

# ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



Atlanta Meeting of the Religious  
Society of Friends (Quakers)  
All are welcome

## June 2018

### **Lives and Callings: Spiritual Journey Sharing on First Sundays**

---

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 a member 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. Alicia Rabideau, a Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) Fellow, will be sharing on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Come hear more: 9-9:55 on 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays in the library.

### **Intergenerational Dinner & Discussion – June 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**

Come join Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) Fellows in monthly intergenerational potluck dinner and discussions. Evening themes will include topics like racism, sexism, sexual fluidity, gender fluidity, etc. Our hope is to bridge intergenerational divides and foster meaningful conversation.

Our next Dinner and Discussion will take place at Atlanta Friends Meeting on Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. We invite Friends to bring a dish to share and an open mind. Look out for the upcoming discussion theme to be announced in the weekly announcement sheets! Or, contact the Atlanta QVS Fellows for more info: [atlantahouse@quakervoluntaryservice.org](mailto:atlantahouse@quakervoluntaryservice.org)

### **Book Group Meeting – June 12<sup>th</sup>**

---

The group reading books by and about people of color will meet again on Tuesday, June 12 at 7:15 PM in the junior high room at the Meetinghouse. The book for discussion is Jesmyn Ward's *Sing, Unburied, Sing*. Please join us. All are welcome.

### **Friends Journal is coming to AFM – June 24<sup>th</sup>**

---

Join *Friends Journal* Executive Director, Gabriel Ehri, for an afternoon of fellowship and discussion about *Friends Journal's* past, present, and hopes for the future. Over refreshments, learn how this little Quaker magazine is:

- Growing the audience for Quakerism 100-fold
- Using video to nurture and educate new generations of seekers
- Standing up for Quaker values in a changing world

Meeting for Worship  
Each First Day (Sunday)  
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
701 W. Howard Ave.

### **QUERY**

*“Do you individually take your right share in the attendance and service of these meetings so that the burden may not rest upon a few?”*

Quaker Faith and Practice,  
fifth edition

Gabe will explain how this happened, what it may mean for Friends and your community, and what's next. After a short presentation, Gabe and other *Friends Journal* staff will be available for questions and feedback.

### **Still looking for a workshop to sign up for at SAYMA?**

---

Some Atlanta Young Adult Friends are facilitating workshops this summer at Annual Session! Check out their titles and descriptions below:

- **Lucas Meyer-Lee is facilitating SAYF 101 / Become SAYF's Biggest FAN! (Workshop #8)**
  - *In this workshop, real-life SAYFers will bridge the energy and passion within the teen program to the wider community. We hope to build an understanding for older Quakers of what exactly the SAYF program is while getting them excited about and ready to engage with us Quaker teens!*
- **Claire Hannapel and Maisie Kise are co-facilitating White Supremacy Culture, Quakerism & our relationship with money (Workshop #10; although the workshop description is outdated).**
  - *This workshop will be an open sharing/dialogue around our relationships with and values around money. We will be discussing how white supremacy culture shows up in our relationship with money, where we see our values as Quaker show up, and begin to map out new ways to engage in resource distribution both individually and collectively. This workshop is in response to two Young Adult (both white and queer) Friends' attendance at the White Privilege Conference and their engagement in intentional Quaker communities.*

Additionally, AFM Friend, **Aaron Ruschetta, is facilitating Communication with Conscious, Internet with Integrity (Workshop #3).**

- *The rapid global adoption of digital communications has had far reaching impacts on society and our daily lives. Examining the principles and communities that created the free & open internet, we'll consider how our technology choices can respect and reflect our Quaker values, and influence societal evolution within the digital revolution.*

### **May's Meeting for Worship with Attention to Youth: Recorded Messages**

---

#### **REMARKS FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLERK, Jennifer Dickie**

Today we close out our First Day School year with Meeting for Worship with Attention to Youth. But before we start hearing from the classes, I want you to think of your favorite sandwich. Maybe it's toasted peanut butter and jelly (my personal favorite). Or perhaps it is roast beef on lovely homemade sourdough bread with spicy mayonnaise. How about a heaping pile of crunchy vegetables in soft pita with a sprinkling of sherry vinegar and really good olive oil. Or maybe the lowly grilled cheese sandwich with perfectly buttery browned grilled bread and melty cheese. . . Boy, I hope you really want this sandwich!

If you can't decide, remember next week you can have a different one! Whatever you choose today, think of THIS Meeting for Worship like that. A sandwich you've planned for. Between two periods of wholesome silent worship we have a tasty program --all together it will fill us up. It will be different from the worship you had here last week, and different from next week's too! I think it is good that there is more than one kind of sandwich and they can all be fulfilling.

First Day School is also like today. Each week a set of adult Friends, our teachers who you see today, commit to be here to receive our young friends when they leave this room. Each week they have carefully

thought about what lesson they will bring, what queries they will pose, and how they will put it all together. **Especially in the younger classes, it is best, if this part is not left to chance!**

This thoughtful plan and set time is what we think of as FDS. But, I'd like to continue with the sandwich analogy for a moment and consider this teaching and learning as the tasty part in the middle. It is the "meat" of our proverbial sandwich. Without the teachers and the children. . . there is no sandwich! It's just bread! And that would be sad, if you wanted a sandwich!

There is something very important holding it all together like in a sandwich--without the bread it would just be a big salad or pile of melted cheese! And that would also be sad, if you wanted a sandwich.

So what holds this middle part all together? Well, **On one side of that middle part is the first 15 minutes here in Meeting for Worship with all of us.**

This side is important. It is preparation, waiting, learning from older Friends what this worship looks like, sounds like, and feels like. It is building community through worship across generations. Now to be sure, for some it is a struggle and they might rather forego it--in the nursery playing with younger siblings or friends at the lower ages OR hanging out on couches with friends in the upper ages. Sometimes it looks like Sunday morning dawdling until oops. . . we're too late for *that* part. But over time, with the support and encouragement of parents and other friends, children learn how to do this first part with little struggle, and sometimes they even choose it, over FDS.

**On the other side is something equally as important. It is REUNITING with a loving community.**

For our younger Friends after a story and wondering questions followed by reflection with art, or retelling the story, or play, REUNITING is the rambunctious return to the Meeting room with art in hand to sit with parents and hear the voices of the visitors and announcers, then the eventual mingling around the legs of older friends or in the arms of parents in the greeting room. **They have returned to a community that was waiting for them.**

For our older young Friends after a query or story, discussion, and deep listening to each other and spirit, in the silence among peers, REUNITING it is a gentle stroll from the furthest back rooms to the greeting room where there is mingling at eye level or almost eye level, and connecting through conversation with young and adult Friends. **They have returned to the community that was waiting for them.**

**This meeting is what holds the center together. It is what makes this sandwich whole. We are the front side and the backside. We are here when they arrive and we are here when they return.** Children learn best when they know where the edges are--*sometimes just so they can push against them.*

We welcome our children in, listen in the stillness with them, see them off for structured teaching and learning in the hands of their capable teachers and wait for them to return, and then we welcome our children back with open hearts.

Without these teachers right here, and these children right here, AND this Meeting right here, there would not be a whole First Day School.

So welcome to everyone, we are glad you are here. You help to make THIS day whole. Whether you knew it or not, you are an important part of First Day School and today we celebrate, through our Meeting for Worship with attention to youth, the joy of this year's work.

**THIS MESSAGE WAS FOLLOWED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF OUR FDS CLASSES. TEACHERS SHARED JOYS AND LESSONS FROM THE YEAR AND PRESENTED EACH YOUNG FRIEND WHO WAS GRADUATING FROM THEIR CLASS WITH A BOOK. TWO SONGS WERE ALSO SHARED, LED BY LAURA MACNORLIN.**

**Welcome Welcome**

*By: Laura MacNorlin*

Welcome, welcome to this place  
Where God turned my little face  
Welcome, welcome here and there  
We feel the Light everywhere  
Welcome, welcome to this place  
Welcome, Friends to this place

**Love Grows One By One**

*By: Carol Johnson*

Love grows, one by one  
Two by two and four by four  
Love grows 'round like a circle  
And comes back knocking at your front door.

Note by note we make a song  
Voice by voice we sing it.....

.....

Love grows, one by one  
Two by two and four by four  
Love grows 'round like a circle  
And comes back knocking at your front door.

So let me take your hand, my friend  
We'll each take the hand of another.....

.....

Love grows, one by one  
Two by two and four by four  
Love grows 'round like a circle  
And comes back knocking at your front door.

**MAGGIE HASBROUCK, ONE OF OUR HIGH SCHOOL FDS TEACHERS, SHARED THE FOLLOWING REFLECTIONS FROM A QUERY SHE ASKED OF HER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONE SUNDAY.**

*QUERY: If the world were as it should be, what would it look like?*

- Everyone is happy. Everyone is contributing to society in a way that not only helps the greater good but makes them feel good about themselves. Mealtime is a time to share and connect with others. Everyone is accepted for who they are.
- The air is clean, as are the people and the government. There hasn't been an act of violence in years. Freedom is free, and all human rights are granted.
- We all accept and support our individuality. There is no threat in expressing yourself as everyone is seen as an equal individual person. People more openly express love and approach arguments/political questions with genuine care for everyone effected. We still 'judge' in the sense that we question our world, but we accept others for who they are. Our educational and political systems reflect this.

- No one is objectified or mistreated. Everyone treats everyone and everything with love and kindness. We have learned to cooperate with the earth. Everyone’s creative ideas are valued. No one is without necessities. Those in power do not wish to succeed only for themselves, but for the benefit of everyone.
- There is an abundance of resources so there is no need for greed or competition. Everyone can simply be.
- The world is a highly culturally diverse place, with everyone able to express and practice their own beliefs which are not intentionally harmful to anyone else. Everyone has a passion and finds meaning in their work. People are happy and content with socializing and experiences instead of objects. People can sustain themselves from where they live.
- People in the world are willing to understand and compromise with different races, religions and genders. They want and invent ways to help our world. They are creative and imagine the world like a child would.
- Good people are strong enough to help each other and move through life happily while having the ability and drive to fight evil.
- Everyone is working together, standing up for each other and being kind. We are helping those in need including our planet and animals. There are no unwanted children or homeless people. The political system is fair, there is no greed only drive. People with mental illness receive the care they need. There is always love and no fear of it.
- The world is made of children.

### **David Foster: Final Summary of Ministry Under Our Care**

---

In February 2014, Atlanta Friends Meeting approved the following minute: “David Foster brought to the meeting a leading to deepen the spirit through faithfully sharing his photography of nature. The meeting tested his leading through a clearness committee and finds David clear and faithful to follow the guidance of the spirit. Atlanta Friends Meeting recognizes David’s growth in his ministry and his faithfulness. In sharing his gifts, he invites and inspires viewers to be aware of and engage with the natural beauty they encounter along their existing paths so as to experience it more fully and deeply. Through his exhibitions, David’s ministry offers a point of access to nature that opens up for viewers a momentary connection to their soul space.”

Thus began my formal ministry under the care of the Meeting. It has blossomed in numerous directions in these past 4 years. That May, Julie Hliboki invited me to partner with her in her creation of Breathing Light: Accompanying Loss and Grief with Love and Gratitude. My burgeoning sense of healing ministry made a “yes” answer so readily obvious. This book has become a vital part of my ministry, as it has been a continuing source of grace for others and thus gives pleasure to me.

I was invited to Pendle Hill as an Artist in Residence for the Spring of 2015 – another opening which was an extraordinary growing experience that was nurtured into being through my attention to my ministry and the support of my Anchor Committee.\* As a by-product of this residency, I led an afternoon worship session at the FGC Gathering in NC that summer. I created a worship experience using a collection of images and a spiritual reflection process. The experience was well received by a standing room only gathering of worshippers. I felt that I had responded faithfully to the leading.

Since then, I have directed my focus more and more toward placing my images in healing environments – hospitals, clinics, and private practice offices– through both sales and donations. After a physician’s wife

saw my early 2017 AFM exhibit, they bought 10 images to enhance the patient and staff experience in the new medical office space they were creating. Jenny and I donated a collection of prints to the Atlanta Birth Center, a newly-created midwifery practice in mid-town.

Through divine providence, I discovered The Foundation for Photo/Art in Hospitals in 2016 and am now one of their nearly 300 participating photographers. Thus far, my “Blue and Gold” image has been given by the Foundation to at least 6 urban and rural hospitals and clinics in 4 countries, including Italy, Argentina and Australia. In the new Emory Hospital Tower building, large prints of 5 of my images now hang in 52 patient rooms. This was the result of 3 years pursuing a vision of having my work present for patients, families and staff in this new healing space.

Throughout all these stages of my journey these past 4 years, I have had quarterly meetings with my anchor committee. This has offered me several benefits. Prior to each meeting I have written a report for them summarizing my work in the previous months as it related to my ministry, posing questions or concerns that I was facing and laying out my goals and activities for the coming quarter. These then formed most of the agenda for the coming Anchor Committee meeting. Through this process at least every 3 months, I had to stop and reflect on where I’d been, where I was, and where I was going. This internal process and accountability to others was very helpful in sustaining my focus and faithfulness to my leading.

As Jenny and I move to Honolulu for the next chapter in our shared journey, my “ministry under the care of AFM” comes to a natural conclusion. I remain deeply committed to sustaining my core sense of my art as ministry. I don’t know how its form will unfold in new places and circumstances, and yet I feel clear the way will open to build on this path for the foreseeable future. I ask now that this ministry be formally laid down. I am deeply grateful for the seeds that have taken root and been nurtured here at Atlanta Friends Meeting.

With gratitude for the faithful service of Anchor Committee members: Clive Gordon (current clerk), Jim Tolmach, Tara Doyle, Ann Ritter & Ashley Wilcox (original clerk)

Yours in the Light,

David Foster

---

### **Looking For a Way You Can Serve the AFM Community?**

Care and Counsel is updating and expanding the Meeting’s list of those willing and able to help those in need in our community. We occasionally get requests for assistance with transportation to the hospital or a doctor’s visit, meals for those who might be in need, and those who might require assistance with simple repairs or cleanup. Also, we need a list of folks who would like to visit members and attenders who are hospitalized or homebound. Maybe you might enjoy reading to someone or taking short walks with them. There are many ways you can help someone! Just leave a note in the Care and Counsel pigeonhole in the Meeting Office with your name, contact information, and what you would be willing to do and how often you might be willing to do it. Or, contact Care and Counsel directly: [afm.care.counsel@gmail.com](mailto:afm.care.counsel@gmail.com)

## SUBMITTED WRITING:

---

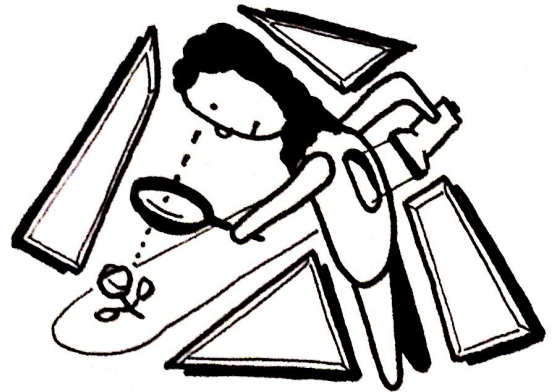
*Interested in submitting a piece of writing? poem? drawing? or thought exercise?  
Send it to Claire, the AFM Newsletter Editor: [atlquakerltr@gmail.com](mailto:atlquakerltr@gmail.com).*

### **The Value of Loss by Emily Weyrauch**      *This article was reprinted with permission from the author.*

---

I sat in the center of the bustling student union of my alma mater with a table full of Quaker Voluntary Service materials and a bowl full of chocolate. As I encouraged passing students passionate about social justice to apply for the program, I found myself minimizing the spiritual part. On a campus where “religious life” means going to an a cappella concert in the chapel or maybe having matzoh in the dining hall for a few weeks each year, religion just isn’t a language that’s commonly or fluently spoken there. I didn’t know how to share the things I love about the program in a genuine way without feeling like I was selling its spirituality. And I didn’t know how to sell spirituality without sounding like a missionary. So I stuck to the SPICES: simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, social justice—aren’t these values that we’d all like to live into more? Heads nodded, and hands picked up pamphlets.

There is a tension between the mass appeal of Quaker values and the fact that being spiritual or religious is hard, and I think it’s supposed to be hard. The most surprising thing I’ve learned from my year with Quaker Voluntary Service is how much effort and intentionality is required to live into these values—something wholly different from simply adopting them as your personal brand. It’s not as easy as saying “of course integrity is important to me” or “yeah, I’m pretty into community nowadays.” To truly embody these values in your actions is increasingly complicated in a culture that prioritizes profits over human life, dehumanizing people and humanizing corporations. To truly live into these values means making yourself uncomfortable and confronting the habits that white supremacist culture has instilled in you: what have you become from existing in a culture that favors efficiency over process, perfectionism over learning, and individualism over teamwork? I explore these questions over and over in the microcosm that is my intentional community.



*Original art by Oliver Owens.*

Community is messy, fun, and scary; sometimes I don’t even know what it means. How do we consider ourselves an intentional community if the eight of us barely have time between all of our work and activist causes to find a time to sit down together for a meal? How does fear show up in the way we approach conflict? What are the parts of ourselves that come out when we share space and resources?

I’ve been sitting with such queries in and out of the meetinghouse. I haven’t been able to stop asking myself questions that make me consider how I relate to my community and how I relate to the world. The tone is somewhere between curiosity and prodding interrogation.

In our house, we use the Enneagram personality system in order to learn more about ourselves, how to interact with each other, and how to become more whole and closer to Spirit or God. What are the patterns of behavior that define us? What ways of behaving have our bodies memorized in order to protect us from the harshness of the world? What do we have to become awakened to in order to live fully in the world? What must we reckon with in order to become more whole, more at peace? What do we need to let go of? In this way, I know that loss is necessary for community to grow, for individuals to become the most honest versions of themselves. “What do I need to give up?” is a question that showed itself in my head first in September, and then with increasing frequency as the fall deepened into winter.

The time the question first popped into my head, I was having a conversation with my friend Hayley (who is more Jewish than I am) about Yom Kippur. She said that she never really connected with the holiday, since it's all about repenting for your sins of the past year. Like other fasting holidays, it's pretty solemn. Hayley said she didn't connect with that until she heard a podcast that explained it in a different way. The episode of *Stuff Jews Should Know* talked about how Yom Kippur is all about radical self-growth and becoming closer to God. Instead of asking the question "What sins have I committed in the past year?" perhaps the better and more productive approach is to ask "What do I have to give up in order to be more whole in the new year?" Or you can phrase it in other ways: What parts of me are holding me back from the person that I can be, that I know I am? What do I need to give up to live in the world more fully and with integrity?

These questions hit me strong and hard. I could see what I needed to give up, clearly, through living in community.

Here in community, I can see how selfishness and an attachment to an absurd idea of private property lead me to feeling weirdly possessive of the yoga mat that I brought from home in August. I can see how a fear of open conflict forces me to dwell in my negativity, taking on a burden that no one else can see. I can see how the economy of the outside world permeates our relationships, and I tend to see my worth only in terms of whether I've had time to make the granola or clean the bathroom yet this week. I can see how a scarcity mindset can quickly develop, even though we have more than enough food for everyone.

I see how the uglier parts of me are incompatible with the value of community, and I tell myself that it is okay to let these things go, even though they have been a part of who I am for a very long time. This involves loss so I allow myself to grieve.

This is painful. This is mundane. I think this is also sacred.

Olive, one of my housemates who identifies as Quaker, said that the "light" that modern-day Quakers talk about—that of Spirit within us, which we invoke regularly in worship in order to ask for prayer for someone—is actually derived from something harsher than the concept many Quakers nowadays imagine. Early Quaker scholar Rosemary Moore wrote that "'the light' was an overwhelming invasive force, not a vague mental illumination." The light was the direct experience of God, and it was painful.

There is a pain that comes from directly confronting those parts of you that are holding you back. There is, in particular, a blinding pain that can come from acknowledging privilege you were given by society—privilege that not only has an opposite effect on those who are marginalized but that also harms you, too. Privilege makes you believe that you are more worthy of certain treatment or behavior just because of who you are and where you come from. Whiteness comes in and creates power-hungry individuals where there were once the seeds of loving members of community.

I'm still not a Quaker. I don't know if I ever will be. For now, I'm the Unitarian daughter of a Jewish mother and a father who comes from a family of Lutheran ministers. For now, I'm trying on Quakerism and seeing how it feels to allow myself to embody it fully.

Living into Quaker values for me isn't just donning a cloak of wholesome ideals. It is also a stripping down: an examining, questioning, and acceptance that I will have to leave some things behind in order to continue on the long journey. I say goodbye to them, these uglier but still somehow dear parts of myself, and I walk onward.

**Emily Weyrauch is a current Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) Fellow living and serving in Atlanta.**

This year, Emily has enjoyed paying more attention to her spirituality and allowing it to grow through intersectional anti-violence work at her QVS site placement, Georgia WAND. **To learn more about and support young adults like Emily serving with QVS, visit: [www.quakervoluntaryservice.org](http://www.quakervoluntaryservice.org).**



## **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Recorded pending approval**

---

**Attendance:** John Adams, Michael Allison, Richard Allen, Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Steve Collins, Jennifer Dickie, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, David Foster, Clive Gordon, Alberta Guise, Chris Lahowitch, Sara Longwell, Angie Love, Alison Mawle, Liz Nicholson, Lissa Place, Aaron Ruschetta, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Rebecca Sullivan, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Bill Holland (Clerk), Bethany Morrison (Recording Clerk) (25 Friends).

**Query:** Richard Allen shared the query for Fifth Month: “How do we balance time devoted to our community’s organizational needs and to our spirit-led work? How are we nurturing members’ gifts and imagining committee service? How/when do we lay down a past leading with care? Where is simplicity and Spirit in our structure?”

### **Discernments**

**Ministry and Worship Committee:** AFM approves the following minutes brought forward by Richard Allen regarding AFM membership, membership transfers, and marriages under the care of the meeting:

- **Minute 05-20-2018-01:** *On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting joyfully approves Sara Longwell as a member of the Atlanta Friends Meeting. We welcome her to our fellowship and look forward to our mutual spiritual growth.*
- **Minute 05-20-2018-02:** *On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the marriage of Angie Love and Terri Rushing to be taken under the Care of the Meeting. The date has been set for June 9, 2018.*
- **Minute 05-20-2018-03:** *On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the Marriage support committee for Angie Love and Terri Rushing as Christina Repoley, Hannah MacNorlin, and Cindy Lutembacher.*
- **Minute 05-20-2018-04:** *On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, we ask San Jose Friends Meeting (CA) to accept Rick Martinson into your meeting. Rick has been a faithful member of Atlanta Friends Meeting for many years, providing gifts of wisdom and steadfast care for the Meeting. We ask that you take his membership into your tender care.*
- **Minute 05-20-2018-05:** *On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, we ask San Jose Friends Meeting (CA) to accept Elizabeth C. Martinson into your meeting. Elizabeth has been a faithful member of Atlanta Friends Meeting for many years, offering gifts of music to young and old alike, as well as a welcoming presence to all. We ask that you take her membership into your tender care.*
- **Minute 05-20-2018-06:** *On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, we ask Honolulu Friends Meeting to accept David Foster into your meeting. David has been a faithful member of Atlanta Friends Meeting, offering gifts of ministry in many ways. We ask that you take his membership into your tender care.*
- **Minute 05-20-2018-07:** *On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting lays down its responsibility for David Foster’s nature photography ministry, which has been under the Meeting’s care since February 2014.*
- **Minute 05-20-2018-8:** *On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting lays down the responsibility of the anchoring committee for the nature photography ministry of David Foster.*
- **Minute 05-20-2018-9:** *On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting offers grateful thanks to the members of David Foster’s anchoring committee: Clive Gordon, clerk, Jim Tolmach, Tara Doyle, Ann Ritter and Ashley Wilcox (original clerk).*

## **Reports**

**Ministry and Worship Committee:** Richard Allen reported that the Ministry and Worship committee has approved 4 requests for scholarships to SAYMA and FGC for Yearly Meeting sessions and the Conference Gathering this summer. A few more requests came in after the deadline, so there may be additional grants reported next month. One additional request was also granted for a Quaker Pilgrimage sponsored by Friends Council on Education.

**Religious Education Committee:** Jennifer Dickie submitted the annual report on AFM religious education following the close of the 2017-2018 First Day school year. The report discussed this year's focus on the Old Testament, gave thanks for the service of both teachers and doorkeepers, shared the teachers who are laying down their service this year, and called attention to the present vacancy in the position of clerk of Religious education.

The report additionally discussed the need for five new First Day School teachers for 2018-2019 in the following capacities: 1 teacher for **Preschool** (ages 3-4); 2 teachers for **Lower Elementary** (grades K-2); 1 teacher who teaches 2x/month for **Upper Elementary** (grades 3-5); and 1 teacher who teaches 2x/month for **Middle School** (grades 6-8).

Finally, the report invited Friends to participate in First Day School this summer. Friends volunteer to lead the 1st-5th grade children once over the summer, teaching about the work of the Meeting, particularly their own committee work and their other passions. All First Days in June and the first four First Days in July must be covered. Jennifer Dickie is available to support anyone who is interested, but not sure how to proceed with a lesson about their work.

**Young Friends Program:** Aaron Ruschetta shared his yearly report as the AFM Young Friends Program Coordinator. The report shares the activities of the AFM Young Friends between March 2017 and April 2018, particularly through the Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) program. The report also reiterated the precarious situation of the SAYF program, which is the result of a lack of Friendly Adult Nurturers (FANs) to supervise their programming. Atlanta-based Young Friends have prepared a workshop for the June gathering of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting entitled "SAYF 101: Becoming SAYF's biggest FAN."

Friends suggested that the workshop be adapted for adults at AFM to encourage more FAN involvement among those who are not attending the yearly gathering.

**Suchitoto Fund Committee:** Bert Skellie shared the quarterly report of the Suchitoto Fund Committee. He reviewed the purpose of the fund and the committee's membership and provided the following update:

Since we last reported in February, the youth-run nonprofit working to enhance entrepreneurial skills and employment opportunities for young people has been approved by the Mayor of Suchitoto for legal status. The Association of Current and Graduated Scholarship Students from Suchitoto (ABESUCHI) has met several times since our last report, and they plan to hire staff soon. IDEAS (the nonprofit coordinating in El Salvador for the Meeting) is in final stages of setting up an account in Suchitoto for scholarship and youth development work. There have been some complications due to new laws. We expect a detailed progress report from IDEAS before our next quarterly meeting on June 7. As of May 2018, the Suchitoto Fund had approximately \$69,000.

**Administration Committee:** Steve Collins provided an update on the committee's work. The six-month pilot of the property coordinator position will be completed at the end of May. Jonah McDonald reported about the trial to the committee and proposed two options for how such a paid position could be structured. The first option emphasized the expanded use of volunteers from the Meeting and the second involved hiring a part-time handyman. Administration will formulate next steps after a thorough review of Jonah's final report. In the meantime, Jonah will continue to work with contractors to obtain bids for building services.

Aaron Ruscetta, Webmaster, and Claire Hannapel, Newsletter Editor will soon circulate a survey to members and attenders about preferences for electronic communications.

The Meetinghouse parking lot will be repaired, re-sealed, and re-stripped at the end of May or early June, contingent on the weather.

The City of Decatur begin to narrow West Howard Avenue to two car lanes in June and add two bike lanes from the East Lake MARTA station to Commerce Drive near downtown. This change has implications for people who park on West Howard Avenue for Meeting for Worship. More Friends may need to park on side streets. A Friend suggested that the committee consider whether to dedicate more handicapped and mobility impaired spaces in the parking lot in response to this situation.

Painting and flooring replacement in the atrium/common area outside the classrooms is planned for July 2018. Jonah will also have all carpets in the building cleaned during late-July when summer camps are over.

Aaron has ordered and is testing a new radio transmitter for the assisted listening system in the Meeting room. Administration also asked Aaron to order an affordable, compact, portable public address (PA) unit, which will be made available for a fee to renters.

**Administration Committee:** Steve Collins provided an update on the committee's work. The six-month pilot of the property coordinator position will be completed at the end of May. Jonah McDonald reported about the trial to the committee and proposed two options for how such a paid position could be structured. The first option emphasized the expanded use of volunteers from the Meeting and the second involved hiring a part-time handyman. Administration will formulate next steps after a thorough review of Jonah's final report. In the meantime, Jonah will continue to work with contractors to obtain bids for building services.

Aaron Ruscetta, Webmaster, and Claire Hannapel, Newsletter Editor will soon circulate a survey to members and attenders about preferences for electronic communications.

The Meetinghouse parking lot will be repaired, re-sealed, and re-stripped at the end of May or early June, contingent on the weather.

The City of Decatur begin to narrow West Howard Avenue to two car lanes in June and add two bike lanes from the East Lake MARTA station to Commerce Drive near downtown. This change has implications for people who park on West Howard Avenue for Meeting for Worship. More Friends may need to park on side streets. A Friend suggested that the committee consider whether to dedicate more handicapped and mobility impaired spaces in the parking lot in response to this situation.

Painting and flooring replacement in the atrium/common area outside the classrooms is planned for July 2018. Jonah will also have all carpets in the building cleaned during late-July when summer camps are over.

Aaron has ordered and is testing a new radio transmitter for the assisted listening system in the Meeting room. Administration also asked Aaron to order an affordable, compact, portable public address (PA) unit, which will be made available for a fee to renters.

**Quaker Voluntary Service:** Liz Nicholson submitted a report that updated the Meeting to the work of the Atlanta Quaker Voluntary Service program.

She started by sharing the activities of this year's fellows and nurturers, including gatherings, retreats, lobbying activity, conferences, and experiences learning about Atlanta and each other's site placements. In addition, this year's fellows started hosting inter-generational dinners at the QVS house at 6 PM on the first Tuesday of the month. The current QVS year comes to an end in July and will be celebrated with a cake reception on July, 22nd after rise of Meeting.

Liz turned the Meeting's attention to next year's Atlanta-based QVS fellows. Eight Fellows will join Atlanta QVS in August and will be paired with many of the same site placements, with the addition of the Racial Justice Action Center/Women on the Rise, and a welcome back to Friends School of Atlanta. In August, QVS will ask for help from AFM to clean, organize and prepare the house for the incoming fellows. Mary Ann Downey, serving as the Spiritual Nurturer anchor on the Local Support Committee, will be asked to help QVS secure and discern Spiritual Nurturers for the incoming Fellows.

Liz's report provided news about the national Quaker Voluntary Service program, including the launch of the public phase of Rooted, Grounded, Growing, a \$2.2 million outreach and fundraising campaign for QVS. In addition, Christina Repoley has been in discernment for many months, and feels clear that over the coming year she will transition out of leadership in the executive director role, and QVS will begin a search for that position.

Finally, Liz encouraged Friends to read Atlanta QVS fellow Emily Weyrauch's piece for Friends Journal on Quaker Values and how she is living into them during her QVS year. Link:  
<https://www.friendsjournal.org/value-of-loss/>

**Minutes of April 2018:**

- **Minute 05-20-2018-10:** *The Minutes of the Fourth Month 2018 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved.*

**Clerk's Items**

Bayard James Thornburley was born to Rebecca and Brittney Thornburley on May 15, 2018.

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bethany Morrison, Recording Clerk*

*Bill Holland, Clerk*



**PLEASE HOLD IN THE LIGHT:**

*Suzanne Murdock & Dave Erickson  
Perry Treadwell & Judith Greenberg*

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: Bill Holland, [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: Elizabeth Lamb, [gslpc@bellsouth.net](mailto:gslpc@bellsouth.net)  
Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280  
Social Concerns: Bert Skellie, [bertskellie@gmail.com](mailto:bertskellie@gmail.com)  
Administration: Steve Collins, [shcollins75@gmail.com](mailto:shcollins75@gmail.com)  
Care & Counsel: Bill Hoosen, [afm.care.counsel@gmail.com](mailto:afm.care.counsel@gmail.com)  
Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, [susanfires@gmail.com](mailto:susanfires@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: Claire Hannapel, [atlquakerltr@gmail.com](mailto:atlquakerltr@gmail.com)  
Webmaster: Aaron Ruscetta, [arxaaron@gmail.com](mailto:arxaaron@gmail.com)  
Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, [afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com](mailto:afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com)

**Calendar for Sixth Month (June) 2018**

**Area Meetings for Worship**

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, <a href="http://peachtree.quaker.org">peachtree.quaker.org</a> 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:jhudson30116@yahoo.com">jhudson30116@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.

**Regular Events at the Meetinghouse**

Every First Day (Sunday)	9:00 a.m. - Adult Religious Ed, Library Every second Sunday, 9:30 a. m. - Singing, Classroom A/B 10:00 a.m. - Meeting for Worship 5:00 p.m. - Atlanta Mennonite Fellowship, Meeting Room
Second Day (Monday)	Every other Monday at 6:30 p.m. - 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

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

Clerk: Bill Holland, [afmclerk1@gmail.com](mailto:afmclerk1@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, [afmtreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto:afmtreasurer1@gmail.com)

#### **Are you a newcomer to the Atlanta Friends community?**

We would be happy to make you a permanent nametag. You can 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 Brent Wolff at [rbkwolff@gmail.com](mailto:rbkwolff@gmail.com). Please indicate if you want to be in the directory, receive the newsletter by mail, or both.

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 our Meetinghouse 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. 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).