

# ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



## October 2015

**If You Want Peace for Refugees,  
Work for a Stable Climate**  
*Submitted by Henry Slack*

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Most of us are aware of the refugee issues in Europe now, with the tens of thousands of refugees bringing political turmoil as they travel on foot, and thousands more coming by boat to Italy or Greece. Friends have a long history of helping refugees, often with our wartime relief work.

If you aren't aware, global warming (or climate change) is not just the air temperature going up a degree or two. The greenhouse gases we release whenever we burn fuel changes how the Earth traps heat and causes droughts, floods, and sea level rise. 2015 will be the hottest year on record. Most experts feel we need more action to reduce our emissions.

Droughts aren't just happening in the Western U.S., although we hear the most about those. Where droughts occur, forest fires are more likely, which adds still more greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. Droughts drive farmers off their land, often into cities, where they are more likely to migrate to other places. In addition, desertification (linked to warming) is already causing losses of over 400 square miles of productive land a year in north African countries like Tunisia, Morocco, and Libya.

It seems odds to have floods with drought, but warm air can hold more moisture, so storms can drop more moisture. Floods may be made worse by drought; dried arid land cannot absorb water nearly as quickly as a well-soiled area. Flooding may affect millions of people at once, like Superstorm Sandy, or only a few people in a small area. Both floods and droughts are especially bad for farmers, creating food scarcity and raising prices.

Finally, sea level rise can increase the effect of coastal storms and put additional pressure on land and resources. Sea levels are going up because we are melting billions of tons of ice

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

In decision making, do we promote a spirit of love, understanding and patience as we seek unity on an appropriate course of action? Do we keep our remarks simple and speak only as the Spirit leads? Are we able to unite in good grace with the Sense of the Meeting when our personal desires tend in another direction? Do we maintain respect for others, however strongly our opinions may differ?

– *Tampa Yearly Meeting*

Do you make time for meditation, prayer and worship? Do you read the Bible, the writings of Friends, and other inspirational works, seeking new light? Do you regularly seek God's guidance? Are you open to guidance and support and do you give thanks for them?

– *Baltimore Yearly Meeting*

every year in Greenland and the Arctic, and because water expand as it warms. We already see flooding at the highest tides in areas of Miami and Norfolk, VA. Of course, our land is not as threatened as Bangladesh, where 17% of the country may disappear by 2050 due to sea level rise.

All of these effects, and others (wildfires, tropical diseases and pests in habitats that used to be too cold) will drive more people from their homes and into a great wave of migration. The U.N. estimated in 2009 (the most recent year I found with data) that 36 million were displaced by natural disasters. (Of course, disasters include earthquakes and tsunamis, too.)

The Quaker peace testimony is an essential part of our religion. Let's note, then, what Secretary of State John Kerry said recently in Alaska: *"You think migration is a challenge to Europe today because of extremism, wait until you see what happens when there's an absence of water, an absence of food, or one tribe fighting against another for mere survival."*

So please, if you want peace for refugees, work for a stable climate, so more people can stay home.

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### **Lives and Callings: The Spiritual Journey – October 4**

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If you are new to our meeting, considering membership or a long-time member who enjoys hearing a story, you are invited to the meeting library at 9 a.m. on October 4, to hear member Betsy Eggers. 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. Save the date for Tara Doyle, fellow traveler (November 1), Julie Hliboki, member (December 6), and Jack Hondred, member (January 3, 2016).

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### **Alternatives to Violence (AVP) Training 4 Facilitators Workshop October 17-18**

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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!

- **When:** **October 17-18, 9:30am-5:30pm** (Saturday & Sunday, lunch is provided, location TBD)
- **What:** Learn proven methods for implementing nonviolent alternatives in your life via interactive exercises, games and role-plays new ways to find alternatives to violence.
- **Cost:** Suggested donation: \$20.00 (No one excluded due to lack of funds)
- **Contact info:** Facebook at "AVP Atlanta" and [www.avpusa.org](http://www.avpusa.org), call or email Heather at 315-263-1502 or [heather.pincock@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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### **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – September 20, 2015**

#### **Recorded pending approval**

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**Attendance:** Mike Aland, Juan Allende, Paul Baker, Michael Brodeur, Rebecca Burley, Steve Collins, Linnis Cook, Jarrett Echols, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, Carol Gray, Bill Holland, Kathy Johnson, Laura Landaw, Rick Martinson, Beth Martinson, Kelsey McNicholas, Karen terHorst Morris, Adrian Nelson, Ronald Nuse, Erica Schoon, Erin Schroder, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Rebecca Sullivan, Brittney Thornbury, Elizabeth Tolmach, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Nan O'Connor (Clerk), Elizabeth Lamb (Recording Clerk) (31 Friends).

**Query:** Bill Holland presented the 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?”

### Discernment Items

**Care and Counsel Committee:** On behalf of the Care and Counsel Committee Elizabeth Tolmach presented the following minute on marriage:

- **Minute 09-21-2015-01:** *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.*

**Nominating Committee:** On behalf of the Nominating Committee Carol Gray brought forward the following committee description revisions for approval:

- **Minute 02-21-2015-02:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the revised description of the Administration Committee, as presented at the July meeting for business.*
- **Minute 02-21-2015-03:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the revised description of the Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting, as presented at the August meeting for business.*
- **Minute 02-21-2015-04:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the revised description of the Social Concerns Committee, as presented at the August meeting for business.*

### Reports

**Ministry and Worship Committee:** On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee Bill Holland reported that the marriage of Cade Curtis and Katie Braun, which Atlanta Friends Meeting approved taking under our care in the third month, took place on September 19, 2015 at a well-attended called meeting for Worship for Marriage at the meetinghouse. During the meeting Cade and Katie exchanged their vows: “In the presence of God and these our friends I take thee to be my spouse, promising with Divine assistance to be unto thee a loving and faithful partner so long as we both shall live.” There were many expressions of loving support from family and friends. Thanks to Sally Ferguson, Jim Tolmach, Dan May, Carol Gray, Kathy Johnson and Steve Collins for their work supporting this wedding.

Bill Holland next reported that Ministry and Worship has received an application for membership from Mary Jahntz. A clearness committee held a deep and rich meeting with Mary and has found her clear. Ministry and Worship unites with this request and will bring back this recommendation for approval in tenth month. Bill then read portions of her letter to those assembled.

Finally, Bill Holland reported that at the end of May Ministry and Worship held a well-attended forum on vocal ministry and deepening our worship experience. A number of recommendations on making the meeting room more accessible and our gatherings more intimate were received. Over the next

few months Ministry and Worship will be experimenting with some of these recommendations, beginning with a rearrangement of the seating in the meeting room. The committee welcomes feedback from the members of meeting.

**Administration Committee:** On behalf of the Administration Committee Karen Morris reported that the search committee for a new Friend in Residence has received three applications which they are now considering. The search committee is comprised of Steve Collins and Karen Morris, co-clerks, Sue May, Georgia Lord and Nan O'Connor.

Steve Collins then reported that the survey asking for input about the best uses for the extra lot next to the playground has been completed. The most popular suggestion was that some sort of conversational grouping be set up. It was also suggested that child-friendly things be considered. Administration is currently looking at options and would welcome any ideas.

**Nominating Committee:** On behalf of the Nominating Committee Carol Gray brought forward Dwight Harriman as clerk of the Gathered Meeting Retreat Planning Committee. His name will be brought for discernment next month.

Carol Gray then brought forward revised descriptions for the positions of Personnel Liaison and Office Coordinator. If you would like a copy of these, please let her know. These revisions will be brought forward next month for approval.

**SAYMA Representative:** As SAYMA representative Bill Holland reported that the fall SAYMA Representative Meeting was held Saturday, September 12 at AFM. We hosted 36 SAYMA friends who were attending this meeting and the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Meeting, held concurrently. We provided overnight accommodation for 19 friends and lunch and snacks for all 36. The meeting was clerked by Larry Ingle and Rebecca Sullivan served as recording clerk. We want to thank Carol Gray very much for coordinating hospitality. The major item considered by the representative meeting was the 2015-2016 budget. The projected SAYMA budget is \$86,972 (of which \$38,000 is related to the annual meeting). There was considerable discussion over the expanding cost of SAYMA sending representatives to Wider Quaker Organizations, for which FY2016 allocates \$10,100. The finance committee brought both short-term and long-term recommendations of ways to address this issue. At present SAYMA contributions to Wider Quaker Organizations has been substantially reduced in the initial budget, although this may be revised in the spring. The Yearly Meeting Planning Committee has been supplemented by our members Folami Adams and Kofi Adams. The provisional yearly meeting theme is "Unraveling Racism."

- **Minute 09-21-2105-05:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting thanks meeting members and attenders who provided hospitality, snacks and lunch and made hosting the Fall 2015 SAYMA Representative Meeting possible. We extend a special thanks to Carol Gray who once again provided miraculous, efficient and tender coordination of this event.*

#### **Minutes of August 2015:**

- **Minute 09-21-2015-06:** *The Minutes of the August 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:**

Tom Bartlett, brother of Mary Bartlett  
Bette Turlington and her family  
Laurel Muff, sister of Cynthia Berg

*Those wishing to have requests for  
Holding included in this monthly  
newsletter may give the names to a  
member of Care & Counsel;  
Chris Lahowitch is the point person for  
October.*



**Atlanta Friends Meeting Contacts**

Clerk of the Meeting: Nan O’Connor, [afmclerk1@gmail.com](mailto:afmclerk1@gmail.com)  
Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald, [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, [afmtreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:shcollins75@gmail.com)  
Care & Counsel: Clive Gordon, [afm.care.counsel@gmail.com](mailto:afm.care.counsel@gmail.com)  
Religious Education: Jennifer Dickie, [michaeljen@bellsouth.net](mailto:michaeljen@bellsouth.net)  
Library Clerk: Cal Gough, [calgough@bellsouth.net](mailto:calgough@bellsouth.net)  
Newsletter Editor: Kate Swett, [atlquakerltr@gmail.com](mailto:atlquakerltr@gmail.com)  
Webmaster: Aaron Ruscetta, [arxaaron@gmail.com](mailto:arxaaron@gmail.com)

**Calendar for Tenth Month (October) 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:judson30116@yahoo.com">judson30116@yahoo.com</a> or 678-378-3368; <a href="http://carrolltonfriends.org">carrolltonfriends.org</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.
<i>Currently on hiatus</i>	Canton Friends Worship Group. Contact Roy Taylor at 770-720-4669 or <a href="mailto:wrlldpeas@mindspring.com">wrlldpeas@mindspring.com</a> .

**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](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. 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](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.**

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