

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



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

February 2019

Lives and Callings: Spiritual Journey Sharing – Feb 3rd

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 Sunday, **Feb 3rd at 9am** in the Meeting library, **Mark Yates** will offer his spiritual journey. An attender for many years, Mark became a member recently and describes his story as "a pot of stew that didn't taste so well at first, but by adding more and more spices it is starting to gain some flavor."

Then on Sunday **March 3rd**, **Hannah MacNorlin** will share her spiritual journey. She shares, "I was raised a Friend and attended Friends high schools and college. I will talk about how having been raised in a loving Quaker community has impacted my life and spiritual journey."

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

FRIENDS OF TRUTH ON CLIMATE: Vision of the future – Henry Slack

In a visioning exercise with Green Friends in December, I saw our Meetinghouse with solar panels on the roof, and with an electric stove and furnace (unlike our current gas-fired models). The building might have a way to capture rainwater for later use, or a vegetable garden or fruit trees. Same building, but a different use of resources.

Why this vision? Because our climate (and climate is just the long-term weather) is changing. Greenhouse gases created by burning fossil fuels wrap around the earth like a blanket, holding more heat in. As a result, we can expect more heat waves, more droughts, and more storms and floods. On the coast, these will be compounded by sea level rise, which will create climate refugees.

In October 2018, the UN has told us that we have 10-12 years left to avoid causing horrendous changes in our weather. This is a short time for big cuts in fossil fuel use. If we fail to act

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

QUERY

*Do you come regularly to meeting for worship even when you are angry, depressed, tired or spiritually cold? In the silence, do you ask for and accept the prayerful support of others joined with you in worship? Do you let meeting for worship nourish your whole life?
- Britain Yearly Meeting*

quickly, natural forces will add even more greenhouse gases to our atmosphere, causing more weather disasters.

After this envisioning exercise, I felt a leading to share it, to urge Friends to consider changes to the Meetinghouse, and to urge other Friends to consider changes in their own lives. As Quaker John Woolman avoided slave-made products in the 1800's, so some Friends will reduce fossil fuel use. It's not possible now to avoid all fossil fuel use; the paper for this newsletter was manufactured and carried by fossil fuels. I am not a purist who will never use fossil fuel. Still, I could not ignore this leading.

Most Friends know ways to conserve energy, but the book, Drawdown, by Paul Hawken, (drawdown.org) lists the changes we as a society can make that will have the largest difference. Our food supply is high on this list. It takes energy to plant crops, irrigate, harvest, and ship our food (not to mention later processing or feeding to animals). We throw away around 1/3 of our food, so reducing food waste is one huge change we can make. Another: eating less meat. (If Friends want more information on not eating meat, Richard Allen told me he would be happy to answer questions.)

Besides this, we use a lot of energy directly. Reducing air travel, hanging clothes to dry, insulating our homes, composting our food waste, driving a more efficient motor vehicle or an electric one (or relying on MARTA and a bicycle), putting solar panels on our own roof, can all reduce fossil fuel use.

As for the Meetinghouse building, besides solar panels and batteries, we could install electric vehicle charging stations in the parking lot, and add more insulation to our walls and ceilings. We could also pursue a "zero energy" retrofit so that our building would generate as much electricity as it used.

Finally, because thousands of people may see their homes destroyed by storms, the Meeting may want to plan for more shelter at the Meetinghouse. We could create housing for climate refugees, whether from Central America, or Savannah. We might want to create housing for new QVS volunteers, or offer a room for simple short-term rentals, as some other Meetings have done. (David and Jenny Foster left Atlanta to become Friends in Residence in Honolulu, and help manage the rental rooms there.)

Some actions may save the Meeting money, as well as cutting fossil fuels. Some may require a very large investment by our members or others, in both money and time. I do not know what the Meeting will decide, or in what direction. But our weather is unsettled (call it "Global Weirding") and I believe that we will want to respond with a move to simplicity and peace, and toward our individual integrity.

The Social Concerns Committee has plans to discuss these ideas at their next meeting in March. They may bring recommendations to Meeting for Business.

Book Group Meeting – Feb 7th

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

February Newcomers Welcome Dinner – Feb 18th, 6:30PM

Bert & Karen Skellie invite all new to the Meeting and all who would like to meet newcomers to come to our house at 6:30 PM on Monday, February 18. Newcomers are invited to be our guests, and others encouraged to bring a potluck dish.

Contact us at bertskellie@gmail.com or 404-378-5883 for directions. (East Lake Commons, about 3 miles south of Meetinghouse)

Women's History Month & International Women's Day – Mar 17th

To commemorate both Women's History Month and International Women's Day (March 8th) cake will be served in the Meetinghouse greeting area on March 17th at the Rise of Meeting. There will be a wide selection of books and other materials for all ages on our table in the greeting area – free to good homes. If Friends wish to help with costs, please make a donation to the Meeting in any amount. Friends are also encouraged to contribute books and articles from their own shelves if so led and to write up short essays about female relatives and friends and other women who have inspired them, but haven't gotten the recognition in the history books that they deserve. Help Write Women Back Into History!

Book Review - Unsettling the Word: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization of Ministry, submitted by Karen Morris

Book Review - Unsettling the Word: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization, edited by Steve Heinrichs. Copyright © 2018 The Mennonite Church Canada.

I recommend this book of short essays and poetry by 60 plus Indigenous and Settler authors, illustrated with simple woodblock prints. The essays were solicited by editor Steve Heinrichs from authors, poets, and grassroots activists of diverse spiritual backgrounds. He asked if they'd like to join him in "courageously making the old biblical word flesh in today's settler colonial contexts." Each essay begins with a quotation from the Old or New Testament of the Bible, which the author has interpreted in sometimes surprising ways. Heinrichs introduces the book with this commentary:

For generations the Bible has been employed by settler colonial societies as a weapon to dispossess indigenous and racialized peoples of their lands, cultures, and spiritualities. But is it possible for the exploited and their allies to reclaim the Bible from the dominant powers? ...make it an instrument for justice in the cause of the oppressed? ... re-imagining the ancient text for reparative futures [?]

In my opinion, yes, the writings succeed in reframing the wisdom, stories, and questions of the prophets and gospels to unsettle us. Tamara Shantz writes "Not Your Promised Land" in response to Leviticus 25:23-24. [The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; with me, you are but aliens and tenants. Throughout the land that you hold, you shall provide for the redemption of

the land.] Lifting up the Jubilee and the law of redemption, she asks to be liberated by the Great Creator, writing, “This land is not your retirement plan.”

For Luke 4:20-21, Rachel and Chris Brnjas’s poem, *Go Listen*, apologizes for Christians who’ve gone to the ends of the world to share the “good news,” but forgot to listen to the wisdom of the cultures and traditions they encountered, and prays, “May your heart be moved to pursue the well-being of others -... May they see their beauty and their light and may they see yours.”

Some writers have approached the ancient words with sarcasm as a wake-up call as applied to today’s world. For instance, the words of Deuteronomy 7:1-2 that end, “Make no covenant with them and show them no mercy,” are reframed in Derrick Jensen’s rendering, *Destroy Everything*, as a world that has no place for indigenous nations or for the natural or physical world, so all will eventually be destroyed by the settler colonial society in the name of God, sometimes called Progress or Technology.

So many writings resonate with Friends’ testimonies, lifting up peace, equality, and integrity, and encouraging us all to find ways to live together harmoniously in community with each other on the Earth. One that especially caught my attention is based on John 4:7, “A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink.’” Susanne Guenther Loewen, a Mennonite pastor who makes her home in Territory 6 of Saskatoon, wrote the response, *Stolen Water, Thirsty People*. She describes a woman coming to get water from Shoal Lake 40, one of the lakes that supplies Winnipeg city residents, but not the native peoples who live near the lake. She meets a man who asks her for a drink of water who is very knowledgeable about the political troubles and broken treaties with the Indigenous people and their struggles to be able to have clean water. After their conversation about the situation, the woman realizes she is speaking to Jesus when he says, “I know what it’s like to be thirsty. I’m the one who once said, ‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled.’ And I’m with you as you continue to work for justice, for the living water that will sustain your children and grandchildren forever.”

I am donating a copy of *Unsettling the Word: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization* to the AFM library. Once it is catalogued, you can check it out, or you can order a copy by visiting the website, <https://www.commonword.ca/Home>

Submitted by Karen terHorst Morris up or lay down responsibilities without undue pride or guilt. Attend to what love requires which may not be great busyness.”

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business: January 20, 2019 ***Record Pending Approval***

Attendance: Richard Allen, Michael Allison, Muireann Brennan, Steve Collins, Kellie Divis, Mary Ann Downey, Susan Firestone, Julie Foster, Larry Foster, Waman French, Nina Gooch, Judith Greenberg, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Paul Manglesdorf, Carolyn Manley, Allison Mawle, Susan May, Karen Morris, Ronald Nuse, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Henry Slack, Sarah Walton, Pat Williams and Bill Holland (Clerk)

We gathered with opening worship. Elizabeth Lamb shared the first month 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?”

Discernment Items

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns. Nina Gooch reported the concern of FLGBTQ that the Georgia Legislative session may see the introduction of bills that threaten the legal and social rights of LGBTQ people and these bills are often legitimated by religious concerns. She proposed the meeting minute our longstanding support of LGBTQ individuals and asked that a process for responding quickly be endorsed. After discussion we approved:

- **Minute 1-20-2019-01:** As Quakers, we at Atlanta Friends Meeting believe that there is that of God in everyone and that we are therefore called to work for respect and equality for all under the law. Our experience has been that the life of our Meeting and its work have been immeasurably enriched by the full participation and Spirit-guided leadership of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer Friends. We therefore affirm our support of the rights of all persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and oppose any law that could sanction discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- **Minute 1-20-2019-02:** We ask the Social Concerns Committee, in collaboration with Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns, to respond as needed to proposed legislation and report back to meeting.

Reports

Finance Committee: Paul Manglesdorf reviewed the Income Statement, Balance Sheet and Fund Balances for 2018. Paul reported the meeting ended our 2018 year with a surplus of \$15,419. While contributions of \$139,659 were \$4,276 less than budget, rental income was \$11,482 above budget. Overall program expenses were favorable to budget. Employee expenses, permanent improvements, building maintenance and Gifts and Affiliations were higher than 2017. Looking at the overall budget, Paul noted that Rental Income has become very important to our budget with a sizable increase over the last several years. In the near future, Finance anticipates that we will need to replace the roof in the next ten years and an air handler is nearing its expected life. We are continuing to replenish our permanent improvement fund to plan for these expected expenses. As the meeting begins the 2019 year, several Friends encouraged members to budget their contributions.

The Clerk thanked Paul and the Finance Committee for their able care of our Finances.

Nominating Committee: Myrna Trapp reported that the Nominating Committee recommends the following Friends for meeting responsibilities:

- Waman French - Ministry and Worship Committee (1/19-12/21)
- Rebecca Sullivan - Recording Clerk (1/19-12/20)
- John Adams - AFSC Contact Person (1/19-12/19)
- John Adams - SAYMA Representative (1/19-12/19)

Friends were encouraged get to know these these Friends. The names will be brought back for discernment in Second Month.

The clerk asked all committee to start the year by reviewing their job description in the handbook and determine if any changes are needed. Proposed changes should be submitted to the Nominating Committee who is responsible for bringing this to the meeting.

Search Committee: Steve Collins reported there are currently three Search Committees. Friend in Residence (FIR). The current resident has agreed to extend term through March and possibly later. The deadline for applications is January 25. Office Coordinator. Janelle Kibler is serving as Interim Office Coordinator. Property Coordinator. Jim Tolmach has agreed to serve as interim Property Coordinator. Both the Office Coordinator and Property Coordinator search committee consists of Jack Honderd, Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Teri Key-Hoosen and Steve Collins, with Jonah McDonald in an advisory role. Friends interested in assisting the search process or who have recommendations of potential applicants should contact Steve.

Quaker Voluntary Service Update: Steve Collins reported that applications for the 2019-2020 program year are due March 15. QVS now covers five cities. Young adults 21-30 are encouraged to apply. Individuals should contact Liz Nicholson or the QVS website www.quakervoluntaryservice.org for more information.

Concerns of Friends: The Clerk reported that Henry Slack had shared that he has a vision for the meeting and the Society of Friends around the challenge of climate change. An earlier version of this visioning had been shared with the Social Concerns Committee. The meeting was not being asked to form a new committee but to hear how we are moved by the spirit.

Henry shared his document “Friends of Truth on Climate: Vision of the future” (to be published in newsletter). He reviewed the history of Friends providing principled leadership and challenges to existing structures. He reviewed some of the changes that are anticipated as a result climate change. He outlines some actions the meeting might take to reduce our footprint and be a model to others. He recommended a website (www.drawdown.org) as a source to evaluate.

One friend reported that Green Friends had undertaken some initial exploration of solar panels for the meetinghouse and may revive this in the future. Another Friend encouraged educating both boys and girls about family planning and the cost of children.

The clerk asked that the Vision be published in the newsletter. He also asked that the vision statement be reviewed with Social Concerns and Green Friends. If there are proposals or actions, resulting from this review, these will return to meeting.

The clerk reported that the concern for a discussion about meeting security will be revisited in February.

Clerk's Items

The Clerk reminded Friends that the State of the Meeting was an opportunity for the entire meeting to reflect on how the Spirit has moved among us in the last year. Last month a call for contributions to the report was issued and two submissions received. The clerk asked anyone with important items that should be included in the report to submit these promptly. A draft will be circulated before the next meeting and we will seek approval at that time.

Chuck Fager is available for presentations to meetings about the diversity among Friends. There was some interest expressed. The Clerk will check with Chuck about his schedule.

We will hold the annual meeting of the AFM Corporation at the rise of First Month Meeting. All are invited.

Events in Life of Meeting

Alison Mawle reported that the FGC Committee will be at the meeting the weekend of April 26-28. The Meeting has agreed to assist with hospitality and arrangements.

A memorial service for Christian Cain was held at the meetinghouse on January 17. Christian grew up in the Atlanta Meeting and was the son of former member Jim Cain.

A well-attended memorial service celebrating the life of Nan Pendergrast was held at the Friends School of Atlanta on Saturday, January 19.

Minutes of 12th Month

- Minute 1-20-2019-03: We approve the minutes of December 16, 2018 with the addition of text to the FIR Search report.

Closing Worship:

We closed with a time of open worship.

Bill Holland (Clerk)

PLEASE HOLD IN THE LIGHT:

*Jim Cain and Lynn Peterson
Claire Peacock
Nan Pendergrast and Family
Bill Jenkins & Diane Rowley
Friends and attenders of Lewiston Friends
Meeting in Falmouth Quarter, Maine*

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

<p align="center">Atlanta Friends Meeting Contacts</p> <p>Clerk of the Meeting: Bill Holland, afmclerk1@gmail.com Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald, atlantaquakers@gmail.com Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com Ministry & Worship: Elizabeth Lamb, gslpc@bellsouth.net Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280 Social Concerns: Bert Skellie, bertskellie@gmail.com Administration: Steve Collins, shcollins75@gmail.com Care & Counsel: Bill Hoosen, afm.care.counsel@gmail.com Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, susanfires@gmail.com Religious Education: Jennifer Dickie, michaeljen@bellsouth.net Library Clerk: Cal Gough, calgough@bellsouth.net Newsletter Editor: Claire Hannapel, atlquakerltr@gmail.com Webmaster: Aaron Ruscetta, arxaaron@gmail.com Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com</p>
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**Calendar for Second Month
(Feb) 2019**

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

Office: MWF 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; 404-377-2474

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.