

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



February 2017

Draft State of the Meeting Report

Please review the draft before February's business meeting and submit comments to Rebecca Sullivan (supersullivan24@gmail.com) by February 15.

This year has been one of community growth and loss. We are aware that we are a busy community with multiple opportunities on any given First Day. However, we are also mindful of the fact that this means we can find ourselves with a list of tasks to finish during social hour instead of fellowship-ing with each other. As our community grows, we continue to find new ways to welcome newcomers and to slow down to greet each other. This year our meeting retreat was titled "Spiritual Deepening" and offered those gathered the opportunity to explore a variety of ways to deepen our experience of community and worship. This year we made a second care quilt to circulate amongst community members as they recover from major life events. We are also grateful for the opportunities we have together during weekly singing, Bible study and first day school.

One of the major undertakings this year was supporting the leading of the Burundi and Congolese families to start their own Evangelical Church. These families blessed our community for nine years, and in 2015 they asked AFM in a deeply spirit-led letter for support in reaching out to the Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region (EFC-ER) to start an Evangelical Friends Church. This year we continued to worship and support them as they met with EFC-ER and found themselves clear to found Stone Mountain Evangelical Friends Church. We are grateful for the friendship we have with them and have also found our community changed as we lost about a dozen children, and a dozen adults at worship each week. We are thankful for the spirit these families brought to our community, and we bless and continue to support them as they move forward on their journey.

Another loss for us was the death of four members of our meeting: Britt Pendergrast, Frank Cummings, Elizabeth Hendricks and recently, Terry Boling. Three of these members were elderly and long-time attenders, and one was unexpected. We are sad to lose them but are also grateful for

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 we observe simplicity and honesty in our manner of living? Are we careful to live within the bounds of our circumstances, punctual in keeping promises, prompt in the payment of debts, and just in all our dealings? Do we choose those activities which will strengthen our physical, mental, and spiritual life; and do we avoid those harmful to ourselves and others?

- *North Carolina Yearly Meeting
(Conservative):*
<http://ncymc.org/fpframes.html>

Additional Resources:

The Queries for this year will follow the Quaker SPICES Testimonies: Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship. Just as spices season our food, these testimonies should 'season' our lives.

Many non-Quakers also witness to some or all of these values, though they might describe them differently. Quakers do not claim to have any monopoly, but they are certainly the fundamental principles of Quakerism.
<http://www.quakersintheworld.org/home/testimonies.html>

the opportunity to grow and deepen our sense of community in our response and affirmations of their lives. Frank Cummings held a celebration of his life while he was still alive. While in town, he also started talks about the large bequest he was leaving to Atlanta Friends Meeting to continue his work in El Salvador. Processing and worshiping over how to accept and foster such a large bequest helped us deepen our sense of what we are called to as a meeting and what we are called to as individuals. The Sunday after Britt Pendergrast died his wife of 73 years couldn't imagine not coming to worship, so the whole family showed up and covered the meeting with a centered worship of remembrance. We are thankful for our elders and how they bless us and continue to support the growth of our meeting even after they have left this earth.

This year we were not only left with a specific bequest but also supported a group of friends while they started a nonprofit based on ministry the meeting supports around racial justice. This work was painful at first for those supporting the ministry but has been rewarding in the long run as they continue to grow and expand past what the meeting could do. This work is just one way as a community we are connected to the Black Lives Matter movement and supporting the work of undoing racism in the Atlanta area. As a meeting, we are active in both doing outreach and inreach around racism in our community, through second-hour workshops, coalition building with other Churches in the neighborhood, and through workshop opportunities at SAYMA, where Atlanta Friends led five workshops on undoing racism.

We continue to grow and struggle to find ways to be more transparent about the structures of Quakerism. We acknowledge there is always work that needs to be done to educate newcomers. However, this work also supports us in continuing to grow our spiritual depth with each other. We find ourselves yearning to know each other more fully. At the same time, we are frequently asked to host national committee meetings which offer us opportunities to learn about Quakerism outside of our meeting experience and reflect on our experiences together.

Atlanta Friends Meeting continues to support Quaker Voluntary Service spiritually, tangibly, and with a great number of folks who offer their time to welcome, spiritually nurture, and engage with these young adults. The Fellows have enriched our community by bringing

Simplicity testimony: An early Quaker, John Woolman, put it like this: 'live simply, that others may simply live'. Early Quakers felt they should live simply, tending to real needs and avoiding luxuries. They were aware of the poverty around them, and that resources needed to be shared. For Quakers in the affluent West today, simplicity of lifestyle is hard. But the testimony is there to challenge us.

Peace and nonviolence testimony: George Fox and other early Quakers soon saw that since all protagonists in any situation of conflict have that of God in them, it followed that war could not be appropriate, and joining the military was unacceptable. Conscientious objection was a consequence of this.

Integrity and Truth testimony: Quakers have always been clear that honesty in all their dealings was fundamental. Early Quaker artisans and shopkeepers soon acquired a reputation for honesty and fair prices. Their integrity was a key factor in their great success in business and banking in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Community testimony: This is fundamentally about responding to the needs of others. Working for criminal justice and rehabilitation and for victims of crime, is part of this. The relief programs Quakers have undertaken in times of famine, disaster and conflict, are another aspect. Seeking justice for refugees and asylum seekers, also witnesses to this.

Equality testimony: Quakers soon saw that since there was that of God in everyone, all must be treated equally - men and women, master and slave, employer and employee.

Stewardship testimony: This is a relatively new concern as a separate testimony, though strands of it are implicit in the testimonies listed above. Now that we are all much more aware of the need to take care of our planet for future generations, it is emerging as a testimony in its own right. A global consultation is underway about how Friends should be responding, and whether Quakers have something distinctive they can say.

numbers to our young adult community, energy in committees, and a clear outlet of support of ongoing Quaker Service in the wider Atlanta community.

Our community continues to have large amounts of children, even after graduating fourteen seniors and saying goodbye to the twelve to fifteen children to the new Stone Mountain Evangelical Friends Church. We send these Friends off on their journey and hope they will visit when they are in town. We are thankful for the growths and losses of the year as they help us deepen our spiritual community and acknowledge the spiritual work we do together throughout the year.

Lives and Callings: the Spiritual Journey – February 5th

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 this meeting, what led them to become a member or why not, and what 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 attender or member who enjoys hearing a story, you are invited to come to the meeting library at 9am, 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](tel:678-938-8030) to volunteer or to get more information. Come hear these Friends: Gwen Davies on February 5th, Caroline Morris on March 5th and Lissa Place on April 2nd.

Welcome Dinner – February 18th, 6:30 PM

Bert & Karen Skellie invite all new to the Meeting and all who would like to meet newcomers to come to our house at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, February 18. Newcomers are invited to be our guests, and others encouraged to bring a potluck dish. Contact us at bertskellie@gmail.com or [404-378-5883](tel:404-378-5883) for directions. (East Lake Commons, about 3 miles south of Meetinghouse)

David Foster Exhibit "Nature's Essence" – Closing Meet the Artist Event February 25th

David Foster will be closing his exhibit of nature photographs, "Nature's Essence," and hosting a Meet the Artist event on Saturday, February 25th from 1:00-3:00 PM. The exhibit has been part of David's art and healing ministry held under the care of this Meeting and includes the first Atlanta exhibition of a selection of large Chromoluxe aluminum prints. All are welcome to attend the closing.

Gathered Meeting Retreat – May 5-7th

Save the date for the Gathered Meeting Retreat, from Friday May 5th to Sunday May 7, 2017 at the Charlie Elliot Conference Center.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – January 17th, 2017 **Recorded pending approval**

Attendance: Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, Susan Firestone, Larry Foster, Julie Foster, Waman French, Joe Guy, Claire Hannapel, Nicolina Hansen-Neff, Bill Holland, Bill Hooson, Mary Jahntz, Kathy Johnson, Suzan Kenworthy, Tom Kenworthy, Elizabeth Lamb, Shahina Lakhani, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Paul Mangelsdorf, Susan May, Allison Mawle, Kelsey McNicholas, Karen terHorst Morris, Liz Nicholson, Erin

Schroder, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Rebecca Sullivan, Elizabeth Tolmach, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Sarah Walton, Ashley Wilcox, Betsy Eggers (Clerk), Bethany Morrison (Recording Clerk) (37 Friends).

Query: Sally Ferguson presented the query: “Do you fulfill the responsibility of membership in our religious society by regular attendance and support of its meetings? What are you doing to strengthen the spiritual life of the meeting and to invite others to share in its fellowship? Do you recognize and encourage the development of the spiritual gifts of your members? Are you active in advancing the religious principles of our Society and in applying the social and political implications of those principles?”

Gratitude: As they pass their positions on to new servants, Atlanta Friends Meeting would like to thank the following for their years of faithful service to the meeting: Clive Gordon, Clerk of Care & Counsel; Elizabeth Lamb, Recording Clerk; Jim Williams, Clerk of the Meetinghouse; Sarah Walton, co-clerk of Social Concerns; Jenny Foster, member of Ministry & Worship; David Foster, member of Ministry & Worship; Emily Lawson, Directory Editor; Chris Lahovich, Appointed Member, Care & Counsel; Mary Bartlett, Appointed Member, Nominating; Katie Braun, Clerk of Green Friends; Rick Martinson, Administration; Beth Martinson, Betsy Eggers, Elizabeth Tolmach, Liz Nicholson, Julia Ewen, Folami Prescott Adams, Dwight Harriman, First Day School teachers; and Mary Ann Downey (Clerk); Sally Ferguson, Nan O’Connor, Julie Hliboki, Clive Gordon, Bill Holland, and Steve Collins, members of the Ad Hoc Committee Addressing Sexual Harassment.

Discernments:

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Elizabeth Lamb brought forth the following names for approval:

- **Minute 1-15-2017-01:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Steve Collins as an appointed member of Ministry & Worship for a three-year term from 2017-2019.*
- **Minute 1-15-2017-02:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Hannah MacNorlin as an appointed member of Ministry & Worship for a three-year term from 2017-2019.*
- **Minute 1-15-2017-03:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Brett Wolff as directory editor for a one year term with a reappointment option.*

Finance Committee: On behalf of the Finance Committee, Paul Mangelsdorf submitted for discernment the following suggestions for uses of the 2016 budget surplus:

- **Minute 1-15-2017-04:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves allocating \$2000 from the 2016 budget surplus to replenish the Assistance Fund for Members & Attenders.*
- **Minute 1-15-2017-05:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves allocating \$2000 from the 2016 budget surplus to the Social Concerns Committee budget.*
- **Minute 1-15-2017-06:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves allocating \$15,000 from the 2016 budget surplus to the Permanent Improvements Fund.*
- **Minute 1-15-2017-07:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves allocating \$1500 from the 2016 budget surplus to contribute to the Friends General Conference’s Institutional Assessment to Uncover Racism project, an effort to combat racism by uncovering structural racism within the organization.*

Reports:

Finance Committee: On behalf of the Finance Committee, Paul Mangelsdorf presented the preliminary financial report for 2016. AFM showed a net income of \$26,846 for 2016. The membership approved four allocations of the surplus funds. They also decided to later consider whether to increase the allocation to the Social Concerns budget by an additional \$1000.

Three additional ideas for the surplus were discussed among the membership: support for the mid-week semi-programmed meeting as it gets off the ground, a gift for the Stone Mountain Evangelical Friends church, and a \$2000 contribution to the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association. The meeting decided to

consider these items in the future. Before the February Meeting for Business, Susan Firestone agreed to reach out to the leadership of the Stone Mountain Evangelical Friends Church about their needs and potential gift ideas.

Naming Committee: On behalf of the Naming Committee, Kelsey McNicholson brought forward Brittany Thornbury, Jonas Kramer-Dickie, and Carolyn Coburn Allen to serve on Nominating Committee. Their names will be brought forward next month for approval.

Ministry and Worship Committee: On behalf of Ministry and Worship, Sally Ferguson submitted recommended revisions to the Meeting's Marriage/Joining Guidelines that were approved Eighth Month, 2011. The changes fall into three general categories: removal or modification of outdated wording, formatting changes and typographical corrections, and clarifications based on feedback from couples and those serving on Marriage Clearness and Marriage Support committees.

Ministry and Worship offers these recommended revisions to the guidelines and will request approval at the next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (2nd Month, 2017). A copy of the draft will be posted shortly on the Meeting's web site.

State of the Meeting Report: On behalf of this ad hoc committee, Rebecca Sullivan read the draft of the State of the Meeting Report for 2016. The following additions were suggested: 1. the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to Address Harassment to the highlights of the year's events; 2. the permanent improvements to the meetinghouse and Ferguson Cabin; and 3. the specific names and number of babies born in the meeting in 2017. In addition, the meeting discussed whether and how to continue the previous convention of committees submitting annual reports in the State of the Meeting Report.

Ad Hoc Committee to Address Harassment: On behalf of this committee, Mary Ann Downey reported that this committee is being laid down. Care & Counsel has agreed to be the standing committee to hear these concerns and will make updates to its policies to reflect that.

SAYMA: Mary Jahntz, the representative from Atlanta Friends Meeting to SAYMA, asked for feedback on a SAYMA proposed minute that supports Friends General Conference decisions to implement an Institutional Assessment on Racism and include a majority of people of Color on the FGC site selection committee. The meeting was asked whether the Atlanta Friends Meeting wanted to approve a minute in support of these changes. Suggestions were made to revise the SAYMA minute: 1. the inclusion of the word "joyous" along with the word difficult; 2. the addition of the Friends General Conference organization to the Friends General Conference Gathering; and 3. revising the minute to express our support/affirmation of the general goal of these changes and decisions within the FGC.

Administration Committee: On behalf of the Administration Committee, Karen Morris reported that the Meetinghouse Clerk position is vacant. This leaves a vacancy on Administration as well, because the Meetinghouse Clerk is a member of Administration. The Meetinghouse Committee currently has no other members.

While the Nominating Committee continues its search for a clerk, Administration has asked the Office Coordinator (Jonah McDonald) and the Friend in Residence (Kelsey McNicholas) to take care of the routine duties of the Meetinghouse Committee until a new clerk or other system in place. They will be reimbursed for work they perform that is outside their normal responsibilities as Office Coordinator and FiR. The Administration Committee is also surveying other area churches and non-profit organizations of similar size to learn how they provide ongoing building and grounds maintenance and repair services.

Minutes of December 2016:

- **Minute 1-15-2017-08:** *The Minutes of the December 2016 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved as submitted.*

Announcements

Lynn Leuszler announced that the annual Corporation meeting will be held at rise of Meeting for Business.

Sally Ferguson announced that the January version of the revised marriage guidelines is the most recent version and that the meeting should look there to review the revisions.

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Bethany Morrison, Recording Clerk
Betsy Eggers, Clerk

Atlanta Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc. Specially Called Meeting January 15th, 2017 Minutes

Present: Elizabeth Eggers (Clerk), Lissa Place (Assistant Clerk), Lynn Leuszler (Treasurer), Bethany Nanamaker (Recording Clerk) .

1. Officers of the Corporation. The current officers of the corporation were present. The following minute was approved:
 - Minute 01-15-01: The Atlanta Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc will have the following officers to serve in 2017 and until successors are approved: Elizabeth Eggers (Clerk), Lissa Place (Assistant Clerk), Lynn Leuszler (Treasurer), Bethany Nanamaker (Recording Clerk) .
2. Persons authorized to sign checks and engage in financial transactions on behalf of the Corporation. The following minute was approved:
 - Minute 01-15-02: The Atlanta Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc. authorizes Dee Debra (Assistant Treasurer), Lynn Leuszler (Treasurer) and Paul Mangelsdorf (Clerk, Finance Committee) to sign checks and make electronic disbursements from the accounts of the Atlanta Friends Meeting.
3. Other Business. Persons authorized to authorize transactions for the Corporation's securities and investments. The following minute was approved:
 - Minute 01-15-03: The Atlanta Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc. authorizes Lynn Leuszler (Treasurer), Paul Mangelsdorf (Clerk, Finance Committee), and Betsy Eggers (Clerk) to authorize transactions for the Atlanta Monthly Meeting's securities and investments.
4. Next Meeting.
 - Minute 01-15-04: The next corporation meeting of the Atlanta Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc. will, if it is in accord with divine will, be held at the rise of the Meeting for Business, First Month 14, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynn Leuszler, Treasurer



Please Hold in The Light:

Judy Bender and
Don Bender

*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: Betsy Eggers, afmclerk1@gmail.com
Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald, atlantaquakers@gmail.com
Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com
Ministry & Worship: Sally Ferguson, sallyferguson@earthlink.net
Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280
Social Concerns: Chris Kohler, chriskohler@mailc.net
Administration: Steve Collins, shcollins75@gmail.com
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Calendar for Second Month (February) 2017

Area Meetings for Worship

Every First Day (Sunday)	10:00 a.m. – Meetinghouse (AFM), with a smaller group in the Library. 1:30 p.m. - Stone Mountain Friends Church (Evangelical), at Rock of Ages Lutheran Church, 5135 Memorial Dr, Stone Mountain, GA 30083
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.

Regular Events at the Meetinghouse

Every First Day (Sunday)	9:00 - Adult Religious Ed, Library 9:30 - Singing, Classroom A/B 10:00 - Meeting for Worship 5:00 - Atlanta Mennonite Fellowship, Meeting Room
Second Day (Monday)	Every other Monday at 6:30 - Spiritual Nurture Group, Library (contact Lewis Fuller for info on how to join)
Third Day (Tuesday)	6:00 - Alex Zinnes Yoga, Nursery Second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 - Deep Waters Center for Prayer & Exploration, Meeting Room
Fourth Day (Wednesday)	8:30 a.m. Morning Worship, Library First and third Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m. Worship at David & Freer Jarvis' home 7:00 - 8:30 pm: Semi-programmed worship at AFM. Contact Ashley Wilcox: ashleymwilcox@gmail.com , 206-300-5836.
Fifth Day (Thursday)	7:00 p.m. Bible Discussion, Library
Sixth Day (Friday)	Every third Friday, Meeting for Business, Meeting Room
18 th of Each Month	Newcomers Welcome Dinner, rotating location

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: Betsy Eggers, 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 afmannouncement-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.