. The Supreme Court decision encourages Atlanta Friends Meeting to continue to bear witness against injustice in all its forms."

On behalf of the Care and Counsel Committee Elizabeth Tolmach reported on their efforts to engage newcomers. In addition to the newcomers' packets and dinners already in place, this month Elizabeth has been ensuring that someone is in the library at rise of meeting to talk in a smaller setting with any interested visitor or newcomer. It was suggested that one of the greeters could join her each week. Care and Counsel welcomes any additional suggestions for making newcomers feel a part of the Meeting.

Administration Committee: On behalf of the Administration Committee Steve Collins reported that the search for a new Friend in Residence is underway. So far they have received one inquiry.

Anyone seeking more information about the position is encouraged to contact the office. The new carpet squares for the meeting room will be delivered, and possibly installed, next week. There is a survey online asking for input about the best uses for the extra lot next to the playground. All are encouraged to complete a survey. It has been suggested that the meeting wait until winter, after the growing season, to bring in sheep or goats to help with the kudzu. The Administration Committee is currently looking for safe, environmentally friendly ways to prevent the kudzu from growing back and is open to ideas or suggestions.

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee Ron Nuse brought forward revised descriptions for the Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting and for the Social Concerns Committee. The revision to CURAFM clarifies that the suggested term is for the clerk of the committee and that meeting are held jointly with Quakers for Racial Equality once a month. The purpose is clarified by adding “Although Social Concerns Committee, through Quakers for Racial Equality, also works on ending racism, the Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting is necessary to ensure we don’t lose the focus of working for racial equality within our spiritual community as well.” The Social Concerns Committee description is revised to add: “Quakers for Racial Equality, Green Friends and the Prison Reform Group are currently active examples of the kinds of subgroups that can be periodically formed under the wing of the Social Concerns Committee.” These revisions will be brought forward next month for approval.

Quaker Voluntary Service: On behalf of Quaker Voluntary Service Christina Repoley reported that the fourth house opens this month in Boston. An alumni fellowship is starting in Philadelphia to enable former volunteers to remain connected and active. The new volunteers for the Atlanta house will arrive at the end of the month. Christina then read a moving epistle from the 2014-2015 Atlanta volunteers to Atlanta Friends Meeting detailing who they are and what they have done this year, thanking AFM for supporting them and outlining their challenges, successes and future plans.

Minutes of July 2015:

- **Minute 08-16-2015-02:** *The Minutes of the July 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 Nan O’Connor, Clerk.



Please Hold in The Light:

Julie Dalia
Mary Ann Downey
Julia Ewen
The Kucelin family
Laurel Muff, sister of Cynthia Berg
Maggie Turlington.

Those wishing to have requests for Holding included in this monthly newsletter may give the names to a member of Care & Counsel; Beth-Ann Buitekant is the point person for September.



Atlanta Friends Meeting Contacts

Clerk of the Meeting: Nan O'Connor, afmclerk1@gmail.com
Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald, atlantaquakers@gmail.com
Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com
Ministry & Worship: Bill Holland, 404-892-2358
Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280
Social Concerns: Michael Allison, 770-832-3539
Administration Clerk: Steve Collins, shcollins75@gmail.com
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Library Clerk: Cal Gough, calgough@bellsouth.net
Newsletter Editor: Kate Swett, atlquakerltr@gmail.com
Webmaster: Aaron Ruscetta, arxaaron@gmail.com

Calendar for Ninth Month (September) 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, Classroom A/B and playground
Every Fourth Day (Wednesday)	8:30 a.m. Morning Worship, Library First and third Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m. Mid-Week Worship at David & Freer Jarvis' home
Every Fifth Day (Thursday)	7:00 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.

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