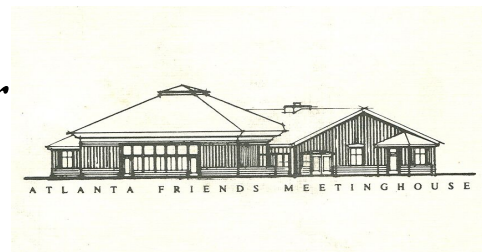


Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter

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

June 2013

Query: How are Friends who feel called to ministry being nurtured and supported? How does our meeting deal with those among us who are called to a ministry or to travel among Friends?

[Editors' Note: We print two months' worth of business meeting minutes in this issue. The Ronald Dworkin excerpt begun last month will be continued as space allows.]

Atlanta Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention for Business April 28, 2013 Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Bill Holland, Mary Ann Downey, Beth Ruddiman, Clive Gordon, Rebecca Sullivan, Perry Tredwell, Myrna Trapp, Julia Ewen, Kathy Johnson, Roy Taylor, Chris Kohler, Roland Heath, Beth Martinson, Steve Collins, Sarah Walton, Michael Allison, Judith Greenburg, Wes Morris, Mike Aland, Morreann Brennan, Ronald Nuse, Bert Skellie, Karen terHorst Morris, Caroline Noyes, Acting Clerk, David Bundrick, Acting Recording Clerk.

Query: Ronald Nuse presented the query: "Do we live in harmony with nature? Do we live in keeping with the spirit of the unity, sacredness, and integrity of all creation? Do we seek to minimize our consumption of the Earth's resources? Do we walk gently over the earth, seeing that of God in all of Nature?"

Finance Committee: Peter Sederburg gave the first quarterly financial report. Contributions are running behind previous years, while rental income is strong. The building and grounds improvement project continues apace, with the permit application expected to be submitted in the near future.

Nominating Committee: On the recommendation of the Nominating committee, Beth Ruddiman brought forward for approval Paul Baker for final approval as a member of Ministry and Worship.

Minute 4-13-1: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the appointment of Paul Baker to the Ministry and Worship Committee.

Social Concerns: Ron Taylor presented a proposed response by the Atlanta Monthly Meeting to the Friends World Committee on Consultation's Kabarak Call. After a discussion further action was postponed until the draft of the response has been circulated to the meeting.

Naming Committee: The Naming Committee brought forward the nomination of Carolyn Coburn-Allen for nominating committee. As is our practice, this name will lay over for one month and will be brought back to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business for approval.

Minute 4-13-02: The minutes of the March 17, 2013, Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business are approved as submitted.

Meeting closed with silent worship.
Respectfully submitted,
David Bundrick, Acting Recording Clerk
Caroline Noyes, Acting Clerk

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Some Friendly Eights are available for sign-up.

They are: Photography, Theatre Going (all kinds – traditional, improve, local, outdoor);
Ethnic Dining on Buford Highway; and Hiking.
Look for sign-up sheets in the office or at Potluck.

Friendly Eights are groups of about eight people who meet around once a month on a common topic of interest or an activity. Some previous Friendly Eights have organized around ethnic dining, photography, book groups, charades, refugee support, and hiking to name just a few. They also help to foster the spiritual community. Care and Counsel is asking members or attenders with an interest in convening a group around a topic of their choice to contact Muireann Brennan (mbrennan@cdc.gov) or Georgia Lord (georgia_lord@mindspring.com). Convening just means organizing the first meeting; it does not necessarily mean you will have to organize subsequent meetings.

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Couple Enrichment Workshop, Nov. 1-3, Now Open for Registration

Atlanta Meeting will hold a Couple Enrichment Workshop on November 1-3, Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, at the Meetinghouse. The Workshop, offered through Friends General Conference for over 40 years, is designed for committed couples to help nurture their relationships and hone good communication skills. At the heart of the program is building purposeful support within a couple and among couples with emphasis on trust and reflection. The program is not therapy but does provide tools for handling differing opinions and conflict in a constructive and loving manner. Confidentiality is emphasized.

The workshop is open to any adult couple in a committed relationship of at least one year, and is limited to 8 couples, on a first come first served basis. Childcare will be provided by the Meeting's existing couples group. Cost will be \$175 per couple, but scholarships are available. For more information contact: Jim Tolmach & Sally Ferguson 404-523-0683 or sallyferguson@earthlink.net
Registration deadline is September 30.

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Quaker Voluntary Service Invitation: Many Ways to Help

Last year Friends came together to set up the first house for our Quaker Volunteer team and we are blessed by their presence here. There are still many ways to support this work. Go to www.quakervoluntaryservice.org/Atlanta, to find a form where you can sign up for needs listed or indicate other ways you might be able to help QVS Atlanta continue. QVS will need 6 Friends to serve as Spiritual Nurturers for our second group of volunteers who begin September 2013-July 2014.

Gifts/skills that may be useful might include, but are certainly not limited to the following:

- Solid understanding of Friends faith and testimonies;
- Enthusiasm for and/or experience with volunteer – service – justice work;
- Experience with and ability to articulate a discernment- based life;
- Leadership development; Listening; Counseling/mental health experience or training;
- Knowledge of or experience with living in intentional community; Availability of time.

We are now collecting names of those who are interested in this service. Go to christina@quakervoluntaryservice.org and read the Guide for Spiritual Nurturing; then call Christina Repoley 404-840-3005 (cell), 404-721-4QVS (voicemail); or Mary Ann Downey, 404-892-2358 to learn more. We hope to collect more names of Friends willing to serve than needed, so that we can have some flexibility in assigning the best matched Friend for each volunteer. That means that not all volunteers may be called on to serve in this capacity.

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Liz Nicholson Reflects on Service Work

Someone recently asked me how I have seen God most in this year, and without hesitation thought about my relationships at Frazer Center. Coming into the center my first week struggling to remember the 100 adult participants names, 150 children's names depending on which class I was in not to mention my coworkers who are weary of another employee who may not make it past the first week (a hard to break pattern of new hires). I knew it would be a difficult adjustment to settle in and get to know all of these new people, but had no idea what the end point would look like, or how rewarding the journey would be.

At the beginning of the program, I had very little direction on what I should be doing day in and out, which was incredibly challenging. Wandering around amidst strangers asking where I could be helpful, trying to figure out how the program functions and runs without much knowledge on the wildly diverse behaviors, abilities, and attitudes of the developmentally disabled population we serve. Every day was a struggle trying to make friends with adult participants and co-workers alike while trying not to look overwhelmed—which I was wrestling inside. For these first few months, I gravitated toward working one-on-one with adults in different classrooms, which allowed me to begin to build trust and friendships.

One of the pivotal moments of my experience at Frazer came when I was trying to figure out how to handle one of our new and most difficult adults who presented dangerous and self-destructive behaviors. Something I have learned from years of exploration along my own spiritual journey is the importance of being understood and listened to, and how important language is in that understanding. Our adult is mostly deaf, and communicates mainly through sign language and gestures. When looking at our staff, only one or two have had any sign language experience and didn't really use it with this adult. I began to notice his behaviors stemming from confrontation amongst peers and adults where he couldn't communicate, and I saw a deep need for ability to communicate with him—so I began to learn some basic sign language.

Starting with “how are you?” and “stop,” I began looking at sign language books, taking online sign classes, and learning from those with experience around me. I now teach a weekly sign language class for both hearing and deaf adults, and have also been working with staff to learn easy ways of communicating with the many adults who use sign at the center every day.

The ability to listen and understand these adults has been paramount to my settling into the program and feeling like a part of the community. Each of these adults has an amazing and unique personality that is essential to the vitality of the community. Letting their voices be heard, often through non-traditional forms of communication is the challenge that I face everyday, and it pushes me to listen in ways I'm not the most familiar with.

I can't describe what it feels like to walk into a room and see smiles of people who are genuinely happy to see me and to be heard. It's the sustaining quality of this work, where it seems that much of the rest is setting one up for burnout.

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Atlanta Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
May 19, 2013
Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Linnis Cook, Susan Cozzens, Quenton Debarduebon, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Susan Firestone, Jennifer Foster, Judith Greenberg, Roland Heath, Bill Holland, Kathy Johnson, Lee H. Kenworthy, Suzan Kenworthy, Tom Kenworthy, Allison Letts, Judy Lumb, Beth Martinson, Rick Martinson, Susan May, Karen terHorst Morris, Coryn Murphy, Ronald Nuse, Beth Ruddiman, Erica Schoon, Peter Sederberg, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Rebecca Sullivan, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Sarah Walton, Pat Williams, David Foster (Clerk), Elizabeth Lamb (Recording Clerk) (35 Friends).

Clerk's Readings and Reflections: The Clerk was led to further reflection on Julia Ewen's message rather than reading an excerpt for reflection. Her message asked that we reflect on the children in the meeting and how they are both our gift of "first fruits" to God and God's blessing to us.

Query: Jenny Foster presented the query: "Do I live simply and promote right sharing of the world's bounty? Do I keep my life uncluttered with things and activities, avoiding commitments beyond my strength and light? How do I maintain simplicity, moderation, and honesty in my speech, my manner of living, and my daily work? Is the life of the Meeting so organized that it helps us to simplify our lives?"

Naming Committee: On behalf of the Naming Committee, Ron Nuse brought forward for final approval Carolyn Coburn-Allen as a new member of the Nominating Committee.

Minute 5-13-01: On the recommendation of the Naming Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Carolyn Coburn-Allen as a new member of the Nominating Committee.

Having completed its work, the current Naming Committee is laid down.

Green Friends: On behalf of the Green Friends, Kathy Johnson brought forward for final approval the "Atlanta Monthly Meeting Response to the Kabarak Call." Judy Lumb spoke of the Friends World Conference in Kenya and explained how the response to queries regarding peace and ecological justice had led to the writing and approval the Kabarak Call. Green Friends wrote a response to send to SAYMA and to the Friends World Committee on behalf of the Atlanta Monthly Meeting. Upon approval Kathy Johnson will send said response to both organizations. (The response is attached at the end of the minutes for May 19, 2013.)

Minute 5-13-02: The Atlanta Monthly Meeting approves the "Atlanta Monthly Meeting Response to the Kabarak Call" as presented by the Green Friends. Kathy Johnson will forward it to SAYMA and to Friends World Committee on Consultation [FWCC].

Clerk's Item: Clerk of Meeting, David Foster, presented a minute to change the location of our meeting for worship and potluck on June 2, 2013 from the park to the meeting house. He stated that this change is for this year only and that further discernment will be needed to assess whether the Meeting will continue with the tradition of Meeting in the Park on the first First Days in June in subsequent years. It was recommended that Ministry and Worship, Hospitality, Green Friends, and any other interested persons make this discernment a priority and bring their recommendations to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in a timely manner, well before next spring. The minute was approved.

Minute 5-13-03: In a departure from recent years, we will hold our meeting for worship and potluck at the meetinghouse on the first First Day in June 2013. Further discernment will be undertaken to assess the continuation of AFM's tradition of Meeting in the Park on first First Days in June in future years.

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Beth Ruddiman reported that Terri O'Neil is resigning as clerk of the Hospitality Committee effective the end of June. The Nominating Committee nominated Carol Gray to serve as clerk of the Hospitality Committee, beginning in July. Nominating will bring forward this recommendation for final approval at the June Meeting for Business.

Ministry and Worship: On behalf of Ministry and Worship, Bill Holland reported that Coryn Murphy has applied for membership in Atlanta Monthly Meeting. He read her letter of application to the Meeting. A clearness committee will be formed and once it has completed its work Ministry and Worship will bring their recommendation to Meeting for Business.

Retreat Committee: On behalf of the Retreat Committee, Lissa Place reported that the 2013 retreat was a success. The intergenerational format worked very well, with approximately 65 attendees. The new camping option was enjoyed by eight attendees. (The full report is attached at the end of the minutes.)

AFSC Liaison: Susan Cozzens reported that the organization is doing well. The financial picture is brightening as the economy recovers. A new strategic plan has been adopted with two national initiatives: 1) promoting alternatives for youth, and 2) changing the narrative on war and peace. The Executive Committee is meeting in Atlanta June 22, 2013 to start strategic planning for the region. Five program directors from around the region are expected to attend. Home hospitality is needed: contact Susan Cozzens to volunteer. Recommendations are welcome for experts to talk to the group about peace and social justice issues in the South.

The original vision for the 60 Walton Street meeting was stalled due to the recession. That vision was to turn the space into a Peace and Justice Center for the city and region, with conference space and at-cost office space for peace and social justice organizations. ADSC seeks input from Atlanta Friends on this vision. Would regional peace and social justice organizations find the space attractive? Could we raise the funds to renovate the fourth floor to accommodate them? How could the building be managed without burdening AFSC program staff with building maintenance duties? Or should AFSC downsize by selling the building and seeking smaller accommodations?

Clerk's Item: Clerk, David Foster, reminded the Meeting that SAYMA Representative Meeting gathers each spring and fall. Free Polazzo attended the May 13, 2013 meeting and submitted a report which the Clerk shared in part. The next meeting is September 27, 2013 in Nashville.

The Clerk opened a discussion about the difficulty in filling positions in the monthly meeting (including SAYMA representatives to Representative Meeting and Ministry and Nurture Committee). In the absence of regular representation the question arises: Does AFM serve SAYMA well and does SAYMA serve AFM well? There is a stress point between how busy we individually are (or feel) and the unmet responsibilities in the Meeting. How are we organized to do business? Is it time to re-evaluate that, especially in light of this month's query? How can we better connect with people in meeting who are not involved? How does discernment in Nominating work and how do individuals discern their own gifts and ways to serve? How can parents attend meetings (committee or business) without childcare?

All relevant committees are encouraged to give attention to these questions/concerns in their upcoming meetings. Further consideration of these matters will be part of the July Meeting for Worship for Business agenda. The possibility of a threshing session was presented. All are encouraged to reflect on ways to get more members involved in the work of the meeting and suggestions would be welcomed. Pat Williams will look into possible ways of offering child care during Meeting for Business.

Minutes of April 2013: Since the April Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business was held a week late to avoid conflict with the retreat, the Minutes have not yet been published for review. The April minutes and the May minutes will both be considered for approval at the June meeting.

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.
Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Lamb, Recording Clerk
David Foster, Clerk

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Help Our First Day School in the Summertime

As the summer approaches, the Religious Education committee is looking for a few people to help us staff the Summer First Day School Program. Every summer RE invites committees and other members of Meeting to join us in educating our youngest members about the workings of AFM. During the summer our First Day School is led by committee members and others who feel led to share the importance of their committee in a child friendly way. We hope to cover all the First Days in the summer in order to provide interesting and meaningful lessons for our children, as well as give our regular RE teachers a short summer break to attend Meeting.

**Please consider volunteering for one of the following dates: June 9, June 16 (SAYMA);
July 7, July 14, July 28; August 4.
Contact Jennifer Dickie (michaeljen@bellsouth.net, 404-313-8770)
with the date that works for you or your committee.**

Here are some frequently asked questions:

What do I have to do? Come prepared to tell or read a story that relates to your work. Prepare a short activity (game or craft) around the story, prepare some closing questions for children to think about.

How much time does it take? Children will be in the class room 10:15-11:15. It is helpful to arrive at 10:00 to be prepared to meet children when they arrive.

How old are the children? Ages 5 to 10 (kindergarten to 5th grade).

What if I'm not a kid person? You don't need to be the one to teach the class--but, if you can help find members of your committee who would like to teach for one First Day, that is what we need.

How many people from my committee do I need? We would like you to have TWO adults. But you can bring more!

What if I'm not on a committee? Membership in a committee is not required. If you have something to share with young people about Quakers or the Life of the Meeting, we invite you to join us.

Do I need to provide a snack? No. If you do choose to bring a snack as part of your lesson, please consider allergies -- no peanuts at the very least.

Where do we have class? Summer class for the younger children happens in the A&B classroom behind the kitchen.

What if I want to help, but need ideas? Jennifer Dickie is available to help with planning curriculum (michaeljen@bellsouth.net, or 404-313-8770).

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Calendar for Sixth Month (June) 2013

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 Second and Fourth First Day, 10:00 a.m. – Canton Friends Worship Group.
360 E. Marietta St.; 779-720-4669 or wrldpeas@mindspring.com.
Every Second First Day, 10:30 a.m. -- Macon Friends Worship Group.
Contact Diana Day, 478-227-8892; maconquakers.org.
First Fifth Morning (Thursday) – AFSC office, 60 Walton St. NW, Atlanta.
Every Fifth Day (Thursday) (except 1st of the month), 12:10 p.m. – East Lake Commons,
Decatur. Contact Bert Skellie, 404-378-5883, bertskellie@gmail.com.
Sixth 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, Library
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 Third Day (Tuesday)
7:00 p.m. Silent Meditation, Library
Every Fourth Day (Wednesday)
7:00 p.m. Mid-Week Worship, Library
Every Fifth Day (Thursday)
7:30 p.m. Bible Study, Library

Clerk of the Meeting: David Foster, afmclerk1@gmail.com
Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald, 404-377-2474

Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com
Ministry & Worship: Bill Holland, 404-692-2358
Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280
Social Concerns: Michael Allison, 770-832-3539
Care & Counsel: Don Bender, afm.care.counsel@gmail.com
Religious Education: Alison Mawle, 404-944-9142

Newsletter Editor: David Payne, atlquakerltr@gmail.com
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Clerk: David Foster, afmclerk1@gmail.com
Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, afmtreasurer1@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 afmannouncementssubscribe@yahoogroups.com.

**DEADLINE FOR 7TH MONTH NEWSLETTER:
JUNE 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.**