

# Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter

Atlanta Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Quakers. All are welcome.



Meeting for Worship  
Each First Day (Sunday)  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
701 W. Howard Ave.  
Decatur, GA 30030

## NOVEMBER 2011

**Query:** “How does Truth prosper among you?” “How many Friends have suffered for Truth in the past year?” London Yearly Meeting, 1660s.

### Book Review of *Gospel* suggested by Peter Sederberg.

It is ironic that, after a half century of discoveries about the origins of the Hebrew and Christian Bibles, Christianity is still stuck in the myths of the first and fourth centuries. It is also ironic that a novel by Wilton Barnhardt, published in 1993, should be the venue to put at least a good part of the mythology and history in one place. And predict the tensions and wars to come in the Mideast.

The underlying theme for the novel is a search for faith, Truth and God. “I have lost my faith,” is the driving force. The older theologian, curmudgeon has lost his and the younger hero questions her Catholic faith. Both are caught up in an attempt to translate a coded original of a gospel attributed to the 13<sup>th</sup> disciple of Jesus, Matthias.

Chapters of the Gospel of Matthias, with extensive footnotes by the translator, are interrupted by the narrative describing the chase for the gospel and its code. The reader begins in Oxford, then travels to Ireland, Florence, Rome, Athens, Mt. Athos, Jerusalem, and up the Nile to the Sudan. The gospel, stolen from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, bounces through many hands before ending up at a mega-evangelist’s university in Louisiana. Along the way the reader hears about the salacious Popes, the Christian, virgin martyrs, the multitude of the early Jewish and Christian-Jewish sects and the pagan origins of Christmas, Easter, the Eucharist Mass, the third-day resurrection, and Ezekiel’s ascent into heaven.

At times, I felt that the author was trying to do too much, to bring in too much history and local flavor like a travelogue. This was particularly tedious when he described the clutter and cacophony around the Christian holy sites in Jerusalem. But the adventures of the travelers including Matthias kept me wondering how the search turns out. I would recommend that the traveler keep a Bible near for quick reference. You might ask how many Bible Johns and Judases were there? Speaking of John, I noted that *Revelations* instead of the proper singular was used throughout. A common mistake that any editor should have caught.

### PROGRESS ON NEW START TREATY

Submitted by Sue May

Last fall many of us in AFM lobbied for passage of the New START Treaty, and we celebrated when it passed in the Senate. Now Georgia WAND, one of the many allies working with our Friends Committee on National Legislation, reports that New START has already had positive results.

There is a growing respect between the U.S. and Russia as they resume the formal sharing of information on nuclear weapons activities. Over 1,300 reports have been filed by both parties. In addition, the Russians have conducted eight on-site inspections of U.S. nuclear weapons facilities and the U.S. has conducted nine such sessions in Russia.

This sharing of information is what New START promised, and was what Sen. Isakson stressed was critically important. When the time comes to actually reduce the number of these horrific weapons, it will happen in an atmosphere of improved communication and trust.

### **Adult First Day Class**

Lynn Leuszler will offer his spiritual journey on 11/6 and we will complete our discussion of the book, *Decision Making and Spiritual Discernment* by Nancy Bieber on 11/13.

(maybe will figure out next Sun about the rest of Nov-Dec but don't know right now.)

thanks,

### **MORE LOST MEMBERS**

As I said in last month's newsletter, as Membership Recorder, I've realized that I don't have addresses or other contact information for many of the people listed in our membership list as "Inactive." Here are some more lost members. If you can help me find any of the following people or know anything about them, please email me at ninagooch AT gmail DOT com or call me at 404-451-5974: Michael Cantwell, joined 1993; Dianne McElligot, joined 1991; Tom Eubank, joined 1990; Maurice Turcotte, joined 1988; Dave McDonald, joined 1986; Julie Woods Foster, joined 1984; Laura Donaldson, joined 1981; Donald Hyde, joined 1979; Carrie Reid, joined 1979; Bill Camp (or Ray Camp?), joined 1979

**AFM Movie Night!** Friday, November 11th, at 7:00.

The feature will be the Academy award-winning and critically acclaimed film, "Dead Man Walking." It tells the story of Sister Helen Prejean's efforts to provide emotional support and counsel to a prisoner on death row in Louisiana, to his family, and to the family of the people he was convicted of killing. Rated R.

We Invite You To Make A Donation In An Amount You Can Afford And Feel to Be Appropriate. Free popcorn! You are welcome to bring your own drinks or snacks.

### **From Faucet to Font: Water in Georgia** from Kathy Johnson

Tuesdays: October 18th, 25th and November 1st, 7:30 Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 525 East Ponce de Leon, Decatur 30030 Please join us for a speaker series looking at the central place of water in our lives. Co-sponsored by Holy Trinity and Earth Covenant Ministries

Speakers: Gil Rogers, Senior Attorney with Southern Environmental Law Center. Named Water Conservationist of the Year by the Georgia Wildlife Federation. "Water Stewardship for the 21st Century"

Randy Booker, Ph.D., environmental engineer focusing on planning systems for water supply, treatment and re-use in the US, Latin America and the Mid-East. "Global Water Management and Challenges to Sustainability."

Laura Hartt – Policy Director, Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Masters degree in wild life ecology and law degree with emphasis on environment law. "Tapped Out" – presentation on water use in the Metro area.

Rev. Kate MacGregor-Mosley : Director, Earth Covenant Ministries(Presbyterian). The place of water in our faith traditions.

### **Georgia Peace & Justice Coalition Fall Forum** from Kathy Johnson

- An AMAZING human rights lawyer from Costa Rica, Roberto Zamora is coming up for the SOA vigil. We are honored to have him as our keynote speaker at the Georgia Peace & Justice Coalition's Quarterly Forum Monday Nov. 14 at the Friends Meeting House. He's done a lot of work stopping the US military from entering Costa Rica. "Costa Rica is world-renowned for its natural environment, its political & democratic stability in a region of conflict, its commitment to protecting human rights, and its peaceful and unarmed neutrality in foreign affairs."

Reception - 6:30 PM, Forum, 7:30 to 9 PM. All are welcome.

**Atlanta Friends Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**Tenth Month 16, 2011**  
**Recorded Pending Approval**

Georgia Lord presented the Query: “Do I come to Meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship? In both silent and vocal ministry, do I respond to the leadings of the Holy Spirit, without prearrangement and in simplicity and truth?” (San Francisco Friends Meeting)

In attendance were: Samuel Cole, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, David Foster, Jenny Foster, Nancy Fuller, Judith Greenberg, Roland Heath, Bill Holland, Kathy Johnson, Lynn Leuszler, Sally MacEwen, Beth Martinson, Karen terHorst Morris, Laura Norlin, Ronald Nuse, David Payne, Meredith Reynolds, John Roberts, Aaron Ruschetta, Peter Sederberg, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Joan Thompson, Perry Treadwell, Caroline Noyes (Recording Clerk), Georgia Lord (Clerk), (27 Friends)

**Finance Committee:** Peter Sederberg reported that three-quarters of the way through the year we are running a deficit of \$11,347, which is less than at this point in FY 2010 and is largely a result of increased rental income. Currently, income is running at 62.7% of the budget, with contributions representing of 53.0% the amount budgeted, while expenses are running at 70.7% of the budget. Expenses are running slightly behind FY 2010.

**Care & Counsel Committee:** Laura Norlin reported that Care and Counsel is continuing to send cards to Friends who are going through a difficult time. A number of Friends have active Care Committees, while others have individual Friends who are regularly ‘checking in’ and providing support. Care & Counsel is also considering the needs of older Friends, and exploring effective ways to support them. Friends with concerns (for themselves or others) are welcome to contact any member of Care & Counsel about those concerns.

**Social Concerns Committee:** Kathy Johnson reported on a description of the roles and needed activities for the representative to the Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition (GPJC): a) attend and participate in GPJC/Atlanta Monthly General Business Meetings, currently held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at the American Friends Service Committee; b) serve as a liaison with AFM Social Concerns Committee regarding events and financial donations from AFM to GPJC; c) arrange for publicity/announcements of GPJC-related events at AFM meetings and among members; and d) help with arrangements for use of the AFM meetinghouse by GPJC when necessary. A person can do either all or some of these activities. This position will be filled through the Nominating Committee.

**Minute 10-16-01:** on the recommendation of Social Concerns, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the creation of the position of AFM rep to the Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition.

**Nominating Committee:** Steve Collins brought forth Susan Cozzens for initial consideration as an upper elementary school teacher in First Day School. Final approval will be sought in Eleventh Month. Nominating also brought forth David Payne for final approval as Newsletter editor.

**Minute 10-16-02:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves David Payne as Newsletter editor (2012 – 2013).

Steve Collins also reported that the Nominating Committee is reaching out to young friends (high school and middle school) to look for ways to get them involved in the life of the meeting.

**Ministry and Worship:** Bill Holland reported that Ministry and Worship thanks the many Friends who have provided suggestions, raised questions, and provided support regarding practices to foster an enriching spirit of worship in the Meeting. Ministry and Worship has realized a number of logistical and practical concerns with implementing the proposals offered in Ninth Month. As Ministry and Worship continues to discern approaches to nurturing our communal body, the short-term focus will be on educational changes and forums such as Quaker Quest.

**Clerk's Items:** Georgia reported that John Roberts has given notice that he plans to complete his term as Friend in Residence in March. The Friend in Residence position is intended to be a limited 2-3 year term, and a search committee will be formed to fill this key position.

**Minute 10-16-03:** the Clerk, the Personnel Liaison, and other officers of the Meeting will identify members for a Friend in Residence search committee, and then seek the Meeting's approval for the Committee.

Aaron Ruscetta will represent Atlanta Friends Meeting at meeting to discuss reviving the Decatur School Networking Meeting hosted by Oakhurst Presbyterian Church.

**Approval of Minutes of Ninth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business:**

**Minute 10-16-04:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes of Ninth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business with corrections.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Georgia Lord, Clerk  
Caroline Noyes, Recording Clerk

**COME TO QUAKER QUEST WORKSHOP SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5 (9 AM – 4 PM)**

Come and help us build a stronger Quaker community! This is an opportunity for us to share our personal stories with each other and learn about Quaker Quest outreach programs. This workshop is sponsored and paid for by the meeting, and we hope everyone in the community will come. **FREE LUNCH AND CHILDCARE PROVIDED.** Please sign up if possible. You can contact Bert or Sally, or sign up on the sheet on first days in the greeting room. Info - Bert Skellie (bertskellie@gmail.com or 404-378-5883); Sally MacEwen (samacewen@gmail.com or 404- 633-7787).--

The sense of the Meeting is that the quality of our worship is noticeably strengthened when Friends arrive on time. We appreciate that this is sometimes difficult to do and recognize any extra efforts Friends make to adhere to this discipline on behalf of our community.

## Calendar for 11th Month 2011

### Area Meetings for Worship

Every First Day, 10:00 a.m.— In the Meeting Room and a small meeting in the Library.  
 Every 2nd and 4th First Day, 10:00 a.m. — Canton Friends Worship Group, 360 E. Marietta St, Canton, 779-720-4669 or wrldpeas@mindspring.com  
 First Thursdays at AFSC office, 60 Walton ST. NW, Atlanta, 10303  
 Thursdays (Except 1st Thurs. of the Month)- 12:10 pm: East Lake Commons. Contact Bert Skellie, 404-378-5883, bertskellie@ gmail.com for directions.  
 Friends School of Atlanta, Fridays, 8:45 am, Community Meeting Room, beginning the 2nd week of August, ending the last week of May. 862 Columbia Dr., Decatur, GA 30030; 404-373-8746; www.friendsschoolatlanta.org  
 Wednesday Morning Worship, 8:30 – 9:00: In the library at Atlanta Friends Meetinghouse. Contact Jonah McDonald, 404-377-2474, afmquakers@hotmail.com  
 Wednesdays, 7:00 pm: Meeting Room. Contact Christina Repoley: 404-840-3005 or

### Weekly Events

Every First Day (Sunday)  
 9:00 Adult Religious Education  
 9:15 Singing, Classroom A/B  
 10:00 Meetings for Worship  
 Every Wednesday 8:30-9:00 Morning Silent Worship, Library  
 Every Second-Fifth Day (Monday-Thursday)  
 8:30-12:30 Smart Toddlers, Nursery playground  
 Every Third Day (Tuesday)  
 7:30pm Silent Meditation, Meeting Room  
 7:30pm Bible Study, Library  
 Every Fourth Day (Wednesday)  
 7:00-8:30 Mid-Week Semi-Programmed Worship Mt. Rm

Clerk of the Meeting Georgia Lord	Treasurer Peter Sederberg 404-968-9309	Ministry & Worship Bill Holland 404-692-2358	Al Natanagara 404-797-1677 John Roberts
Assistant Clerk of the Mtg Bill Holland 404-692-2358	Finance Paul Mangelsdorf 770-677-4280	Religious Education Mary Jahntz 404-627-7699	Office Coordinator Jonah McDonald
Recording Clerk Caroline Noyes 770-452-0736	Care & Counsel Lora Norlin 404-7623540	Newsletter Editor Perry Treadwell	Friend in Residence John Roberts 917-902-3719
		Social Concerns	Web Master Aaron Ruscotta arxaaron@gmail.com

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**ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING**  
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**Office: Hours M-W-F 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; E-mail address: [afmquakers@hotmail.com](mailto:afmquakers@hotmail.com)**

NAMETAGS: If you would like to have a permanent nametag made, leave a request in one of the baskets on the front table. Indicate whether you prefer one that hangs around the neck or that pins. When Carol Gray has made one for you, it will be placed in the black file box on the greeting table.

If you would like to be included in the AFM database and receive the Newsletter by mail and/or appear in future AFM Directories, please send your name, address phone, e-mail address, etc to Nina Gooch by e-mail at [ninagooch@gmail.com](mailto:ninagooch@gmail.com) or by phone 404-371-9873. Please indicate if you want to be in the directory, receive the newsletter by mail, or both. This also applies to any change in existing database information, e.g. change of address.

To receive AFM newsletter notices via e-mail, simply send a blank e-mail to [afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) from the address where you want to receive the newsletter. You will receive a note back from Yahoo asking you to confirm your subscription; simply hit reply and you will be added to the list. There is no subscription fee for the newsletter.

To receive general announcements and participate in discussion, follow the same instructions only address the note to [afmdiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:afmdiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). To receive announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting, send the same note to [afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). The web site for the meeting is [atlanta.quaker.org](http://atlanta.quaker.org) where the newsletter can be found at events

Contributions to the Atlanta Friends Meeting can be placed in the slot marked "Contributions" in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse, or mailed to the Treasurer at the above address. Thank you! **DEADLINE FOR 12TH Month newsletter: 11TH Month 18**

Readers are encouraged to submit letters, articles, poetry, calendar notices and anything else of interest to Friends. Items should be sent directly to: Perry Treadwell [perryt@bellsouth.net](mailto:perryt@bellsouth.net) 404-325-1504 **preferably in plain text in the body of the email.**

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