

# ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



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.

## Let the Circle Be Unbroken: Remembering Lyle McCormick *Submitted by Tricia Brindley*

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On October 28<sup>th</sup> friends came together at Atlanta Friends Meeting to celebrate the life of Lyle McCormick, a member of the Atlanta Meeting, and an attender at the Meetings location on Fairview Avenue. Lyle died peacefully at Emory University Hospital on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017, after a hard fought battle with serious chronic health issues. He is survived by his partner, Linda Taylor, their 3 foster children, and his older brother Norman. Lyle navigated the social services system on behalf of his foster children, his commitment to them, and faith in them never wavering.



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The son of a college professor, Lyle excelled at mathematics. This skill landed him a job as a SAS (Statistical Analysis System) at CDC where he did in-depth analysis of HIV/AIDS data. He was an industrious and diligent

employee. He and Linda purchased a rental property in Oregon, and he devoted the last few years of his life making it a respite. He used his internet savvy to build the rental business from a few rentals per year to 'no room at the inn.' Lyle was a devoted father and partner, a human rights advocate, and a supporter of the Atlanta Friends Meeting and Earlham College. We loved Lyle and miss him dearly.

*That is the real spiritual awakening, when something emerges from within you that is deeper than who you thought you were.*

-- Eckhart Tolle



## QUERY

### EQUALITY

Am I teaching my children, and do I show through my way of living, that love of God includes affirming the equality of people, treating others with dignity and respect, and seeing to recognize that of God within every person?

- **Living the Quaker Way** - Philip Gulley  
<https://www.philipgulley.com/>
- Testimonies – Equality Religious Society of Friends in Australia  
<http://www.quakers.org.au/?44>

## **Alternatives to Violence (AVP) Workshop – November 4-5<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

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We are trying to train new facilitators to work with youth, community, and especially in prison settings. It takes three workshops to earn your facilitator status. The AVP Workshop series consists of 3 workshops: Basic/First Level, Advanced/Second Level and Training 4 Facilitators. Those who complete all three workshops are eligible to apprentice on workshop facilitation teams and to become AVP facilitators. The November workshop will be Advanced/Second Level, open to participants who have completed the Basic/First Level workshop.

- **When:** November 4-5, 9:00am-6:00pm (Saturday & Sunday)
- **Where:** Columbia Theological Seminary
- **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.
- **Who:** Open to all aged 18 and over.
- **Cost:** Requested contribution: \$30.00. Lunch is provided both days. No one excluded due to lack of funds.

For more detailed information:

- **On the Web:** Facebook at “AVP Atlanta” and [www.avpusa.org](http://www.avpusa.org)
- **By Phone:** Call Karen at [404-797-8079](tel:404-797-8079)
- **To Register:** Email [georgiaavp@gmail.com](mailto:georgiaavp@gmail.com).

The next AVP Community Workshop will be **December 9-10 at Grady Memorial Hospital, for Basic/First Level, open to all aged over 18.**

\* All workshops take place Saturday and Sunday 9:00am-6:00pm

\*\*Exact workshop locations will be announced to registered participants.

\*\*\*All facilitators at AVP workshops are unpaid volunteers.\*\*\*

## **Finding Spirit-Led Unity: the Clerk’s Role - Workshop November 11<sup>th</sup>**

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Our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business relies on our faith in continuing revelation, the belief that the Light within can lead us to corporate as well as individual decisions. How do we do this, what is the role of the clerk in the search for Spirit-led unity and how can we all support the clerk and the process?

In this workshop, we will address the clerk’s role to:

- prepare the agenda
- attend to the meeting process and worship
- clarify the issues considered
- address conflict
- listen, integrate differences
- test for and state the sense of the meeting

Come explore these challenges on Saturday November 11 from 10-4 at the Atlanta Friends Meeting with Mary Ann Downey and Bill Holland. A contribution of \$35 covers the cost of the book, Facilitator’s Guide to Participatory Decision-Making and handouts Finding Spirit-Led Unity: The Clerk’s Role. Tea and fruit provided. Bring your own lunch and a snack to share. To register, email your request to [madowney@mindspring.com](mailto:madowney@mindspring.com) by November 6.

## Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### Recorded pending approval

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**Attendance:** Folami Adams, Olivia Chalkley, Jennifer Dickie, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Susan Firestone, Eric Glenn, Clive Gordon, Cal Gough, Bill Holland, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Elizabeth Lamb, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Judy Lumb, Paul Mangelsdorf, Alison Mawle, Susan May, Natalie McLaughlin, Kelsey McNicholas, Karen terHorst Morris, Liz Nicholson, Ron Nuse, Lissa Place, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Myrna Trapp, Sarah Walton, Mark Watson, Pat Williams, Betsy Eggers (Clerk), Bethany Morrison (Recording Clerk) (33 Friends).

**Query:** Mark Watson presented queries written and sent from SAYMA to help Friends identify and articulate values related to SAYMA, the role of the yearly meeting in monthly meeting life, and how financial support fits into AFM and SAYMA's life together:

1. What connections to SAYMA are most vital for me? How do I benefit? How do I contribute?
2. What connections to SAYMA are most vital for our meeting? How do we benefit? How do we contribute?
3. How important are the following potential benefits of SAYMA in the life of our meeting?
  - a. Annual gathering
  - b. Less isolation as Quakers in this region
  - c. Opportunity for greater contribution to wider world through working together with other Quakers in the region
  - d. Resources such as *A Guide to Our Faith and Practice*
  - e. Opportunity for service and sharing on SAYMA committees
  - f. Connection to and/or support for wider Quaker organizations
  - g. SAYF (Southern Appalachian Young Friends) program
4. How would you describe your meeting's attitude toward paying the SAYMA assessment? Can you identify sources of this attitude? If it's perfunctory or negative, what would change it?
5. With regard to the Proposed Guiding Principles for a Revised SAYMA Assessment System [in the assessment packet]:
  - a. What points do you agree with?
  - b. What points would you change, and how?
6. How open is your meeting to changing how it determines its payment? What considerations would make it easier or harder for your meeting to follow a new policy?
7. Has considering these queries changed your thinking? If so, how?

### Discernments

**Nominating Committee:** On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Ron Nuse brought forward the following names for approval:

- **Minute 10-15-2017-01:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Brittney Thornburley for the position of Nursery Liaison for July 2017-June 2018.*
- **Minute 10-15-2017-02:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approve Brent Wolff for the position of Directory Editor and Membership Recorder, which is a one year reappointment beginning in January 2018.*
- **Minute 10-15-2017-03:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Steve Collins for the position of Clerk of Administration Committee for a three-year term beginning in January 2018.*
- **Minute 10-15-2017-04:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Lissa Place for the position of Assistant Clerk of Meeting, which is a two-year term beginning in January 2018.*
- **Minute 10-15-2017-05:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Dee DeBra for the position of Assistant*

*Treasurer, which is a one-year extension beginning January 2018.*

- **Minute 10-15-2017-06:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Clive Gordon for the position of Clerk of the Gathered Retreat Committee, which is a three-year term beginning January 2018.*

### **Reports:**

**Nominating Committee:** On behalf of Nominating Committee, Ron Nuse brought forward Allison Mawle for the position of Clerk of Hospitality Committee for a three-year term beginning in January 2018.

He brought forward Kate Shropshire Swett for the position of Newsletter Editor, which would be a one-year extension beginning in January 2018.

Ron brought forward Bill Holland for the position of Clerk of Meeting for a two-year term beginning January 2018.

Finally, he brought forward Paul Mangelsdorf for the position of Clerk of Finance Committee, which would be a one-year extension beginning in January 2018.

The names above will be brought forth next month for discernment and approval.

**Care & Counsel Committee:** On behalf of Care & Counsel Committee, Bill Hooson shared upcoming memorials services:

The service for Jada Tidwell will be held on October 21 at 2:00 pm. Angie Love will clerk.

The service for Mike Mykel will be held on November 11 at 5:00 pm. Katie Smillie will clerk.

The service for Lyle McCormick will be held on October 28 at 2:00 pm. Betsy Eggers will clerk.

Doug Unfug passed away on Saturday, October 14th, 2017. A memorial service announcement will follow.

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On behalf of Care & Counsel, Clive Gordon reported on an ongoing concern of the meeting. In 2016 AFM received complaints of sexual harassment against a man in the meeting. AFM formed an ad hoc committee to investigate and respond to these complaints. The committee sent a letter to the man, which he signed. The letter outlined guidelines for the man in order to ensure a safe environment for all community members. In addition, Care & Counsel became the standing committee to address concerns about sexual harassment in the future.

Last month, Care & Counsel received a harassment complaint against the same man. Against the guidelines of the original letter, he made contact with a woman who brought a complaint in 2016. The man was unwilling to meet with the committee and indicated in an email that he would stop attending meetings for worship. In the end, the committee sent the following message, which was initialed by the recipient:

1. We agree with his decision to stay away from Meeting
2. We are asking him to stay away from Meeting.
3. His behavior is unwelcome.
4. Therapy the meeting paid for did not work
5. He did not keep his word to stay away from the women he previously harassed and not to approach any of them.
6. He is harassing young women again.
7. We consider him a threat to the safety of young women in the Meeting.

8. We encourage him to seek further treatment from an organization specifically aimed at treating men who harass women such as “Men stopping Violence” or another such organization.
9. We acknowledge that he has refused the request to meet with a committee in the Meeting. We remain open to talking with him, however for now and in the foreseeable future we ask him not to attend Meeting for Worship and to stay away from the Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Meeting for Worship with attention to business wished to acknowledge and thank Care & Counsel Committee for this sad and difficult work. The meeting asked Care & Counsel to write a report to release to SAYMA with the intention of other meetings benefiting from our growth and learning as we addressed this issue.

The AFM policy for addressing harassment can be found in the handbook and on our webpage for members and attenders: <http://atlantaquakers.org/members.htm>

**Administration Committee:** On behalf of the Administration Committee, Lissa Place read an update about the Black Lives Matter lawn sign and ongoing improvements to the front of the building:

At 9<sup>th</sup> Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, the Meeting approved 1) placing a Black Lives Matter (BLM) sign on the property and 2) a new Exterior Sign policy. Since then, Jennifer Dickie has submitted to the Administration Committee a formal request to place the BLM banner on Meetinghouse grounds, which addresses all criteria contained in the new sign policy.

A contractor, Customworks Construction, is scheduled to begin installing new storm drainage and landscape/pathway lighting on Monday, Oct. 16. The entrance area to the Meetinghouse and some landscape will be disrupted for a few days.

**Finance Committee:** On behalf of the Finance Committee, Paul Mangelsdorf presented the 3rd quarter financial statements for 2017. He reported that AFM is running a \$2,396 deficit year-to-date. Year-to-date net income is \$1,044 greater than net income in the same period last year. Revenue YTD is \$9,308 greater than the same period in 2016 as well. Finally, Paul explained why expenses are \$8,264 higher than the prior year. The details behind these figures can be found in the 3rd quarter financial statement and its accompanying note.

**SAYMA Assessment Committee Request for Input:** SAYMA’s Ad Hoc Assessment Committee is seeking input from monthly meetings about revising the assessment system that leads to financial contributions from monthly meetings to SAYMA. Finance Committee will spearhead AFM’s response to this request. The complete packet from SAYMA will be distributed on the AFM discussion listserv. Feedback can be provided directly to SAYMA through the following email address: [assessmentcommittee@sayma.org](mailto:assessmentcommittee@sayma.org)

SAYMA has conducted a survey of monthly meetings to begin gathering data and the results of the survey can be found at [http://sayma.org/online\\_documents/Assessment%20Survey.pdf](http://sayma.org/online_documents/Assessment%20Survey.pdf)

**Naming Committee:** The current members of naming committee are Kelsey McNicholas, Mina Rhee, and Mary Ann Downey.

#### **Minutes of September 2017:**

- **Minute 10-15-2017-07:** *The Minutes of the Ninth Month 2017 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved with the following additions to the report from Nominating Committee:*

*[Ron Nuse] brought forward Clive Gordon for the position of Clerk of Gathered Retreat Committee, which has a 3-year term beginning in January 2018.*

*Ron brought forward Lissa Place for the position of Assistant Clerk of Meeting, which has a 2-year term beginning in January 2018.*

### **Announcements:**

On Sunday, October 29th at 11:45 AM in the meeting room, John Adams and Karen Morris will offer a workshop entitled ``Restorative Work in Our Meetings: Responding to Racism, Repairing Harm.” Everyone is welcome.

Please volunteer to help with dinners at Hagar's House family shelter. AFM is responsible for Sun., Oct. 29, through Sat., Nov. 4. If you can pitch in, please let Beth Ruddiman at [bruddiman@earthlink.net](mailto:bruddiman@earthlink.net) by calling 404-294-3792

Please send Committee end-of-the-year reports to the Clerk of Meeting by November.

On Sunday, January 28th, 2018, AFM will hold a threshing session around the query: Where there is distrust, injustice, or hatred, how am I an instrument of reconciliation and love?

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Bethany Morrison, Recording Clerk  
Betsy Eggers, Assistant Clerk



### **Please Hold in the Light:**

Harriett Unfug and the rest of her family. Doug Unfug died recently

The family and friends of Lyle McCormick. Lyle passed away recently.

The victims of recent hurricanes, especially in Puerto Rico.

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](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: Sally Ferguson, [sallyferguson@earthlink.net](mailto:sallyferguson@earthlink.net)

Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280

Social Concerns: Chris Kohler, [chriskohler@mailc.net](mailto:chriskohler@mailc.net)

Administration: 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 Ruschetta, [arxaaron@gmail.com](mailto:arxaaron@gmail.com)

Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, [afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com](mailto:afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com)

## Calendar for Eleventh Month (November) 2017

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### Area Meetings for Worship

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Every First Day (Sunday)	10:00 a.m. – Meetinghouse (AFM), with a smaller group in the Library. 10:30 a.m. – Peachtree Friends Meeting (Christian-friendly, affirming, open to all), 3980 Florida Ave, Norcross GA 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, <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 Hensley, 478-227-8892; <a href="http://maconquakers.org">maconquakers.org</a>
Sixth Day (Friday)	11:00 a.m. – East Lake Commons, Decatur. Contact Bert Skellie at <a href="mailto:bertskellie@gmail.com">bertskellie@gmail.com</a> or 404-680-4799.  (Mid-August through May), 9:00 a.m. – Friends School of Atlanta. Community Meeting Room, 862 Columbia Dr., Decatur, 404-373-8746.

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### Regular Events at the Meetinghouse

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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: <a href="mailto:ashleymwilcox@gmail.com">ashleymwilcox@gmail.com</a> , 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 <sup>th</sup> of Each Month	Newcomers Welcome Dinner, rotating location

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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: atlantaquakers.org, [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com)

Clerk: Betsy Eggers, [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.**

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).