

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



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

January 2019

Lives and Callings: Spiritual Journey Sharing – Jan 6th

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 Jan 6, Joe Walsh will offer his spiritual journey.

Joe is a speech-language pathologist specializing in work with adolescents with language-learning disabilities. He has done a number of different things in earlier phases of my life, such as studying paleontology at the doctoral level, serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer, and teaching philosophy and science in a high school. His spiritual seeking has also been complex and circuitous, coming to rest on Quakerism after years of study of Zen, contemplative Christianity, and above all, Islamic mysticism. The common thread that animated him in these traditions has been the search for the fruits of silence. He has been married for thirty years and has two adult children of whom he is inordinately proud.

Come hear more: 9-9:55 on 1st Sundays in the library.

Book Group Meeting – Jan 3rd

The group reading books by and about people of color will meet again on Thursday, January 3, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. in the library at the Meetinghouse. The book for discussion is Washington Black, by Esi Edugyan. We will meet again in the same location on Thursday, February 7, 2019 to discuss Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man. Please join us. All are welcome.

Submitted Summary of Ministry: Mary Ann Downey

This time of the year offers Christmas greetings and letters from Friends summarizing significant events in their year. I also write Friends and family, especially those that I may not hear from any other time. The end of the year for me, is also a time that I write a summary of my ministry, held under the care of AFM. The reminder to send a summary from Ministry and Worship this year closed with the message, "Let your report be a joy, not a burden, for yourself."

I'm glad to report that I am learning to be guided in all my work by the query, "Every stage of our life offers fresh opportunities. Responding to divine guidance, try to discern the right time to take up or lay down responsibilities without undue pride or guilt. Attend to what love requires which may not be great busyness."

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

QUERY

Do all aspects of your life bear the same witness? Do you center your life in the awareness of the presence of God so that all things take their rightful place?

- SAYMA Faith and Practice

When I ask, “Am I led to this work from a place of joy and love.” I am better able to discern ministry that I am led to and those requests that are not my work. One of the on-going joys in my work is the freedom to be on call for requests both within and outside the meeting. These requests often mean meeting individuals for guidance and clearness, teaching workshops, and supporting Friends who serve Quakers in many organizations and other meetings. In our meeting, working with Liz Nicholson to provide each group of QVS fellows spiritual nurture by matching them with one AFM Friend is a great joy. I also enjoy finding a Friend each month who will offer the story of their spiritual journey to the Adult Education Class on first Sunday. Every story helps me feel more closely connected to this meeting home because I hear why others choose to be in our community.

My work is guided and cared for by my anchoring committee who help me wrestle with decisions and I am grateful that Dave Thurman, Lewis Fuller, Nan O’Connor and Bill Holland support me on behalf of the meeting.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business: November 18, 2018 ***Record Pending Approval***

Attendance: Suzanne Cole, Mary Ann Downey, Paul Mangelsdorf, Kellie Divis, Myrna Trapp, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Karen Skellie, Bert Skellie, Georgia Lord, Steve Collins, Lynn Leuszler, Pat Williams, Liz Nicholson, Alison Mawle, Ronald Nuse, Joseph Walsh, Richard Allen, Waman French, Brent Wolff, Sally Ferguson, Susan Firestone, Jonah McDonald, Susan May, Alberta Guise, Julie Foster, Larry Foster, Julia Ewen, Lisa Place, Clive Gordon, Juan Allende, Sarah Walton, Woody Woodall, Mark Bryan, David Payne, Elizabeth Lamb, Leeland McPhail, Michael Lohmeier, Elaine Meyer-Lee, Jim Tolmach, Kathy Johnson, Austin Wattles, Karen terHorst Morris, Bill Holland (Clerk), Rebecca Sullivan (Serving Recording Clerk)

Friends gathered near the appointed hour with opening worship. A member of Ministry and Worship shared the Twelfth Month Query into the worship: “How do you celebrate the gifts that are shared by all around you?” Friends shared some responses out of the worship.

Discernment Items

Ministry and Worship: Elizabeth Lamb, clerk of Ministry and Worship, brought forward Anna Kathryn Hodges’ and Claire Hannapel’s membership in Atlanta Friends Meeting.

- **Minute 12-16-2018-01:** On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Anna Kathryn Hodges for membership in Atlanta Friends Meeting. We look forward to getting to know her better and hearing about her experiences in college.
- **Minute 12-16-2018-02:** On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Claire Hannapel for membership in Atlanta Friends Meeting. We look forward to continuing and deepening our relationship with her.

Elizabeth brought forward a minute of thanks to Ashley Wilcox’s support committee.

- **Minute 12-16-2018-03:** Atlanta Friends Meeting thanks Cara Curtis and Rebecca Sullivan for their service on the anchoring committee for the ministry of Ashley Wilcox, which was laid down on November 18, 2018.

Elizabeth brought forward Suzanne Cole and Rebecca Sullivan’s marriage under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting.

- **Minute 12-16-2018-04:** On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the marriage of Suzanne Cole and Rebecca Sullivan under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Elizabeth brought forward the transfer of the Meyer-Lee family's memberships.

- **Minute 12-16-2018-06:** Atlanta Friends Meeting joyfully accepts the transfer of membership for Elaine Meyer-Lee, Bobby Meyer-Lee and Lucas Meyer-Lee (associate membership) from the South Bend Monthly Meeting.

Finance Committee: Paul Mangelsdorf, clerk of Finance, presented the Atlanta Friends Meeting 2019 Budget.

- **Minute 12-16-2018-07:** On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the 2019 budget as proposed.
- **Minute 12-16-2018-08:** Friends thanked the committee and the clerk of finance for their clear explanation of how the budget is formed and used.

Administration Committee: Steve Collins, Clerk of Administration Committee, reported on behalf of Administration. At 11th Month Meeting for Business, the committee reviewed the results of the 2018 pilot of the Property Coordinator position and recommended that we approve it as a new position in the Meeting. The draft position description was shared. The summary section of that description states that the Property Coordinator "provides regular on-site management of building and grounds, coordination of hired contractors, and volunteer work. The Property Coordinator identifies problems and issues related to the building and grounds, coordinates ongoing contractor work, coordinates completion of general building maintenance tasks, coordinates permanent improvements and other large projects, responds to building-related emergencies, and completes administrative work related to the building and grounds." The job description will be formatted and added to the Atlanta Friends Committee Handbook.

- **Minute 12-18-2018-09:** On the recommendation of the Administration Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the creation of a new salaried, part-time position in the Meeting, that of Property Coordinator.

Naming Committee: Lynn Leuszler brought forward the following names for a term on nominating.

- **Minute 12-16-2018-10:** On the recommendation of the Naming Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Gwen Davies to a two year term on the nominating committee beginning January 2019 and concluding December 2020.
- **Minute 12-16-2018-11:** On the recommendation of the Naming Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Julia Ewen to serve a three year term on the Nominating Committee as the Religious Education Liaison beginning January 2019 and concluding December 2021.
- **Minute 12-16-2018-12:** On the recommendation of the Naming Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Claire Hannapel to serve a three year term on the Nominating Committee beginning January 2019 and concluding December 2021.
- **Minute 12-16-2018-13:** On the recommendation of the Naming Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Greg Johnson for a three year term on the Nominating Committee beginning January 2019 and concluding December 2021.
- **Minute 12-16-2018-14:** Atlanta Friends Meeting thanks the 2018 Naming Committee, Elizabeth Tolmach, Clerk, Ron Nuse, Lynn Leuszler and Chris Lahowitch for their service and lays down the Naming Committee.

Nominating Committee: Myrna Trapp brought forward the following names for service in Atlanta Friends Meeting.

- **Minute 12-16-2018-15:** On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Lynn Leuszler to serve as Co-Treasurer for a one year term beginning January 2019.
- **Minute 12-16-2018-16:** On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Judith Greenberg to serve as Co-Treasurer for a two year term beginning January 2019 and concluding December 2020.
- **Minute 12-16-2018-17:** On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Muireann Breannan to serve on Ministry and Worship Committee for a three year term beginning January 2019 through December 2021.

- **Minute 12-16-2018-18:** On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Penny Summers to serve on Ministry and Worship Committee for a three year term from beginning January 2019 through December 2021.
- **Minute 12-16-2018-19:** On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Martha Hutchins to serve on Ferguson Cabin Stewards Committee for a three year term from beginning January 2019 through December 2021.

Hospitality Committee: Alison Mawle reported on behalf of the hospitality committee. The Meeting has received a request from the FGC Committee for Nurturing Ministries to host their spring 2019 meeting. The meeting will be held a weekend in March or April and the Atlanta Friends Meeting community will offer home hospitality, offer meals, and transportation.

- **Minute 12-16-2018-20:** On the recommendation of Hospitality Committee, we extend an invitation to host FGC Committee for Nurturing Ministries for their spring 2019 meeting.

Reports

Ministry and Worship: Elizabeth Lamb, clerk, reported on behalf of Ministry and Worship reminding Atlanta Friends Meeting that we hold the ministries of a number of Friends in our care through anchoring committees. Each year we ask for a summary of these ministries. Today, we read the Summary of Ministry from Mary Ann Downey, which will be submitted to the Newsletter in the coming year.

Suchitoto Fund Committee: Bert Skellie reported on behalf of the Suchitoto Fund Committee, a summary of the report is below.

The Suchitoto Fund Committee was established in July 2016 as a result of a large bequest by Frank Cummings to the Meeting's existing Suchitoto Fund. The purpose of the fund is to support youth development in the Suchitoto, El Salvador, area. A further goal is to turn over the funds to an El Salvador-based entity before 2021.

During 2018, the Committee was pleased to receive an annual report from IDEAS (the US-based nonprofit coordinating in El Salvador for the Meeting). The youth-led Suchitoto non-profit, "The Association of Current and Graduated Scholarship Students from Suchitoto" (ABESUCHI), obtained legal status as an organization in El Salvador. ABESUCHI made plans for work in three program areas: 1) strengthening the scholarship funds, 2) opening opportunities for training and other support for university graduates for employment or entrepreneurship, and 3) ABESUCHI's own organizational strengthening. ABESUCHI hired Evelin Gómez, a local accounting graduate, as a Bookkeeper. The responsibilities are to support ABESUCHI's financial management and the financial reporting required for the Suchitoto scholarship funds. ABESUCHI hired Teresa Deisy Cruz Artiga, a 25-year-old university graduate with a BA in Social Work from the rural Suchitoto community of Copapayo.

Quaker Voluntary Service: Liz Nicholson gave her annual report on the Quaker Voluntary Service in Atlanta, a summary of the report is below.

We are almost 4 months into the year with this seventh group of QVS Fellows. They have been working together in creating a home and community through weekly house worships, weeknight house meals, weekly business meetings, bi-weekly QVS days, and many informal conversations in deepening connections with each other. They have also been busy building relationships with folks at Atlanta Friends Meeting - you might have seen them tabling at the craft bazaar last week, walking around with their Spiritual Nurturers, greeting before worship, or teaching a first day school class among other things! Fellows have also been busy working at their respective site placement organizations.

Nationally, Christina Repoley has officially transitioned into new work with the Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE), and will continue to serve QVS in a consulting manner moving forward. Hilary Burgin, who was formally our Boston City Coordinator is stepping into the

Executive Director role, and we are so glad to have her seamlessly transitioned into continuing to carry out this vision of Quaker Service.

Care and Counsel: Bill Hooson, clerk of Care and Counsel, reported on behalf of the committee. Two appointed members of Care and Counsel have resigned. Rebecca Fiscal has dropped off for personal reasons, and Christina Lahowitch will be moving to Raleigh-Durham in the spring. Also Muireann Brennan has been asked to join Ministry and Worship. Care and Counsel is seeking additional members, invites interested friends to join in their work. Nominating Committee has been informed.

Ferguson Stewardship Cabin Committee: Mark Bryans, clerk, brought forward the annual report of the cabin committee, a summary is below.

This year the Ferguson Cabin had more than 70 different people use the cabins over 82 days. This is a decrease from last year. The cabins were not used in the first 5 months of 2018 except for the 2 work weekends. Most use occurred during the summer including the last 2 weeks of June, all of July and most weekends in August, September and October.

This year some major repairs took place: Partial dock and ramp replacement, removal of 2 dead trees, roof repair of the Dwight (old cabin), re-marking the boundary of the hill above the cabins. This coming year the cabin committee will finish the dock, place more rocks around the island, and complete the exterior of Irene (the new cabin). In the long-term the cabin committee is aware that the floor in Irene needs to be redone.

- **Minute 12-16-2018-21:** On the recommendation of Ferguson Stewardship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting thanks Emmet and Melanie Fuller for their service on the Committee and the many gifts they have offered.

Administration Committee: Jonah McDonald, office coordinator, bookkeeper and interim property coordinator, took the time to formally announce he is stepping down as office coordinator and property coordinator as of January 15, 2019. He will stay on as the AFM Bookkeeper. He thanked the community for the time he served and the ways the position allowed him to be released into the world to do other things in his life.

Steve Collins, clerk of Administration, continued to report on behalf of the committee. With Jonah McDonald's announcement that he has accepted a full-time position as an urban naturalist with DeKalb County, the Meeting needs to form search committee(s) as soon as possible for the Office Coordinator position and the new Property Coordinator position. Those interested in being on the committee(s) should contact Steve Collins or others on Administration.

Friend in Residence (FiR) Search Committee: At 11th Month Meeting for Business, the Meeting was asked to sit with the idea of possibly modifying the current FiR job description to eliminate or minimize the requirement for a formal "ministry" for the next FiR. Some history: Prior to adding the ministry function in 2007-2008, compensation for the FiR was the apartment, utilities, and a small stipend for health insurance. With the addition of the ministry component, the Meeting added a separate stipend based on a presumed 20 hours (approximate) per week ministry as part of the expanded job description. The current job description, which was updated in 2015, states that the ministry "may involve work within or outside of the Meeting", including "an established ministry of the Meeting", and that this an "area in which there is flexibility for each Resident to make it their own." The description further states that "the Resident may receive a stipend." Members of the Administration Committee who expressed their thoughts would like to see the ministry component continued, with the caveat that the meaning of "ministry" is clearly but broadly qualified in the job description. In addition to the AFM announcement sheet and newsletter, the position was advertised in the December issue of Friends Journal. The committee has received three inquiries about the position so far. Friends charge administration committee to move forward and discern how the ministry aspect fits into the person who is hired. The committee will report back at a later month.

Approve Minutes of 11th Month

- **Minute 12-16-2018-22:** With a few name corrections the body approved the minutes from Eleventh Month.

Clerk's Items

State of the Meeting submissions: The Clerk will bring forward a draft of the State of the meeting next month. Submissions are invited.

Corporation Meeting: Next month at the rise of the Meeting for Worship for Attention to Business, the annual meeting of the Atlanta Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc. will hold its Annual Meeting.

SAYMA Ministry and Worship Committee is hosting a SAYMA Clerking Workshop April 5-7, 2019 at West Knoxville (TN) Meeting title: "Quaker Process and Clerking: Serving the Community with Joy and Confidence" with Arthur Larrabee.

Friends were reminded that each committee should review their job descriptions and get them to nominating so the handbook can be updated.

Closing Worship: Friends closed with a time of open worship.

Bill Holland (Clerk)

Rebecca Sullivan (serving Recording Clerk)

PLEASE HOLD IN THE LIGHT:

*Jim Cain and Lynn Peterson
Claire Peacock
Nan Pendergrast*

Those wishing to have requests for holding included in this monthly newsletter may give the names to a member of Care & Counsel.

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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 Second & Fourth First Day	2:30 p.m. - Macon Friends Worship Group. Contact Kellie Divis at MaconQuakers@gmail.com ; maconquakers.org
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 .
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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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.