

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020



Virtual Meeting for Worship
Each First Day (Sunday)
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

LIFE AT ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING DURING COVID-19

Out of an abundance of caution and a deep and prayerful concern for the health of our entire community, Sunday meeting for worship at the meetinghouse continues to be suspended and the meetinghouse mostly closed. Our main worship continues to be via Zoom on Sundays at 10:00 am. See below for details for this meeting for worship and other meeting activities via Zoom as well as other resources, including ways to connect to the meeting if you need help or if you can help others.

For those who prefer to worship in person, we are holding small, in-person worship groups at the meetinghouse on Mondays at 7 pm and Thursdays at 2 pm. Please stay tuned each week for more details or contact the office.

The newsletter and the announcement sheet will continue to be posted on the meeting's website. If you would like to be notified when the newsletter is posted online or to receive the announcement sheet via email, please see the final page of the newsletter as well as the announcement on the next page. To join the meeting's Facebook page, search for Atlanta Friends Meeting and click the **+ Join Group** button.

If you are used to bringing your contribution to the meetinghouse, you can instead mail a check (see address on last page) or pay securely with Paypal or credit / debit card on our website. Go to <http://www.atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm> and scroll down to the DONATE button.

The Office Coordinator continues to work from home and checks email / voicemail regularly.

MAKING HOLIDAYS SPECIAL THIS YEAR

Quakers believe that all days are holy, but many of us have traditions that we cherish in December and may not be able to gather with family and friends as we usually do. S. Bear Bergman wrote an article after celebrating all of the major Jewish holidays remotely with his extended family this year. "I thought it might be useful," he says, "to share what I've learned (and what I've gleaned in conversation with fellow Jews) about how to get as much of the good stuff as possible from holidays during a pandemic." Enjoy the entire article about making socially-distanced holidays special at <https://www.vice.com/en/article/5dpm9d/make-socially-distanced-holidays-fun-and-special>

DECEMBER THEME FOR CHILDREN'S FIRST DAY SCHOOL

is *From Darkness to Light*. First Day School will be from 9:30 to 9:55 am each Sunday on Zoom. See below for an invitation to intergenerational worship for all on December 27 and for Zoom details.

QUERY FOR DECEMBER
How am I experiencing abundance in my life right now?
What are areas in which I am still struggling to be free or am not living an abundant life?
-- Southeastern Yearly Meeting

CHANGES TO MEETING EMAIL LISTS PLUS OTHER WAYS OF COMMUNICATING

Because Yahoo Groups are ending December 15, the meeting's email lists are in the process of moving from Yahoo Groups to Google Groups. This includes the following lists:

- the newsletter list, which lets you know when this monthly newsletter is online on the meeting's website
- the announcement list, which includes the weekly announcement sheet and a very few other emails, all directly related to the life of the meeting (the announcement sheet is also posted on the website weekly at atlantaquakers.org/_announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf).
- the discussion list, which includes the announcement sheet and a variety of other emails about a broader range of topics related to being a Quaker, often including social justice issues and opportunities **(NOTE: You do not need to be on both the announcement list and the discussion list!)**
- the Atlanta FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns) list for those who are lgbtq+ or are interested in lgbtq+ issues

If you are currently on any of these lists, you should have already received an email about how to make the change or should receive one soon. If you have questions about the change-over or would like to join one of these groups for the first time, please email Nina Gooch at atlantaquakers@gmail.com.

The weekly emails about Zoom and in-person meetings for worship will continue as usual.

REMEMBERING BETH GARRETTSON

Beth Garrettson, 83, died on Wednesday, November 18, 2020. Beth and her husband, Lorne, and their daughters Mariana and Linda, were members of the Atlanta Friends Meeting for many years. Beth was a birthright Friend who was born and has died in the same hospital in the area of Sandy Spring, Maryland. It was the same hospital that Beth's father helped financially support and have built as well as where Beth began her career in nursing — as a 14-year old nurses' aide. She also served there on the Women's Board for many years. Beth was diagnosed with lung cancer and COPD and was recovering well from the radiation. She suffered from chest pains recently, had painful, swollen legs on Tuesday but an ultrasound showed nothing. She quickly succumbed after an ER admittance on Wednesday, probably with deep vein thrombosis that lodged in her lungs.

Last Saturday, Beth cheered on her youngest grandchild, 13-year old Greta, in a soccer match. And on Sunday was baking cookies. Beth's beloved Lorne, all three daughters — Brooke, Linda, and Mariana — and Linda's spouse Michael were with Beth when she passed away.

Beth and Lorne came to Atlanta with their daughters Mariana (who began high school upon arrival) and Linda. Beth and Loren were involved in a myriad of roles at the Atlanta Friends Meeting, including teaching parenting classes and serving on multiple committees. Beth is survived by Lorne, her three daughters and their husbands, and five wonderful grandchildren, ages 13 to 26 (Sage). All live in the Sandy Spring area surrounding the Sandy Spring Friends School. There will be a memorial service in the manner of Friends in the Sandy Spring Meetinghouse, Maryland, when COVID is passed.

Condolences and stories of your memories of Beth can be sent to: Lorne Garrettson, 17201 Quaker Lane, Apt 103, Sandy Spring MD 20860 or to gglorne34@gmail.com or to Mariana at mgarrettson@gmail.com

A Quick Introduction:

A Friend with a ministry under the care of the meeting first discerns a leading to meet a specific need. After finding clearness with a committee appointed by Ministry and Worship and on the recommendation of Ministry and Worship Committee, Meeting approves taking the ministry under our care. The Friend meets regularly with a support committee appointed by meeting and reports annually to meeting about the ministry. Here are reports from Mary Ann Downey and Julie Hliboki. If you have questions, they would be happy to answer them.

from Julie Hliboki, submitted October 2020:

As some of you know, for the past six years my chaplaincy ministry has been held under the care of the Atlanta Friends Meeting. During those six years, the first two were devoted to meeting the emotional and spiritual needs of children at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and adults at Emory University Hospital. During the past four and a half years I have devoted my chaplaincy ministry to providing pastoral care, spiritual nurturing, food programs, and a host of other responsibilities to 450 seniors who live in two independent-living affordable housing communities.

While under the care of the Meeting, I've had the privilege of meeting with my Anchoring Committee. This has been a blessing for me in so many ways. In addition to being held in the Light as I do this work, I've also gained from the incredible love and wisdom the Anchoring Committee has afforded me, particularly at key times when my own discernment process had stalled.

I will be moving out west in three weeks to begin a new chaplaincy ministry as a Hospice Chaplain within a hospital system. I met with my Anchoring Committee last evening and requested that they accompany me virtually out west and continue to serve in this capacity. I also requested that my chaplaincy ministry continue to be held under the care of AFM. In our current virtual world, I can continue to be a part of AFM gatherings no matter where I am located. I also plan to continue with my AFM Spiritual Nurture Group.

One of the most important lessons I've learned from this pandemic is that we need to be here for each other, even more so now. Knowing that my new chaplaincy ministry is held under the care of the Meeting will provide me great solace and the courage to keep doing this important work. I do plan to attend the local Quaker Meeting, but I will also keep ties to Atlanta and AFM. I envision that David and I will be back here regularly for his work.

from Mary Ann Downey:

In the summer of 2000, Bill and I incorporated the non-profit Decision Bridges and invited Sue May, Pete McCaughan, Scott Walker and Josephine Bradley to be board members. The work of Decision Bridges was a part of the Traveling Ministries Program of Friends General Conference and under the care of the Atlanta Friends Meeting and Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting.

Our mission: Decision Bridges is a Quaker non-profit organization that provides tools to bring people together to build consensus and bridge differences. Workshops and publications are designed to teach teens and adults skills to participate in and to facilitate group decisions.

For the last 20 years, with the support of both Decision Bridges Board and a support committee of AFM, we have carried out this mission with Quaker meetings, and Quaker organizations as well as a variety of other organizations. When we reflect on the work of these years, we feel clear that it meets the challenge the writer and theologian Howard Thurman offered, *"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive."*

When we receive requests for this work, the care and support of Friends helps us discern which requests are ours to do and we've discovered that limiting the number of retreats and workshops as well as travel in the last four year has helped us to better serve those we do accept. **With the approval of the Board of Decision Bridges, we have decided that it is time to move forward, dissolve the corporation and transfer all assets to others who may continue this work into the future. With the continued help of our support committee, we will continue to meet a limited number of requests for this work.**

This year I spoke about our ministry of Quaker service at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Macon, at Clairmont Place Retirement Community, at Clairmont Oaks Senior Living facility and at Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur. We also visited in person and virtually the Macon Friends Worship Group to support their efforts to become a monthly meeting.

Since 2012, I have worked with Quaker Voluntary Service as a spiritual nurturer for individual fellows, the anchor for spiritual nurture, on the local support committee. Bill and I have led workshops on consensus decisions and facilitation for each group of fellows. This year, I mentored Elizabeth Valera in the role of spiritual nurture anchor, work I have enjoyed for the last 8 years. It was a special joy to celebrate birthdays for fellows by making a favorite food, and to create a quilt made by meeting friends for Liz Nicholson, our City Coordinator 2014-2020. I worked to support the 2019-2020 cohort of fellows during a transition of leadership, and to support the orientation of a new City Coordinator this year.

My work within the meeting includes being a member of Ministry and Worship Committee, planning educational forums, serving on committees for memorials and clearness, scheduling friends to offer their spiritual journey, and serving on a support committee for the ministry of Julie Hliboki.

I receive calls frequently from Friends in meeting for advice and support on many issues and see my ministry now as being on call, 'back stage' to help as needed. John Milton in his poem, "On His Blindness", ends with the line, "They also serve who only stand and wait." And I am at peace with this 'waiting' ministry.

QUAKER RESOURCES ON OUR WEBSITE (www.atlantaquakers.org)

Among the useful [Documents for Download](#) (or reading online) on the [Members and Attenders](#) page (scroll down to the bottom of the page) is information about clearness committees and about clerking (this second document also includes information about how meeting for business works).

PREPARING STUDENTS TO BE VOTING AMBASSADORS

Resources for teachers and other adults forwarded by Karen Morris from Martin Kraft, who attended meeting when he lived in Atlanta and whose photos of people experiencing homelessness were displayed in the Greeting Room. If you have questions, Karen can contact Martin for you.

I write to you on behalf of a group of Georgia educators working to mobilize communities and get out the vote in the upcoming Senate runoff. It's a nonpartisan effort to make schools into hubs of civic engagement and provide resources for teachers to do so. If you're a Georgia educator, or you know any Georgia educators, principals, Board members, etc., who you think might be interested, please share accordingly. Here are the links to the [elementary](#), [middle](#), and [high school](#) age lesson plans, carefully crafted to help students reach out and help mobilize their communities. (Click on the links to read the lesson plans.

VIRTUAL LOBBYING WITH FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

A report from Sue May

Virtual lobbying by 600 Quakers? This miracle of technology brought us together during the recent annual meeting of the Friends Committee and National Legislation, calling on Congress for strong and immediate action to address police abuse that results in murder and violence against Black and brown people. Eight members of our Atlanta Advocacy Team lobbied staff in Senator Perdue's office. We shared our stories and learned that Sen. Perdue is looking for pragmatic measures he could support. We called for him to work for legislation that begins to transform policing, with a national standard which, at minimum, would include these points:

1. Policing should be about public safety not military style occupation or dominance. Use of military grade equipment should be limited by legislation.
2. Police need to be taught more skills in de-escalation and be given incentives for such approaches. There should be national standards for use of force.
3. Police need training in dealing with mental illness or drug addiction. Other health professionals need to advise and be made available. Any discrimination against any group should be prohibited.
4. Good police want to be on the side of neighborhoods – the good guys and gals. Recruitment should weed out the bad actors and racially insensitive police. No one hates a bad cop more than a good cop, my daughter in law says. Don Bender, whose son is a police officer.

There are 18,000 police jurisdictions in America, and we can't wait for each locality to enact reforms. People are losing faith in government and in the police. Congress must act now to create national standards for policing. For more info, contact Sue May, susanmay1@icloud.com. To read the stories shared, visit <https://tinyurl.com/storiessharedwithperdue>.

ANTI RACISM WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Center for White American Culture, a non-profit founded by an interracial couple from New York Yearly Meeting and dedicated to racial justice and equity, is offering several new anti-racism workshops. Susan Firestone has participated in their online webinars in the past and found they do a very good job of making the online experience interactive with small groups as well as information sessions. They always have a team of trainers of different races. Each workshop consists of 6 hours (2 hours each spread over 3 dates), with recordings in case you miss a date. Although they will be raising the fee for a workshop to \$125 in the spring, if you register for a workshop before December 31, the fee is still \$95. If you need scholarship help from Quakers for Racial Equality to participate in one of these online anti-racism workshops, please contact Susan Firestone at susanfires@gmail.com. More details at contact@euroamerican.org or <http://www.euroamerican.org>.

READING BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR – Thursday, December 3

The book group reading works by and about people of color continues to meet at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month via Zoom. On December 3, the book for discussion is *The Good Lord Bird* by James McBride, and for January 7, *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich. For questions or the Zoom link, contact Susan Cole (cole2544@bellsouth.net).

GEORGIANS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO THE DEATH PENALTY – Thursday, December 3

December 3 at 7:00 is Georgians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty's MaryRuth Weir educational event, this year totally FREE and online (but donations are welcome). It's a little over an hour of rich content from expert speakers under the theme of race and the death penalty. Our featured speaker is activist Sr. Helen Prejean who wrote *Dead Man Walking* (turned into a movie years ago with Sean Penn and Susan Sarandon)! We'll also hear from the NAACP president from Georgia, Rev. James Woodall, prominent death penalty attorney Mr. Patrick Mulvaney, plus other family members of persons affected by the death penalty. At the end there will be some powerful music from Macon/Atlanta pop and R&B artist Tyrus Turner to memorialize the 76 persons executed by Georgia since the 1976 reinstatement. To learn more and register for this event, please contact Kellie Divis at maconquakers@gmail.com

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS AND ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sunday, December 6

Each first Sunday of the month in adult First Day School, 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 December 6, Becky Lough will share her spiritual journey. All are welcome. See below for Zoom details.

On third Sundays, Adult First Day School will have worship sharing, usually on that month's query, and on other Sundays, will be discussing Parker Palmer's *On the Brink of Everything*. We will meet via Zoom and close the class in time to be in meeting for worship in the separate zoom link.

To hear the spiritual journey of Beth-Ann Buitekant from November 1, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y2mmu7ba>.

CONTEMPLATIVE RETREAT VIA ZOOM – Friday evening and Saturday, December 11 and 12

from the SAYMA (Southern Appalachiaian Yearly Meeting and Association) email list:

Recognizing the urgent need for spending time in contemplation apart from the new realities of daily life, we have put together a retreat to be done online. During the day-long retreat, you will be in your home or close by. At the same time, you will be joined by others in their homes. This e-Retreat is under the care of School of the Spirit, a Quaker spiritual nurture program.

The retreat will begin on Friday evening, December 11, at 7:30 PM Eastern Time using Zoom. Among other things, we will have introductions and suggestions for activities to follow the next day. On Saturday, December 12, we will start at 9:00 AM Eastern Time, with a time of worship together. Everyone will then spend the morning in contemplation. Around noon, we will gather again, this time in small groups, for an opportunity to briefly share things that have arisen during your morning. And again, we will leave our Zoom gathering to contemplatively retreat. At about 4:30 or so, we'll come back together for a bit more sharing, worship, and farewell. This is a rough plan for the day, though the leaders may change things as led. In advance of the e-Retreat, participants will receive by email suggestions for ways to spend the time from leaders Thais Carr, Catherine Cox, Elizabeth Evans.

There is a fee of \$25 for this e-Retreat. If this amount is not currently possible for you, please be assured we have scholarship money available. To register, [please click here and fill out the form](#). Space is limited, so please sign up as soon as possible.

MACON QUAKERS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING – Tuesday, December 15

Mike Turner: Songs of Social Justice: Folk and traditional music have a rich history of addressing social justice issues. Topical and socially-conscious songs have been used as a form of protest, to inform, and to serve as a call to action. In this program, Fairhope songwriter Mike Turner will perform a selection of original songs that touch on seeking and achieving social justice, touching on such topics as the quest for justice, world peace, immigration, the tragedy of gun violence, poverty, income inequality, the BP oil spill and coming together to make a better world. Join Macon Quakers at 8:00 P.M., Tuesday, 12/15 (Third Third Day) via Zoom.

Meeting ID: 840 9589 9009

Passcode: 542278

The Macon Worship Group is under the care of our meeting, and we are invited to join them on:

2nd Tuesdays, 8:00 P.M. for Meeting for Worship, followed by discussion

3rd Tuesdays, 8:00 P.M. for Educational offering (details just above)

4th Tuesdays, 8:00 P.M. for Meeting for Worship, followed by business

Everything is via Zoom right now:

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84095899009?pwd=SFhhOGNnWHZFBdKRUhIVnFqdFk0dz09>

Meeting ID: 840 9589 9009

Passcode: 542278

25TH MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – Wednesday, December 16

Join Mary Ann Downey and Bill Holland on December 16, 2020 at 7pm for a virtual Meeting for Worship to celebrate our marriage under the care of the meeting on December 16 1995!

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84664616128?pwd=aUdJaUFLem5rb2VZeDN2d05lK2xaQT09>

Meeting ID: 846 6461 6128

Passcode: worship

LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE – Wednesday, December 16

This online, drop-in forum has become monthly, with the next meeting on December 16 at 7:30 pm. Sample topics include: "What is my Racial Identity?" and "How can I have meaningful conversations about race with others who do not look like me?" For more info or to suggest discussion topics, please email Alberta Guise (*see directory or contact office*). In January, the meetings will return to the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83032368656?pwd=M2J5Y3EyYWlJWG9iSziXZHo4YiYydz09>

Meeting ID: 830 3236 8656

Passcode: 019469

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS – Sunday, December 20

Meeting for business will be online again this month. Simply stay in the Zoom Meeting for Worship after worship ends. Zoom details below. Minutes from November are below, as is the link for a preliminary version of the proposed budget to be considered for December.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Sunday, November 20

Please send articles, announcements, information about December events, and other submissions to atlquakerltr@gmail.com by November 20. Word or other text format please.

INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP IN FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sunday, December 27

Each fourth Sunday of the month, families as well as all members and attenders are invited to join First Day School at 9:30 to 9:55 am for intergenerational worship through a lesson. There will be time to join Meeting for Worship via Zoom, and families and children are invited, as always, to join at least the first 15 minutes of Meeting for Worship. Zoom details below.

VIRTUAL WATCH NIGHT SERVICE – Thursday, December 31

On December 31, 1862, Americans of African descent gathered together on “Freedom’s Eve” to await the news that the Emancipation Proclamation had become law. At midnight, according to Lincoln’s promise, all those enslaved in the Confederate States were legally free. Atlanta Friends participate in this tradition each year with a worship service at 11:15 PM on New Year’s Eve, following a time of fellowship starting at 10:30 pm. Please join us on New Year’s Eve! For more details, contact Bert Skellie at bertskellie@gmail.com or 404-378-5883.

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/96320392802>

Meeting ID: 963 2039 2802

Passcode: 510815

MEETING VIRTUALLY: WORSHIP AND FIRST DAY SCHOOL

An excellent overview of meeting for worship over Zoom is “Can You Gather With God Over Zoom?” is at <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/22/arts/quaker-meeting-zoom.html>

See the most recent announcement sheet in your email inbox or on our website at http://www.atlantaquakers.org/_announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf for the most up to date information and for more detailed instructions for connecting using Zoom. To call in using your phone, dial 1-253-215-8782 or 1-301-715-8592 and enter the meeting ID and password, if needed, when prompted. This may be a toll call from your landline.

Sundays:

ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL will meet at 9:00 am to 9:50 am

Meeting ID: 862 3546 3217

Password: Quaker

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86235463217>

On the first Sunday of each month, we will listen to the Spiritual Journey of one of our members or attenders. (December 6 will be Becky Lough.) On the third Sunday of each month, we will have worship sharing, usually on that month's query, and on other Sundays, we will discuss Parker Palmer's *On the Brink of Everything*. We will close class in time to be in meeting for worship.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Sundays 9:30 am to 9:55 am

First Day Class for Families and Friends

Link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7279961727>

Meeting ID: 727 996 1727

Passcode: 679898

October's theme: Becoming Community

Families are invited / will have time to join meeting for worship after this ends.

Fourth Sunday is intergenerational/family worship and all members and attenders are invited to join.

FIRST DAY MEETING FOR WORSHIP

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/908004190>

Meeting ID: 908 004 190

Passcode: 842962.

The meeting link will remain open until about 11:45 for those who would like to chat. On the third Sunday of each month we will have meeting for business via Zoom after worship and a short break.

Calling All Families:

We would like to issue a special invitation to all families with children to attend the first 15 minutes of worship, as usual. If your mike is muted, your children will not be distracting to others (even if we see them wiggle). And we really miss seeing you!

Suggestions for Meeting for Worship on Zoom:

“Worship is our response to an awareness of God. We can worship alone, but when we join with others in expectant waiting we may discover a deeper sense of God’s presence. We seek a gathered stillness in our meetings for worship so that all may feel the power of God’s love drawing us together and leading us.” (From Advices and Queries, Britain Yearly Meeting.) Some things to keep in mind as we adjust to “the new normal” of worshiping via Zoom: Even though it is different and may feel strange, remember that this is a worship service. To help create the kind of shared space that allows all of us to listen for the Divine within us, please keep your mic muted unless speaking to us. If you’re eating or having a lengthy conversation with another member of your household, please also turn off your video temporarily or step away from the camera, to avoid distracting others. If your children are joining us for meeting for worship, please do not feel the need to turn off your video. We welcome their presence in meeting for worship.

YOUNG FRIENDS/HIGH SCHOOL GROUP usually at meets at noon

For current high schoolers and students in upper middle school as well as recent grads.

Contact Emily Weyrauch at emily.weyrauch@gmail.com for more information and Zoom details

Wednesdays:

WEDNESDAY MORNING MIDWEEK MEETING FOR WORSHIP 9:30 am on Wednesday mornings

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92038862952>

Meeting ID: 920 3886 2952

Passcode 726229

Contact Bert Skellie at 404-680-4799 for more info.

COVID-19 UPDATES AND OTHER USEFUL AND FUN LINKS

For collected links for kids and adults ranging from the latest information about COVID-19 and how to prevent it to voting information for links to museums, digital performances and Quakerism, visit <https://tinyurl.com/afm-ftotj>. New links are added weekly, and there's a new section on celebrating the holidays safely. Email Nina at atlantaquakers@gmail.com to share problems with any of the links or to suggest additional links.

ANTI-RACISM RESOURCES

The anti-racism resources shared in newsletters, in announcement sheets and on AFM's discussion email list have been compiled at <https://tinyurl.com/afm-arr>. To share problems with any of the links or resources or to suggest additional resources, email atlantaquakers@gmail.com.

FINANCIAL HELP THROUGH THE AFM ASSISTANCE FUND

This is a time to reach out and care for each other. Do you have a need for temporary financial assistance? Care & Counsel Committee maintains an Assistance Fund for Members and Attenders for providing temporary assistance with financial emergencies. If you have a financial need, don't hesitate to ask. The information about the process and an application form are on the AFM website: [Assistance Fund Description & Request Process](#) and [Assistance Fund Application Form](#). Instead of filling out the paper form, you can email the information to the Clerk of Care & Counsel, Karen Skellie, kskellie@gmail.com. Care & Counsel is meeting regularly online & by e-mail.

Would you like to help others through the AFM Assistance Fund?

By mail to the meetinghouse address to the attention of the treasurer. Make out the check to Atlanta Friends Meeting, and on the "for" line of the check, write "For Assistance Fund".

Through AFM website by PayPal or Credit Card, go to <http://www.atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm> and scroll down to the DONATE button.

To designate an online donation for the Assistance Fund, please also send an email addressed to both the treasurer and the bookkeeper:

afmtreasurer1@gmail.com and afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com

CARING CONNECTIONS AT ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

If you need help during this time, or if you can help, Care and Counsel Committee has set up an online way to connect people, using something Gordon Shippey set up earlier in the year to create a general list of those willing to deliver meals, drive people to appointments, run errands, or visit people at home or in hospital. In response to social distancing, we've also added an option to connect people via email or phone. To request help or to volunteer, go to:

<http://www.atlantaquakers.org/members.htm#CARINGCONNECT> (under Members and Attenders) or contact Karen Skellie at 404-680-4524 or kskellie@gmail.com.

PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET AS PRESENTED AT MEETING FOR BUSINESS

can be read online: [budget notes](#), the [proposed budget](#), and [gifts and affiliations worksheet](#). This is the preliminary budget, and Finance Committee may refine it before the December meeting for worship with attention for business. If you need paper copies, please contact the office. If you have questions, contact Paul Mangelsdorf, Clerk of the Finance Committee. (See contact info below)

ELEVENTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

November 15, 2020

Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Steve Collins, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Nina Gooch, Alison Mawle, Anton Flores, Brent Wolff, Caroline Morris, Mike Aland, Cathy Amanti, Clive Gordon, David Small, Elizabeth Lamb, Georgia Lord, Jay Roache, Jennifer Thompson, Judith Greenberg, Judy Lumb, Julia Ewen, Karen Skellie, Bert Skellie, Karen Morris, Mary Ann Downey, Bill Holland, Micheal Allison, Coryn Muphy, Myrna Trapp, Paul Mangelsdorf, Ronald Nuse, Susan Cole, Susan Firestone, Carolyn Coburn Allen, Richard Allen, Lissa Place (Clerk) and Rebecca Cole Sullivan (Recording Clerk)

Friends gathered near the appointed hour with opening worship. A member of Ministry and Worship shared the Eleventh Month Query out of worship: "What spiritual practice helps me to be steadfast in the work I am called to do? How do I keep from giving up? What does it mean for me to not give up as a servant of God?"

Discernment:

Nominating: Clive Gordon, Clerk of Nominating, reported on behalf of the committee. This month Nominating Committee returns with the Name of Coryn Murphy as Recording Clerk and Bill Hooson for Clerk of Ministry and Worship. Friends approved these two names.

Minute 11-15-2020-01: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, the Meeting approves the Nomination of Coryn Murphy as Recording Clerk for a period of 2 years from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022.

Minute 11-15-03-02: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee the Meeting approves the nomination of Bill Hooson as Clerk of Ministry & Worship Committee for a period of 3 years, starting upon approval and continuing through December 31, 2023.

Reports:

Working Group on the Use of the Meeting House: Alison Mawle reported on behalf of the committee to keep the meeting informed on what is going on in the building.

1. AFM is still holding 2 in-person meetings per week and we are discussing ways to experiment with using remote technology as we look to the future.
2. Harmony School has indicated that they want to return in January 2021, and we are working with them to add standard language to the rental agreement around COVID19 precautions.
3. We have several groups currently either using or asking to use the meeting house. Our QVS fellows are meeting there, and Anton's ministry of offering overnight hospitality to asylum seekers continues. We anticipate groups may be looking for space as the weather turns colder and we have already agreed to one group.
4. We are updating our COVID19 guidelines and the administration committee is still working on possible upgrades to the air handling in the meeting house.

Nominating: Clive Gordon, Clerk of Nomination, reported on behalf of the committee. This month Nominating committee brings forward the nomination of Folami Adams to be a member of the Ministry & Worship committee. Folami is well known to us. For those who do not know her we encourage you to reach out to her over the next 30 days. We will return in December to ask for approval of her appointment.

Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, clerk of Finance, brought forward the first reading of the 2021 Budget. The finance committee budgeted with the expectation that things will continue as they currently are for the first six months of 2021. Given this expectation, the committee has budgeted for less on most program costs since we won't be meeting in person or sending people to other Quaker organizations. The other big change is to propose that the meeting not budget for anything for the Permanent Improvement fund, because the fund has \$135,000 saved and we don't have anything major coming up except maybe a roof which we have enough for. With the adjustments to the program costs, we are able to balance the budget with decreased rental income and similar levels of contributions from years past. We will bring the budget back next month for approval.

Ministry and Worship: Ministry and Worship is holding a forum at 11:45 on Sunday, 11/29 offered by members of Ministry and Worship and Care and Counsel. Bill Hooson, Gordon Shippey and Mary Ann Downey will facilitate a safe space to reflect on the challenges of 2020: a time to name our grief and loss, share the lessons we've discovered that help us and identify resources within our meeting and our community. This is a time for us to give and receive help for our journey.

Ministry and Worship is continuing to thresh Reparations and are considering a Forum on Reparations in May. If you would be interested in serving on a committee to prepare for this forum, please contact Bill Hooson or Herb Edwards.

And as always, if you or anyone you know, is interested in Membership in the Atlanta Friends, please contact any member of the Ministry and Worship Committee

Ad Hoc Committee on the Atlanta Friends Meetings Facebook Group: The Ad Hoc Committee on the Meetings Facebook Group has been hard at work and brings forward the following two items for consideration. Their first recommendation is that the role of moderator of the group be held by two people and that those people be named by nominating committee and approved by meeting for worship with attention to business. A job description for the position will be brought next month for approval of this part of their report.

Secondly, they have worked on the purpose and guidelines for the Facebook group. The meeting asked the ad hoc committee to consider how we support interactions with adults and minors on Facebook.

Minute 11-15-2020-03: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following description and guidelines for the use of the meeting's Facebook group, with the provision that moderators may make purely logistical changes as needed without approval from meeting for worship with attention to business. The Ad Hoc Committee will come back with any adjustments next month if needed around age limits.

Purpose and Guidelines for Atlanta Friends Meeting's Facebook group:

Atlanta Friends Meeting is an unprogrammed, non-pastoral Quaker meeting. We believe we all can know the will of the Divine directly without a specific liturgy. In meeting for worship, whether in person or via Zoom, we reflect together in silence, listening for the Divine to speak to us. Sometimes, some one feels led by the Spirit to share a message aloud. Because Friends believe that there is that of God in everyone, we welcome each person, regardless of

race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, sex, marital status, disability, religious beliefs, sexual orientation and gender identity (to name only the most obvious).

The Atlanta Friends Meeting (AFM) facebook group was created

- to provide a safe and friendly space to share information, ideas and reflections important to us as Quakers or people interested in Quakerism and as a part of Atlanta Friends Meeting community
- to provide a place where we can listen and learn from each other
- to share information about events and happenings within the Meeting and the wider community that would be of interest to those in the Meeting
- to strengthen our sense of community
- to allow people new to our community to learn more about who we are and what we believe and do
- to recognize and honor the wide diversity of race, ethnicity, gender, generation, sexuality, ability, background and theology within our group

Please make sure all your posts are related to Quakersim and to what is important to you as a Quaker and as a member of the AFM community. If it's not obvious, please explain why you have shared a post or how it is connected with the purpose of this group.

To encourage a multitude of voices, please do not consistently post every day or post more than once a day.

Quakers believe that there is that of God in everyone, and we ask that everyone in this group listen to and speak to that of God in each other. We are also committed to making this a safe space for everyone.

Our Peace Testimony states: "We recognize that violence can manifest itself in words as well as deeds." Therefore, please do not share posts or comments that include the following:

1. Profanity or crass humor. This includes profane images or videos or links to them.
2. Rude, insulting, condescending or belittling comments, direct or implied.
3. Personal attacks against another member in the group, threats or encouragements of violence.
4. White supremacist, sexist, ableist, anti-immigrant, homophobic, and transphobic posts and comments.

In addition, please do not post:

1. Copyrighted material without the prior approval of the author. Note that short quotes designated with quotation marks and attributed to the writer are welcome when sharing links to articles.
2. Posts about political parties or specific candidates. Posts about issues are welcomed. (As a non-profit, AFM can advocate on issues, but not advocate for or against specific candidates or political parties. In addition, Quakers hold a variety of political beliefs.)

Should moderators and/or admins recognize that posts do not fit within the purposes of the group or do not follow the guidelines listed above, they will decide on an appropriate response. Posts or comments may be removed. The person sharing the inappropriate post or comment may be warned, muted or, as a last resort, removed from the group, in any order. After 30 days, a member who has been removed may appeal to rejoin the group.

Moderators are members and attenders of Atlanta Friends Meeting and are volunteers. Please respect their limited time and availability. If you have a concern about a post, feel free

to send a private message to one of the moderators or email the office at atlantaquakers@gmail.com.

Moderators or admins can consult with the Clerk of the Atlanta Friends Meeting or with the Clerk of the Ministry and Worship committee, as needed. Members of the group who have concerns about the way an issue is being handled and who can not resolve these concerns with the moderators may also consult the Clerk of the meeting at afmclerk1@gmail.com or the Clerk of Ministry and Worship.

This forum is mostly or entirely in English, but we recognize that for some of us English is not our first language. If there are ways that moderators can help make the site more accessible for people with limited English, we are open to conversations.

Administration: Steve Collins, clerk of administration, reported on behalf of the committee. Kevin Wong, Property Coordinator, has worked with the Meeting's HVAC contractor to have better air filters (MERV 13) installed on four of the eight HVAC systems in the Meetinghouse. The contractor will also provide quotes to upgrade the other four units to accept these new filters. The Meetinghouse roof is showing signs of significant wear and may need to be replaced soon. Kevin is working with an insurance adjuster and will obtain quotes for a new roof from contractors if needed. Myrna Trapp, assisted by David Small, continues to remove invasive plants from the ravine hill behind the Meetinghouse.

Naming Committee: Lissa Place, clerk of Atlanta Meeting, reported the addition of Donna Roberts to the Naming Committee. They have been meeting and hope to bring names to us next month.

Committee Corner:

Religious Education: The Atlanta Friends Meeting (AFM) Religious Education (RE) committee has gathered (on zoom) to imagine and implement ways to nurture the spiritual lives of our young Friends during these challenging times. We've gotten input from several families through online and phone call surveys. Using that feedback we've made the following plans for the rest of 2020. First day school class will be held on a zoom call on Sundays from 9:30-9:55am (Teens and YAF are meeting separately for a 12pm zoom call). Family-Intergenerational Meetings on 4th Sundays. This time is a special invitation for families, AFM attenders and members to join for our intergenerational worship through a lesson. Families are encouraged by the Ministry and Worship and RE Committees to join Meeting for Worship Zoom 10am, at least the first 15 mins.

Themes for first Day School this semester are; Trusting and Listening for God, November Becoming Community & December From Darkness to Light. Future plans will be discerned 1/2021. Teen and YAF are gathering in a small consistent group with Emily Weyrauch for weekly check in and query discussion. The format for younger classes is based on the Sparkling Still literature based curriculum, as well as Godly Play/Faith and Play (see table below). To ground families in the spirit of these methods, we've suggested Friends watch this video on reflective attentiveness in Godly Play/Faith & Play.

We are excited to have half a dozen teachers bravely endeavoring to offer these zoom classes. Please join us!!!! Friends who have taught in the past or been doorkeepers are especially encouraged to join a class this semester. We have a few slots in November and December still needing volunteers. *An RE committee member will be on the call as a **supportive doorkeeper / Zoom Host**. If interested, contact RE Clerk Laura MacNorlin, laura.norlin@gmail.com. Friends can see lesson themes and story details, and where we need volunteers, on this teacher sign up sheet.

Announcements:

Minute of Appreciation: We received a minute of appreciation from Nashville Friends Meeting.

This letter offers appreciation from the Nashville Friends Meeting to Clive Gordon and John Adams for their courage and integrity at the SAYMA Representative meeting on September 26, 2020, in stating that they and other Atlanta Friends of Color do not feel welcome in the Uplifting Racial Justice (URJ) committee with its current clerk. This input provided important new information for our work together as a body. Nashville Friends (there were seven present) appreciated their willingness to attend the meeting and to speak up. (Our understanding is that Clive Gordon and John Adams presented their views as Friends but not necessarily as Atlanta Friends Meeting representatives.)

The writing of this letter of appreciation was approved by Nashville Friends Meeting at the October Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

State of the Meeting Report: All committees and groups that have important points to share are asked to submit a paragraph or two for the State of the Meeting Report. If your committee has been on hiatus or has worked on different things this year because of COVID, please let me know that as well so that we can have an accurate view of what happened at the Meeting this year. Please submit reports by next Sunday (November 22) so that the Clerk has time to consider them over Thanksgiving Break. At the latest, reports are due by December 17, the same day as reports are due for December Business Meeting. I appreciate your prompt attention to this so that I can consider all contributions before putting together a draft. This is only possible with your input.

Approval of Minutes for September and October 2020

October Edits: Judith Greenberg not Greenler, Lynn Leuzler's last name mistyped.

Minute 11-15-2020-04: Friends approved Septembers Minutes as submitted

Minute 11-15-2020-05: Friends approved October minutes with the two corrections listed above.

Events in the life of the Meeting

None shared.

Closing: Friends closed with a moment of worship.

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT:

Mike Chapman
Eric Glenn
Nina Gooch
Daniel Gold-Hopton
Freer Jarvis
Renda McCaughan

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

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Clerk: Lissa Place, afmclerk1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Judith Greenberg, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com

Atlanta Friends Meeting has three email lists:

You may receive the announcement sheets and other announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting. This is the announcement list.

You may receive announcements AND posts about a broader range of topics relating to being a Quaker. This is the discussion list.

You may receive notification that the newsletter is online. This is the newsletter list.

To join any of these email lists, email atlantaquakers@gmail.com

Would you like to appear in future AFM Directories?

Send your name and contact information to Brent Wolff at afmdirectory@gmail.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 mailing address.

To donate online with a credit card or paypal, visit atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm. Thank you!

Want to submit an announcement, letter, article, and anything else of interest to Friends for the newsletter?

Send items to atlquakerltr@gmail.com. Submissions may be edited for length and format. THE DEADLINE FOR 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 that of the Meeting.

