

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2021

Current and back issues of the newsletter are always available at <http://atlantaquakers.org/archive.htm>

Meeting for Worship
Each First Day (Sunday)
In Person & via Zoom
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN PERSON & VIA ZOOM

Sunday morning Meeting for Worship continues at 10:00 am thru at least the end of the year as a blended meeting with in-person meeting for worship at the meetinghouse combined with worship via Zoom. Nursery care for children under three will be available at the meetinghouse. First Day School for both adults and children and teens also continues both in person and via Zoom. **Zoom information below and on next page.**

Things to know:

- Please wear a mask inside the meetinghouse, even if you are vaccinated. If you speak during worship, please leave your mask on. (Children under two do not need to wear a mask.)
- Children can continue to join Meeting for Worship for the first 15 minutes or can go directly to Religious Education, as they and their parents / guardians prefer.
- There will be no coffee hour or potluck, but you are welcome to socialize after Meeting for Worship. Just bring your own beverage in your own container.
- Please do not come if you do not feel well, have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 10 days, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days.

For more details about in-person worship and for more info about First Day School and childcare, see <https://tinyurl.com/52u3waus> or contact the office: atlantaquakers@gmail.com or 404-377-2474.

To volunteer on Sundays at the meetinghouse, visit <http://tinyurl.com/afmvolunteers>, sign up at the meeting house or contact the office.

DETAILS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP AND FIRST DAY SCHOOL AT ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

For the most up to date information, see the latest announcement sheet at www.atlantaquakers.org/_announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP (with new Zoom info as of September 5)

Combined in person and Zoom

10 a.m. Sundays

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYlIFWEhSQUtZRVVPaFFYmVDQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751

Passcode: 789456

QUERY FOR DECEMBER

How does awareness of the living conditions of people in your local and global communities affect your purchasing choices? In turn, how do these choices affect the well-being of others?

– source: Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association's Faith & Practice

ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL (see under Events for more details for each Sunday)

Combined in-person and Zoom

9:00 to 9:50 am Sundays

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86063665797?pwd=Nms0Vm5MSW91UXdWRGJSOXA5NWRjZz09>

Meeting ID: 860 6366 5797

Passcode: 013191

FIRST DAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (with new Zoom info as of September 5)

Zoom for younger children: Sundays 9:30am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7279961727?pwd=ck1ROVZIRWRCVDgzdGRocFhQWEEdUUT09>

Meeting ID: 727 996 1727

Passcode: Quaker!

In-person for all ages, with blended option for teens: Sundays 10:15 am

Children and teens may join Meeting for Worship for the first fifteen minutes or go directly to Religious Education, as they and their parents / guardians prefer. The teens will meet in person with an option for a blended FDS class from 10:15-11:00. For more info, contact Laura MacNorlin.

QUAKER WORDS AND PASSAGES

QuakerSpeak is a weekly series of short videos (each one also with written transcript) about Quakerism. Here's one about actual Quakerspeak, in which 6 Quakers talk about their favorite Quaker words or passages (with more in the comments): <https://quakerspeak.com/video/words/>

The queries (though QuakerSpeak calls them discussion questions) for this video are:

- 1) Do you have a favorite Quaker word, phrase, or passage? Why does it speak to you?
- 2) How can Friends discern what language to keep and what to retire? Does changing the language also change the practice? How can Friends use continuing revelation in our language and terminology?

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT:

Cindy Berg

Beth-Ann Buitekant and family

AM Barrett and family

Bette Turlington

Jennifer Thompson and family

Alberta Guise and family

the Westervelt family

Elaine North

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 Committees and Other Contacts

Clerk of the Meeting: Lissa Place, afmclerk1@gmail.com

Office Coordinator: Nina Gooch, atlantaquakers@gmail.com

Treasurer: Judith Greenberg, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com

Ministry & Worship: Bill Hooson, bhooson@aol.com

Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280

Social Concerns: Glenn Plyler, 207-522-5295

Administration: Steve Collins, shcollins75@gmail.com

Care & Counsel: Karen Skellie, afm.care.counsel@gmail.com

Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, susanfires@gmail.com

Religious Education: Laura MacNorlin, laura.norlin@gmail.com

Library Clerk: Cal Gough, calgough@bellsouth.net

Nominating: Eugene Jennings, eugene@eugenejennings.com

Newsletter Editor: Nina Gooch, atlquakerltr@gmail.com

Webmaster: Aaron Ruschetta, arxaaron@gmail.com

Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, afmbookkeeper@ail.com

For information about these committees, download the AFM Handbook from <http://atlantaquakers.org/members.htm> (scroll down to the bottom to AFM Documents to Download) or contact the Clerk of the committee.

INVITATION TO A DEEPER COMMITMENT: SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER 31 FORUM ON THE MEANING AND PROCESS OF MEMBERSHIP IN ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Bill Holland's report on the forum hosted by Ministry and Worship on October 31

Quakerism is a spiritual path grounded in the integrity of direct experience. You become a member of the Society of Friends by joining a particular meeting. This joining reflects an experience and is a two part process: first, you are asserting an identity and making commitments to the community, and second, the community makes a commitment to accompany you on the spiritual journey, providing you with opportunity to deepen your life.

We began with a period of worship around the Query: What brings me to meeting and keeps me coming back? There were powerful messages of connection and freedom. We went deeper and deeper and could have continued for some time.

Two Friends then shared their experiences with coming into membership. Sara Patenaude and Folami Prescott-Adams shared the story of coming to Atlanta Friends Meeting, the process of discerning the rightness of requesting membership, and the membership process. Both presenters shared powerful testimony.

We reviewed the process for applying for membership and answered questions. Our membership guidelines are available on the AFM Website at the bottom of the Members and Attenders Page: http://atlantaquakers.org/site_pdf_docs/AFM_Membership_guidelines-201703.pdf

In brief, the process begins in individual discernment -- do you consider Atlanta Meeting your spiritual home? Members of Ministry and Worship are glad to talk with you about what Membership means and the process. The guidelines provide some questions you might want to explore in your individual reflection.

1. Once you have decided you wish to pursue membership, you write a letter addressed to the Clerk of Ministry and Worship Committee, currently Bill Hooson (bhooson@aol.com).
2. Once Ministry and Worship receives the letter, we consider it at our next meeting and approve the formation of a clearness committee of several members who will meet with you. Clearness is a form of respectful worshipful inquiry. The meeting is intended to explore your request, asking and answering questions.
3. The clearness committee provides a recommendation to Ministry and Worship, who consider the report and bring a recommendation to business meeting.
4. The Monthly Meeting for Business receives a report one month and waits a month before bringing the recommendation for decision. Often, the Application Letter is read to the meeting and you are introduced.
5. Once Monthly Meeting has approved (minuted), you are officially recorded as a member of the meeting. The spiritual journey continues!

Example of a letter [see next page for actual example]:

The letter requesting membership can be a simple statement. It can also be a longer reflection on your spiritual journey and your sense of connection. Here is a template adapted from a Quaker source to use as a starting point:

Your ADDRESS
DATE

*[NAME, right now Bill Hooson] , Clerk
Ministry and Worship Committee
Atlanta Monthly Meeting
701 West Howard Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030*

Dear Clerk of Ministry and Worship Committee,

I am writing to request consideration for membership in Atlanta Monthly Meeting and, by extension, in the Religious Society of Friends.

I am drawn to Friends by [particulars].

I consider Atlanta Monthly Meeting to be my spiritual community, and this request is an indication of my desire to continue and strengthen my commitment to spiritual growth as a Friend.

Your NAME

Please let members of Ministry and Worship know if you have questions about membership or the process of becoming a member or if you would like to explore membership in greater depth.

WELCOMING LGBTQ+ NEWCOMERS (AND NOT SO NEWCOMERS)

Atlanta Friends Meeting welcomes lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and nonbinary/genderqueer people. To make this visible, we offer rainbow and trans stickers to show support as well as pronoun stickers. (See the name tag station in the greeting room.) If you're worshipping via Zoom, you can add pronouns to your name. Atlanta's Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC) also has an email list. To join, email atlantaquakers@gmail.com. If you have other questions or concerns about lgbtq+ issues, please contact Nina Gooch, either after meeting, at the office or at her personal email or phone. She's one of the contact people for Atlanta's FLGBTQC.

NEWLY APPROVED QUERIES NOW IN SAYMA FAITH AND PRACTICE

Our Yearly Meeting's queries approved in June are now in Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association's Faith and Practice at https://www.sayma.org/online_documents.htm. (Scroll down if needed.) As it says, "Friends' queries are spiritual. Because we believe in continuing revelation, any answers to these queries may change as we grow in spiritual awareness. They are designed to be thought-provoking and to inspire prayerful consideration. Friends are urged to keep in mind that rather than following rules, we are following our leading to hold all things in the Light. Queries help us consider whether current practice gives all witness to faith."

WEDNESDAY AM MEETING FOR WORSHIP – Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Combined in-person and Zoom, now at 8:30 am. **(December 1 is Zoom only.)** Our guidelines for this small meeting for worship are at <https://tinyurl.com/small-meeting-guidelines>. Everyone over the age of two should wear a mask over their mouth and nose while in the meeting house, regardless of their vaccination status. Please stay home if you feel ill for any reason or if you have COVID-19 or think you have been exposed to it. Contact Bert Skellie at 404-680-4799 for info. <https://zoom.us/j/92038862952>

Meeting ID: 92038862952

Password: 726229

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR – Thursday, December 2

The book group reading works by and about people of color meets at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month, still via Zoom. On December 2, members of the group will discuss *Future Home of the Living God* by Louise Erdrich. For questions or the Zoom link, email Susan Cole at (cole2544@bellsouth.net).

MEMORIAL CELEBRATION FOR RENDA McCAUGHAN – Saturday, December 4

Wilton Quaker Meeting will hold a memorial celebration for Renda McCaughan, former member of Atlanta Friends Meeting, on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at 3:00 pm Eastern time. For more on Renda's life before, during and after their stay in Atlanta as well as info about Quaker memorial services, visit: <https://drive.google.com/file/> (or see the memorial minute below in the minutes from meeting for worship with attention to business.) We are invited to join this memorial via Zoom. Those attending are asked to please keep mute on Zoom except when giving a message to avoid background noise and to not use virtual backgrounds as they can be distracting. (The background blur option works well.)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84571914513?pwd=Z2Rkc2dPMTRRS3FtOW1sYnh5Zml4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 845 7191 4513

Passcode: 223491

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS AND ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays, December 5, 12, 19, 26

Adult First Day School will meet in person at the meetinghouse, and people will continue to be able to join via Zoom. (See above for Zoom details.)

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 spiritual journeys, stories where Friends describe their understanding of God and religion in their life. On December 5, we will hear the spiritual journey of Claire Hannapel. To hear Alberta Guise's spiritual journey from November 7, visit <https://tinyurl.com/4eykf9n8>. To hear or read previous spiritual journeys, contact Mary Ann Downey.

On second Sundays (previously third Sundays), Adult First Day School will have worship sharing, usually on that month's query. On other Sundays, we will discuss *The Great Conversation, Nature and the Care of the Soul* by Belden C. Lane. Please join us, even if you haven't read the book.

OPEN HOUSE FOR PLANS FOR RAILROAD CROSSING & W. HOWARD IMPROVEMENTS

Thursday, December 9

Join the planning team of Landis Evans & Partners and Atkins North America for: Re-Imagine West Howard – The SEQUEL!, an open house and workshop to help plan the replacement of the colorful planters on West Howard Avenue, take the next steps in the Re-Imagine West Howard plan with permanent bicycle/pedestrian safety and landscape improvements, and complete the plans for the Railroad Crossing Improvements @ Atlanta Avenue. At the meetinghouse, Thursday, December 9 from 4:30 to 7:30 pm. Masks and temperature checks required for this event. For more info, visit <https://www.decalurga.com/publicworks/page/reimagine-west-howard-avenue-final-report> and <https://www.decalurga.com/cmo/page/railroad-crossing-improvements-atlanta-avenue/>

QUAKER HIKE – Saturday, December 11

Our regular 2nd Saturday hike in December will be December 11, leaving the AFM parking lot at 9 am. This will be an easy walk along a portion of the Beltline. Please mark your calendars! More details in the announcement sheet or contact Bert Skellie at 404-680-4799.

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

Meeting for business for December will be a blended meeting, combining in-person and Zoom. Simply stay after Meeting for Worship, whether you attend Meeting for Worship in person or via Zoom. See above or announcement sheet for Zoom details. Minutes from last month are below. For more info about meeting for business, see these guidelines approved by the meeting in 1996: http://atlantaquakers.org/_site_pdf_docs/Guidelines_for_Meeting_for_Business.pdf

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR NEXT MONTH – Sunday, December 20

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

PROPOSED ADDITION TO HANDBOOK ON ANCHORING COMMITTEES

submitted by Bill Holland of the Ministry & Worship

All of us who are attenders and members of Atlanta Meeting are called to be ministers to each other and to the world. Some Friends develop a particular concern for ministry and as for the meeting to recognize and support their ministry. Sometimes these are short term ministries, but others have continued for many years. For the last 20 years, the Ministry and Worship Committee have been using guidelines developed by Friends General Conference, School of the Spirit and others sources to support those Friends. Ministry and Worship Committee is now recommending to the meeting that we formally adopt this process and include the guidelines the AFM Handbook. We ask for you to review the description below. If you have comments, please contact members of the Ministry and Worship Committee.

Anchoring Committee for Friend Supported in Ministry by AFM^[1]

I. Creation of and Membership in an Anchoring Committee

When a member or active attender in the Atlanta Friends Meeting has a leading for a ministry for which the spiritual support of the Meeting is desired, the minister shall inform the Ministry and Worship Committee. Ministry and Worship will appoint a clearness committee, including at least two current or past members of Ministry and Worship, to meet with and help the minister discern the particular leading. If the clearness committee discerns that AFM should support this ministry, it will work with the minister to draft a minute clearly stating the specific ministry to be supported. The minute will be brought to M&W for approval and, if approved, presented at Meeting for Business. If/when Meeting for Business approves the minute, an Anchoring Committee will be appointed. Ministry and Worship will work with the minister to name 3 to 5 members to this committee. One or two of these members might be persons who are not members of AFM. The membership of the Anchoring Committee will also be approved by Meeting for Business. Members of an Anchoring Committee are usually appointed for one year and may be reappointed on an annual basis.

II. Responsibilities of Anchoring Committee

The Anchoring Committee's role is to be attentive to the following issues in supporting the faithfulness of the minister:

- a. Ongoing spiritual care of the minister and the ministry: Is the minister faithfully exercising their gifts and responding to the call? Is the ministry filled with a rich sense of the presence of God?
- b. The spirit in which the ministry is conducted: Is the minister nourishing their spiritual life while carrying out this work? Is the ministry carried out in a spirit of teachability, humility and respect for others? Does the minister live in a manner that reflects that they may be regarded as an example to others?
- c. Practical care of the minister: Is the minister able to care for their health and well-being and fulfill other responsibilities while carrying out the work?
- d. Relationship between the minister and the meeting: Is the minister's relationship to the meeting characterized by patience, humility, perseverance, and mutual trust?
- e. Responsible conduct of the ministry: Are the means of fulfilling the ministry appropriate to the call? Are the methods used focused and responsive to the minute of religious service or support from the meeting? Is this minister in right relationship with others doing similar work and open to learning and collaborating with them?
- f. Financial accountability: If funding is being provided by the meeting or other Friends groups, is there a clearly expressed and adequate budget? Are funds being raised in appropriate way, representing the work and its goals accurately, and representing the role of the meeting accurately? Is the committee satisfied that funds are being properly accounted for, being spent for the purpose for which they were granted, and that appropriate and timely reports are made to the funders?
- g. Adequacy of support: The Anchoring Committee should take care to review with the minister the adequacy of financial and other support for the ministry. Is adequate funding available for the ministry to go forward without hardship to the minister or to their responsibilities to family and dependents? Are adequate structures and networks of support available for the ministry to proceed effectively? Should time be taken out from the ministry to develop support structures and obtain funding? Does inadequate support suggest that clearness to proceed be reviewed?
- h. Companions for travel: If the minister travels outside the meeting, would it be valuable for them to travel with a spiritual companion or to request an elder in the location visited? The

committee should welcome reports from others who travel with the minister about ways the ministry can be best supported.

- i. Changes in the leading: As the leading evolves over time it is the responsibility of the Anchoring Committee to discern whether the form of the meeting's care should also change. Is it rightly ordered for the new shape of the ministry to be under the meeting's care? If there is a minute of religious service, should it be modified to conform to the changes? Is the call continuing or has the time come to lay down the ministry? What is the appropriate response if way is not opening for the ministry to proceed? What are the next steps for laying down the ministry or transforming it to a new stage?
- j. Ongoing care of the minister: Is the minister ready to move to some other form of care? Should the work continue under the care of the meeting or move to the care of some other body? Has the ministry moved into a form that no longer requires the commitment of care with the meeting or other Friends body?

III. Specific Tasks of Anchoring Committees

- a. The Anchoring Committee should meet with the minister on a regular basis to review the concerns listed above.
- b. If changes are needed to the composition of the Anchoring Committee, they must be brought to Meeting for Business for approval on the recommendation of Ministry and Worship.
- c. The committee should remain in touch with the work. Anchoring Committee members might travel as companions from time to time in order to keep informed about the spirit of the ministry.
- d. The committee holds the minister in prayer, especially in periods when the minister is traveling and teaching.
- e. If the ministry requires new or additional forms of support from the meeting (financial or practical) the Anchoring Committee, in discernment with the minister, prepares a recommendation to Ministry and Worship to report to the meeting for business.
- f. If the ministry has been receiving financial support of the meeting, it is a responsibility of the Anchoring Committee to assure that the minister is working to discover how the ministry might become independent of the meeting's financial support, which is understood to be time limited. The group should maintain communication between the ministry and the meeting. This can take several forms such as encouraging the minister to share experiences of the ministry through the meeting newsletter; inviting members of the meeting to accompany the minister; or, if the ministry includes teaching or witnessing, arranging opportunities for the minister to teach or witness within the meeting. Anchoring Committees are encouraged to help the minister discover rightly ordered ways to bring the ministry alive for others in the meeting.
- g. The Anchoring Committee reports to the Meeting through Ministry and Worship at least once yearly and more frequently if guidance is needed. Annual or final reports should include:
 - 1. The activities carried out and any results of those activities
 - 2. How the ministry has contributed to the spiritual growth of the minister and of those whom they have served
 - 3. If applicable, a financial report listing sources and amount of income, nature and amount of expenses, and the distribution of any surplus.
 - 4. Recommendations for continuing, laying down, changing the form of the ministry or changing the form of meeting's support. A recommendation that the minute be changed or that the ministry be laid down may come at any time in the life of the ministry.

h. The annual report of the minister and the proposed members of the anchoring committee will be brought by Ministry and Worship to Meeting for Business for approval.

^[1] This document is adapted from *Some Guidelines for Care of Friends Led to Various forms of Ministry, Friends General Conference*, which drew on other sources.

MINUTES FOR ELEVENTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS
November 21
held as a blended meeting with both in person and Zoom attenders
Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Alberta Guise, Ann Ritter, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Mary Ann Downey, Bill Holland, Ann Ritter, Aaron Ruschetta, Anton Flores-Maisonet, Big Softy, Brent Wolff, Cathy Amanti, David Small, Don Bender, Elizabeth Lamb, Erin Schroder, Free Polazzo, Glenn Plyler, Georgia Lord, Henry Slack, Jennifer Dickie, Judy Lumb, Julia Ewen, Karen Morris, Myrna Trapp, Micheal Allison, Nina Gooch, Paul Mangelsdorf, Ronald Nuse, Steve Collins, Susan Firestone, Lissa Place (Clerk), Coryn Murphy (Recording Clerk)

Friends gathered near the appointed hour with opening worship. A member of Ministry and Worship shared the Eleventh Month Query out of the worship: "Where there is hatred, division, or conflict, how do you seek to be an agent of reconciliation?"

Discernment:

Memorial Minute: Mary Ann Downey read the memorial minute for Renda McCaughan

Minute 11/21/2021:01: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following memorial minute for Renda McCaughan

Renda Lindley McCaughan was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, friend, and devoted birth right Quaker. She passed away July 26, 2021, in Connecticut.

Born Renda Wong Lindley in Honolulu, Hawaii on March 19, 1942, to Quaker parents Samuel Edward Lindley and Marion Yin Ping (Wong) Lindley. Following the birth of Renda and her sister Renie, the family moved to New York where Samuel got his PhD in Philosophy at Cornell.

Three more sisters were born while Sam taught in upstate NY and eastern PA. The Lindley sisters all have the Chinese character "ren" included in their name, meaning "love" in the sense of "benevolence." Renda graduated from high school in 1959 and moved back to Hawaii with her family to attend the University of Hawaii.

Renda graduated from Cornell University with a MS in Microbiology in 1966, and went to Kathmandu, Nepal for six months working on a King sponsored health survey with the Dooley foundation.

Having circumnavigated the globe, Renda rejoined her family in Hawaii. An avid folk-dancer at Cornell, Renda found a folk-dance group near the University of Hawaii and met Peter McCaughan there. They were married under the care of Honolulu Friends Meeting in 1968.

Pete worked in information technology and Renda was the Chief Bacteriologist at Kauaikeolani Children's Hospital.

While in Hawaii their sons David (1970) and Michael (1973) were born, and Renda gave up bacteriology to mind the house and raise the kids.

Renda loved to cook and with such variety that one savored every dinner as one was often not likely to see it again.

Pete's work took the family to Marin County, CA in 1973 where they often worshipped surrounded by magnificent redwoods. Renda volunteered at the Marin County Public Health Lab where she wrote a manual on how to handle virus specimens that was distributed to all the county labs in California.

In 1983, the family moved to Wilton, CT where David & Michael graduated from high school and went on to college. Renda was active in Wilton Friends Meeting spending untold hours editing the newsletter and serving on ministry & oversight.

Ten years later Pete's career took them to Minneapolis and Twin Cities Friends Meeting. Renda disliked the cold weather but with David and Michael in college, Pete and Renda were free to explore the culture the Twin Cities offered.

In 1998, Pete's job relocated to Atlanta, where Renda and Pete enjoyed the warmer weather, excellent museum, and many ethnic restaurants and the large Atlanta Friends Meeting. Renda transferred her membership to Atlanta meeting, volunteered in the office and created a searchable data base of meeting minutes from 1951 through 2008. She offered guidance and examples about meeting handbooks with committee and officer descriptions that led to the creation of the Atlanta Meeting Handbook. Renda offered the story of her spiritual journey, the influence of her Quaker and Chinese ancestors and how her faith guided her life. She also served on the Care and Counsel committee and prepared memorable Chinese New Year dinners for friends. Most of all Pete and Renda made wonderful friends that they still hold dear to this day.

In March 2004 David and his wife Jenn welcomed their daughter Samantha Lindley McCaughan into the family, a better birthday present, Renda could not have asked for. Having retired, in 2010 they found a home in New Milford, Connecticut close to Samantha, Dave and Jenn, and rejoined Wilton Quaker Meeting. To Renda, nothing was more important than Quakerism and family. When Mike moved to Stamford in 2017, their family was complete.

After a year dealing with cancer the end was apparent: Renda and Pete made the decision to stop treatment. The immediate family gathered, made her comfortable, and made sure she knew they were all there for her in the end as she was there for them her whole life.

Renda is survived by her husband, Peter McCaughan, sons, David McCaughan and Michael McCaughan, daughter-in-law Jennifer Kullgren McCaughan, granddaughter Samantha McCaughan, and Renda's four sisters: Renie Lindley, Ren'ai Lindley, Lorene Lindley-Mills, and Cherene Lindley-Trujillo.

Nominating: Ann Ritter reported for the nominating committee. Last month nominating committee brought for the names of Jennifer Dickie as Clerk of Meeting for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2022, Becky Lough as a Care and Council Committee Appointed Member for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2022. (Note - Becky is currently a regular member of C&C.) Nominating Committee withdraws the name of Dee DeBra as Assistant Treasurer.

At the December MFB, the description of the anchoring committee will be brought forward.
[Editor's note: this is also included in this newsletter, just above these minutes.]

Minute 11/21/2021:02: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee the Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Jennifer Dickie as Clerk from January 2022-December 2023.

Minute 11/21/2021:03: On the recommendation of the nominating committee the Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Becky Lough as a Care and Council Committee Appointed Member for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2022.

Reports

Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf reported for the finance committee. The budget as written will be brought forward for approval next month.

[Editor's note: The preliminary budget shared at this month's meeting can be found at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19gCkqDvtzyKU7iKuHVYeJw8WivvZaZ_M?usp=sharing]

Glenn Plyler spoke about the reasons why the social concerns budget will be increased, as there are a few projects they want to support and the needs in our community have increased.

Ministry and Worship:

Bill Hooson, Clerk of Ministry and Worship, reported for Ministry and Worship committee.

Ministry and Worship has had a discussion of pronouns and the Committee approved to do better with pronouns and modeling attention to their use in our role in Meeting. (namely, they are encouraging people to share their pronouns when they have an announcement or a joy to share during the closing of Meeting.) The Atlanta Friends Meeting Minute on Reparations and Reconciliation has now been shared with all the Meetings in SAYMA. We are reminded that the Macon Worship Group is under care of our Meeting and all are encouraged to give support.

Ministry and Worship Contribution to State of the Meeting Report was reviewed, approved as drafted, and forwarded to Clerk of Meeting for Business. We reviewed our upcoming vacancies on the Committee. We will need three members beginning in January 2022 for the Committee to be at full strength. Any member of AFM is eligible to serve on Ministry and Worship. Please contact, Bill Hooson or Lissa Place, if you are led to serve on this committee.

There are currently four Ministries Under Our Care: The Chaplaincy Ministry of Julie Hliboki, the Ministry of Ministry of Mary Ann Downey, the Ministry of Music of Richard Allen, and the Ministry of Outreach to Asylum Seekers of Anton Flores. I would like to read the reports of Mary Ann and Julie Hliboki this month and Richard and Anton at a future Meeting for Business.

Mary Ann Downey's Report on Ministry of Ministry:

In the book, "Meditations", Thomas Moore writes, "The word refectory, the place where monks have meals, refers to being remade or refreshed by a meal. We use a similar word, restaurant, which means to be restored". These words reminded me that the need to be restored and refreshed daily is true for our spiritual life as well as our physical health, and this was even more important this year. I am daily refreshed by meditation, reading poetry, long walks in all weathers, our weekly meeting for worship, and in monthly meetings with my anchoring committee members. Nan O'Connor, Dave Thurman, Lewis Fuller and Bill Holland keep me grounded in the Spirit. My ministry remains focused on Atlanta Friends Meeting through the Ministry and Worship Committee, the Macon Worship Group, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Quaker Voluntary Service.

As a spiritual nurturer for a fellow in 2020-2021, and another in the current 2021-2022 group, I meet one to one, usually over a meal and offer support for the challenges and discoveries that occur. Parker Palmer describes this work as "creating a safe space for the soul to show up",

and like a good meal I hope we both leave feeling restored. It has also been a joy to invite Friends in the meeting to bring lunch to the fellows on two Fridays each month, “QVS days”, when fellows meet together to consider community living and Quaker values. In April, I was honored for my ministry since 2012 as the spiritual nurturer anchor, and in July, I hosted an end of year celebration for the fellows to be welcomed as alums by the Atlanta QVS Alums from past years. The restrictions of the pandemic and the many losses we have all experienced led me work on a variety of writing projects and forums for the meeting. At the end of 2020, I worked with others to offer an online forum for meeting on “Grief and Healing” and to offer a written summary of it in the January Newsletter along with a list of resources. We also offered a forum on “Queries and Worship Sharing” in January and a written summary in the March newsletter.

I saw the need to make sure that memorial minutes for the six Friends who died in 2020 and the five in 2021 were written and read into our meeting minutes. I also wrote revised committee descriptions for the Memorial Committee and Anchoring Committee and worked with Herb Edwards on a Minute on Reparations. We welcomed the transfer of membership for Elizabeth Mueller, and the membership of Alberta Guise. It is a continuing joy to invite Friends to share their spiritual journey each month and to offer the link to a recording of it in the newsletter. Macon worship group is under the care of our meeting. Challenges of family health for the leadership and decrease in attendance led me and Bill to meet with the current small group online on a weekly basis. At the request of the Ministry and Nurture Committee of SAYMA, I facilitated a weekend retreat on zoom on building community in a time of conflict.

Daily time for reflection on my spiritual life and how I care for myself while I care for others led me to write two articles for Friends Journal, “Pandemic Discoveries” in the August issue and “Walk by Faith” for the December issue. In the article, “Walk by Faith”, I quote a challenge posed by William Sloan Coffin: “Are you using the power that you have to do what you say you believe”. This remains a question that I use to discern my work.

Julie Hilboki: Ministry of Chaplancy

Hello Friends,

Greetings from beautiful Santa Fe! I am writing to share my yearly report on my Chaplaincy Ministry held under the care of the AFM. I begin with immense gratitude for my Anchoring Committee – Mary Ann Downey, Bill Holland, Ron Nuse, and Caroline Morris. They have accompanied me remotely over this past year on my transition to my new work in Santa Fe, that of a home hospice chaplain for Presbyterian Healthcare Systems.

My new work is both challenging and rewarding. My territory covers most of eastern northern New Mexico from Abiquiu to Pecos. Because of this, I have had the good fortune of visiting a vast swath of the State and experiencing many different cultures including the Indigenous Peoples on the Pueblos.

Accompanying dying patients and their caregiving families within their home is very different than in an in-patient hospital setting. The end-of-life journey is complex in itself, and can be made more complicated by the stress of required 24/7 caregiving, family dynamics, and tight quarters. COVID-19's persistence, associated mandatory restrictions, and deaths have impacted many of us and strained the healthcare system overall. Even so, I find it an honor and great privilege to accompany hospice patients and their families offering spiritual and emotional support during such an important time.

Given the intensity of the hospice chaplaincy work, I am finding ways to stay balanced, nourished, and restored. I go hiking nearly every day in the beautiful arroyos and mountains surrounding our home. The nature here is spectacular! David and I have created a “ministry of hospitality” with our casita guesthouse (FriendsCasita.com) for traveling F/friends. We have hosted eight sets of visitors during the past five months including Caroline Morris and Mike Aland. Come visit! I find great joy in creating and offering a welcoming place of respite. In addition, I am processing my hospice experiences through writing and artistic expression. I am working on a new book (along the lines of Breathing Light) on the aging and dying process, which I find fascinating. I hope to have it completed and available by Spring 2022.

I’ve found it important to stay close to Spirit while engaging this chaplaincy work. With that in mind, I’ve continued my daily meditation practice and my relationship to the AFM Spiritual Nurture Group, and have attended AFM remotely when I am able. I’ve also attended several local worship groups – the Santa Fe Friends Meeting, a Wednesday Celtic service, a Tuesday Taize service, and a Friday Shabbat service – each celebrating Spirit in their own way. Their messages, music, and communities rejuvenate me.

Thank you for continuing to hold my chaplaincy ministry and me in the Light. And if you are coming this way, please let me know!

With gratitude,
Julie Hliboki

Lastly, Ministry and Worship has been asked to envision what Meeting will look like next year. Meeting for Business approved our proposal to continue the hybrid form to the end of the year with an evaluation at that time. One Friend could not imagine that having invited geographically dispersed and isolated people into the Meeting, we would “shut the door” to this new community. We will revisit this issue in December and prepare a recommendation for consideration by Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in December.

SAYMA:

Free Polazzo reported for the finance Committee Report from SAYMA. Free reported that he has deep seated concerns about SAYMA and divisions within it.

Georgia Lord also reported that she has concerns as well. Karen Morris reported that SAYMA is aware of these issues and SAYMA has invited Center for Racial Justice to help them.

These are minutes from the most recent Finance Committee.

SAYMA Finance Committee: Karen Morris, Kendall Ivie, acting treasurer, and Geeta McGahey, acting clerk.

Please Friends, respond to the nominating committee with names to fill the positions of finance clerk, treasurer and assistant treasurer. We would love to welcome more Friends to the committee, we also may need an additional member.

Please note the 2021 additional surplus in the undesignated equity, almost \$5000, bringing the total undesignated equity up to \$35,400 ,in addition to our reserves of over \$18,000. At a subsequent rep meeting, finance hopes to recommend a budget adjustment to use some of this money for good in the world. FWCC and URJ have both asked for money that has not yet been budgeted. SAYF may need increased hours for their staff. Or it could go to other national or international Quaker organizations and/or local and regional justice outreach organizations.

Please give input to the Finance Committee about how you feel this money might best be used.

The Finance Committee has reviewed the challenge to our report to Rep Meeting 146. In responding to the concerns, it is important to give the lawyer's disclaimer, "that his is not legal advice. It's not an attorney-client relationship. It's as if you were asking me for comments at a public meeting, one of our webinars that we do – something like that. So it's not formal legal advice, but I will give you my comments as I would to a public audience.

"We would like to replace the statement in question, "Nothing done by URJ with its finances was illegal or could cause IRS problems for SAYMA," which reflected the understanding of the finance committee with a corrected statement in the lawyer's words. The lawyer said he saw "nothing that would attract the attention of the IRS" and "that laws about conflict of interest vary state to state."

Again, talk to Nominating about suggestions for Treasurer, assistant treasurer, and finance clerk, or membership on the committee. .

General items of note on the SAYMA budget

- Assessments were \$43,499 which was 97% of budget.
- The yearly meeting gathering netted \$144.
- The \$1000 Pandemic Grant to JYM was completely used.

Balance Sheet Comparison

The comparative balance sheet shows SAYMA's assets, liabilities, and equity as of the end of FY2020 (September 30, 2020) and FY2021 (September 30, 2021).

Report items of note:

- Total assets were \$83,298.43 at the beginning of FY2021 and \$93,975.17 at the end of the fiscal year. This was an increase of \$10,676.74.
- The SAYF Account increased from \$5,866.63 to \$7,849.42.
- Near end of report, Undesignated Equity started FY2021 at \$30,754.32 and ended at \$35,931.58, an increase of \$5,177.26.

Profit and Loss Report

This report shows income and expenses fiscal year for FY2021 compared to FY2020. The income and expenses of SAYF except for the \$500 transfer are excluded from this report.

Fund Report

This report only shows set-aside funds that have had activity this fiscal year. The following set-aside funds had no activity: DR - FWCC 3rd World Delegates, DR – FWCC SAYMA Intl Delegates, Boone MM in Trust, Released Friend, Spiritual Development, Uplifting Racial Justice, YAF Scholarship, Youth Enrichment.

Budget Overview

This report compares actual income and expenses to budgeted amounts. The income and expenses of SAYF except for the \$500 transfer are excluded from this report

[Editor's Note: If you would like to read the financial reports referred to here, please contact the Office Coordinator at atlantaquakers@gmail.com, and she can email them to you.]

Committee Corner: Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) Local Support Committee: Steve Collins reported for the QVS Support Committee.

The national QVS organization has asked all five QVS Local Support Committees (LSCs) to create a list of Friends who can speak knowledgeably on several topics. Names will be gathered from all of the LSCs by National QVS staff in order to provide some more transition support for Fellows as they finish their QVS year and move on to the next steps in their lives. The topics include: 1) Creating a cover letter & Resumé, looking for a job in your chosen field; 2) Banks, Loans, Debit/Credit, and Financial Services; 3) Creating budgets and budgeting for the future; 4) Housing: renting, applying for housing, buying a house in different cities; 5) Taxes, recovering from NOT paying taxes; 6) Employment networking, LinkedIn and other tools for career development; 7) Entrepreneurship and Side Hustles; 8) Applying for grad school and further education. If you feel led to volunteer your help on any topic (or know of someone who can) and then possibly participate in virtual gatherings with others and groups of Fellows, please contact Mike Huber, mike@quakervoluntaryservice.org.

Announcements:

State of the Meeting Report: Lissa Place, the Clerk of the Atlanta Friends Meeting, asked for committee chairs and people with special roles in the meeting to send in items for the state of the meeting report as soon as possible. She will be starting to draft the report this month.

Mary Ann Downey reported there will be a memorial service for Renda McCaughan. We are invited to join the Wilton Connecticut Meeting on Dec 4 for her hybrid Memorial Meeting.

Approval of Minutes for October 2021

Minute: 11/21/2021:04 The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes from October 2021 Meeting for Business.

Events in the life of the Meeting

Robert Westervelt, early member of the meeting died October 20, 2021. A service was held shortly afterwards because the family was already there. His wife, Patricia Westervelt, also another early member of the meeting died five years prior.

Closing Worship

QUAKER ALPHABET SOUP

AFSC = American Friends Service Committee (“Quaker action for a just world”), www.afsc.org
Canadian Friends Service Committee, Canada's parallel organization, describes themselves as “the peace and social justice agency of Quakers in Canada,” <https://quakerservice.ca/>

FCNL = Friends Committee on National Legislation, a Quaker lobbying group in DC, www.fcnl.org

AFM = Atlanta Friends Meeting, www.atlantaquakers.org

SAYMA = Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association, our yearly meeting, with unprogrammed monthly meetings and worship groups in West Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, www.sayma.org

SEYM = Southeastern Yearly Meeting, with unprogrammed monthly meetings and worship groups in Florida, southeast Georgia, coastal South Carolina, and Managua, Nicaragua, www.seym.org

FGC = Friends General Conference, an umbrella organization of yearly and monthly meetings, primarily in the US and Canada, including AFM, SAYMA and SEYM. FGC provides resources and sponsors an annual Gathering of Friends, www.fgcquaker.org/

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Office Coordinator working at the meetinghouse, but hours by appointment

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

Ways to communicate and share information:

- You may receive the announcement sheets and other announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting. This is the announcement email 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 via email This is the discussion email list.
- You may receive notification that the newsletter is online. This is the newsletter email list.
- To join any of these email lists above, please email the office at atlantaquakers@gmail.com
- To receive weekly emails with details about Zoom and in-person meetings for worship and First Day School, email atlantaquakers@gmail.com
- To join the meeting's Facebook page, search for Atlanta Friends Meeting & click the + **Join Group** button.

If you need a directory:

Email atlantaquakers@gmail.com or call 404-377-2474

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 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.*