

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2021

LIFE AT ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING DURING COVID-19

We are currently holding Sunday meeting for worship via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/908004190> at 10 a.m. Sundays (**Meeting ID: 908 004 190 & Passcode: 842962**). See below for more details on this and other online worship and First Day School opportunities as well as other resources, including ways to connect to the meeting if you need help or if you can help others.

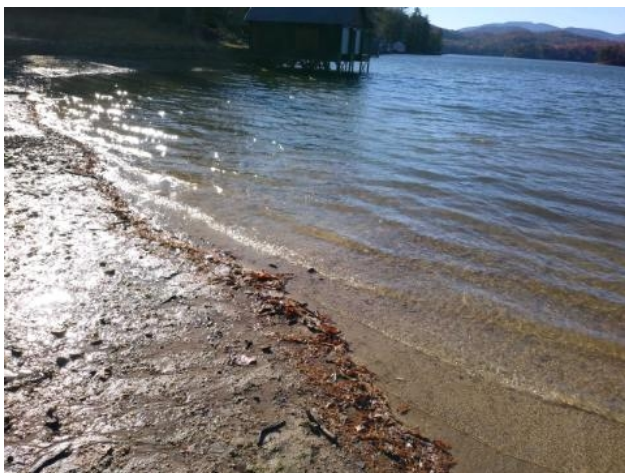
For those who prefer to worship in person, we are holding small, in-person worship groups at the meeting house on Mondays at 7 pm, Wednesday at 9 am and Thursdays at 2 pm. See announcement sheet for more details of all three opportunities for midweek worship. You can also still join the Wednesday am meeting for Zoom, and Zoom info is below.

Other small groups from the meeting are also returning to the meetinghouse. If you are interested in this, please email the Office Coordinator at atlantaquakers@gmail.com.

You can still mail a check (see address on last page) or pay securely with Paypal or credit / debit card on our website at <http://www.atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm> and scroll down to the DONATE button. You can set up monthly / recurring contributions when you use Paypal or your debit/credit card on the website. You can also set up payments through your bank's ACH bill payment system. (Please contact your bank for more details on their ACH bill payment system.)

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

FERGUSON CABIN AT LAKE BURTON



Atlanta Friends Meeting has a seven-acre hideaway, gifted to us by former member Dwight Ferguson, on Lake Burton in the north Georgia mountains. It has two different cabins, a dock and little boathouse with a kayak, rafts, water vests, and a beautiful view of mountains and lake. It is available to rent by members and attenders of the meeting. For more information about the cabin and how to make reservations, see the online brochure at <https://tinyurl.com/fza3sk96> or link to it by going to the website's Member and Attenders page at www.atlantaquakers.org.

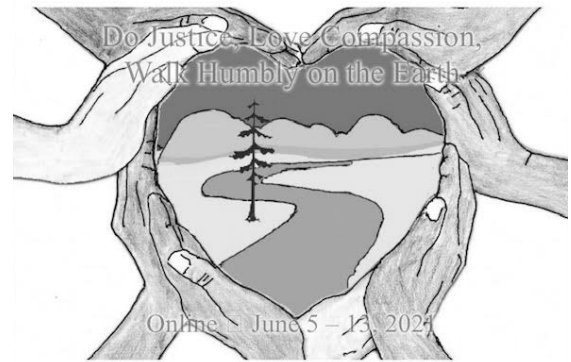
Virtual Meeting for Worship
Each First Day (Sunday)
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

QUERY FOR JUNE

How do you build community through monthly and yearly meeting for fellowship, service, and learning?"

- Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association, Faith & Practice Revision committee

Register now for SAYMA (Southeastern Yearly Meeting and Association) Annual Sessions and Retreat, which will be online June 5 to June 13. The 2021 theme is *Do Justice, Love Compassion, Walk Humbly on the Earth*. Events include plenaries, workshops, JYM [Junior Yearly Meeting, for children] and SAYF [Southern Appalachian Young Friends, for teens] activities. There will also be multiple opportunities for worship and meeting for worship with attention to business. To register: go to www.sayma.org and click on Registration Instructions, then register at Eventbrite, using the link in the instructions. Soon thereafter, you will receive a link via email to see the schedule and registration for the various events and workshops. You may pay your registration fees online via credit card or debit card, or mail a check to the SAYMA administrative assistant. Children are free. No registration deadline, but to receive packets for Junior Yearly Meeting, please register by May 30.



The opening and closing weekends will include meetings for worship, meetings for worship with attention to business, plenary speakers, SAYF and Junior Yearly Meeting, with a Meeting for Remembrance the final weekend. The evenings in between will include workshops, meetings for worship and Junior Yearly Meeting. A preview of the schedule is available thru the Registration Instructions and includes workshops from many members and attenders of Atlanta Friends Meeting, Macon Worship Group and Atlanta's Quaker Voluntary Service. These workshops give a glimpse of the work we are doing and the interests and expertise of the members of our community(ies).

- Jennifer Dickie and Asa Kramer-Dickie, *A Lifelong Journey Toward Anti-racist Ways of Being and Abolition and Safety: What Our World Could Be*
- Anton Flores-Maisonet, *Love in the Time of the Coronavirus: Radical Hospitality at AFM*
- Richard Allen, *2000 years ago in Jerusalem* (piano music and discussion with composer)
- Henry H. Slack, *Climate Solutions: What is Mine to Do in My Home?* and *Climate Solutions: What is Mine to Do in My Nation?*
- Alison Mawle and Lissa Place, *On Creating Institutional Anti Racism in a Quaker Meeting*
- Mike Turner and Kellie Divis, *Songs for Social Justice*
- Claire Hannapel and Rachael Carter: *Rightly Ordered Prioritization: the Simplicity Testimony Then and Now*
- Michelle Ernst, *Georgia Quakers and Voter Awareness Activities*
- Folami Prescott Adams, *Listening 4 Justice: Experience and Reflect*

Among many other workshops is one entitled *Spirit, Quaker Process and SAYMA's Procedures*, which will “discuss issues about increasing and formalizing monthly meetings' input and decision at representative and yearly meetings” in order to “make SAYMA's practice more consistent with participants self-understanding as a 'colloborative association' of autonomous monthly meetings rather than a governing body.”

One of the plenary speakers is Harold D. Weaver Jr., founder of the Black Quaker Project and author of *Black Fire: African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights*, speaking on "Black Lives Matter / Black Quaker Lives Matter." You can also read about his proposed plan for Quakers to help rectify the legacy of chattel slavery in the Americas in "[A Proposed Plan for Retrospective Justice](#)" in the *Friends Journal*, January 2021. (Dr. Weaver uses the term "Retrospective Justice" instead of the term "Reparations.")

QUAKER RESOURCES ON WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

"Meeting in the tradition of Friends involves silent waiting on the Spirit, listening for the Divine Voice, and being obedient to the demands of discipleship. Utterly and severely simple, a Meeting for Worship convenes in silent expectancy at a previously appointed time and place to await the advent of that spirit that has power to unite a diverse group of seekers."

(A Guide to Our Faith and Practice, 2012, SAYMA)

<https://quakerinfo.org/quakerism/worship>

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/waiting-expectantly-on-zoom/>

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/thou-shalt-wear-comfy-shoes/>

Boston's Beacon Hill Friends House offers a series of Wednesday evening explorations of spiritual practices, which they call MIDWEEK: Experiments in Faithfulness. They describe these sessions as "a weekly, one-hour, facilitated spiritual practice with Quaker flavor and an experimental ethos." You can join them live online or view recordings of past weeks: <https://bhfh.org/midweek/>.

Books:

[*Four Doors to Meeting for Worship* by Bill Taber](#)

[*Listening Spirituality, volume 1: Personal Spiritual Practices Among Friends* by Patricia Loring](#)

[*Contemporary Quaker Classics* by Ronald Selleck](#)

QUAKER REFLECTIONS AND QUERIES ON LETTING GO

"A Witness to Tethers and Transformation" by Allison Kirkegaard and Cai Quirk from *Friends Journal*: "How can we release that which is no longer serving our relationship with the Divine, and instead let continuing revelation guide us in new ways that feel vibrant and alive?"

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/a-witness-to-tethers-and-transformation/>

"From the School of the Shipwreck" by Noah Merrill from the *Quaker Earthcare Witness*:

"On so many occasions, I've found the ship I'd built as a refuge crashing on the rocks. . . . While it can at first seem strange — with time, as my spiritual senses adjust — I discover that this new ground on which I'm standing can hold more weight, can offer more resilience, more refuge, than the broken ship to which I'd clung before Our tradition as Friends challenges us to be always tearing down the idols we encounter. We're reminded again and again, through the testimony of generations of Quakers, to be watchful to keep from falling into lifeless forms — in religion and society — that keep us from being open to the Life, that oppress the fundamental belovedness of all." <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/article/school-shipwreck>

HELPING WELCOME LGBTQ+ NEWCOMERS (AND NOT SO NEWCOMERS)

If you added pronouns to your name tag at the meetinghouse, Atlanta's Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC) encourages you to add them to your name when you join Zoom meeting for worship. We know that most of the ways we found to make it clear to first-time attenders that we are, indeed, a welcoming community for those who are LGBTQ+ have not translated well to Zoom, and this will help. There's also a local FLGBTQC email list. If you're interested in joining that, email atlantaquakers@gmail.com. If you have other questions or concerns about LGBTQ+ issues, please contact Nina Gooch, either at the office email just above or at her personal email or phone. She's one of the contact people for Atlanta's FLGBTQC.

INFORMATION FROM APRIL QRE MEETING ABOUT VOTING RIGHTS

At the April 25 Quakers for Racial Equality (QRE) meeting, Helen Butler, Executive Director of the [Georgia Coalition for the Peoples' Agenda](#), spoke about voting rights and how the most recent Georgia law adds obstacles to voting and reduces local control of elections. Ms. Butler mentioned the importance of educating voters about changes in the law that affect absentee ballots. She suggested ways to make it easier for voters to provide copies of ID that are necessary for absentee ballot applications, such as having mobile printers available. On the national level, she urged us to contact US Senators to pass Senate Bill 1 - "For the People Act," (election reform) and to pass

HR 4- "John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act," which has been passed by the US House, but not yet the Senate. An audio recording of her talk can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/qre-voting-rights>. Use the passcode **aBC@9dar**. For information from Friends Committee on National Legislation(FCNL) about SB1 and HR2, including how to take action, visit:

<https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2021-04/people-act-moves-closer-vote-senate-hearing>

<https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2020-10/voting-rights-act-55-years-later>

RADICAL HOSPITALITY AT ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

To find out to more about Anton Flores-Maisonet's ministry of radical hospitality at the meetinghouse during the Coronavirus, you can visit his blog at <https://casaalterna.org/blog-feed/>. One contains a link to an April 7 interview on WRFG-FM. He is also presenting a workshop during SAYMA (see above for registration details).

READING BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR – Thursday, June 3 and ongoing

The book group reading works by and about people of color meets via Zoom at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month. On June 3, the group is discussing *Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. For questions or the Zoom link, contact Susan Cole (cole2544@bellsouth.net).

There will be no meeting in July, but upcoming books include:

August 5: *Kindred* by Octavia Butler

September 2: poetry selections

October 7: *Transcendent Kingdom* by Yaa Gyasi

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS AND ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sunday, June 6 and ongoing

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 June 6, we will hear the spiritual journeys of several of our current Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) Fellows. To hear Maia Carter Hallward's spiritual journey from May 9, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yzvluogg>. If you'd like to hear other past Spiritual Journeys, please contact Mary Ann Downey.

On third Sundays, Adult First Day School will have worship sharing, usually on that month's query. On other Sundays, we will be discussing *A Living Faith, An Historical Study of Quaker Beliefs* by Wilmer A. Cooper, as part of our annual Quakerism 101.

See below for Zoom details, which are new as of March 2021.

GREEN FRIENDS COMMITTEE MEETING – Sunday, June 6 in person & via Zoom

Green Friends will gather in person at 12 noon at the meetinghouse (in the meeting room) with an opportunity for those who can't attend in person to join via Zoom.

<https://citizensclimate.zoom.us/j/96278420823?pwd=aWdpaWZiWmRZSm5hTURIVkNWRDZYUT09>

Audio only phone number: 855 880 1246 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 962 7842 0823

Passcode: 123

BILL JENKINS HEALTH EQUITY LECTURE – Monday, June 7

The Dr. William (Bill) Jenkins Health Equity Lecture honors Bill Jenkins, PhD, MPH, MS (1945 – 2019) and recognizes his outstanding legacy of innovative public health action, dedication to the elimination of health disparities, and efforts to promote the highest ethical standards in public health practice during his CDC tenure and in academia. Bill was also a member of Atlanta Friends Meeting. This year's lecture will be online June 7 from 10 am to noon. For more details and registration:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/healthdisparities/bill-jenkins-lecture.html>

LISTENING 4 JUSTICE -- begins June 9

The next session of Listening 4 Justice, created by AFM member Dr. Folami Prescott-Adams, begins June 9. For more info, see the article in May's newsletter at

http://atlantaquakers.org/_afm_newsletters/AFM_Newsletter_2021-05.pdf. Registration and details for this session are at <https://listening4justice.com/listening4justice-registration-2>.

QUAKER VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2nd ANNUAL SUPPORTERS BRIEFING – Thursday, June 17

Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) is hosting our second Annual Supporters' Briefing on June 17. Come hear stories of impact from QVS Fellows, alumni, and partnered Friends. QVS board members will also share about the numbers that make up QVS and what those numbers mean! (Some of you may know that Atlanta Friends Stoph Hallward and Paul Mangelsdorf are both on our board.) There will be some small group worship sharing time, followed by an open Q&A to talk about finances, alumni engagement, recruitment, our values — no topic is off limits! Have a burning question for us? [Let us know when you register here](#)

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

Meeting for business will be online again this month. Simply stay in the Zoom Meeting for Worship after worship ends. Zoom details and minutes from May are below. In 1996, meeting approved these guidelines for how we conduct meeting for worship with attention to business:

http://atlantaquakers.org/_site_pdf_docs/Guidelines_for_Meeting_for_Business.pdf

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR NEXT MONTH – Sunday, June 20

Please send articles, announcements, information about upcoming events, and other submissions to atlquakerltr@gmail.com by June 20. Please send as an email or in Word or other text format.

LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE – Wednesday, June 23

Monthly online, drop-in forum meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm. All are welcome whether you have attended before or not. No special knowledge or background needed. We contribute from our personal experiences and backgrounds. We learn from the stories and questions we are willing to share. We start at 7:30 p.m. and usually end around 9:00. Drop in and stay as long as you can. Questions and suggestions for future topics are always welcome: contact alberta.guise@gmail.com
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84678045805?pwd=cFdhcEd4UmdLWWNldDFpMm1mOEVTQT09>
Meeting ID: 846 7804 5805
Passcode: LTAR

FCG GATHERING -- online June 27 to July 3



Join Quakers from all over the country for workshops, worship sharing, evening programs, and much more at the Friends General Conference (FCG) Gathering, which is virtual this year. This year's theme is *Way Will Open*. You can attend the whole Gathering, or go part-time with the 'Workshop Plus' package. Fees vary and include a 'Pay as led' option. There is a Pre-Gathering Retreat for Friends of Color and their families. Most workshops are weekday afternoons, but some are on Saturday only. Get more information and register now at www.FGCgathering.org.

QUAKER INSTITUTE FOR THE FUTURE SUMMER RESEARCH SEMINAR – August 16 to 20 see registration dates below

The Quaker Institute for the Future's (QIF's) 2021 Summer Research Seminar will take place by Zoom from August 16-20, 2021. Registration will begin on May 1 and will close on July 15. Those who wish to present research should apply by July 1. Participants are encouraged to make a donation to QIF that is within their means.

QIF Summer Research Seminars create a venue for spirit-led research using Quaker methods of discernment and reflection. The seminars are centered around research presentations that include time for questions, clarification, and discussion, followed by a time of collaborative discernment conducted as a "meeting for worship for sharing." Time is also reserved for theme-based discussions, worship sharing, artistic and other creative sharing, and informal interactions among participants. More information about summer research seminars is available at http://www.quakerinstitute.org/?page_id=1215. They welcome those who wish to make a plenary presentation followed by worshipful discernment including all in attendance, as well as those who just wish to attend without making a formal presentation.

In 2021 for the first time, QIF is also offering \$300 stipends to applicants aged 18 to 35 years old to make a presentation on research that resonates with the QIF mission of advancing a global future of inclusion, social justice, and ecological integrity through Spirit-led participatory research and discernment. For more details, see: <https://tinyurl.com/8zyaw9hc>.

Registration and more information: Please contact Geoff Garver at gginmont@videotron.ca to register or to apply for a 2021 SRS stipend, or for additional information about the SRS, including more about the stipends and how to apply for them.

MACON WORSHIP GROUP INVITES US TO JOIN THEM FOR WORSHIP

The Macon Worship Group, which is under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting, invites us to join them for meeting for worship via Zoom every Thursday at 7:00 pm (except for fifth Thursdays). The third Thursday each month will be an educational program instead of worship. See future announcement sheets for details of the third Thursday educational program for this month.

For more information, you can email: maconquakers@gmail.com.

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84095899009?pwd=SFhhOGNnWHZFbDdKRUhVnFqdFk0dz09>

Meeting ID: 840 9589 9009

Passcode: 542278

MEETING VIRTUALLY: WORSHIP AND FIRST DAY SCHOOL AT ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

For the most up to date information and for more detailed instructions for Zoom, see the most recent announcements at www.atlantaquakers.org/announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf or in your email inbox. 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 (new Zoom info as of March 21)

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86063665797?pwd=NmsOVm5MSW91UXdWRGJSOXA5NWRjZz09>

Meeting ID: 860 6366 5797

Passcode: 013191

Usually on the first Sunday of each month, we will listen to the Spiritual Journey of one of our members or attenders. On the third Sunday, we will have worship sharing, usually on that month's query, and on other Sundays, we will discuss *A Living Faith, An Historical Study of Quaker Beliefs*. We will end in time to be in meeting for worship.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN will meet at 9:30 am to 9:55 am

First Day Class for Families and Friends

Theme: *God is Everywhere*

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

Meeting ID: 727 996 1727

Passcode: 679898

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 will begin at 10:00 am

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 together, as has been our custom when meeting in person. We really miss seeing you! If your mike is muted, your children will not be distracting to others, even if we see them wiggle. And of course, you and your children are welcome to join us for the entire hour.

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 worshipping via Zoom:

Even though it 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. However, 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 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 at 9:00 am

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

Meeting ID: 920 3886 2952

Passcode 726229

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

Now also in person at the meetinghouse. Details in the announcement sheet.

FINANCIAL HELP THROUGH THE ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING ASSISTANCE FUND

This is a time to reach out and care for each other. Care & Counsel Committee maintains an Assistance Fund for Members and Attenders for providing temporary assistance with financial emergencies. Information about the process and an application form can be found at www.atlantaquakers.org/members.htm). Look for the Assistance Fund Description & Request Process and the Assistance Fund Application Form. Or contact Clerk of Care & Counsel, Karen Skellie at 404-680-4524.

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

By check: mail to the meetinghouse address to the attention of the treasurer or if you’re at the meetinghouse, leave in the Contribution slot. Make out the check to Atlanta Friends Meeting, and on the “for” line of the check, write “Assistance Fund.”

By PayPal or Credit / Debit Card: www.atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm on our website.

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 & afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com

CARING CONNECTIONS AT ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

If you need practical help (meal delivery, errands run, transportation, etc) or contact with others during this time OR if you can help, Care & Counsel Committee has set up an online way to connect people. Visit our website under Members and Attenders at <http://www.atlantaquakers.org/members.htm#CARINGCONNECT> to request help or to volunteer or contact Karen Skellie at 404-680-4524 or kskellie@gmail.com.

ANTI-RACISM RESOURCES

Anti-racism resources (including resources for children) shared via the discussion list, announcement sheets and newsletters are collected at <https://tinyurl.com/afm-arr>. Let Nina know if there are problems with any of the links or suggest additional links at atlantaquakers@gmail.com.

FIFTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

May 16, 2021, held via Zoom

Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Steve Collins, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Alison Mawle, Anton Flores-Maisonet, Bert Skellie, Brent Wolff, Karen Skellie, Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Cathy Amanti, Clive Gordon, Diane Rowley, Donna Roberts, Elizabeth Lamb, Eugene Jennings, Glenn Plyler, Henry Slack, Jay Roache, Jennifer Dickie, Jennifer Thompson, Judith Greenberg, Judy Lumb, Julia Ewen, Karen Morris, Lynn Leuszler, Mark Yates, Myrna Trapp, Nina Gooch, Michael Allison, Bill Holland, Ronald Nuse, Susan Firestone, Paul Mangelsdorf, Waman French, Lissa Place (Clerk), Coryn Murphy (Recording Clerk)

Friends gathered near the appointed hour with opening worship. A member of Ministry and Worship shared the Fifth Month Query out of the worship: "How does your meeting reach out to the broader community to invite people to worship with you?"

Discernment Items:

Nominating: Eugene Jennings asked for the approval of Susie Lippold after this was reported last month.

Minute 04-16-21-01: AFM approves Susie Lippold for a term of 3 1/2 years to the Ministry and Worship Committee from June 2021- December 2024.

Reports:

New Roofing Shingles

Steve Collins reported for the **Administration Committee**. In April, we reported on the need to re-roof the Meetinghouse due to the deteriorating condition of the shingles and active leaks. The contractor selected to install the new shingles, Atlanta Roofing Specialists, is scheduled to begin the work on Monday May 24, with the delivery of the shingles planned for May 21. The project is expected to take at least 2-3 days, depending on the weather. Visitors should take care to avoid the work area all around the Meetinghouse, especially while the old shingles are being removed from the roof. The Monday and Thursday in-person meetings for worship will be cancelled this week.

Solar Panel Project

About a year ago, members of Green Friends recommended to the Administration Committee that we consider adding solar panels to the Meetinghouse roof. Over the past year, an AFM ad hoc group (Kevin Wong, Henry Slack, Anton Flores, and Jack Honderd) has reviewed various energy assessments of the Meetinghouse made by Georgia Interfaith Power & Light and evaluated technical and financial proposals for solar panel arrays from different local installation contractors. The group recommended the type of solar panel and an installation contractor, which the Administration approved. The Finance Committee then worked with Kevin to further analyze the financial aspects of the contractor's proposal.

Proposed Minute:

Approval is requested for the Meeting to contract with Creative Solar from Kennesaw, GA to install solar panels on the Meetinghouse roof at a total cost of \$46,818. Based on a financial analysis by the Finance Committee, approval is also requested for the Meeting to take advantage of a 0% interest loan of at least \$10,000 from Georgia Interfaith Power & Light to reduce the amount of funds to be used from the Meeting's Permanent Improvements Fund. Work would commence later in 2021.

Ministry and Worship:

Bill Hooson shared a report on the anchoring committee for Richard Allen.

Richard shared that he has been able to continue his ministry of playing his compositions, "Two Thousand Years Ago in Jerusalem," when he tunes pianos. He offers to play the pieces when he has finished tuning the instrument(s). Last year he played them in his home on Easter, inviting his neighbors and opening his windows so they could hear them. The neighbors were appreciative and Richard plans to do this again for Easter 2021. Bert suggests that it may be possible to play in East Lake Commons now and Bert will check.

Because of the quarantine and closing of performance venues for the pandemic, he is not able to play in schools or other locations as he has in previous years. He also did not play at Yearly Meeting because it was cancelled in 2020. He will check with Jennifer Dickie, the clerk of the YM Planning committee, to see if there is a way to do that this year with a virtual platform. Or, if not the Yearly Meeting, then Atlanta youth, perhaps with help from the youth to do a Youtube recording. Aaron Ruscetta is the contact.

Richard wants to find a way that suits him best to score each piece in notation. He finds it difficult to do this by hand. We discussed several possibilities.

- Richard will follow up is asking Aaron Ruscetta to record them;
- Richard will ask his contacts at Oxford College and Spelman College if there are students who could help. For instance, a particular student may be interested in jazz and need the experience of using a digital scoring program. It is likely that the college music departments have such equipment available for students.
- If there is a cost for using a digital scoring platform, we offered donations to help with the cost.
- Bert and Richard will work together on the possibility of a performance on Zoom to which many could be invited.

Richard expressed his tremendous appreciation to us for the support. Karen will draft notes and ask Richard to edit. Then Richard can take the finalized copy to Ministry & Worship for the annual report.

Committee Corner:

Susan Firestone reported for the **Ad Hoc Anti-Racist Policies and Procedures Group** who has been hard at work! If you are unfamiliar with them, they are an Ad Hoc group started by the Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting with representatives from several other committees. They are considering how to draft a policy that will be effective in addressing racist incidents that occur between people in Meeting. They have researched all the past policies that the Meeting has approved on similar topics and are building on what they have learned. All work that they are doing will be brought to Friends of Color before it will be brought to Business Meeting to make sure that they have considered all the important points. We have learned during this process of writing that this is not an ad hoc group, but is about those who have experienced the injury, the pain, the hurt, of racism in our Meeting.

Allison Mawle reported for the **Working Group on the Use of the Meeting House** about the Covid

19 policy in the meeting house. At this time, the only change made to the policy is that closed groups whose members have all been fully vaccinated may meet indoors unmasked, per CDC guidance at the time. Since the in-person Meeting for Worship are open meetings, masks are still required. Now that CDC has revised its guidance again, they will be discussing potential changes at our next meeting. Harmony School intends to reopen in August. The working group has asked them to provide them with their intended approach to COVID 19 precautions. Three of the working groups members attended the Ministry and Worship's meeting on 5/12, at the invitation of the Clerk. They had a very productive discussion on issues to be considered for resuming in-person worship on Sunday morning. Ministry and Worship are responsible for making decisions concerning this.

Announcements:

Jennifer Dickie the clerk of SAYMA planning committee reminded everyone they can register for SAYMA from June 5-14th. She reported the schedule for SAYMA and a few workshops. Please look in the newsletter for more information.

Approval of Minutes:

Minute 05-16-21-02: The Atlanta Friends Meeting Approves the Minutes for April 2021

Events in the life of the Meeting:

Alberta Guise has a new grandson born May 5, 2021

Freer Jarvis died April 25, 2021

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT:

Cindy Berg
Steve Collins' mother
Robin Fortuna
Renda McCaughan
Bob Lough

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.

Atlanta Friends Meeting Contacts

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WAYS TO SHARE INFORMATION WITH US

- Weekly announcement sheet. Email atlantaquakers@gmail.com by Thursday noon.
- Monthly newsletter. .Email atlquakerltr@gmail.com by the 20th of the month before.
- Discussion email list. To join, email atlantaquakers@gmail.com.
- Facebook group. To join, find the group on facebook and click on the **Join Group** button. Please answer the question about why you want to join!

Atlanta Friends Meeting
701 W. Howard Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030-2902

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Office Coordinator working from home while meeting house closed

web and email: atlantaquakers.org, atlantaquakers@gmail.com voicemail/phone: 404-377-2474
Clerk: Lissa Place, afmclerk1@gmail.com Treasurer: Judith Greenberg, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com

Atlanta Friends Meeting email lists & facebook group:

- You may receive the announcement sheets and other announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting. This is the announcement list. (The announcement sheet is also posted online.)
- You may receive announcements AND posts about a broader range of topics relating to being a Quaker. This is the discussion list. (You do not need to belong to both the announcement list and the discussion list.)
- You may receive notification that the newsletter is online. This is the newsletter list.
- To join any of these email lists above, please email the office at atlantaquakers@gmail.com
- To receive weekly emails about Zoom and in-person meetings for worship, email atlantaquakers@gmail.com
- To join the meeting's Facebook page, search for Atlanta Friends Meeting & click the **+ Join Group** button.

Would you like to appear in future AFM Directories?

Do you need to correct your directory information? 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.*