

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



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

December 2018

Lives and Callings: Spiritual Journey Sharing – Dec 2nd

On the first Sunday of each month, we listen to how a 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 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. On Sun Dec 2, Bobby Meyer-Lee will offer his spiritual journey. Come hear more: 9-9:55 on 1st Sundays in the library.

Book Group Meeting – Dec 6th

The group reading books by and about people of color will meet again on Thursday, December 6th at 1:30 PM in the Meetinghouse library. The book for discussion this month is Barracoon, The Story of the Last Black Cargo by Zora Neale Hurston. Please join us. All are welcome.

AFM Annual Holiday Craft Bazaar – Dec 9th

Join the middle school young Friends as they sponsor this year's holiday bazaar at the rise of meeting on Sunday, December 9. Each year this class chooses a charity to which they donate the proceeds made by renting tables to vendors. The benefits of the bazaar are multiplied as we think about how to support each other and shop local. . . very local! This season the middle school class is studying God's Kingdom and grappling with what that looks like on earth. Care for the homeless and immigrants is foremost in their minds. This year the young Friends will use money raised by renting table space at the bazaar, for Koinonia Farm's Hospitality Beyond Borders ministry to immigrants and detainees at Stewart Detention Center. If the men are deported, they are required to wear their US prison jumpsuits onto the plane. However, if provided, they are allowed to carry a backpack with one change of clothes. Koinonia works to provide these items and the young Friends hope to sponsor several of these packs. So bring your wallet and/or your crafts and join us for our very own local holiday shopping experience. If you would like to rent table space, contact Jennifer Dickie (michaeljen@bellsouth.net; 404-313-8770).

AFSC Strategic Processes Feedback Session – Dec 9, 2018, 11:45am

John Adams will be hosting a feedback session for the AFSC strategic processes that are currently being completed. Feedback from AFM members, attenders, and anyone interested would be appreciated. Dec 9th, after meeting in the meeting room.

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

QUERY

*"How do you celebrate
the gifts that are shared
by all around you?"*

*John Adams
Atlanta Friends Meeting*

Media Bias Workshop – January 27, 2019, 11:45am

In a world where Google and Wikipedia can exist alongside The Church of Scientology, what can people do to protect themselves from misinformation? To answer this question, this workshop will offer some creative ways of thinking about influence, an introduction to technological resources, practice, and discussion. Workshop will happen at the meetinghouse on 27th January at 11:45am.

Submitted Story: Christmas for Dennis

By: Glenn Plyler

My mother Loretta had a difficult childhood. Mom's father died then her mother abandoned mom, her sister and two brothers. Mother's school years were spent with people who could only care for her briefly then would send her another place to stay. Having experienced a transient life of secondhand care mom developed two behaviors that I recognized later in my life. My mother always was ready like a gypsy to move and had essentials packed to go. She also had a keen sense for knowing when others were having hard times. Christmas for Dennis showed me how my mom found ways to help others in need.

Early November 1947 my mom, Loretta started visiting families in our rural home town of Hawthorne, Pennsylvania. As on other benefit drives like the March of Dimes, I went with mom from house to house asking for help. Unlike earlier times mom now asked for contributions for the Sherman family's Christmas. Evelyn Sherman and her children Janis, Sandy, and Dennis suffered economic and social hardships common to unmarried mothers in rural post WWII America.

My mother trusted the goodwill of our community to aid the Sherman family. My Aunt Betty and I helped collect community donations between Thanksgiving Day and mid-December as we brought donations to our apartment. During the war and until I started elementary school my family lived in 2 rooms of my grandparents' house.

On Christmas Eve we took all the community's gifts to the Sherman house. We took a small white pine Christmas tree to the Sherman's knowing that they did not have a tree. When Mom, Aunt Betty, and I arrived at the Sherman's Evelyn did not understand why we were there. We explained that all the items that we brought were for her family. Evelyn at first was surprised then she smiled a tearful smile that I have never forgotten. Janis, Sandy, and Dennis were inside the house and when they realized that we brought them Christmas they could not believe what had taken place. We told them that all the town wished them a Merry Christmas and then left.

On Christmas Day my mother went to the Sherman home and invited them to come to my grandparents' house that afternoon. It pleased me to know that the cookies and candies that my grandma and I had made during the past months were an additional gift to Sandy one of my first-grade classmates and the Sherman family.

It was great that everyone had had an enjoyable Christmas but I wanted to play with a new construction toy that Santa had brought me that morning. Since I had my indoor pile of sand, complement of a grandmother, in the basement Dennis and I went downstairs to play with my Loraine Greene construction escalator. It had been a full day and when it began to get dark everyone went home and it was very peaceful as I turned on the window candles and Christmas tree lights in my grandparent's house. After a day of celebrations with family and friends sleep came easy for me on that Christmas Day in 1947.

Winter with its snow in Northwestern Pennsylvania made days a joy for me and each day at school we went outside to play no matter how cold it might be. Time for me as a child always seemed to float by joyfully and winter went by all too fast. In Western Pennsylvania by March

1st , my birthday, the weather always seemed sunny even though it was still winter. As Winter passed, I remember that Dennis Sherman was seldom at school. By the end of May Dennis had died. He had had leukemia which accounted for his increasing weakness over the past months and he died at age 11. I will never forget playing in my grandma's cellar with Dennis on his last Christmas and I will never forget how my mom helped make Dennis and the Sherman family loved and welcomed on Dennis' last Christmas.

Author's note: Written the winter 1995 while living in Wallhalben, Germany and teaching at Ramstein Elementary School, Ramstein Air Force Base.

Submitted Poetry: White-Eyes, by Mary Oliver

In winter

*all the singing is in
the tops of the trees
where the wind-bird*

with its white eyes

*shoves and pushes
among the branches.
Like any of us*

he wants to go to sleep,

*but he's restless—
he has an idea,
and slowly it unfolds*

from under his beating wings

*as long as he stays awake.
But his big, round music, after all,
is too breathy to last.*

So, it's over.

*In the pine-crown
he makes his nest,
he's done all he can.*

*I don't know the name of this bird,
I only imagine his glittering beak
tucked in a white wing
while the clouds—*

which he has summoned

*from the north—
which he has taught
to be mild, and silent—*

thicken, and begin to fall

*into the world below
like stars, or the feathers
of some unimaginable bird*

that loves us,

*that is asleep now, and silent—
that has turned itself
into snow.*

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business: November 18, 2018

Record Pending Approval

Attendance: Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Bert Skelie, Teri key Hooson, Alison Mawle, Suzanne Cole, Paul Mangelsdorf, Myrna Trapp, Kellie Divis, Steve Woodall, Kathy Johnson, Austin Wattles, Steve Collins, Aaron Ruschetta, Sarah Walton, Sally Ferguson, Clive Gordon, Ronald Nuse, Elizabeth Tolmach, Muireann Brennan, Jim Tolmach, Susan May, Karen Morris, Elizabeth Lamb, Karen Skellie, Lynn Leuszler, Waman French, Richard Allen, Lissa Place, David Small, Pat Williams, Georgia Lord (Acting Clerk, Rebecca Sullivan (Acting Recording Clerk)

Friends gathered near the appointed hour with opening worship. A member of Ministry and Worship shared the Eleventh Month Query into the worship: "Do you encourage in yourself and in others a habit of dependence on God's guidance for every day?" Friends shared some responses out of the worship.

Discernment Items

Ministry and Worship: Elizabeth Lamb, clerk of Ministry and Worship, brought forward Joe Walsh's membership in Atlanta Friends Meeting.

- **Minute 11-18-2018-01:** On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Joe Walsh for membership in Atlanta Friends Meeting. We look forward to getting to know him better and sharing in the life of the Meeting with him.

Elizabeth Lamb reported that Ministry and Worship received a request from Ashley Wilcox to lay down her sojourning Membership with Atlanta Friends Meeting. Ashley became a sojourning member of AFM in late 2013. She has been an active member serving on the Ministry and Worship committee and in numerous other positions.

- **Minute 11-18-2018-02:** On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee we regretfully accept Ashley Wilcox's request to lay down her sojourning membership with Atlanta Friends Meeting. We wish her the best in her continuing endeavors and will miss her cheerful presence.
- **Minute 11-18-2018-03:** On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship committee and on Ashley's request, Atlanta Friends Meeting lays down its responsibility for the anchoring committee for the ministry of Ashley Wilcox, which has been ongoing since early 2014.

Nominating: Nominating brought forward Alison Mawle as clerk of Gathered Meeting Retreat Committee.

- **Minutes 11-18-2018-04:** Friends approved Alison Mawle for clerk of Gathered Meeting Retreat Committee.

Reports

Macon Worship Group Update: Kellie Divis reported for Macon worship group. The attendance has increased from 3-4 to about 6-8. They have moved locations and updated their website, so people are able to arrive without connecting with a member beforehand. The worship group has also done some outreach in the community. Macon Worship Group had its first Meeting for Worship for Business a few weeks ago. They made two big decisions: Their first ever minute was to decide to meet on 2nd and 4th Sundays starting in January. They are also considering holding meeting for business on 4th Sundays. Kellie extended an open offer to join them to support them in their learning about Quaker business processes. Their second minute was to allow Kellie to create an ad hoc committee for first day school. Again, they are looking for support to help set up their first day school program. The meeting is also asking for support in understanding how to support Quakers in their region who are not able to come to Atlanta but want to become members, as well as understand childhood membership. Macon Worship Group has a monthly newsletter which members

of Atlanta Meeting are encouraged to subscribe to to stay abreast of their updates. The meeting can be reached through maconquaker@gmail.com. The acting clerk will follow up with some of the appropriate committees for some of these concerns.

Ministry and Worship: Ministry and Worship Committee recommends Claire Hannapel for membership to Atlanta Friends Meeting. Claire has served the meeting as a preschool first day school teacher, and newsletter editor as well as helping design the newcomers' pamphlet.

Ministry and Worship Committee recommends Anna Kathryn Hodges for Membership to Atlanta Friends Meeting. A clearness committee has met with her and find her clear for membership. She is a delightful high school senior who has been attending AFM regularly.

Ministry and Worship Committee recommends Rebecca Sullivan and Suzanne Cole for marriage under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting. A clearness committee from AFM (comprised of Sara Patenaude, clerk, John Adams, Paul Mangelsdorf and Alicia Rabideau) has met with them and feel they are clear for marriage under the care of the meeting. They plan to exchange the following vows: "In the presence of God and these our friends I take thee to be my spouse, promising with Divine assistance to be unto thee a loving and faithful partner so long as we both shall live." Their arrangement committee includes Atlanta Friends Meeting members Paul Mangelsdorf and Brittney Thornburley with Katy Brimm, Liv Monck-Whipp, Chelle Riendeau and Joann Neuroth. The wedding will be next spring in Jackson, Mississippi.

Ministry and Worship currently has under our care anchoring committees for the ministries of the following members: Mary Ann Downey, Julie Hliboki, Richard Allen, Sarah Walton and Christina Repoley. If anyone is currently in or exploring a ministry for which you would appreciate having an anchoring (support) committee, please contact someone on Ministry and Worship.

Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, clerk of Finance, read an initial report of the budget.

Administration: Steve Collins, clerk of Administration Committee, reported on behalf of the committee. Last month, Administration reported that the committee approved the creation for 2019 of a new property coordinator position for the Meeting that has been in a trial mode for the past year; we forwarded that recommendation to the Finance Committee.

A six-month trial of the position began in December 2017, and the trial was extended through the remainder of 2018 in August to give the committee additional time to fine-tune the details of the job description and determine an appropriate compensation plan. Administration has recently forwarded the related 2019 budget recommendations to the Finance Committee for their review, along with other staff compensation recommendations. We ask that you consider the attached job description for this new position, with the hope that it can be approved at the next Meeting for Business.

Friend in Residence Search Committee: Steve Collins, co-clerk, reported on behalf of the committee. The Friend in Residence (FiR) Search Committee held its initial meeting on 2nd Sunday of November. The committee is comprised of Carolyn Coburn-Allen and Steve Collins (co-clerks), Beth Ruddiman, Jim Tolmach, and Suzanne Cole. The committee was formed to find a replacement for Kelsey McNicholas, outgoing FiR, who completes her third year of service in late February 2019. The committee reviewed a search plan based on the work of previous FiR search committees and made minor changes. A brief "position available" advertisement will appear in the December 2018 Friends Journal, an article appeared in the Meeting's November newsletter and October announcement sheet, and the group identified additional places to advertise the opening. One significant change to previous searches that the search committee is considering that the search be based on a revised job description - one that eliminates the requirement for a "ministry." This is due largely to the challenges the Meeting and the Friends in Residences have dealt with over the past 10 years in defining and maintaining ministries as defined in the current job description.

The body continued to grapple with these proposed changes, and started talking about the history of the position and not wanting to lose the ways the position supports the meeting verses the “outside” ministry we support. We are asked to sit with what our vision is for the position of Friend in Residence.

Naming Committee: Elizabeth Tolmach brought forward naming committees report. They are bringing forward four names for Nominating: Gwen Davies for a 2-year term; Julia Ewin as the Religious Ed Liaison, Claire Hannapel and Greg Johnson all for a 3 year term. The names will come next month for discernment.

Nominating: Nominating is now using the newsletter to let people know about positions they are looking for. They decided that for those who are already serving (or have served in the recent past) and willing to be reappointed that nominating was willing to just continue their terms. So Lynn Luezler and Judith Greenburg will serve as co-treasurer for the next year. They also brought Muiranne Brennan and Penny Summer for a term on Ministry and Worship. For the Furguson Cabin Stewards Committee nominating informed us that Emmett and Melanie Fuller are stepping down. However, they brought forward Martha Hutchins for a first reading.

Anti-racist working group: AFM held a threshing session in February of 2018 as a follow up from our decision to put a Black Lives Matter sign on the Meetings lawn. It was clear that there was a desire and leading for many to be a part of continued anti-racism work in the meeting. Out of volunteers from that Threshing Session, a group has formed for the purpose of addressing racism in the meeting. We have met several times, named that anti-racism work is spiritual work and is integral to being a Quaker, and started to brainstorm action items. We would like anti-racism work to become a whole Meeting conversation, and not just the work of one committee. This new group is not a committee, but an affinity group, with the flexibility for people to come and go if they have a specific project or idea to help people in meeting be less racist. Our goal is to help everyone to move forward a few steps, wherever they are. It is exciting to be doing this at a time when the need for racial justice is more obvious in the world than usual, and is becoming a priority in FGC and with other Quaker organizations. If you are interested in joining us, please let Lissa Place know. We are currently meeting on the fourth Tuesday in classrooms A and B.

Committee Query: A member of the meeting brought forward a concern about security of members of the meeting during worship times. The questions brought forth to see if they were shared among the gathered body included: What should we be doing to make our building more secure? Where should this concern be sent for further discernment? Is this a joint concern or a concern of a single member?

After some sharing of possible processes to season these questions, the clerk requested further work within committees. The community will continue to consider this and see where we are led as a body next month.

Clerk's Items

Births, Deaths, and Events in Life of Meeting

The clerk read the minute of appreciation from the Quaker Voluntary Service Board thanking us for the support and hospitality we have given them during their first decade.

Approve Minutes of 10th Month

- **Minute 11-18-2018-05:** With a few name corrections the body approved the minutes from Tenth Month.

Closing Worship

PLEASE HOLD IN THE LIGHT:

*Laurel Muff
Maggie Hasbrouck
Debra Uwimana and family
Nan Pendergrast*

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

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**Calendar for Tenth Month (Oct)
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, peachtree.quaker.org 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, jhudson30116@yahoo.com or 678-378-3368; carrolltonfriends.org .
Every Second First Day	10:30 a.m. - Macon Friends Worship Group. Contact Diana Hensley, 478-227-8892; maconquakers.org
Sixth Day (Friday)	11:00 a.m. - East Lake Commons, Decatur. Contact Bert Skellie at bertskellie@gmail.com 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) 7:00 p.m. Bible Discussion, High School Classroom
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.
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

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Web: atlantaquakers.org, atlantaquakers@gmail.com

Clerk: Bill Holland, afmclerk1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, 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.

Would you like to be included in the AFM database and receive the Newsletter by mail and/or appear in future AFM Directories?

Send your name and contact information to Brent Wolff at rbkwolff@gmail.com. Please indicate if you want to be in the directory, receive the newsletter by mail, or both.

Would you like to receive announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting?

Send a note to afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

What does investing in your spiritual community look like for you and your family?

Atlanta Friends Meeting accepts contributions of your time, resources, and money! You can place a financial contribution in the slot marked "Contributions" in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse or mail to the Treasurer at our Meetinghouse address. Thank you! To donate online with a credit card, visit <http://atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm>.

Want to submit a letter, article, notice and anything else of interest to Friends?

Send items directly to atlquakerltr@gmail.com in plain text. Submissions may be edited for length and format. **THE DEADLINE FOR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS IS THE 20TH DAY OF EACH PRECEDING MONTH.**

This newsletter is a publication of the Atlanta Friends Meeting. Views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Meeting.