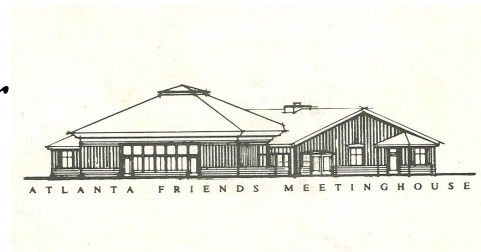


Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter

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

December 2012

Query: Are you growing in the joy of experiencing the oneness of all humankind? Do you seek to take your part in the ministry of reconciliation between individuals, groups, and nations? Do you encourage and support the Meeting in these ministries?

Doing the Math on Climate Change

Several Friends attended an event in November that focused on climate change. The 350.org's "Do the Math" tour came to Atlanta November 20, and taught us some lessons.

Here is the math. The nations of the world, meeting in Copenhagen, barely reached any agreement at all, except to say that we should limit global climate change to 2 degrees Centigrade (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit). Strictly in terms of carbon dioxide, this represents around 560 gigatons of carbon that we can add to the atmosphere, a limit we will reach in fewer than 20 years at current levels of consumption. Meanwhile, the world's fossil fuel companies claim "proven reserves" equivalent to 2700 gigatons of carbon. In short, if we burn it all, we will zoom way past that 2 degrees, causing much more misery, flooding and drought. (More flooding because the warmer air can hold more moisture, which means more rain or snow at one time.) However, the "market" still values these companies both on their sales and their reserves. Consequently, these companies continue to look for more reserves, which would make our problem even worse. This is immoral, and they need to change.

Bill McKibben, the speaker for 350.org, asked those who agree with him to treat oil companies as others treated those participating in apartheid in South Africa. The tools are disinvestment and public denunciation of their behavior. We can also reduce our energy use by eliminating waste and improving efficiency, and in many cases, this work is profitable. We can also get energy from renewable sources (sun and wind especially), but we have not had the political will to do so.

Some Friends participate in the monthly meetings of the Citizens Climate Lobby, which meets on the first Saturdays of the month. Others have signed up to receive emails from 350.org. We encourage other Friends to join us and "Do the Math."

-- contributed by Henry Slack

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December 2: Hear Judy Lumb on Climate Change and Peacemaking

Judy Lumb will be speaking on Sunday, December 2nd, after potluck in the A-B Classroom. She attended COP-17, the 2011 Climate Change Summit, and will discuss the results of that Summit and what has happened since in the preparation for COP-18 in Qatar.

Judy volunteered for the African Great Lakes Initiative, where her assignment was to document the peacemaking work of Friends after the 2007 election violence. This work is documented in her book, *Ending Cycles of Violence: Kenyan Quaker Peacemaking Response after the 2007 Election*. Judy has published two new Quaker Institute for the Future pamphlets on the growth dilemma, targeted to the FCNL, both to facilitate discussions among grassroots Friends about needed changes in the economy, and to provide perspective to the FCNL leadership and staff.

Come hear more about a concern you may share with her and other Friends: that our economic system is based upon infinite growth, yet we live on a finite planet.

Tell Your Story to Those in Power

You may have heard the statistics: Close to two million of Georgia's population have no health insurance at all, resulting in thousands of needless deaths and untold emotional, physical and financial suffering. Now is the time to tell these stories to Georgia's governor. He holds the power to accept the federal health reform's optional expansion of the Medicaid program to include over 600,000 low income Georgians. This expansion is projected to save over 3,000 lives every year.

The Social Concerns Committee is inviting Friends on Sunday, December 16th at 11:20 am to write the governor and tell your story of someone who has suffered due to lack of health insurance (you can also bring a letter). We know hearts can change.

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New Year's Eve: Watch Night Service

On December 31, 1862, Americans of African descent gathered together on "Freedom's Eve" to await the news that the Emancipation Proclamation had become law. At midnight, according to Lincoln's promise, all slaves in the Confederate States were legally free. Atlanta Friends participate in this tradition each year with a worship service at the Meetinghouse at 11 PM on New Year's Eve, followed by a potluck breakfast. Please join us on New Year's Eve! For more details, contact Bert Skellie at bertskellie@gmail.com or 404-378-5883.

Isabelle Werber Recommends . . .

I have just finished a fascinating book that I would like to recommend: *To End All Wars*, by Adam Hochschild. This book chronicles the events of World War I and the attempts by pacifists in England to stop the war. There were pacifists in all the participating countries, but Hochschild focuses on those in England in order to give us the rich details of the lives of several people, all of which make the history come alive. Against this backdrop we learn about the international socialist movement, the uprisings in Ireland against England, the overthrow of the Czar in Russia and the suffragette movement in England. All of this history was new to me, so it was especially enjoyable to gain a better understanding of these events. Hochschild is a gifted writer with a great sense of humor and he combines scholarly research with the style of a novelist. Despite the heavy subject matter, I found this book to be highly entertaining as well as informative.

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Join us for the 3rd annual AFM Holiday Bazaar!

Sunday, December 9 following the rise of meeting

At the Bazaar you will find . . .

- Fair trade coffee, tea, and chocolate for stuffing the stockings of those you love;
- Locally made pottery for gift or home; Hand crocheted hats and scarves;
- Skirts hand made by a women's sewing cooperative in Guatemala;
- Crafts made by children of our Meeting;
- And opportunities to donate to other organizations for the holiday season, including Heifer International, Habitat for Humanity, and the American Friends Service Committee.

Crafts people keep their earnings while donating a percentage to the Middle School Young Friends, who have selected the AFM Refugee Support Fund as the recipient of their earnings this year.

Lunch, prepared by the High School Young Friends, will be available for purchase.
To rent table space, contact Jennifer Dickie (michaeljen@bellsouth.net, 404-313-8770)

Atlanta Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
November 18, 2012
Recorded Pending Approval

Clerk's Reading and Reflection: Lloyd Lee Wilson, *Quaker Vision of Gospel Order*.

Query: Jenny Foster presented the query: "Do you 'live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars?' Do you conscientiously seek to maintain our testimony against military preparations and direct participation in war and violence as inconsistent with the teaching and spirit of Jesus?"

Attendance: Folami Adams, Kofi Adams, Micheal Allison, David Bundrick, Steve Collins, Linnis Cook, Julia Ewen, Jenny Foster, Eric Glenn, Clive Gordon, Roland Heath, Kathy Johnson, Susan Kenworthy, Tom Kenworthy, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Paul Mangelsdorf, Beth Martinson, Rick Martinson, Alison Mawle, Karen terHorst Morris, Ronald Nuse, Christina Repoley, Peter Sederberg, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Ellie Soler, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Austin Wattles, David Foster (Clerk), Caroline Noyes (Recording Clerk) (33 Friends)

Naming Committee: on behalf of the Naming committee, Ron Nuse presented Blake Williamson, Carol Gray as new members for the Nominating committee, and Beth Ruddiman as the new clerk. Final approval will be sought in Twelfth Month. The Naming committee is still seeking a member for Nominating who will serve as a liaison to the Religious Education committee.

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating committee, Steve Collins presented Caroline Noyes for Assistant Clerk, Maggie Hasbrouck as a member of Ministry and Worship, and Micheal Allison as Clerk of Social Concerns. The Nominating committee also recommends Paul Mangelsdorf for another term as clerk of the Finance committee, and Nina Gooch as database manager, directory editor, and membership recorder. Final approval for each will be sought in Twelfth Month. Nominating will reactivate the Fundraising committee and identify a new clerk for this committee.

Social Concerns Committee: on behalf of the Social Concerns committee, Bert Skellie reported on the social concerns budget, which is designed to support Friends in their leadings. Final approval will be sought in Twelfth Month.

Finance Committee: on behalf of the Finance committee, Paul Mangelsdorf presented the proposed budget for 2013. The proposed 2013 budget is in line with the 2012 budget. Of note, the budget for contributions is based on expenses and income, and rental income is based upon the prior year's rentals. Employees and childcare providers will receive a recommended 2.0 percent salary increase. Liability and property insurance increases reflect the coverage of the new structure at the Ferguson cabin. Lower utility costs reflect the replacement of the HVAC systems and insulation projects as well as historically low natural gas costs. Final approval will be sought in Twelfth Month.

Religious Education: on behalf of the Religious Education committee, Alison Mawle reported that in July 2012, Georgia's mandatory reporting law on child abuse was revised to include anyone working with children now required to report instances of suspected child abuse. Betsy Eggers and Nan O'Connor are undergoing the reporting training in order to better understand the implications of the law for AFM. There is an online training program that all religious education teachers will complete.

Further information will be brought as it is available, including recommendations for AFM protocols for reporting should an incident every come to our attention.

Other: Folami Adams reported that Deidra McCalla will perform in January or February at a concert organized under the leadership of the Fundraising committee. Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following minute:

Minute 12-11-01: Atlanta Friends Meeting endorses the organizing of a fundraising concert in early 2013 under the leadership of Folami Adams, Mina Rhee and Deidra McCalla.

Clerk's items: Caroline Noyes and Paul Baker are working with David Foster as the work group drafting the state of the meeting report. Queries are being circulated through committees, the newsletter and website for Friends to consider. The work group encourages Friends to consider the queries and to contribute your thoughts. Active participation through committees and from individuals will be gratefully appreciated. A draft report will be presented to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in January.

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

Minute 12-11-02: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the Minutes of Tenth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Caroline Noyes, Recording Clerk
David Foster, Clerk

& & & &

Join Young Adult Friends

After a summer off, gatherings for young adult Friends at AFM are coming back. In the recent past, YAFs have met for casual weekend brunches. Friend-in-Residence Erica Schoon is seeking feedback about the YAF group. Would young adults like to continue to gather in the same manner? Do any YAFs have ideas for social events? Are there intentional ways we can support each other during this period of our lives? Are there challenges unique to young adult Friends that we could address together? If you are between 18 and (approximately) 35 years of age, please send your feedback to erica.schoon@gmail.com. In addition, if you know a young adult who might be interested in being a part of the group, please connect them with Erica to get on the email list.

To: AFM Friends

From: State of the Meeting Report Work Group – (Paul Baker, David Foster, Caroline Noyes)

Please reflect on these queries and share your responses with us by December 31st. Return to a member of the Work Group, or to the AFM office. [Continue on the back if needed.]

State of the Meeting Report Queries

1) What activities, experiences, etc., at Atlanta Friends Meeting during 2012 have been particularly meaningful for you? for the life of the Meeting?

2) What in this past year at AFM has served to deepen the spiritual life of the Meeting?

3) What has helped you deepen your spiritual life?

4) What has served to strengthen and sustain our sense of community?

5) What challenges have you felt in building or sustaining community?

6) What aspects of our AFM experience could be strengthen or changed to deepen the spiritual life of the Meeting? To build a greater experience of community?

7) What opportunities are we being led to explore, to develop?

8) What challenges/obstacles should we give particular attention and care as we move forward?

[This page intentionally left blank for responses to the Queries on the reverse. -- Eds.]

Calendar for Twelfth Month (December) 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 2d and 4th First Day, 10:00 a.m. – Canton Friends Worship Group.
360 E. Marietta St.; 779-720-4669 or wrldpeas@mindspring.com.
Every 2d First Day, 10:30 a.m. -- Macon Friends Worship Group.
Contact Diana Day, 478-227-8892; maconquakers.org.
Every 4th Morning (Wednesday) Worship, 8:30 a.m. – Library.
Contact Jonah McDonald, 404-377-2474; afmquakers@hotmail.com.
Every 4th Evening (Wednesday), 7:00 p.m. – Meeting Room.
Contact Christina Repoley, 404-840-3005; christinarepoley@gmail.com.
First 5th Morning (Thursday) – AFSC office, 60 Walton St. NW, Atlanta.
5th Day (Thursday) (except 1st of the month), 12:10 p.m. – East Lake Commons, Decatur.
Contact Bert Skellie, 404-378-5883, bertskellie@gmail.com.
6th Day (Friday) (2nd 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 Second-Fifth Day (Monday-Thursday)
8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Smart Toddlers, Nursery playground
Every Fourth Day (Wednesday)
8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Morning Silent Worship, Library
Every Third Day (Tuesday)
7:30 p.m. Silent Meditation, Meeting Room
7:30 p.m. Bible Study, Library

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

Recording Clerk: Caroline Noyes

Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald, 404-377-2474

Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, 404-968-9309 Ministry & Worship: Bill Holland, 404-692-2358

Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280 Religious Ed.: Alison Mawle, 404-944-9142

Social Concerns: Michael Allison, 770-832-3539; Bert Skellie, 404-378-5883

Care & Counsel: Laura Norlin, afm.care.counsel@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: David Payne, atlquakerltr@gmail.com

Webmaster: Aaron Ruscetta, arxaaron@gmail.com

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING
701 W HOWARD AVE
DECATUR GA 30030-2902

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING
701 West Howard Ave., Decatur, GA 30030
404-377-2474; atlanta.quaker.org
Office: MWF 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; afmquakers@hotmail.com
Clerk: David Foster, 404-941-7337; afmclerk1@gmail.com
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.

To receive the Newsletter via e-mail, send a blank e-mail to 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; hit reply and you will be added to the list at no charge. To receive general announcements and to participate in discussion, follow the same instructions, but address the note to afmdiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. To receive announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting, send the same note to afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

**DEADLINE FOR 1ST MONTH NEWSLETTER:
DECEMBER 22**

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 and format. Pictures should be in .jpg format.**