

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2023



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

The most recent announcement sheet is always at http://atlantaquakers.org/announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf

Meeting for Worship each First Day (Sunday) in Person & via Zoom, 10:00 – 11:00 am

QUERY FOR JANUARY

Try to live simply. A simple lifestyle freely chosen is a source of strength. Do not be persuaded into buying what you do not need or cannot afford. Do you keep yourself informed about the effects your style of living is having on the global economy and environment?

Source: Australia Yearly Meeting, Advices and Queries #45

TAKE ME TO THE DEPTHS: A REFLECTION IN SOLITUDE

by Anton Flores-Maisonet, Friend in Residence

Solitude is an invitation to take what Parker Palmer in *The Active Life* calls “a downward plunge to the depths.” Yet too often, we live in the shallows of upward mobility. We never rest our bodies, minds, or souls. We live a superficial life defined by status, power, and prestige. But the spiritual life calls us deeper into a life of integrity and wholeness - of whole-iness.

Solitude can be a frightening journey into the abyss. In mythology, monsters dwell in the abyss. But Parker Palmer, quoting author Anne Dillard urges us to “ride these monsters deeper down.”

I can empathically listen to others share their horror stories of plunging into the abyss and confronting or being confronted by their deep-seated fear. I consider it a privilege to accompany others who feel engulfed by the void of their despair, grief, and trauma. But almost every time I spend quality time in solitude, as I am in a hotel room as I write this reflection, I do not want to ride my monsters.

My monsters attack my self-worth. Their fangs puncture my Achilles heel, inducing my anxiety, insecurities, and self-criticism.

But place me in the seat of spiritual director and I can unmask the monsters of others and see them for what they are -- feral creatures longing to be tamed and loved. And I can feel my whole body long to express that desire for wholeness and redemption. For others.

But why not for me?

One gift of formalizing my role as a spiritual companion is that the intentionality of this shift has given me a new lens on the ministry of accompaniment. And one of my greatest gifts has been my spiritual growth.

I recently shared with my spiritual direction supervisor that when I am with a directee, I visualize the Spirit's presence as a room made of mirrors. As the companion and I contemplate what the Spirit might be reflecting at us, I find the same words of comfort and consolation are universally true and, thus, also a gift for me. Echoing back those genuine reflections of compassion, I also get a glimpse of my belovedness. There I discover an invitation to experience universal compassion - for the directee, their monsters, me, and my monsters.

Like the boogeyman under a child's bed, there are no monsters in our inner abyss. There are only those parts of us that we are still afraid to love unconditionally. So while we attempt to compartmentalize ourselves into fragments, in reality, we only vilify ourselves, thus denying our whole-iness and the truth that nothing can separate us from Love.

Sitting in solitude, I muster up all the courage I can and say gently yet confidently to the anxious and insecure monster within me, "Hello, faithful companion, for too long I have feared and loathed you, but today I embrace you and say, 'Take me to the depths where nothing can separate you or me from Love.'"

**PLEASE HOLD
IN THE LIGHT:**

Bill Holland
Jennifer Crumpley
Alison Mawle
Jeremiah Gold-Hopton
Karen Gold
Donna Roberts
Lynn Leuszler

If you wish to have requests for holding in the light included in this monthly newsletter, please give the names to a member of Care & Counsel.

Atlanta Friends Committees and Other Contacts

Clerk of the Meeting: Jennifer Dickie, afmclerk1@gmail.com
Office Coordinator: Nina Gooch, atlantaquakers@gmail.com
Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, 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: Jennifer Crumpley, see directory
Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, susanfires@gmail.com
Committee on Undoing Racism in AFM: Lissa Place, lissaplace@yahoo.com
Religious Education: Laura MacNorlin, laura.norlin@gmail.com
Library: Cal Gough, calgough@bellsouth.net
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Newsletter Editor: Nina Gooch, atlquakeritr@gmail.com
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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.

NEW AND UPDATED CONTACT INFO NEEDED FOR 2023 DIRECTORY by January 31

Brent Wolff, our Directory Editor, is beginning work on our 2023 AFM Directory. If you would like to be included in the 2023 directory, please email him at afmdirectory@gmail.com by January 31. If you are already in the directory, please check your information and email him with any corrections by January 31. If you're not sure if you're in the directory or you don't have the most recent copy from May or June 2022, there's a copy on the greeting table near the front door or email the office at atlantaquakers@gmail.com. If you'd like a copy of the current directory until the new one is completed, please contact the office or pick up a copy at the meetinghouse.

PLEASE JOIN US ON SUNDAYS FOR WORSHIP AND FIRST DAY SCHOOL



We will continue to worship on Sunday at 10:00 am in person at the meetinghouse in combination with worship via Zoom for the indefinite future. Please choose the option that is best for you. For the most up to date Zoom information and COVID guidelines for in-person worship, see the current announcement sheet at www.atlantaquakers.org/_announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP

10 am Sundays, combined in person and Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYlIFWEhSQUtZRVVPaIFFYmVDQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751

Passcode: 789456

ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL

(see more details for each Sunday below)

9:00 to 9:50 am Sundays, combined in person and Zoom

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

Meeting ID: 860 6366 5797

Passcode: 013191

FIRST DAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

10:15 am Sundays, in-person,

Children and teens 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.

ON TRANSFORMATION

from Bill Holland

The Quaker writer Thomas Kelly in his essay “The Eternal Now and the Social Concern” identifies what he sees as the key to our Quaker testimony to the world: “The possibility of this experience of Divine Presence, as a repeatedly realized and present fact, and its transforming and transfiguring effect upon all life – this is the central message of Friends.”

I love how Kelly builds on his experience to speak with the authority from that experience. He makes some assertions: That direct experience of the divine presence is possible. That this presence is known/experienced in our encounters and in the present moment. It is available here and now as well as in past experiences (“repeatedly realized”). That this presence has a transforming quality – we are changed by the encounter and this change resonates or affects all of our life.

As we alternate between periods of deep worship and the mundane world of everyday life, the hope is that they come closer and closer together. I think it is back to that gentle Quaker approach of tenderness and gentleness, in which transformation is a slow ongoing process of being more and more sensitive to the Light. Caroline Fox (1840), a 19th century Friend reported she one day in meeting she was in “meditation on my state . . . [and] I seemed to hear the words articulated in my spirit, “Live up to the Light thou has, and more will be granted thee.”

When we gather together in worship, I hope we strengthen each other to living up to the the Light we have, to know our condition and hold that in the healing, loving light. We cheer each other on.

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS & ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sunday, January 1, 8,15, 22, 29

Adult First Day School meets in person at the meetinghouse, and people can also 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. Beginning January 8, Adult First Day School will begin its annual Quakerism 101 on second, third, and fourth Sundays; see below for more info. On fifth Sundays, including January 29, the group will have worship sharing on a query. For more information about worship sharing, see <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcresources/spiritual/spiritual-practices/worship-sharing-guidelines/>.

POTLUCK – Sunday, January 1

We have resumed our monthly potlucks. Please join us for a potluck lunch following the rise of Meeting on the first Sunday of the month. Each month a different committee will take charge of set up and clean up. Please consider bringing not only enough food for your family, but also a little extra for newcomers and guests.

COMMITTEE ON UNDOING RACISM IN ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING -- Tuesday, January 3

The Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting (CURAFM) will have an online meeting on the first Tuesday of the month, January 3, at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Lissa Place (lissaplace@yahoo.com or 678-793-9260) or Susan Firestone (susanfires@gmail.com or 404-268-6480)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88572920986?pwd=Q0FHc0Jzb3Y0RmpTZk5FdnAxaCtHUT09>

Meeting ID: 885 7292 0986

Passcode: 238191

WEDNESDAY MORNING MEETING FOR WORSHIP – Wednesdays, January 4, 11, 18, 25, etc

8:30 am. This ongoing meeting for worship is again both in person and Zoom.

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

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

Meeting ID: 92038862952

Password: 726229

WED EVENING WORSHIP WITH MACON WORSHIP GROUP – Wed, January 4, 11, 18, 25, etc

The Macon Worship Group, which is under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting, worships via Zoom every Wednesday at 7:00 pm.. They invite us to join them for this ongoing meeting for worship! For more information, contact Bill Holland and Mary Ann Downey.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85017745787?pwd=RUQ3OGJPenMrYktXemlXl1d2R3Q2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 850 1774 5787

Passcode: 22Light

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR – Thursday, January 5 and ongoing

The book group reading works by and about people of color meets at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month. They are currently meeting in person and via Zoom. On January 5, they'll discuss *The Love Songs of W.E.B. DuBois* by Honoree Fanonne Jeffers. Future books include *Daughter of Fortune* by Isabelle Allende on February 2. For questions or the Zoom link, contact Susan Cole (cole2544@bellsouth.net).

QUAKERISM 101 IN ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL -- begins Sunday, January 8

The Adult First Day class will begin its annual Quakerism 101 series, on the second, third and fourth Sundays of the month. This begins January 8, 2023 and runs through March. This year we will use a three part approach beginning with AFM (using the meeting's history, *As Way Opened*), widening our study to our yearly meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association or SAYMA (using the 2021 *Guide to Our Faith and Practice*), and finally further widening our view to cover the history and current status of world-wide Quakerism (using *Quakerism: the Basics* by Margery Post Abbott and Carl Abbott). Please join us for this series, even if you have not read the books and even if you do not regularly attend Adult First Day School. The first two books are available at AFM or as pdf's, and the third is available for purchase at online bookstores, including quakerbooks.org. To get a copy of *As Way Opened*, contact Bill Holland or Mary Ann Downey or the office. Printed copies of SAYMA's Faith and Practice are in the literature rack near the front door of the meeting house or can be ordered at https://www.sayma.org/online_documents.htm. You can also download a free .pdf there.

FORUM: ROOT CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS -- Monday, January 9

House the Unhoused DeKalb Alliance will host a forum on Monday, January 9 at 7pm at Oakhurst Presbyterian Church (118 Second Ave, Decatur, GA 30030). Titled "This Land Tells a Story, Root Causes of Homelessness: Race Gentrification, and the Unhoused in Metro Atlanta," the panel includes Dr. Dan Immergluck from Georgia State University, Dr. Sara Patenaude from the Decatur Housing Authority, Shelly Simmons from the Statewide Independent Living Council of Georgia and Kamau Franklin from Community Movement Builders, Inc. The panel will be moderated by Fonta High, Co-Chair of the Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights. The panel is free and all are welcome to attend. Any questions can be directed to Sara Patenaude, sdpatenaude@gmail.com. Sara is also a member of AFM, so you can speak with her after meeting for worship.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS -- Sunday, January 15

Stay after meeting for worship, whether in person or via Zoom. Meeting for Business will be held in a combined format about 11:45. Minutes from our last Meeting for Business are below. http://atlantaquakers.org/site_pdf_docs/Guidelines_for_Meeting_for_Business.pdf has more information about how meeting for worship with attention to business works.

Often we just say Meeting for Business. This article from July 2022's *Friends Journal* talks about the importance of those words we often leave out and about the spiritual side of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business:

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/meeting-for-business-as-spiritual-rehearsal>

FLGBTQC GET-TOGETHER – Sunday, January 22

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender – and Genderqueer, Non-binary and Genderqueer – and Queer Concerns will gather at coffee hour on January 22. For questions about this or lgbtq+ concerns in general or to join the FLGBTQC email list, please contact Nina Gooch, contact person for the group, either at the office or at her personal number or email.

SAYMA ANNUAL SESSIONS AND RETREAT – Friday, June 23 to Monday, June 26

the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA), our yearly meeting, announces 2023's Annual Sessions and Retreat at Berea College, Berea, Kentucky:

We are grateful for the suggestions and support of many Friends outside the committee including the SAYMA Uplifting Racial Justice committee for giving feedback that helped us reach our final choice.

The Yearly Meeting Planning Committee diligently worked for the last 4 months to identify venues that could host our yearly retreat and sessions in June of 2023. We reached out to over 20 different venues across 5 states including 5 HBCU's. Ultimately 4 of the venues met all the requirements including dates, space, housing, and catering. The prices varied significantly as did the geographic locations. We finally settled on Berea College for several reasons including its mission and history of racial and economic equity in education, its dining service that uses locally grown food from the Berea farm, its proximity to a major interstate (I-75), and its comparatively low conference, housing, and catering costs.

We look forward to working with Berea Friends Meeting as we identify local logistical needs and we are excited about the opportunities a new venue will bring to our annual sessions and retreat!

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE GATHERING – Sunday, July 2 to Saturday, July 8

Friends General Conference (FGC), an umbrella organization providing resources for unprogrammed Quaker meetings like ours, has announced its 2023 summer Gathering, a week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community for all ages. It will be held July 2 to 8 at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, Oregon, and the theme is *Listen So That We May Live*. Plenaries will be hybrid. FGCgathering.org for more details.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SAYMA ANNUAL SESSIONS AND RETREAT AND FOR FGC GATHERING

As part of Tom and Suzan Kenworthy's bequest to the meeting, scholarships to wider Quaker events, including these, are available to Young Adult Friends (ages 18 to 35). Ministry and Worship also offers partial scholarships to anyone in the meeting attending these two events specifically. More details later or contact the Ministry and Worship Committee via Bill Hooson.

SIGNING UP TO VOLUNTEER FOR CASA ALTERNA

The new sign-up sheet to volunteer to purchase groceries and other needed items for Casa Alterna guests from January through March 2023 can be found at <http://bit.ly/3v2cXOQ>. Your support of this work is making a huge impact on the lives of asylum seekers as they find their way in a new country. Your help is greatly appreciated. Visit the Casa Alterna website at <https://casaalterna.org/> for more updates. If you have questions, reach out to Cathy Amanti at cbamanti@gmail.com.

A THANK YOU FROM THE BANNER MAKING GROUP

The Meeting's ad hoc banner making group would like to thank everyone who participated in the recent non-partisan efforts to help increase voter participation in historically marginalized communities.

GREETING FROM ABSENT FRIENDS

Rachel Osborn and Nick Butterfield, former members, send greetings to the Atlanta Meeting. Their family photo and a brief note will be on the bulletin board at the meetinghouse or contact the Office Coordinator for an electronic version.

SAYMA: EARLY MORNING WORSHIP TO HOLD SAYMA IN THE LIGHT – Wednesday mornings

Having been nurtured and moved by their participation in virtual Early Morning Worship during SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2021, Mary Kedl of West Knoxville Meeting, Folami Prescott-Adams of Atlanta Meeting, and Daryl Bergquist of Birmingham Meeting met in worship the following Wednesday morning. They agreed to continue meeting in this manner and to invite others to join them. A group of Friends has met weekly since then with a shared concern of holding SAYMA in the Light. All are invited to this Meeting for Worship, clerked by Mary Kedl, every Wednesday am at 7:00 AM Eastern / 6:00 AM Central. See www.sayma.org for Zoom link. Arriving late or leaving early due to life situations is not a problem. Arriving early, though, could set the timer going. Please do not log in prior to 6:55 AM Eastern / 5:55 AM Central. Zoom will usher us out automatically after 40 minutes.

QUAKER QUOTE: THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF

"A moral code, even when accepted for the best of reasons, necessarily tends to be negative rather than positive, to be concerned with "Thou shalt not" rather than with what an individual should give to [their] fellows. We are much concerned about the whole content of human relationship, about the meaning of "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" in the full range and depth of its implications. Loving does not merely mean doing good works; it goes further than feeding the hungry and clothing the naked. It means warmth and intimacy, open-heartedness and overwhelming generosity of hand and spirit. It means a desire to know and a courageous willingness to be known. Loving implies commitment to the other person, involvement in that person's life, whatever it may cost in suffering, whether that suffering comes through being repudiated or through identification and sharing."

~ A Group of Friends, London Yearly Meeting, 1963

MINUTES FOR TWELFTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

December 17, 2022, held in person and via Zoom in a blended meeting

Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Alison Mawle, Ann Ritter, Bill Cox, Brent Wolff, Bert Skellie, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Mary Ann Downey, Caroline Morris, Mike Aland, David Smalls, Don Bender, Elizabeth Lamb, Elizabeth Muller, Eric Glenn, Glenn Plyler, Georgia Lord, Lynn Leuzler, Ian "Big Softie" Wells, Jennifer Crumpley, Julia Ewen, Judy Lumb, Kathy Johnson, Austin Watters, Kevin Moran, Mark Bryans, Mary Bartlett, Michael Allison, Myrna Trapp, Paul Mangelsdorf, Richard Allen, Steve Collins, Susan Firestone, Jennifer Dickie (Clerk), Coryn Murphy (Recording Clerk)

Query for Twelfth Month- Live adventurously. When choices arise, do you take the way that offers the fullest opportunity for the use of your gifts in the service of God and the community?

Source: Britain Yearly Meeting, Advices and Queries #27
<https://qfp.quaker.org.uk/passage/1-02/>

Discernment:

Ministry and Worship: Bill Hooson reported for the Ministry and Worship Committee regarding membership of the Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Minute 12-18-22:01: The Atlanta Friends Meeting, on the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, approves Austin Wattles as a member of Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Minute 12-18-22:02: The Atlanta Friends Meeting, on the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship committee, approves Bill Cox as a member of Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Minute 12-18-22:03: The Atlanta Friends Meeting asks the Friends Meeting of Washington to accept the transfer of the memberships of Pat Michaelson and Joel Bowman.

Memorial Minute for Muireann Brennan: Mary Ann Downey read the memorial minute for Muireann Brennan.

Minute 12-18-22:04: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following Memorial Minute for Muireann Brennan.

Muireann Brennan, MD, MPH, 62, died on November 5, 2022, at home in Atlanta Georgia. Dr Brennan was due to retire at the end of January 2023 and had plans to return to live in Ireland at the time of her death. Following a Quaker funeral in Dublin, she was buried in the Friends Burial Ground in Temple Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin. Family members joined Atlanta Friends Meeting for a memorial celebration of her life on December 10, 2022.

She was born in Dublin Ireland to Louis and Dimphne Brennan on November 21, 1959. Muireann earned her MD from Trinity College Dublin and MPH from Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. She managed a hospital in northern Kenya and implemented public health programs in Bosnia during the Balkan war before joining the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 1996 with the National Immunization Program.

She had over 25 years of experience with CDC responding to complex humanitarian emergencies across the globe. She led an evaluation of the emergency health system in Darfur, responded to flooding and a cholera outbreak in Pakistan, supported humanitarian response activities in northern Syria, and strengthened epidemic disease surveillance in Jordan. She also coordinated vaccination campaigns in Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Somalia, South Sudan, and the most austere settings where she would travel by boat to ensure that even the most underserved were reached. Muireann evaluated and strengthened mortality surveillance in refugee camps in South Sudan and Ethiopia, conducted surveillance for gross violations of human rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and served as medical coordinator for over a million refugees in Syria and Sierra Leone.

From 2015-2018 Dr. Brennan became an epidemiologist and medical officer at the UNICEF Office of Emergency Program in Geneva, where she lived for three years. This job involved communications between the United Nations, the World Health Organization and UNICEF to mobilize the best response in emergencies.

Her colleague at the CDC, Richard Garfield, said: “When there was a tough place to be and a difficult job to do, we’d send Muireann. She was a physically small Irish woman who was tough, brave, and presented herself unambiguously. Irish people in this work are seen as neutral but engaged and demanding respect, and she was like that.” Her lifelong friend, Dr Mairead McGovern, said she was a pioneering spirit who spent her life challenging injustices. “She would physically put her life on the line for people she cared about. And, as the eldest in her family, she was always looking out for her younger siblings.”

After moving to Atlanta, Muireann attended the Atlanta Friends Meeting with her Friend, Dr. Sharon McDonnell and became a member in 2006. Friends remember her service on Care and Counsel, and Ministry and Worship committees, participation in a Spiritual Nurture Group and as a loving, compassionate Friend. She attended Adult Religious Education Classes at Meeting and kept up with the reading schedule even when traveling. In 2010 and 2012 she spoke about her spiritual journey from Catholicism to Quakerism drawn by the belief of God’s light in everyone and the challenge to live a life of equality, community, and integrity. One of the few assignments at CDC that she declined was a program in Iraq that she saw as being simply for show, without integrity. She described her love of walking through refugee camps, buying coffee, or boiled milk from women and connecting in spite of language differences. Muireann’s wisdom and compassion are best exemplified by her advice, “How will people believe that you care about 500,000 people if they cannot see that you care about one!”

Throughout her life, Muireann was always in touch with her family, visiting regularly and always reserved the month of December to be in Dublin. Family members recall her great sense of humour and her sense of adventure: she would bring her nieces and nephews to see the latest disaster movies and dystopian dramas and on ice-skating expeditions when back in Ireland at Christmas time.

She is survived by many dear friends and her beloved family including her mother, two sisters, four brothers and many nieces and nephews.

Finance Committee: 2023 Budget Paul Mangelsdorf reported for the finance committee the proposed budget. A few things changed in the budget. The employee line is a little lower due to inflation. Second, the Gifts and Affiliations were increased across the board by \$250 for each committee. The net increase was \$1350. [Editor's Note: see budget at <https://tinyurl.com/5a8nthyk>]

Minute 12-18-22:05: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the budget for 2023 as presented by the Finance Committee. We note that due to increased operating costs and increases in funds for Social Concerns and for gifts to wider Quaker organizations we will need to increase our contributions to balance the budget. We collectively commit to that goal.

Nominating Committee: Ann Ritter reported for the nominating committee.

Minute 12-18-22:06: The Atlanta Friends Meeting, on the recommendation of Nominating Committee, approves Jennifer Crumpley as clerk of Care and Counsel for a three year term from January of 2023- December of 2025.

Nominating Committee brought forward 3 people for approval for extended terms on Ministry and Worship Committee. They are Herb Edwards, Mary Ann Downey, and Bill Holland.

Minute 12-18-22:07: The Atlanta Friends Meeting, on the recommendation of Nominating Committee, approves Bill Holland for Ministry and Worship Committee for a term from January 2023-December of 2025.

Minute 12-18-22:08: The Atlanta Friends Meeting, on the recommendation of Nominating Committee, approves Mary Ann Downey for Ministry and Worship Committee for a term from January 2023-December of 2025.

Minute 12-18-22:09: The Atlanta Friends Meeting, on the recommendation of Nominating Committee, approves Herb Edwards for Ministry and Worship Committee for a term from January 2023-December of 2025.

Reports:

Nominating Committee

The committee brings Teri Key Hoosen forward to serve a three year term on Ministry and Worship. We will bring her name back next month for approval.

Nominating Committee brings Kevin Moran forward for clerk of Social Concerns Committee for a term of one year. We will bring his name back next month for approval.

Ministry and Worship: Bill Hoosen reported for Ministry and Worship.

The Atlanta Friends Meeting currently has four Friends' individual ministries under its care - Anton Flores' ministry of Casa Alternativa, Mary Ann Downey's ministry of ministry, Julie Hilboki's ministry of chaplaincy, and Richard Allan's ministry of music. Ministry and Worship recommends Atlanta Friends Meeting continue to recognize and support their ministries and will bring their names back next month for discernment. Bill Hoosen also shared that Ministry and Worship Committee will take time each quarter next year to report on the individual ministries.

Each of these ministries is held in care by an anchoring committee. The ministry and worship committee recommends the following Friends to serve on Anchoring Committees for 2023 to support Friends with recognized ministries and will bring their names back next month for discernment.

For the Ministry of Anton Flores-Maisonet (Casa Alternativa): Cathy Amanti, Charlotte Flores, Hannah MacNorlin, Christina Repoley

For the Ministry of Mary Ann Downey (Ministry): Dave Thurman, Nan O'Connor, Lewis Fuller, Bill Holland

For the Ministry of Julie Hilboki (Chaplaincy): Mary Ann Downey, Ron Nuse, Caroline Morris, Bill Holland

For the Ministry of Richard Allen (Music): Karen Morris, Susan Firestone, Bert Skellie, Ron Nuse

Ferguson Cabin Committee End of Year Report

Mark Bryans reported for the Ferguson Cabin Committee.

The Ferguson Cabins were used 140 days over the course of the last season which runs from May to November each year. Approximately 100 individuals used the facilities during that time. Groups included AFM Men's Weekend and QVS Year End Retreat.

Over the course of the year, members of the Cabins Committee met with Georgia Lord, a Murray Cove neighbor group and the group's attorney to oppose commercial development of property above Treetops Cabin. Despite efforts of Friends and neighbors, commercial zoning for that property was approved for commercial use. Friends and neighbors were told that a one-story storage facility (not for boat storage) will most likely be built. In addition, a 35' buffer zone of green space is supposed to be maintained between the commercial property and the Ferguson property.

Notable maintenance tasks included clearing a large tree that fell over the winter onto the path to the lake, replacement of a toilet in Irene cabin due to a broken tank lid and installation of a new pressure gauge on the pump. The new mini split system in Irene Cabin appears to be managing the mildew problem there. Continuously running dehumidifiers are keeping Dwight Cabin and Irene Cabins' lower bathroom mildew free.

Future projects include roof replacement on Treetops Cabin, handmade signs for new people to distinguish the names of the cabins, paint and rebuild the glider on the screen porch in Dwight Cabin and building a roof over the entrance to Irene Cabin. Hand maintenance to the driveway seems to be holding up well but there are plans to add gravel and to contract out for the driveway to continue all the way to Treetops Cabin. There is discussion of purchasing an outdoor futon and other furniture for Dwight Cabin's screen porch.

The Cabins Committee is reviewing an online calendar to assist members and attenders with scheduling. A link from the AFM website would allow for viewing Cabins' availability and a form would allow the committee to capture more information related to the use of the Cabins. Actual reservations would be managed by the Cabin scheduler, to facilitate the process and assist Friends who don't use the internet.

AFM Budgeted Line Item for Cabins Property Insurance: \$1,337.00

Beginning Balance on 11/1/2021	\$10,059.05
Rental Income and donations	\$ 2,985.00
Expenses (Lake Burton Civic Association, Electric, Supplies, Mini-split)	\$ 6,553.84
Ending Balance on 10/31/2022	\$ 6,490.21

The clerk asked if the committee had considered raising the nightly rate for rental in the coming year to more completely cover costs. Mark Bryans said that they were discussing it and would likely raise the rates in the coming year.

CURAFM

Jennifer Dickie read the report for CURAFM. The Ad Hoc Committee for Anti Racist Policies and Procedures is being laid down. We have completed our work of having the Racist Incident Policy and Procedure approved through Business Meeting. Although we learned in the process that there are various policies that still need to be reviewed and updated, they will need to be looked at by other committees.

Susan Firestone thanked the many other committees who supported CURAFM throughout this process. CURAFM would like to publicize the policy to the rest of the meeting and they are looking for people to be nominated to serve on the Interpersonal Racist Incident Policy Committee.

Clerk's Items

Jennifer Dickie, the clerk of the meeting, reminded committees to submit end of year reports by the end of December and thanked those who had already submitted them. She reported that she would begin writing the state of the meeting report in January.

Announcements

A memorial service was held at the Meetinghouse for Muireann Brennan on December 10, 2022.

Approval of Minutes from 11th month 2022

Minute 12-18-22:10 The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes from the 11th Month.

Closing Worship

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

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday, 10 am to 1 pm and Friday, by appointment

web and email: atlantaquakers.org, atlantaquakers@gmail.com

voicemail/phone: 404-377-2474

Clerk: Jennifer Dickie, afmclerk1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com

Ways to communicate and receive 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.
- **You may receive weekly reminders about in person and Zoom worship and First Day School via a new email list.** This is the worship reminder list.

To join any of these email lists above, please email the office at atlantaquakers@gmail.com

To join the meeting's Facebook group, search for Atlanta Friends Meeting & click the + **Join Group** button.

Do you need a directory, printed or electronic?

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! Place a financial contribution in the slot marked "Contributions" in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse or mail to our mailing address. Donate online at atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm with a credit card or paypal. Sign up to volunteer on Sunday morning, at <http://tinyurl.com/afmvolunteers>. Contact the Nominating Committee to serve on a committee. Thanks!

Want to submit an announcement, letter, article, etc to the newsletter? Email 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.*