

# ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

## MAY 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](http://atlantaquakers.org/announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf)

Meeting for Worship each First Day (Sunday) in Person & via Zoom, 10:00 to 11:00 am  
Details page 2

### QUERY FOR MAY

How can we speak up and improve as a community and society using the SPICES?

Source: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade class, Friends School of Atlanta  
[SPICES is an often used abbreviation for the Quaker testimonies of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community and Equality.]

### THE INNER LIGHT AND SILENT WORSHIP

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from John Andrew Gallery's "The Life of the Spirit" in April's Friends Journal  
<https://www.friendsjournal.org/issue-category/2023/april-2023/>

All this brings me back to the concept of the Inner Light and the significance of silent worship. Historically, and even today, turning to the Inner Light for guidance is a core concept of Friends, almost as if that Light only comes on when we turn to it for assistance. But this is a misunderstanding; the Light is always on; we are always being guided in the direction of spiritual growth by both an Inner and Outer Light. There is no need to ask for guidance. The problem is we are so distracted by our own concerns, our own needs, and desires that we are not sufficiently awake and alert enough to see or recognize the guidance we are being given, except in rare moments. Our task is to remove these blinders, to awaken, which is the way Buddha described himself to the first person he encountered after his enlightenment.

The purpose of silent meeting for worship is to help us do exactly that: to learn to turn off the distractions; the constant self-absorption we have with our own ideas, needs, and desires; and to awaken ourselves to an awareness of the presence of God in our lives. When we can do that in meeting for worship, we often hear a message from within or from another person that gives a new insight. But to hear that message, we must be awake and alert: undistracted by our own thinking. We must give up our "own willing," as Isaac Pennington said, and be willing to accept the guidance we are given: the paths the Light illuminates. As I wrote in an earlier *Friends Journal* article ("Wait and Watch," *FJ* June 2006), meeting for worship is about spiritual practice; it is an opportunity to learn how to be awake and alert so that in our daily lives the unobstructed Inner Light is able to help us recognize, hear, see, and accept the messages that come to us through the people and events that the Outer Light brings to guide us on our way.

## PLEASE JOIN ATLANTA FRIENDS ON SUNDAYS FOR WORSHIP AND FIRST DAY SCHOOL

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We continue to worship on Sunday at 10:00 am in person at the meeting house 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 info and COVID guidelines for in-person worship, see the current announcement sheet at [www.atlantaquakers.org/\\_announcements/Announcement\\_Sheet.pdf](http://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.

There are three Wednesday opportunities for worship available each week. See the announcement sheet at [http://atlantaquakers.org/\\_announcements/Announcement\\_Sheet.pdf](http://atlantaquakers.org/_announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf) for details.

## FGC MINISTRY ON RACISM WEEKLY VIRTUAL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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Friends General Conference (FGC) Ministry on Racism offers weekly virtual worship opportunities for Friends of Color and for White Friends / Friends of European descent Confronting Racism. You need to register for these free events through the FGC website, and then you will be sent the Zoom link, which is recurring. The Friends of Color virtual meeting for worship is every Wednesday at 8 p.m. ET. There is one meeting for worship for White Friends/ Friends of European Descent Confronting Racism every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. ET. There is another meeting for worship for White Friends/ Friends of European descent every Friday at noon ET. For details and registration links, see <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/ministry-on-racism/>.

## PODCAST: HOW DO WE ALIGN OUR EVERYDAY DECISIONS WITH OUR IDEALS?

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Friend in Residence Anton Flores-Maisonet is featured on the newest episode of Pendle Hill's podcast, *The Seed: Conversations for Radical Hope*. He invites us to listen as he probe the query, "How do we align our everyday decisions with our ideals to create the world we want to see?" <https://www.buzzsprout.com/2032871/12356287-integrity-imagination-facing-what-we-fear-with-anton-flores-maisonet>. Written version also available.

## LETTER FROM OUR YEARLY MEETING CO-CLERKS

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March 31, 2023

Dear Friends,

*Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association [SAYMA] has been undergoing change over the past few years. Several monthly meetings have lost members to relocation, death, effects of the pandemic, and grief. Two monthly meetings have withdrawn. Our yearly meeting can only be as alive as we choose it to be. Engagement is the lifeblood of the yearly meeting. Our reinvigorated committees are working faithfully, as evidenced by their reports, which we encourage Friends to read. These reports are attached to the Representative Meeting minutes. Committees are actively inviting more participation from each meeting, as Friends feel led.*

The minutes of Representative Meeting 150 (3/11/2023) are posted on [sayma.org](https://www.sayma.org) under the Documents tab: [https://www.sayma.org/online\\_documents/RM150\\_Minutes.pdf](https://www.sayma.org/online_documents/RM150_Minutes.pdf)

150-07 Yearly Meeting Planning Committee: Yearly Meeting announcement

*“Yearly Meeting 2023 will be held at Berea College in Berea, Kentucky. The dates for YM Sessions and Retreat this year will be Friday, June 23, 1:00pm EDT - Tuesday, June 27, 1:00pm EDT. We have decided to extend our sessions and retreat event by one full day. This added day results in three full days for engaging in session, the business of the yearly meeting, without compromising the opportunity for spiritual discernment and the element of retreat that all believe are critical to our physical, emotional, and spiritual health. Our intention with this addition is to move beyond business for business sake and into the space of spiritual discernment which requires time. And we hope the additional day will allow Friends the need to feel a sense of retreat.....” All buildings are wheelchair accessible. The campus is flatter than Warren Wilson College’s campus, and a golf cart has been reserved to aid in accessibility. Further questions and suggestions - for example, how to be more inclusive of online participants - are welcomed and can be sent to [ympc@sayma.org](mailto:ympc@sayma.org).*

150-05 Nominating Committee Request

*The Nominating Committee urges monthly meetings not yet represented on the committee to work to identify a member so that the committee can know more widely the gifts of Friends across SAYMA. We draw Friend’s attention to the perspective on nominations expressed by the quote from Britain Yearly meeting in the Nominating Committee Report.*

[https://www.sayma.org/online\\_documents/RM150\\_Minutes.pdf](https://www.sayma.org/online_documents/RM150_Minutes.pdf) : (see page 18 for quotation)

150-06 Ministry and Nurture Committee

*“The Ministry and Nurture Committee accepts the charge in the narrative of Rep Meeting 149-13. We will review the SAYMA Uplifting Racial Justice report and proposed minutes and discern actions to address concerns therein.*

*We believe exploration of past and present harms is essential in the journey toward healing injustices within our own community, a journey to which we are very much committed. Acknowledgments of wrongdoing and apologies are necessary to build honest cross-cultural relationships.*

*The Ministry and Nurture Committee has requested to facilitate reflection sessions on the proposed minutes at Yearly Meeting 52 (June 23-27, 2023). Revelation from those reflections will be used to guide recommendations for action.”*

150-08 SAYF Steering Committee:

*“ If there are upper elementary or middle school young Friends in your monthly meeting, SAYF*

[Southern Appalachian Young Friends] would like to know about them so that we can work on our outreach to your community.” The committee will be reaching out to monthly meetings about both rising 6th graders and ways Friends can support the SAYF community.

**150-09 Earth Justice Committee:**

The Earth Justice Committee is seeking interested Friends, inviting you to a virtual meeting on Monday, April 17 at 7pm EDT. For details and a meeting link, please contact Steve Livingston at: [steve.livingston.personl@gmail.com](mailto:steve.livingston.personl@gmail.com)

**150-17 Finance Committee**

“To predict our income as accurately as possible, the Treasurer or Finance clerk contacts each of the monthly meeting treasurers about their expected assessment amounts for the next year. Finance would like to hear from treasurers by March 15.

The Wider Quaker Allocations committee meets in March to determine the percentages allocated to each WQO that SAYMA supports and reports to the Finance committee by April 1. Currently this Committee needs volunteers. The Treasurer uses previous year percentages in the absence of new information.”

With appreciation for all who are doing the work of SAYMA including those holding SAYMA in the Light,

Daryl Berquist and Margaret Farmer, co-clerks

**PLEASE HOLD  
IN THE LIGHT:**

Margie Rece and family  
Bill Hooson and family  
Lynn Leuszler  
Bill Holland  
Don Bender  
Susan Firestone

If you wish to have requests for holding in the light included in this monthly newsletter and in the announcement sheet, 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](mailto:afmclerk1@gmail.com)  
Office Coordinator: Nina Gooch, [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, [afmtreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto:afmtreasurer1@gmail.com)  
Ministry & Worship: Bill Hooson, [bhooson@aol.com](mailto:bhooson@aol.com)  
Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280  
Social Concerns: Kevin Moran, [moran.kevinmoran.kevin@gmail.com](mailto:moran.kevinmoran.kevin@gmail.com)  
Administration: Steve Collins, [shcollins75@gmail.com](mailto:shcollins75@gmail.com)  
Care & Counsel: Jennifer Crumpley, [afm.care.counsel@gmail.com](mailto:afm.care.counsel@gmail.com)  
Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, [susanfires@gmail.com](mailto:susanfires@gmail.com)  
Committee on Undoing Racism in AFM: Lissa Place, [lissaplace@yahoo.com](mailto:lissaplace@yahoo.com)  
Religious Education: Laura MacNorlin, [laura.norlin@gmail.com](mailto:laura.norlin@gmail.com)  
Library: Cal Gough, [calgough@bellsouth.net](mailto:calgough@bellsouth.net)  
Nominating: Lissa Place, [lissaplace@yahoo.com](mailto:lissaplace@yahoo.com)  
Newsletter Editor: Nina Gooch, [atlquakerltr@gmail.com](mailto:atlquakerltr@gmail.com)  
Webmaster: Aaron Russetta, [arxaaron@gmail.com](mailto:arxaaron@gmail.com)  
Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, [afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com](mailto:afmbookkeeper1@gmail.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.**

**DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING IN THE LOST AND FOUND???**

Please check the Lost and Found bin under the greeting table by the front door for lost items. Some items go all the way back to 2020. If you've lost small or valuable items, (jewelry, keys, etc) please contact the office. There is also a drawer in the kitchen labeled PLASTIC CONTAINERS if you've left any after potluck. (There's also a glass container or two in there.)

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SAYMA AND FOR FGC GATHERING (apply by May 12)

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The meeting will provide scholarship assistance for your onsite attendance at either gathering. Check out the registration site, assess your needs, talk to other friends and let us know how we can help you attend. All that is needed in the name, contact information and amount requested. If you are applying as a young adult (18-35) indicate this as it is a separate pot of money. Submit your scholarship request by May 12 to Bill Hooson, Clerk of Ministry and Worship Committee at [bhooson@aol.com](mailto:bhooson@aol.com).

## REGISTER FOR SAYMA GATHERING AND SESSIONS BY JUNE 1 (dates June 23 to 27)

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Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) will hold Annual Sessions and Retreat from June 23 to 27 at beautiful Berea College, Berea, Kentucky. The Registration deadline is June 2. To access registration information. <https://www.sayma.org/YM2023/>, particularly the Advance Program.

The SAYMA Gathering is a wonderful opportunity to get to know Friends from across the southeast, participate in worship and workshops and commune with beautiful nature. This year the basic adult package with meals is \$305 for a shared room, for teens \$300 and children participate at no cost. Atlanta Meeting encourages interested members and attenders to participate. Our Clerk Jennifer Dickie is the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Clerk!

## REGISTRATION OPEN FOR FGC GATHERING (dates July 2 to 8)

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### FGC Gathering 2023

Join Friends from across the continent at the 2023 Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering "Listen So That We May Live"! [FGC ([fgcquaker.org](http://fgcquaker.org)) is an umbrella organization providing resources for unprogrammed Quaker meetings like ours.] Learn more about what's happening at the Gathering this year at <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/>. Experience a week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community for all ages at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, Oregon from July 2 to 8, 2023! There will also be livestreamed plenaries and Bible Half Hour for those not able to travel to Oregon. Regular registration began April 26, late fees begin June 1, and registration for Junior Gathering and the High School Program ends June 8.

- View the **Gathering Schedule** or read the **Advance Program**
- **Workshops**: Choose from 34 options!
- **Children & Teens**: young people learn, play, and thrive at the Gathering, with the **Junior Gathering** program for children each morning and evening, and a round-the-clock **High School Program** full of spiritual exploration, community building, and fun!
- **Worship**: many daily opportunities to worship together, and Bible Half Hour each morning
- **Evening Programs**: Spirit-led messages from a wide variety of speakers, Tuesday interest groups, and an all-ages dance party on Friday
- **Friends of Color**: join the **pre-Gathering Retreat for People of Color & their Families**, or come to afternoon activities in the People of Color Center.
- **Adult Young Friends**: Friends age 18–35 who come together in a housing cluster, affinity groups, and late evening activities and much more!

## SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS AND ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays

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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. Derek Haroutune will share their story on May 7. (To listen to Ellen McQueen's Spiritual Journey, shared April 2, visit <https://tinyurl.com/48a8nxk2>. To listen to other previous Spiritual Journey, contact Mary Ann Downey.)

We offer a standing invitation to all attenders and members, those new to meeting, transfers from other meetings or longtime Atlanta members and attenders to share your answers to these questions. Some Friends find it helpful to do this as an interview. For more information and to schedule a time to tell your story contact Mary Ann Downey at [madowney@mindspring.com](mailto:madowney@mindspring.com). You can also learn more about these stories at <https://www.friendsjournal.org/telling-stories-spiritual-journey/> and <https://www.friendsjournal.org/what-we-can-say-now/>.

On second, third, and fourth Sundays in May, Adult First Day School's book for discussion will be *Hope Leans Forward* by Valerie Brown. All are welcome, whether you have read the book or not. On fifth Sundays, Adult First Day School will have worship sharing based on a query, either that month's query or another query.

Adult First Day School meets in person at the meetinghouse, and people can also join via Zoom. (See above for Zoom details.)

## JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING RETREAT -- Friday to Sunday, May 5 to 7

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Atlanta Friends Meeting will be hosting a retreat for children and families across SAYMA May 5 to 7. Children age 3 to 11 and their families (including older and younger siblings) are all welcome! If you're interested please fill out the registration for at [tinyurl.com/jymretreat](https://tinyurl.com/jymretreat). Reach out to Asa Kramer-Dickie ([afm.young.friends@gmail.com](mailto:afm.young.friends@gmail.com)) or Laura MacNorlin ([laura.norlin@gmail.com](mailto:laura.norlin@gmail.com)) with questions. On Friday, May 5, there will be a potluck to kick off the Junior Yearly Meeting Retreat! Bring a dish and join us at 6:30pm for fellowship and yummy food. Reach out to Asa at [afm.young.friends@gmail.com](mailto:afm.young.friends@gmail.com) if you're planning to attend and bring a dish.

## POTLUCK – Sunday, May 7

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Please join us for a potluck lunch following the rise of Meeting on the first Sunday of the month. Weather permitting, we have tables outside for you to enjoy. If you can, please bring not only enough food for your family, but also extra for newcomers and guests.

## BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR – Thursday, May 4 and ongoing

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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 May 4, they'll discuss *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Future books include *A Tale for the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki on June 1; *Master Slave Husband Wife* by Ilyon Woo on August 3; poems selected by members of the group on September 7; and *Afterlives* by Abdulrazak Gurnah on October 5. For questions or the Zoom link, contact Susan Cole ([cole2544@bellsouth.net](mailto:cole2544@bellsouth.net)).

## YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS RETREAT – Friday, May 12 to Sunday, May 14 (RSVP by May 7)

The Young Adult Friends will have a retreat Saturday to Sunday May 13 to 14 at AFM's Ferguson Cabins (about 2.5 hours north of Atlanta). Anyone aged approximately 18 to 35 is welcome. See details and schedule, and RSVP by May 7 at <https://forms.gle/UXVatw1QFrC7stHq6>.

## TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT RACE – Wednesday, May 10

Lissa Place and Keldric Thomas, trained facilitators, are hosting a second discussion about how to engage kids of all ages in a conversation about race, creating an environment where kids are encouraged to ask questions about race, and how to bring up race and respond to kids' needs in a good way. Creating a brave space where parents or other interested parties can ask any questions without feeling like they are going to get it wrong is the hallmark of this evening. Studies have shown that talking about race with our kids helps them to grow into more anti-racist adults than parenting with the color blind approach where parents "don't see race" and therefore don't discuss it. Learn skills and discuss strategies as well as take time for discussion and reflection on how to have these difficult conversations with your kids. Come join us for this hybrid workshop. We will be meeting in the Friends School of Atlanta lunchroom from 6:00-7:30 on Wednesday May 10. There will be a Zoom option. Last time we had a lively conversation, and we look forward to having that again! This event is hosted by AFM's Committee on Undoing Racism in AFM (CURAFM) and the Friends School.

Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751

Passcode: 789456

## CELEBRATION OF WOMEN – Sunday, May 14

The Social Concerns committee invites everyone to stay for a celebration of women of all ages following Meeting for Worship on May 14, Mother's Day. We will have giveaways, including mugs, information about notable women, and refreshments. We encourage everyone to bring a book about women to add to the sharing table for children or adults. We also encourage you to write a few sentences about a special woman in your life and bring a paper copy for a display. For the adventurous, consider joining folks from the Social Concerns committee near the video screen as we share questions and search for answers about notable women pictured on poster cards in a hybrid event so people who wish to join by Zoom may stay on the screen after Meeting for Worship or join on the Meeting Zoom link.

## DEIDRE McCALLA PERFORMANCE – Saturday, May 20

Deidre McCalla, long-time Meeting attendee, will be performing at the Fiddler's Green Coffeehouse on Saturday, May 20, 2023. Deidre's current album ENDLESS GRACE has been extremely well-received in the past year making the Best Folk Album of the the year lists for Folk Alley, PopMatters, and Rhythms Magazine. Also on the bill that evening is Nicholas Edwards William, a roots music multi-instrumentalist and storyteller. Fiddler's Green is sponsored by the Atlanta Area Friends of Folk Music and is held at the First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta, 470 Candler Park Dr NE. 7:00pm \$10 (more if you can!) For more on the album (and previous albums), see <https://deidremccalla.com/endless-grace/>.

## MINUTES FOR THIRD MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

April 16, 2023, held in person and via Zoom in a blended meeting

Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

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**Attendance:** Richard Allen, Cathy Amanti, Steve Collins, Jennifer Crumpley, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Susan Firestone, Anton Flores-Maisonet, Nina Gooch, Bill Holland, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Elizabeth Lamb, Suzie Lippold, Georgia Lord, Paul Manglesdorf, Alison Mawle, Kevin Moran, Lissa Place, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, David Small, Myrna Trapp, Ian "Big Softy" Wells, Jennifer Dickie (Clerk), Emma Bingham (Recording Clerk)

### **Worship**

**Query for Fourth Month:** Do all aspects of your life bear the same witness? Do you center your life in the awareness of the presence of God so that all things take their rightful place?

Source: Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association *Faith and Practice*:  
[https://www.sayma.org/online\\_documents.htm](https://www.sayma.org/online_documents.htm)

### **Discernment:**

#### **Finance Committee (Beloved Community Scholarship) —**

Paul Manglesdorf reported for the Finance Committee.

Paul returned with answers to Friends' questions about the meeting's proposed fiscal sponsorship of the Beloved Community Scholarship. This is a scholarship program for students of color — see [3rd month minutes](#) for details. [Editor's Note: <http://atlantaquakers.org/archive.htm>]

Some Friends had expressed concern about the program founders and donors being anonymous. After discussion, the founders decided that the important thing to them is to be anonymous to the scholarship recipients, not to the meeting. Therefore, Paul reported that Jonah McDonald and Dana Goldman are the founders. They can be contacted with any questions about the scholarship.

Friends had also asked whether a white student could receive the scholarship, and it was clarified that this is not the case.

Bill Hooson asked if this is a fund that is collected and spent annually, or if it is endowed. Paul said it is collected and spent annually. But Paul suggested that there could be a small reserve in case a situation comes up where a donor can't pay the amount they originally promised for all four years the student they are supporting is in college.

Alison Mawle said she appreciates that the founders are no longer anonymous. However, she said she is concerned that it is just first come first served rather than having a selection process, and she asked about the preferred vs. required qualifications. [Friends may refer to [3rd month minutes](#) for clarification about these questions.]

Alison also noted that if AFM is the fiscal sponsor, then the meeting will be associated with the scholarship. She said one thing the scholarship is set up to do is to make amends, but this is not something that has been discussed in the whole meeting (though there are multiple committees, such as CURAFM and M&W, having these discussions). She expressed concern that the meeting hadn't found unity around these issues, and asked how fiscal sponsorship of this scholarship is moving us forward as a meeting overall, especially regarding making amends.

Georgia Lord said it moves us forward because it is supporting the leading of two people who have close association with our meeting. She said that this is one way the meeting moves forward from



talking about an issue to doing something about it — it's an exploration that can happen before the whole meeting comes to a perfect understanding of what to do.

Nina Gooch said she believes one strength of the Society of Friends is that leadings can come from the bottom up, so that we don't have to wait until everyone decides on it. While the meeting's stance on reparations is important, it's also important to let people begin to do the work now while the meeting is thinking about the bigger picture. If we are going to be a fiscal agent, it should be in line with our purpose. But being a fiscal agent is also not a big deal. It is mostly logistical, and the sponsoring organization isn't necessarily an important public aspect of the scholarship.

Bill Hooson said he thought he heard Alison say that it may be time to consider a threshing session on reparations and reconciliation. There is a forum on this topic in a few weeks, and several committees have recently been discussing it.

Kevin Moran said he agrees we need to address the issue of reparations. But this minute is about people contributing to scholarships for a specific group. He believes we can allow individuals to contribute as they are led and also explore the issue of reparations as a meeting at the same time.

Mary Ann Downey said that we have had a number of discussions on reconciliation and reparations. Last year a minute on those topics was approved. The minute said we would identify ways to act on the intention of the meeting, and that this sponsorship is a clear way to act, until we get to the point where we have more specific steps we can act on as a meeting.

Bert Skellie said he agreed with what had been said. He added that the fact that the founder is Jonah, who has served the community for a long time, means we can trust him to carry forward our values with this scholarship.

Alison said she was heartened by other people's responses to her concerns.

**Minute 4-16-23:01:** On the recommendation of the Finance and Social Concerns committees, the Atlanta Friends Meeting agrees to be the Fiscal Agent for the Beloved Community Scholarship program.

#### **Memorial Minute - Bruce Burton —**

Mary Ann Downey read the memorial minute for Bruce Burton.

Mary Ann noted that there was a memorial service for Bruce last year, and his death was recorded, but a memorial minute had not been read yet.

**Minute 4-16-23:02:** The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following memorial minute for Bruce Burton.

Bruce D Burton  
05/20/1946 – 3/24/2022

Bruce passed away peacefully March 24, 2022, in his home surrounded by those who cherished him — his wife and children — after a period of declining health. A celebration of his life was held on Saturday, May 14, 2022, at the Atlanta Friends Meeting at 2 p.m.

Bruce was born May 20, 1946, in Cleveland Ohio to Donald Erwin Burton and Virginia Ann Cook Burton. Bruce had McGregor Bay, Canada, engraved on his heart, his most favorite place in the world. He loved to be there to enjoy the sights, sounds, and essences of the out-of-doors. Bruce was the kindest and gentlest of men, loyal, with an ever-ready smile. His greatest blessings were his family and friends, fellow Veterans, and his SCI Community. We are so fortunate to have known this extraordinary human being.

He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Marcia, children Malinda Pauly (husband Dan) of Burlingame California, Timothy Pauly, (husband Jeffry Ramirez) of Colfax California, Christina Pauly Tarr (husband Matt Tarr), of Jackson Heights NY, brother Dale E Burton, Sister-in-Law Missy Burton, Six grandchildren, Nick, Eddie, Orion, Joni, Lila, Felix. Bruce was also beloved by his brothers- and sisters-in-law, their spouses and children, aunts, uncles, cousins. Remembrances were sent to: Shepherd Center: Select Patient Assistance Fund or the Paralyzed Veterans of America: PVA.org.

### **Reports:**

#### **Finance - 1st Quarter Financials —**

Paul Manglesdorf reported for the Finance Committee.

(See the first quarter financial statement [here](#).)

As of March 31, 2023, AFM is running a \$7,908 deficit YTD. A deficit through this part of the year is usual, as contribution income is largely received in the 4th quarter. The deficit is \$10,375 less than the \$18,283 deficit that was budgeted through March. Revenue YTD is \$7,388 higher than budget and expenses are \$2,987 less than budget.

Income YTD is \$2,348 more than the same period in the prior year driven by significantly higher donations (\$8,878 more than 2022) and higher rental income (\$3,825 higher this year) offset by higher expenses.

Expenses are running \$10,256 more than the prior year driven by Employee expense (we had two open positions last year). Employee expense is higher than last year although below budget. Occupancy expense is over budget by \$1,420 and higher than the prior year by \$1,764. Higher Occupancy expense is a result of repairs to two HVAC higher unit. One area where we are running favorable to budget and the prior year is Social Concerns which is purely a timing issue.

Compared to year-end, our balance sheet is \$12,260. This is the result of the YTD deficit of \$7,908 and by minor changes in the balances of the other funds. On the asset side of the balance sheet Receivables (Undeposited funds and Due from PayPal) decreased by \$47,072 which resulted in higher Checking balances. We intend to transfer some funds to the Savings Account. Further, note the \$1,025 listed as due from Ameris Bank. This represents eight fraudulent checks that were posted to our account. We have filed Fraud Affidavits and expect to be fully reimbursed.

Paul noted for anyone concerned that our account at Ameris is below the \$250,000 FDIC limit.

Paul also reported for the Finance Committee about a request from CURAFM for unbudgeted funds. CURAFM has asked for \$2,200 unbudgeted funds for training related to the Racist incident policy implementation. Although the Finance Committee generally does not like unbudgeted requests, they can see that this request may have merit. Finance believes that the meeting is in a strong enough financial position to support this request. They offer no opinion on the appropriateness of the proposed training or the qualifications of the trainers. They leave that to the discernment of the meeting as a whole.

#### **Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting —**

Lissa Place reported for CURAFM.

As AFM looks ahead to implementing the *AFM Interpersonal Racist Incident Policy*, CURAFM members see the need for training in anti-racism and restorative justice practices for both those interested in serving on the *Standing Racist Incident Response group* (Standing Response Group) and for others in Meeting.

Restorative justice circle process training provides an opportunity for everyone to be heard, for those involved in an incident to empathize with each other, and to take steps to prevent recurrence of harm. It has been used successfully in schools, criminal justice settings, and other communities, and fits within our vision of building and restoring beloved community.

We need funding for training so that our community contains enough trained people available to serve on the Standing Response Group. Training more people will allow Friends to step aside if needed while there are others to serve. Having more people trained in restorative justice circle processes can also create a supportive Meeting community.

The CURAFM budget has been \$500 per year, which is not adequate for initial nor ongoing training programs. Finance committee has approved an increase to the CURAFM budget equaling \$2,200 which reflects the difference between CURAFM 's unspent \$1000 from 2022 and 2023 budgets and the \$3,200 price of training with the organization [Restore More](#).

**Therefore we are requesting the meeting to consider approving a budget increase for CURAFM of \$2,200.**

CURAFM has been communicating with Restore More since January, and we recently approved having them do our initial training. Restore More is led by women of color and comes to us highly recommended by Friend Folami Prescott Adams. Its purpose matches well with our goal of having training in anti-racism and restorative justice practices. Their website states that Restore More exists to build capacity with Restorative Practices, Anti-Racism, and Social Emotional Learning. Through the Restorative Justice Advocates of Georgia group, CURAFM was able to experience a video session on restorative justice practices with Claudine Miles, their CEO, and liked their approach.

The Restore More staff have been very accommodating through our discovery process and negotiations. They have adjusted the content of the training session to better meet our needs, reduced the price of training, allowed for more than 10 people at no extra cost, and have allowed us more time than the usual for contract negotiations.

The training that Restore More is offering to provide Atlanta Friends Meeting includes

- Two 60 minute virtual sessions for a group of 10 or more people - sessions include easily transferable skills to other settings. Client's needs considered if changes are needed.
  - Session 1 — focus on unpacking biases to promote restorative justice practice, importance of own mindset in the process, includes activities and circle prompts, identity/ self-work linked with being anti-racist.
  - Session 2 — Restorative Practice Circles: Group members will be introduced to restorative practice circles, participate in them, discuss how restorative justice circles can be used to address racist incidents and repair racial harm within their congregation.
- Digital copies of all materials, plus extra materials as prizes.
- Surveys for effectiveness and follow-up.
- No extra cost for discovery video consultation, content creation, tailoring of handouts and interactive materials to clients' needs, session prep video session, and session preview of content 48 hours prior to session.

The Restore More training is tailored specifically to our needs. We can have more people at no additional cost, resulting in a lower net cost per participant compared to their other trainings.

We are asking the Meeting to increase our budget by \$2,200 for this training since the implementation of the Racist Incident Policy is new, and therefore we did not request any budget for training this year. In the future, we will be able to plan accordingly.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

No questions were asked, and the clerk noted that Friends could contact Lissa if anything comes up before this is brought back for discernment next month.

### **Administration —**

Steve Collins reported for the Administration Committee.

#### AFM Web Site

The ad-hoc Website Evaluation and Recommendations committee has incorporated the Meeting's survey responses into a list of plans and priorities for an extensive refresh of our website. The next step will be to form another ad-hoc group, the Website Refresh Committee, which will consist of Friends who have expressed interest in implementing the recommendations. This new committee, which replaces the previous ad-hoc committee, includes most of the members of the Website Evaluation group plus others who have expressed interest. Aaron Ruscetta will serve as clerk of the new committee.

The committee will establish a new web hosting account for AFM ("Green Geeks"), where the current website will be relocated. The AFM owned hosting account will provide separate development spaces for building, testing and reviewing the revised website configurations as the work progresses. Website changes and additions will be implemented in phases.

Website plans and initial priorities include:

- 1) **Improved navigation/search capabilities** — for announcement sheets, newsletters, volunteer sign-up, handbook, donation button, calendar, committee pages, Ferguson cabin info, library catalog, Adult First Day School info, Religious Education info, and info on wider Quaker organizations.
- 2) Content to welcome potential **new attenders**, e.g., FAQs for first-time attenders, Meetinghouse directions, Zoom instructions, photos of the Meetinghouse and attenders, further reading about Quakerism, etc.
- 3) **Improved design**, color, pictures, and artwork
- 4) **Technical improvements** – adding a Content Management System (CMS), such as WordPress, where committee clerks and others edit content on their pages; more responsive design that works for both desktop and mobile access; improved ability to deliver multimedia content such as audio, videos, etc.; make the new website more prominent in Google search results.

#### Solar Panels & Roof Leaks

The solar panels are functioning, but we have noted a few roof leaks under some panels. The solar panel installer, Creative Solar, and our roofing contractor, have made some repairs to the south facing roof (closet to West Howard), but more repairs are likely needed to the west-facing roof (closet to parking lot) before we can repaint the ceiling.

### Kitchen Fire Suppression System

We have annual inspections by the City of Decatur on our kitchen fire suppression system. In addition to several minor repairs on the system that Pye-Barker, our system maintenance firm completed recently, we need a new switch installed on the exhaust fan by an electrician. When this is done, if there's a fire, the fan will turn on and stay on and notify the alarm panel. This is a new City of Decatur requirement.

### Playground Work

Some erosion along the wooden fence near the sandbox has caused gaps to appear under the fence – gaps big enough for a child to be tempted to crawl under. Michael Price (property coordinator) has added some wood to the fence to close the gaps. We also are planning to add fresh mulch to the playground as well.

### Gutter Cleaning & Installation of Gutter Guards

We have solicited bids for this work and will be moving ahead once a winning bid is approved by the Administration committee. The intent is that the new gutter guards, once the leaves are removed from the gutters and leaks patched, will minimize overflow problems we have experienced with heavy rains.

Paul Manglesdorf said the fire suppression system and gutter maintenance will be charged to the capital improvement fund rather than the annual budget because they are large enough expenses.

Big Softy asked if there is a rain collection system. Steve and David Small answered that we have a rain barrel, but Steve said there is not a good system for using the water that collects in the rain barrel.

### **Ministry and Worship —**

Bill Hooson reported for the Ministry and Committee.

Ministry and Worship approved funds for the Reparative Justice & Right Relations for Indigenous Peoples and African Americans forum to be held 5th 1st day of 4th month.

Ministry and Worship approved up to \$500 from the Kenworthy gift to offset the costs of the Young Adult Friends retreat May 12-14, 2023 at the Ferguson Cabin.

Ministry and Worship and Care and Counsel conducted their annual joint meeting. At one time, Ministry and Worship and Care and Counsel was one committee - Ministry and Counsel. As the meeting grew and the work grew, we agreed to divide the work between the two committees. At the same time, the meeting recognized that the two committees overlapped in their spiritual responsibility for the meeting. The joint meeting is intended to permit the two committees to at least annually “consider the spiritual health of the “Meeting” and coordinate joint work.

The committees had an engaged conversation on the working statement on Land Acknowledgement and both committees approved it as written.

As ongoing business, the committees discussed handling conflicts in meeting, assessment of the Spiritual Health of the Meeting, memorial committees, and marriage committees.

### **Nominating —**

Lissa Place reported for the Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee would like to bring forward the name Amanda Gendreau for the clerk of Religious Education. Amanda works in the nursery taking care of the youngest Friends. If you haven't had a chance, get to know her this month, and her name will be brought back next month for approval.

Handbook descriptions: Nominating is asking all committee clerks to review their handbook descriptions. (Some of them haven't been updated in 10 years.) If there are no changes, please let them know that as well, so that they can know that your handbook description is complete.

Thanks to the Administration Committee for doing some of their descriptions. They have divided the Web Manager and the email holder jobs, because these jobs have been done by different people for years.

Nina Gooch went over the changes to the Office Coordinator, Web Manager, and Email List Manager positions.

First is the office coordinator — the only change is under “reports to”, which was changed from “Administration Committee Clerk of Personnel” to “the Clerk of the Administration Committee and the Personnel Liaison”.

Next, the Web Manager and Email List Manager. Originally these two positions were one position in the handbook, but they have been done by separate people for a while now, so the Email List Manager position has been separated out from the Web Manager Position.

The Email List Manager title was changed from “List-Serv Manager” to “Email List Manager”, and duties 9-12 of the Web Manager were moved to this new Email List Manager position. The Email List Manager, like the Web Manager, will be appointed for a one-year term but is encouraged to serve longer. The changes can be viewed [here](#).

These changes will be brought back next month for approval.

### **Social Concerns —**

Kevin Moran reported for the Social Concerns Committee.

The committee acknowledges that its work is a spiritual labor.

1. SCC will seek email responses to FCNL's Revision of policy regarding women's reproductive health care/abortion in order to expand the number of Friends who are represented after the listening session in March. Please send emails to Julia Ewen.
2. On April 23 Allison Tanner from AFSC will be at meeting. After meeting she will be in the library to answer questions about the AFSC campaign to build an interdenominational coalition of faith groups to address Israel's rapidly worsening treatment of the Palestinian people. David Smalls and Allison Tanner will be joining an AFSC delegation to Palestine in May. David will then spend June at the Friends School in Ramallah. When he returns he will facilitate a session at AFM with AFSC's Jacob Flowers, Allison Tanner, and Dov Braun who is an Israeli to share their experience and explore how AFM can be involved in AFSC's interfaith coalition addressing Israel's worsening treatment of Palestinian people.
3. SCC will celebrate Women on Mother's Day May 14! At the rise of meeting, we will have cake, music with Richard Allen, and storytelling with Althea Sumpter!

The clerk added that Julia Ewen is a strong advocate for celebrating women, and we missed doing that in Women's History Month, so this will be an opportunity to do that.

## Clerk's Items

The clerk announced that there will be an extension of the ad hoc committee for the kitchen update until June 30.

The clerk recommended AFM lay down the working group for the use of the Meeting House (formerly known as the working group on the reopening of the meeting house).

Three years ago at our May 2020 meeting for business we established, on the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship and Care and Counsel committees, the working group on reopening the meeting house with two minutes laying out our expectations for their work. We were in the midst of an unprecedented situation, worrying for the health and lives of those around us and struggling to figure out how to manage Zoom meetings. The Biden administration ended the Pandemic Emergency last week. While we are not free from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, the ongoing political, social, economic, and health concerns, we are firmly settled into a future that this working group helped us to reach. Their work was thorough and full of care for the spiritual and physical health of this Meeting and it is with extreme gratefulness for their service that I recommend we lay down that committee.

**Minute 4-16-23:03:** The Atlanta Friends Meeting lays down the working group on the use of the Meeting House, formerly the working group on the reopening of the Meeting House.

The Atlanta Friends Meeting thanks the working group on the use of the Meeting House for 3 years of work. This group met weekly and then monthly for over 2 years. They helped us to find ways to be safe and to continue to be in fellowship with each other during the frightening first months of the pandemic and then through the "new normal" of the ongoing crisis. They faithfully followed the directive from the meeting to stay abreast of the CDC's guidance and to consult with people inside and outside the meeting. They communicated regularly with all concerned committees, made recommendations for members & attenders, long and short term renters, and other users of the Meeting House. Ultimately they along with many committees and Friends helped us to reopen our Meeting House and welcome back Friends of all ages and vulnerabilities as they were able. We felt held in their care and we are grateful for the time and energy they dedicated to the physical and spiritual wellbeing of our community.

## Announcements

- A call for SAYMA (June 23-27 at Berea College) workshops has been issued at [SAYMA.org](https://www.sayma.org). The theme this year is "why are we here?"
- Thursday, April 27 at 7:00 pm, SCC will host a Zoom book talk using Media Benjamin's 19-minute video presentation on her new book *War in Ukraine: Making Sense of a Senseless Conflict*.
- Sunday, May 14, SCC will host a celebration of women at the rise of meeting with cake, music, and storytelling.

## Approval of Minutes from 3rd month 2023

**Minute 2023-04-16:04:** The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the 3rd month 2023 minutes.

## 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](http://atlantaquakers.org), [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com) voicemail/phone: 404-377-2474  
Clerk: Jennifer Dickie, [afmclerk1@gmail.com](mailto:afmclerk1@gmail.com) Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, [afmtreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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, talents, and money! Place a financial contribution in the slot marked "Contributions" in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse or mail to our mailing address. Or donate online at [atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm](http://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](mailto:atlquakerltr@gmail.com). Submissions may be edited for length and format. THE DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS IS THE 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF EACH PRECEDING MONTH.

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