

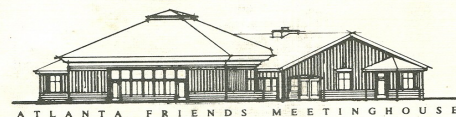
# Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter

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

## February 2012

**Query:** Is the vocal ministry in our Meeting exercised under the leading of the Spirit, without previous planning, and in simplicity and sincerity of Truth? Before speaking, do you consider whether the message that comes to you results in your clearness and is solely for yourself, or whether it will be helpful or edifying to others in the Meeting?



### A Message from our New Clerk

*(The following is a message I received during a personal worship time, which I shared at the rise of meeting for worship on January 8<sup>th</sup>. David Foster, Clerk)*

How Friends go about attending to our community's business is, in my experience, unique. It is intended to fully reflect our deepest belief in, and understanding of, the presence of the Divine within and among us. At its heart it is a ministry of presence. Even if we're unsure what we might have to offer or what we'd likely get out of it, each person's presence is important. Just as in meeting for worship, only by being present – by being among those gathered for worship – do we allow for the possibility of serving as a messenger if we are called. We can never know when we might be called on, when our gifts of discernment and ministry might be needed, when our particular voice might be the best channel for bringing the Light into the circle. If we are not here, then we close off those possibilities.

We have some interesting and important matters of business that will be coming up in the coming months. As a meeting community we will be best served by having as many as possible participating in our worship and discernment together. With that in mind, I want to specifically invite each of you to be a regular participant in the work of guiding, nurturing and sustaining the live of this community as it is attended to in meetings for worship for business. Your presence is encouraged on each third Sunday.

I want to invite any of you who would like to participate, but has some obstacle – whatever it may be – to speak with me or with Bill Holland, the clerk of Ministry and Worship. We would like to work with you and the Meeting to reduce as much as possible any barriers you experience that can be addressed.

### Thoughts on and in Meeting for Worship

From our business meeting minutes: "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."

The words for the Episcopal service came to me unexpectedly in meeting for worship: "The Lord is in his holy temple, let all the earth keep silent before him." My experience in mainline churches was that there was very little silence with all the hymns, prayers, and sermons, up and down, up and down. Quite a difference from the intentions of Quaker unprogrammed worship.

Members of the Religious Society of Friends may have a different problem with the silence. When does the promptings of the "still small voice" rise to level of a spoken message breaking the silence of the whole meeting? When does the message rise above the ego to the spiritual experience of unity?

-- Perry Treadwell

## Mary Ann Downey: Traveling Ministry for 2011

For the past 11 years, I have appreciated the support of Atlanta Friends for my work of traveling ministry. A small group of Friends meet monthly with me to guide and anchor my work. This yearly review of past and planned ministry fills me with gratitude for so many great opportunities and for your support to "show up and be faithful."

February 4-6	St Petersburg FL	Friends Meeting Retreat
February 26	Duluth Presbyterian Church	Erasing the Line
April 1-3	Philadelphia, PA	Friends Meeting Retreat
April 29-May 1	West Knoxville, TN	Friends Meeting Retreat
June 9-12	Warren Wilson College	SAYMA-workshop
July 3-8	Grinnell College, IA	FGC Gathering workshop
October 1	Friends Journal, PA	Farewell Dinner
October 28-30	Benedictine Center, AL	SAYMA M&N Retreat
November 30	Unity North Church, GA	Quaker Worship
December 2-4	Avila Retreat, Raleigh NC	FGC Retreat for Elders

### Scheduled for 2012

January 15	MLK Chapel, Atlanta GA	Quaker Worship
March 3	Duluth Presbyterian Retreat	Daily Spiritual Practice
June 30	FGC-Adult Young Friends	Building Community
July 1-7	FGC Gathering, RI	The Clearness Process
August 10-12	Earlham School of Religion	Building Community

## AFM Adult Religious Education Class: Quakerism 101

In February, we will hear about the spiritual journey of Jim Tolmach on the 5th, then continue with discussion of our faith and practice on Quakers and the Environment on the 12th and on Quakers and Jesus on the 19th. On the 26th, Diana Randall, our new director of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, will visit and share her spiritual journey.



Myrna Trapp chats with Britt and Nan Pendergrast by the Meeting's front door. Myrna gets credit for her plantings outdoors and Nan for the weekly flower arrangements.  
(Photo by Tara Hands)

**Atlanta Friends Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**January 15, 2012**  
**Recorded Pending Approval**

**Clerk's reading and reflection:** David Foster read selections from *Beyond Consensus: Salvaging Sense of the Meeting* (Barry Morley, Pendle Hill Pamphlet #307)

**Query:** On behalf of Ministry and Worship, Bill Holland presented the Query: "Is Meeting for Worship held in expectant waiting for divine guidance? Are both silent and vocal ministry rooted in a shared experience of the Light? Are we regular and punctual in attending Meeting for Worship?" (Adapted from SAYMA Faith and Practice)

**In attendance were:** Paul M. A. Baker, Jason Barone-Cichocki, Julia Barone-Cichocki, Don Bender, Mark Bryans, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, Jenny Foster, Judith Greenberg, Roland Heath, Bill Holland, Elizabeth Lamb, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Beth Martinson, Alison Mawle, Susan May, Karen terHorst Morris, Laura Norlin, Ronald Nuse, Mina Rhee, John Roberts, Peter Sederberg, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Ellie Soler, John Stabler, Joan Thompson, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Denny Webster, Maggie Wise, Caroline Noyes (Recording Clerk), David Foster (Clerk) (36 Friends)

**Matters for Discernment**

**Ministry and Worship:** On behalf of Ministry and Worship, Bill Holland reported that the gathered meeting retreat conflicts with April's Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. In order for Friends to be at both events, Ministry and Worship proposes moving Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business to First Day, April 22, 2012. Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following minute:

**Minute 12-01-01:** On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, we approve holding our April meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on fourth Sunday, April 22.

Ministry and Worship has received a Request for Marriage from Sally MacEwen and Aaron Ruscetta. A clearness committee has been formed and is meeting with Sally and Aaron. Our usual practice is to hold consideration of the marriage for one month after it is brought. Because of Sally's health status, however, Ministry and Worship recommends that we expedite our process and consider this marriage under our care at the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business when the clearness committee brings its recommendation. Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following minute:

**Minute 12-01-02:** On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, we approve an expedited process for approving the Ruscetta-MacEwen marriage request.

**Administration:** On behalf of the Administration Committee, Karen Morris presented a Minute of Appreciation for Joe Clay and a Minute of Appreciation for John Roberts. Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following minutes:

**Minute 12-01-03:** Joe Clay has given over 11 years of dedicated service to the upkeep and cleaning of the Atlanta Friends meetinghouse. Though few members of the Atlanta Friends Meeting know Joe Clay personally, everyone is aware of his work from the moment we arrive at the building - spotless restrooms, floors waxed and shining, windows washed, and carpets cleaned. Over the years, we have seen Joe Clay take full ownership over the cleaning of the building, going above-and-beyond with his work to make sure that the meetinghouse is in impeccable order. Though Joe

Clay has been our employee, we have seen him treat his work as a spiritual pursuit - ensuring a clean and orderly space for a community he respects. Many Meeting members and attenders have attested to his help over the years, including going above and beyond his duties, such as when he called for help when the meeting room was flooding due to burst pipes and also when he rendered life-saving assistance to a member. A man of God and an elder at his own church, we thank Joe Clay for bringing a spiritual depth of devotion to the divine to our building and our community. We wish him well in retirement and hope to continue a relationship with this man whom we highly respect.

**Minute 12-01-04:** The Administration Committee of the Atlanta Friends Meeting offers this minute of record in recognition of John Roberts and his exceptional service as our meeting's Friend In Residence since December 2009. Beyond being a conscientious caretaker and a welcoming spirit to all the guests and communities that utilize our facilities, John's dedicated Ministry has been an invaluable contribution to the life of the meeting. The frequent presence of his two young children, Ryu and Mia, has also brightened our meeting space, and we hope they came to know the meetinghouse as a special second home. Throughout his tenure John has been an active member of several committees, including notable service with Green Friends and as clerk of Social Concerns. His contributions to this Administration Committee have been especially appreciated, most significantly for his diligence and thorough research when pursuing opportunities for the improvement of our building facilities and grounds. We wish him great success in his future ventures and know that his presence will be missed when he leaves his meetinghouse residence in the spring of 2012. We hope that he will continue to be involved with Atlanta Friends Meeting whenever he is residing or visiting in the Atlanta area.

Karen also reported that both Jonah MacDonald and Nancy Smith are applying for the position of SAYF Administrative Assistant, and read the letters of recommendation the Administration Committee has written on their behalf. Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following minute:

**Minute 12-01-05:** On the recommendation of the Administration Committee, we approve the letters of recommendation for both Jonah MacDonald and Nancy Smith for their applications to be the Administrative Assistant to SAYF.

**Nominating:** On behalf of the Nominating Committee, David Foster brought forward Mark Bryans for final approval as Clerk of the Ferguson Cabin Committee.

**Minute 12-01-06:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Mark Bryan as Clerk of the Ferguson Cabin Committee.

**Clerk's Items:** David Foster read a minute of appreciation for Georgia Lord's service as Clerk of Atlanta Friends Meeting. Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following minute:

**Minute 12-01-07:** Atlanta Friends Meeting extends to Georgia Lord its deep appreciation for her two years of devoted service as Clerk for 2010 and 2011. She consistently demonstrated her care for and commitment to the Meeting community through her leadership. Georgia's efforts on behalf of the Meeting went far beyond those within the Clerk's job description. From her wider contacts with other meeting committees, she helped shape the Gathered Meeting Retreat to better reflect the needs of the Meeting. It has been through her persistent efforts that the Meeting's movie nights have become a welcome part of our community activities. The Meeting is particularly grateful for the depth and generosity with which Georgia gave of her gifts of joy, intelligence and spirit to enrich the life of our community.

David Foster also read a minute concerning the Friend in Residence. Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following minute:

**Minute 12-01-08:** Atlanta Friends Meeting agrees to extend the term of John Roberts as Friend in Residence for one additional month, until April 1, 2012. During the coming month an ad hoc group of Friends representing Ministry and Worship, John's support committee, Administration Committee personnel liaison and the Friend in Resident search committee, is asked to meet with John to prepare a proposal for an additional extension. This proposed plan would be designed to accommodate the Meeting's needs, including a timeframe for the timely arrival of the new Friend in Resident, while affording John a better transition into his next living situation. The ad hoc group is asked to bring the proposal to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in February.

## Reports

**Nominating:** On behalf of the Nominating Committee, David Foster reported that Caroline Noyes has offered to continue as Recording Clerk through 2012. Nominating Committee is taking under consideration her recommendation that Clerk of the Meeting and Recording Clerk serve staggered terms.

**Finance:** Peter Sederberg presented the Treasurer's Report for 2011. Atlanta Friends Meeting finished 2011 with a \$13,484 surplus, which was almost entirely due to an increase in rental income of \$12,125. This surplus will be transferred to Permanent Improvements where there are projected expenditures in the range of \$30,000 for FY12. Anticipated expenses include replacing an air conditioning unit, and developing and improving the grounds and play structure. Modifications to the grounds necessitate hiring a landscape architect to create the development plans. Expenses in 2011 ran approximately \$2000 below the budgeted total, while contributions of \$120,166 were exactly on budget (\$120,295). Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following minutes:

**Minute 12-01-09:** Atlanta Friends Meeting expresses its appreciation to its treasurer and finance committee for their diligence in stewarding the meeting's financial resources and processes. Further appreciation goes to Jonah McDonald our office coordinator for his extraordinary work to increase our rental income.

**Minute: 12-01-10:** Atlanta Friends Meeting expresses its appreciation to all who made financial contributions in 2011 that allowed us to meet our last year's budget. We also deeply appreciate all those who gave of their time and talents that enrich our community life and reduced our financial requirements.

**Ministry and Worship:** On behalf of Ministry and Worship, Bill Holland reported that Ministry and Worship is reserving the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays for forums. The first forum, January 29, will take the form of worship sharing discerning Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) priorities. The second forum will be held on April 29 to consider the spiritual basis of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, and we will consider the Pendle Hill Pamphlet, *Beyond Consensus: Salvaging Sense of the Meeting* by Barry Morley.

Ministry and Worship has received a report from Mary Ann Downey's support committee and is publishing it in the February newsletter. (See page 2 above -- Editor.)

A Meeting for Worship for Remembering the life of Alex Horsley was held on January 14, 2012 at the Atlanta International School. Mary Ann Downey worked with Alex and his wife Gillian to plan the service before his death. The memorial committee of Mary Ann Downey, Laura Norlin, and Bill Holland will bring a memorial minute at a later session.

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

**Minute 12-01-11:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes of Twelfth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business without corrections.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Foster, Clerk

Caroline Noyes, Recording Clerk

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**Plan now for the Gathered Meeting Retreat, April 13-15**

Each year, the Atlanta Friends Gathered Meeting Retreat is held to support spiritual growth and deepen our sense of community. This is a time for gathering in silence and other forms of sharing, relaxing, seeking, and having fun. All are encouraged to attend, whether you are new or seasoned in our Meeting (this time can be especially beneficial for new attenders to connect with others in the Meeting). This year, our retreat will be held from April 13-15, 2012, and it will be intergenerational, allowing families to enjoy time together with the Meeting. There will be separate activities for children with opportunities for them also to fold into the adult program at times. **Partial scholarships are available -- please don't let funding keep you from being part of this wonderful experience.** Vonn New, from New York, has been leading workshops at FGC and around the country for several years at Quaker Meetings. Vonn will lead the retreat under the title "**Sounding the Divine,**" intended to bring people closer to spirit through non-verbal forms of worship and to encourage the muse in each of us.

The retreat is being held at the **Charlie Elliott Center in Mansfield, GA**, about one hour east of the perimeter. Cost, **including meals:** single room (**\$220**); two people per room (**\$140/person**); three per room (**\$133/person**); four per room (**\$130/person** [if this configuration can be arranged]). The cost per person **includes all meals** from Friday night dinner through Sunday lunch.

**Retreat registration deadline: March 30<sup>th</sup>; Family registration deadline: March 11<sup>th</sup>**

The retreat registration form is on the Greeter's table and on the website.

**Other Messages**

"Beliefs that lead to transgressions of the primal law of love must change. Religion that leads to violence must be reformed. Which is to say, every religion is forever in need of reformation."

-- James Carroll, *Jerusalem, Jerusalem*

"The purpose of life is life itself." Goethe

"The place to find is within yourself." Joseph Campbell

"This that are real are given and received in silence." Meher Baba

Thanks to those of you opting to take this newsletter electronically. We are reducing the number of paper copies printed and the cost of mailing. For those contemplating going electronic, the site to request is [afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). -- The Editors

## Calendar for 2nd Month (February) 2012

### Area Meetings for Worship

- Every First Day (Sunday), 10:00 a.m. – Meetinghouse, with a smaller group in the Library.  
Every First Day, 12:30 p.m. – Carrollton Friends Worship Group.  
St. Andrew's UMC Youth Center, 1106 Maple St.; Margaret Bray, 770-830-8705.  
Every 2nd and 4th First Day, 10:00 a.m. – Canton Friends Worship Group.  
360 E. Marietta St.; 779-720-4669 or wrldpeas@mindspring.com.  
Every 4<sup>th</sup> Morning (Wednesday) Worship, 8:30 a.m. – Library.  
Contact Jonah McDonald, 404-377-2474; afmquakers@hotmail.com.  
Every 4<sup>th</sup> Evening (Wednesday), 7:00 p.m. – Meeting Room.  
Contact Christina Repoley, 404-840-3005; christinarepoley@gmail.com  
First 5<sup>th</sup> Morning (Thursday) – AFSC office, 60 Walton St. NW, Atlanta.  
5<sup>th</sup> Day (Thursday) (except 1st of the month), 12:10 pm – East Lake Commons, Decatur.  
Contact Bert Skellie, 404-378-5883, bertskellie@gmail.com.  
6<sup>th</sup> Day (Friday) (2<sup>nd</sup> week of August through May), 8:45 a.m. – Friends School of Atlanta.  
Community Meeting Room, 862 Columbia Dr., Decatur, 404-373-8746.

### Weekly Events at the Meetinghouse

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

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Clerk of the Meeting: David Foster, 404-941-7337

Recording Clerk: Caroline Noyes

Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, 404-968-9309      Ministry & Worship: Bill Holland, 404-692-2358  
Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280      Social Concerns: Al Natanagara, 404-797-1677  
Care & Counsel: Laura Norlin, 404-762-3540      Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald  
Religious Ed.: Alison Mawle, 404-944-9142      Friend in Residence: John Roberts, 917-902-3719

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**ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING**  
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**Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, 404-968-9309; afmtreasurer@yahoo.com**  
**Newsletter Editor: David Payne, atlquakerltr@gmail.com**

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 and contact information to Nina Gooch at ninagooch@gmail.com or 404-371-9873. Please indicate if you want to be in the directory, receive the newsletter by mail, or both.

Contributions to the Atlanta Friends Meeting may 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!

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

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**DEADLINE FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> MONTH NEWSLETTER:  
FEBRUARY 18**

Readers are encouraged to submit letters, articles, notices and anything else of interest to Friends. Items should be sent directly to atlquakerltr@gmail.com **in plain text in the body of the email. Texts may be edited for length. Pictures should be submitted in .jpg format.**