

# ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



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

## March 2019

### Lives and Callings: Spiritual Journey Sharing – March 3<sup>rd</sup>

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 **March 3<sup>rd</sup>**, **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."

On Sunday **April 7<sup>th</sup>**, **Glenn Plyler** will tell us about his experience growing up in a small coal mining town, joining the military after college, recovering from PTSD, and coming to Friends through Alternatives to Violence workshops.

*Come hear more: 9-9:55 on 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays in the library.*

### Book Group Meeting – March 7<sup>th</sup>

The group reading books by and about people of color will meet again on Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. in the library at the Meetinghouse. The book for discussion is Salvage the Bones, by Jesmyn Ward. Please join us. All are welcome.

### Women's History Month & International Women's Day – Mar 17<sup>th</sup>

Celebrate "HERstory" First Day March 17th! Join us for a slice of cake at the Rise of Meeting on March 17th to commemorate Women's History Month as well as International Women's Day of March 7th.

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 received the recognition in the history books that they deserve.

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

#### QUERY

*Do we each take an active part in the life of our Meeting? How do we recognize the varied skills and spiritual gifts of our members and attenders? How do we nurture their use and growth?*

*- North Pacific Yearly Meeting*

Help write “HERstory” into history.

### **March Newcomers Welcome Dinner – March 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30PM**

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Each month, a “Welcome Dinner” is hosted for New Comers to the Meeting! People host and serve dinner in their home to have a smaller setting for people new to the Atlanta area or new to Quaker life. Sometimes other Friends join in, too. Unlike most Quaker suppers, this is not a potluck!

Newcomers will be welcomed in the home of Jack Honderd and Betsy Eggers on Monday, March 18, 2019, gathering at 6:30 pm. Casual. Bring your questions and an appetite! Please call 404-233-0086 or email [betsyeggers@gmail.com](mailto:betsyeggers@gmail.com) for details and to RSVP.

### **Memorial Meeting for Worship – Saturday, March 23, 2019**

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There will be a Memorial Meeting for Worship in Thanksgiving for the Grace of God as Shown in the Life of William (Bill) Carter Jenkins, Saturday, March 23, 2019 - 2:00 PM at the Meeting.

Contributions in memory of William (Bill) Carter Jenkins can be made to the Jenkins Institute, (3923 Azalea Drive, North Charleston, SC 29405) founded December 16, 1891 by Bill’s great uncle, Reverend Daniel Joseph Jenkins.

There will be a second service on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, at noon at Sale Hall Chapel Auditorium at Morehouse College for professional colleagues.

### **AFM Office Coordinator transitions after 10 years!**

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Jonah McDonald, our dear Friend who shared ten years of service to us as Office Coordinator, has transitioned into a new role as the Dekalb County Parks Naturalist. For more details about his new work you can visit: <https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/news/dekalb-hires-new-parks-naturalist>

### **Book Review – Submitted by Bert Skellie**

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**Becoming an Anti-Racist Church: Journeying toward Wholeness** by Joseph Barndt (2011)

The Committee on Undoing Racism In Atlanta Friends Meeting (CURAFM) has recently purchased this book, and I also have a copy to lend. Look for copies on the Quakers for Racial Equality (QRE) table. I invite you to read the book as we seek to create an anti-racist Atlanta Friends Meeting. QRE’s vision for the future of AFM is that people of color will have full significant influence and their share of control of resources in the Meeting. While we are not all Christians, and we are not a church, I think you will find that Barndt’s analysis and suggestions are relevant to Atlanta Friends. Here’s a brief review:

“Barndt’s ... book provides an informed, incisive, and passionate analysis of the challenge racism poses to our collective ability to live out our faith. His title is explicit: this is an achievable objective for the Christian church of the twenty-first century. And Barndt provides here the theological, biblical, social, and historical underpinnings for this belief in accessible, persuasive language. This is a remarkable accomplishment, considering Christian complicity in the structures and ideologies of racial oppression. People of faith who read this work will find both motivation and method to accomplish the task of building an anti-racist church.” --Victor M. Rodriguez, Professor and Former Chair of the Chicano and Latino Studies Dept, California State University, Long Beach

## 2018 State of the Meeting – submitted by Bill Holland, AFM Clerk

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This year, SAYMA Ministry and Worship has asked us to consider the queries about our dream for our faith community and how we are living into that dream in our life together.

Seventy-five years ago a group of Friends and seekers first gathered in Atlanta to seek the Light. Coming together in a time of war and racial segregation, they sought to create a small island of holy silence and to live faithfully into the world. Early on, Atlanta Friends envisioned a spiritual community where people of all races could worship together. We articulated a vision that we could balance being a school for nonviolent revolutionaries as well as a center for contemplation.

Our meetings for worship are well attended. Visitors from the community and from afar join us regularly to experience Quaker worship. When we moved to the “new” meetinghouse we made a conscious choice to be visible and this visibility has invited many inquirers. We continue to struggle with how best to welcome newcomers and invite them to share in our community life. Our new brochure and Care and Counsel’s newcomer’s table are being well used and provide a focus for inquiries.

The many young Friends and their families who actively participate in our life together bless us. Our nursery is often filled to capacity. Fifteen regular teachers and many regular doorkeepers support the first day program for young Friends. The careful preparation and planning by the Religious Education Committee has created a consistent programming that welcomes the Spirit of all young Friends. These young Friends are a vital part of our meeting. They join us in the first fifteen minutes of worship. Occasionally, the whispers in meeting provide the source of ministry and levity. The return of the young Friends at the end of the worship period creates a different energy.

The Atlanta teen group has been active with Southern Appalachian Young Friends, attending regular retreats and providing leadership. These teens are impressive, a source of creativity, spiritual vitality and contribute greatly to our meeting.

We are in our seventh year hosting a cohort of Quaker Voluntary Service Fellows. These young adults have enriched us. Many members of the meeting are active supporting their spiritual and material needs. The local support committee operates under the care of the meeting.

The vision of racial justice and of racial equality continues to be the central animating concern for many of our members. Drawings on our testimony of equality changes are pursued at the personal, institutional and societal level. Quakers for Racial Equality and the Committee for Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting offer ongoing education and awareness to the meeting through literature tables, listening ear, workshops, forums and sharing resources. These

Friends are under the weight of a concern to expand active participation by more members and attenders in the work of eradicating institutional racism. A new book discussion group and new affinity groups have formed to support Friends with new concerns.

Green Friends have maintained an active network and meet monthly to consider visions of a Green future. We receive regular ministry on the care of the Earth. Green Friends have held

forums, hosted educational videos, and highlighted the linkages between racism, global inequality and the climate.

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns raised the concern that meeting insure that genderqueer/non-binary people knew they were welcomed at our meeting. Small transflags were made available for nametags. In collaboration with Administration Committee, signage for restrooms was developed and approved by meeting: “Atlanta Friends Meeting welcomes everyone to use the restroom that most closely reflects their gender identity.”

Some in our meeting question whether we do enough for women’s rights and ask us to consider doing more.

Members of our community have worked to prepare revisions to queries being proposed to SAYMA Faith and Practice.

Our meeting continues to grow. We welcomed seven new members by application, and four new members by transfer. Four young Friends joined us by birth. Eight of our members have transferred out joining meetings from Ireland to Hawaii. We have held one marriage under the care of meeting and held one memorial service for long-time member Perry Treadwell.

In 2018 we recorded six Friends with leading for ministry. We supported these Friends through appointed anchoring committees.

The Macon Worship group continues under our tender care. We rejoice with them on the growth of their group. They recently began meeting 2nd and 4th first day in a space rented from a downtown Unitarian Church.

Care and Counsel committee continues to provide structure to our pastoral responsibilities. We are now contacting newcomers who sign the guest book with follow-up emails. Using online apps we have become better at coordinating meal assistance for those with health issues and those with new babies. We have provided financial assistance to members and attenders who need short term support. To fulfill our mission of holding our members and attenders under our care, the two Care Quilts have been provided to seven individuals in the last year to feel close during times of illness.

For many years we have been blessed by individuals gifted in service who have fulfilled paid staff roles in the meeting. Both our Friend in Residence and Office Manager are moving on to new opportunities. This is a time of transition as we seek how best to meet the challenges of today.

The creative tensions we continue to feel in the meeting are a sign of spiritual vitality. New concerns and the animation of long-standing concerns provide a source of vitality, stretching the edges of growth.

## Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business: February 17, 2019

### *Record Pending Approval*

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**Attendance:** Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Georgia Lord, Karen Skellie, Bert Skellie, Mary Ann Downey, Suzanne Cole, Pat Williams, Judith Greenberg, Steve Collins, Mark Yates, Alison Mawle, Aaron Ruscetta, Julia Ewen, Clive Gordon, Henry Slack, Kevin Wong, Lissa Place, Richard Allen, Eric Glenn, Kellie Divis, Karen terHorst Morris, Myrna Trapp, Sally Ferguson, Ronald Nuse, Jim Tolmach, Lynn Leuszler, Susan Firestone, Woody Woodall, Lorraine L. Janeczko, Nani Liow, Steve Mohlke (visitor from Ithaca Monthly Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting), Bill Holland (Clerk), Rebecca Sullivan (Recording Clerk)

Friends gathered near the appointed hour with opening worship. A member of Ministry and Worship shared the Second Month Query into the worship: *“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

#### **Discernment Items:**

**Nominating Committee:** Myrna Trapp, member of Nominating, brought the following names for service in Atlanta Friends Meeting.

- **Minute 2-17-2019-01:** On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, we approve Waman French to serve on the Ministry and Worship Committee for a three-year term (February 2019 - January 2022).
- **Minute 2-17-2019-02:** On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, we approve Rebecca Sullivan to serve as Recording Clerk for a two-year term (January 2019 to December 2020).
- **Minute 2-17-2019-03:** On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, we approve John Adams to serve as the AFSC Contact for a one-year term (Jan 2019 to December 2019).
- **Minute 2-17-2019-04:** On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, we approve John Adams to serve as the AFM representative to SAYMA for a one-year term (January 2019 to December 2019).

#### **Reports:**

**Nominating Committee:** Myrna Trapp reported on behalf of the nominating committee. Nominating Committee recommends Karen Skellie to serve as the nominated member for Care and Counsel committee for a three-year term (March 2019 - December 2021). Nominating will bring her name for approval in 3rd Month.

**Ministry and Worship Committee:** Richard Allen, reported on behalf of Ministry and Worship. Ministry and Worship has received a request for membership from Aaron (A.J.) Martens. He is an active member of the Macon Worship Group and has studied Quakerism for about five years. He desires to make his participation “official.” A clearness committee has met with him and finds him clear. Ministry and Worship unites with the recommendation of the clearness committee and will bring his name for approval in 3rd Month.

**Administration Committee:** Steve Collins reported on behalf of the Administration Committee and gave us an update on the status of the three open positions at the Meeting.

Friend-In-Residence Search: Deadline for applications was Jan. 25. Four applicants are being considered, one of whom the committee has interviewed. Three others are scheduled and the committee hopes to complete the interview process by the end of February. An optimistic target date for making a selection and presenting our recommendation to the Administration Committee is March 4, the date of Administration’s next meeting.

Office Coordinator (OC) & Property Coordinator (PC) Searches:

An advertisement for these jobs will appear in the April issue of Friends Journal; the job openings have also been placed in the Meeting's announcement sheet twice. The application deadline is April 15. One OC interview has been completed, and one more is currently planned. The committee will also set up an interview for a PC candidate shortly. No target date for recommending applicants for the two openings to Administration has been established yet.

**State of the Meeting Report:** Bill Holland, Clerk of the Meeting, presented the State of the Meeting Report. After some concerns were raised and through worship the meeting approved the state of the meeting report.

- **Minute 2-17-2019-05:** Friends approved the State of the Meeting Report with two addendums.

**Concern on Meeting Security:** A document was brought to the meeting for our thoughtful consideration on issues of Meeting House safety. After reading four situations, friends settled into worship and responded from worship to start sharing our thoughts. The Clerk will name an ad hoc group 3 or 4 Friends to gather data from Friends Schools and other Meetings about how they have dealt with these types of situations and questions. The charge for the ad hoc group will be: Explore some of the thoughts from the responses as well as the document brought forward at the beginning of the discussion and bring back some proposals.

#### **Minutes of 1st Month**

- **Minute 2-17-2019-06:** We approve the minutes of January 20, 2019.

#### **Clerks' Items**

Clerk announced Arthur Larabee's Clerking workshop in West Knoxville, TN in April. Details are available from the clerk and SAYMA office.

#### **Events in Life of Meeting:**

- Bill Jenkins died February 17, 2019
- Claire Peacock's memorial service was held February 16, 2019
- Aria Sally Giletta, child of Elain Ruscetta and Chad Gilmarti, was born at 6:51am on Wednesday, January 23rd. She weighed in at 4lbs 15oz, measured 18.5 inches, and emerged with a full head of blonde hair.
- Member Cameron McWhirter's article "Fox Hunt" was published in the February 2019 Friends Journal.
- Atlanta Friends Meeting hosted a regional mini Friends for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer Concerns Midwinter Gathering.

**Closing Worship:** We closed with a time of open worship.

Bill Holland (Clerk)

Rebecca Sullivan (Recording Clerk)

## PLEASE HOLD IN THE LIGHT:

*Diane Rowley and family  
Jack Honderd and family  
Suzan and Tom Kenworthy and family  
Jim Cain and family  
Terri Rushing and Angie Love  
Carolyn Manley & her daughter Evelyn  
Katie Smillie and family*

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)  
Co-Treasurers: Lynn Leuszler & Judith Greenberg, [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)

## 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, <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 Second & Fourth First Day	2:30 p.m. - Macon Friends Worship Group. Contact Kellie Divis at <a href="mailto:MaconQuakers@gmail.com">MaconQuakers@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="http://maconquakers.org">maconquakers.org</a>
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> .
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) 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: <a href="mailto:ashleymwilcox@gmail.com">ashleymwilcox@gmail.com</a> , 206-300-5836.
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, [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com)

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

Co-Treasurers: Lynn Leuszler & Judith Greenberg, [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.

#### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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.**

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