

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2022

Current and back issues of the newsletter are always available at <http://atlantaquakers.org/archive.htm>

Meeting for Worship
Each First Day (Sunday)
In Person & via Zoom
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

WHAT IS A QUERY?

Queries, questions meant to make us think more deeply about ourselves, our faith, our world, and our work in it, have been used by Quakers since the 1600's. Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association's (SAYMA's) *Faith and Practice* says this about queries: "Friends' queries are spiritual. Because we believe in continuing revelation, any answers to these queries may change as we grow in spiritual awareness. They are designed to be thought-provoking and to inspire prayerful consideration. Friends are urged to keep in mind that rather than following rules, we are following our leading to hold all things in the Light. Queries help us consider whether current practice gives all witness to faith." SAYMA's *Faith and Practice* can be read at https://www.sayma.org/online_documents/faith_and_practice/F&P2021final.pdf

QUERY FOR MARCH

When differences arise,
how do we settle them in a
spirit of love and humility?
How can we demonstrate a
forgiving spirit?

*source: Southern
Appalachian Yearly
Meeting and
Association's
Faith and Practice*

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AND FIRST DAY SCHOOL ON SUNDAYS

We are continuing to worship in person on Sunday at 10:00 am at the meetinghouse in combination with worship via Zoom. Please choose the option that is best for you.

Nursery care for children under three will continue to be available at the meetinghouse.

First Day School for both adults and children and teens also continues both in person and via Zoom.

If you are attending in person, please note:

- Please wear a N95 mask inside the meetinghouse or double-mask, even if you are vaccinated. If you speak during worship, please leave your mask on. (Children under two do not need to wear a mask.)
- Children 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.
- Please sign in **every week** so we will know who was present in case we need to do contact tracing. Please print legibly and include contact information so we can reach you if needed.
- There is no coffee hour or potluck right now, but you are welcome to socialize after Meeting for Worship. Just bring your own beverage in your own container.
- Please do not come if you do not feel well, have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 10 days, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days.

For more details about in-person worship and for more info about First Day School and childcare, see <https://tinyurl.com/52u3waus> or contact the office: atlantaquakers@gmail.com or 404-377-2474.

DETAILS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP AND FIRST DAY SCHOOL AT ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

For the most up to date information, www.atlantaquakers.org/_announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf.



MEETING FOR WORSHIP (with new Zoom info as of September 5)
Combined in person and Zoom
10 a.m. Sundays
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYIIFWEhSQUtZRVVPaIFFYmVDQT09)
[pwd=M29EYIIFWEhSQUtZRVVPaIFFYmVDQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYIIFWEhSQUtZRVVPaIFFYmVDQT09)
Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751
Passcode: 789456

ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL (see under Events below for more details for each Sunday)

Combined in-person and Zoom

9:00 to 9:50 am Sundays

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86063665797?pwd=Nms0Vm5MSW91UXdWRGJSOXA5NWRjZz09>

Meeting ID: 860 6366 5797

Passcode: 013191

FIRST DAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (with new Zoom info as of September 5)

In-person for all ages: Sundays 10:15 am

Children 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. This class is also available via Zoom at 10:00. Teens will meet in person with an option for a blended FDS class from 10:15-11:00. For more info, contact Laura MacNorlin (laura.norlin@gmail.com, 404-762-3540).

Zoom for younger children: Sundays 10:00 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7279961727?pwd=ck1ROVZIRWRCVDGzdGRocFhQWEduUUT09>

Meeting ID: 727 996 1727

Passcode: Quaker!

PLEASE HOLD IN THE LIGHT:

Beth-Ann Buitekant
Cindy Berg
Clive Gordon
Lynn Leuszler
Mark Bryans

If you wish to have requests for holding in the light included in this monthly newsletter, 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
Office Coordinator: Nina Gooch, atlantaquakers@gmail.com
Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com
Ministry & Worship: Bill Hooson, bhooson@aol.com
Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280
Social Concerns: Glenn Plyler, 207-522-5295
Administration: Steve Collins, shcollins75@gmail.com
Care & Counsel: Karen Skellie, afm.care.counsel@gmail.com
Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, susanfires@gmail.com
Religious Education: Laura MacNorlin, laura.norlin@gmail.com
Library: Cal Gough, calgough@bellsouth.net
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Webmaster: Aaron Ruscetta, arxaaron@gmail.com
Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, afmbookkeepe`ail.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.

This article by Mary Ann Downey originally appeared in December 2021's Friends Journal (www.friendsjournal.org).

Finding My Way Toward Right Use of Scripture

This past summer a yard sign, “Walk by faith . . . keep walking,” was placed on the lawn of a Methodist church that I often walk by. It was new, an addition to a large, permanent sign on the corner that had the sermon topic and Scripture reference for the week. The same yard sign was on the lawns of several houses in the neighborhood, and I was glad to see that members of the church were united in spreading this message of hope.

Like this Methodist church, many Protestant churches announce the sermon topic of the week and give a verse of Scripture on a large, permanent sign that can be easily seen from the road. I enjoy seeing them and considering this form of outreach to their members, and especially to those who are not already a part of their faith community. Sometimes they inspire me and prompt reflection, and occasionally, they offer much needed humor. Two of my favorites are: “Sinners make the best Saints!” and “Looking for a sign from God? Here it is!”

The yard sign and the larger church signs prompted me to think about how people of all faiths speak and write publicly about faith. How do we use the Bible to describe our faith? Do our messages about faith offer inspiration, invite understanding and dialogue? Do we invite others into our house of worship as a safe place for refuge in times of loss and grief?



“Walk by faith . . . keep walking” was just the message I needed the first time I saw it, and it stayed on my mind. I felt directly spoken to by God. It offered inspiration and encouragement, and I sent the words to family and friends. At our meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, I also offered this message after our meeting for worship, as we shared joys. It was during August of this year, when the Delta variant was increasing the number of people dying from COVID-19 and of children filling hospitals. We were all wondering where we could find the strength and courage to go on. Here was an answer.

When I stopped later to take a picture of the sign, I saw the Scripture reference in much smaller font: “‘Walk by faith . . .’ (2 Cor. 5:7) keep walking.” The verse in the King James Bible is “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” Those three words, “not by sight,” made the verse much more powerful, defining faith as action depending on and trusting God’s guidance. The words also spoke to the current, pervasive feeling that we are walking as though blindfolded in this pandemic, groping in the dark for direction. As I reflected on the verse, I remembered other messages about faith in both the Old and New Testaments that describe faith as a lifelong walk directed by God. Micah 6:8 is a favorite because it gives three clear directions: “what does the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” This verse came to me as a message I offered in worship. I realized that I had been more concerned with how to work for justice and mercy than with how to walk humbly with God, and that this is the hardest challenge—the one that I need to do in order to do everything else.

Bible Lessons

Bible verses and hymns often come to me in worship, sometimes as a comfort, sometimes as a challenge. The stories and Scripture of the King James Version of the Bible was the language of faith that I learned as a child. In the nursery of West Asheville Baptist Church from infancy to age five, I

heard that “God is love” (1 John 4:16). It was however much more important that the caregiver, Lottie Robinson, was always there, offering her gentle care and making me and each child know that we were a beloved child of God. The way she lived the message made me look forward to being there every Sunday and feeling loved. Learning the language of the Bible included reading the stories of the Old and New Testaments, and memorizing Bible verses and the books of the Bible, always in the King James Version. We were taught that the Bible is our sword and shield against evil, and we competed in Bible “sword drills” to see who could find a Scripture verse first. I also saw that there were many people in my church family like Lottie, who could quote Scripture but lived their faith following the example of Jesus, offering open arms of acceptance and love to all. And I saw that some in our church used the Bible as a sword to defend our faith and preach against others.

As I grew older, I saw more examples of faith and the institution of the church using the messages of the Bible to exclude and divide communities. My friend Becky attended the Catholic church across the street from our church. She told me that her priest said the Catholic faith was the only true faith and true church. In high school, my best friends were Jewish, and I began to learn from them how our religions divide us. We were in a debate club and enjoyed talking about how our rabbis and preachers could use the same Scriptures to say we were each God’s chosen. Our club meetings always opened with a member offering a prayer, and I realized when I was called on to offer the prayer that I was the only Christian present. I prayed the words of Psalm 19:14: “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.” I was grateful that I could recall a verse that united us.

I was reminded of the discussions with my Jewish friends when I read *The Battle for God*. In that book, Karen Armstrong describes how Muslims, Christians, and Jews teach their followers to believe in a “tribal” God, one who is on their side, and to use the Bible and other Scriptures to support their faith. I understood how religions used faith throughout history to literally battle for God and to do a great deal of harm.

Faith Lived

I am grateful that my father was a lay minister and Sunday school teacher who offered guidance that went beyond the Bible. He was one of the leaders in our church who believed Jesus came to teach us how to live our faith. He helped me understand that the Bible stories and their instructions were written in a specific place and time, based on the writers’ understanding of the message they were given, and that this is the challenge for each of us: to use Scripture as a guide to develop our own understanding of God and to work out our beliefs and continually seek God’s guidance for how to live and work. His life and teachings were much like those of Friends.

Like the verse “Walk by faith,” he taught that faith is active, a lived experience, and is more about what I do than what I say. In an interview, I heard William Sloane Coffin ask, “Are you using the power that you have to do what you say you believe?” This is still a question that I use to discern my work. I was drawn to the work of American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in college, as I explored how to translate my faith into practice. An AFSC program gave me the opportunity to explore Quaker faith through a summer internship working at Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital with mentally ill patients while I attended Stony Run Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. I was drawn by the silence of meeting for worship without Scripture reading or sermon, but missed the organ music and hymn singing. My Baptist experience in Wednesday night prayer meetings prepared me for sitting silently in community asking God to help others with specific problems, as well as for my concerns. Our AFSC group lived as a small community in the nurses’ quarters of the hospital and was given a brief orientation to Quaker history and faith. We also held a mid-week silent worship. This experience was in 1967 and the beginning of my lifelong walk with faith as practiced in the unprogrammed tradition of Friends.

In 1981, the Friends General Conference Gathering was held at Berea College in Kentucky. A workshop, "George Fox and the Bible," helped me understand how George Fox relied on the King James Version of the Bible to articulate his faith. We were guided in reading passages from *The Journal of George Fox* and then in finding his references to the Bible. My experience finding Scripture verses fast in my Baptist church's "sword drills" led the class to discuss our experience with using the Bible. I learned that others like me were drawn to Friends by the emphasis on action, wanting to put aside the Bible because we were troubled by the way it had been used. Some in this workshop were learning for the first time that Fox's journal and Quaker history were guided by the Bible and that Fox was also struggling with the right use of Scripture. In his journal, he wrote, "And I was to direct people to the Spirit that gave forth the Scriptures, by which they might be led to all Truth, and so up to Christ and God, as they had been who gave them forth." This message in his journal reminded me of my father's words encouraging me to be open to the Spirit's guidance. It was wonderful to read how Fox studied and used messages from the Bible in his teaching, but more importantly how he tried to be "guided by the Spirit." In this workshop, I discovered how my faith journey led me to Friends. With gratitude for guidance in the Scripture of the King James Version of the Bible, and the lived faith witness of my Baptist family and friends, I became better able to integrate my past faith tradition and Bible knowledge with my home now among Friends.

I'm grateful that the sign "Walk by faith . . . keep walking" is still at the church and at homes in my neighborhood, offering the support that I need now. The message helps me reflect on my faith, and challenges me to live my faith daily.

A LETTER FROM FRIENDS CENTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE TO SAYMA

The Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association [SAYMA] holds its annual sessions and retreat annually in the summer. SAYMA consists of many monthly meetings from around the Southeast, including meetings in GA, TN, KY, AL, and NC. Atlanta Friends Monthly Meeting is a member of SAYMA [sayma.org]. SAYMA has experienced many challenges related to issues of diversity, inclusivity, and conflict among some members of the community over the last several years. At the annual session in June 2021 we approved the following minute at a meeting for business:

SAYMA Minute 50-46-01: Friends approved Friends Center for Racial Justice to lead a called meeting for the purpose of understanding conflicts and building relationships of trust between SAYMA and the Uplifting Racial Justice Committee.

We are pleased to know that work toward conflict transformation will begin soon with the support of the [Friends Center for Racial Justice \[FCRJ.org\]](http://FCRJ.org). In the letter that follows from Angela Hopkins, director of FCRJ, you will read that they are hoping to move forward, not with a large called meeting, but with mediated small groups of Friends who will establish meeting times and duration among themselves. Additionally FCRJ is offering to SAYMA Friends any of their programs including anti-racism analysis training. As more information is available we will share it. All Friends of SAYMA are welcome to participate in the work with FCRJ even if you have not been a regular attender of the annual sessions and retreat in the past. If you have questions you may reach out to Jennifer Dickie, Clerk of Atlanta Friends Meeting [afmclerk1@gmail.com].

Dear SAYMA Friends,

The Friends of FCRJ met following the occurrence of several incidents at SAYMA gatherings which resulted in deep concerns by our community.

While SAYMA leadership is aware, there is much that is not known or understood by the Body of SAYMA.

The FCRJ Executive Director and the FCRJ Coordinating Committee has responded to the expressed concerns of the SAYMA body throughout the FCRJ/SAYMA relationship.

The last query being :

“Is FCRJ going to refuse to work with us after so many offenses?”

After much discernment and consultation, we reaffirmed that FCRJ feels led to working with SAYMA. It is our policy not to let one individual dismantle work being done; however, the situation at SAYMA has been unique. Yet, still we will not let one person derail our work together.

FCRJ Friends received the information from FCRJ Coordinating Committee, and we began with an enlarged group praying on behalf of SAYMA Friends.

We at FCRJ operate on “Spirit time.” We will take the time as needed. Figuring out a “rightly ordered“ way forward has been challenging due to the relational structure of SAYMA and the incidents of concern that continue to manifest.

Reaffirming our commitment to the SAYMA body was easy, it is our ministry.

The “initial listening” call fell to me these past years; however at this time, that role is shifting to others in FCRJ as well.

1. All SAYMA Friends will receive a report of the concerns that were raised.
2. SAYMA Friends reported inter-sectional concerns regarding race, class, sex, and location.
3. As part of next steps in 2022, FCRJ is inviting SAYMA Friends to join us to address our common concerns. You will receive an invitation. Please note :
 - It is suggested that there be at least three people present during all future conversations.
 - The groups will meet for one or more times according to their schedules.
 - They will determine if, when, how, and how often they want to meet. Some know this as caucusing or affinity group work.

All FCRJ programs will be available, including Antiracism Analysis Trainings arranged by FCRJ.

All SAYMA Friends will receive the FCRJ Antiracism Analysis Training Interest Form which gathers information regarding each Friend's availability, previous trainings, and concerns -- i.e. what can we help you with, so that you are free to follow this leading. No one should hesitate attending due to cost, FCRJ is a pay as led and able Friends Organization.

Have a good week Friends

Angela Hopkins

Friends Center for Racial Justice

TWO MEMBERSHIP REQUEST LETTERS

Teri Key-Hooson and Kevin Moran have requested membership in Atlanta Friends Meeting. They have each met with a [Cleanness Committee](#), and their requests have been approved by the Ministry and Worship Committee. Their requests will be considered at March 20's Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. If you do not already know them, you are encouraged to get to know them. Here are their membership request letters

from Teri:

I am writing to request consideration for membership in Atlanta Monthly Meeting and, by extension, in the Religious Society of Friends.

I am drawn to Friends by: Speaking truth to power and silent worship. I also enjoy talking with our Friends.

I consider Atlanta Monthly Meeting to be my spiritual community, and this request is an indication of my desire to continue and strengthen my commitment to spiritual growth as a Friend.

Teri Key-Hooson

from Kevin

I am writing to request consideration for membership in Atlanta Monthly Meeting and, by extension, in the Religious Society of Friends. I feel spiritually called to do so.

I was raised, instructed, and worshipped in the Lutheran faith of my mother and the Catholic tradition of my father. This experience of coexistence has influenced my appreciation of ecumenism.

I have been influenced by the example of Quakers that I have worked with in the Anti-Vietnam War Movement and the Quaker Action Group, Movement for a New Society. Jim Payne, a Quaker from Philadelphia, facilitated my involvement with MNS. While living in community, Jim consistently exemplified Quaker values. Likewise, my spiritual journey has been enriched sitting on living room floor of Ruth MacLennan's home with Willard Uphaus and listening. Ruth was a member of the St. Petersburg, Florida Meeting. Since moving to Atlanta over 16 years ago, I have worked for social justice with Kathy at the Georgia Peace & Justice Coalition and Bert Skellie in the Georgia Moral Monday Movement and elsewhere.

I have engaged in civil disobedience resulting in my arrest in D.C. in 2012 with Clergy opposing the Iraq war, in Atlanta with Occupy Atlanta, multiple times in the Capitol as a steering committee member of Moral Monday Georgia and with Black Lives Matter in Buckhead.

Since marrying Mitzi Holmes over 30 years ago, we have been Presbyterians. I have served as an ordained Elder, Clerk of Session, Chair of the Oakhurst PCUSA Peacemaking and Justice Committee, Chair of the Peacemaking Partnership of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, on the board of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Fellowship in New York and on the board of the Coalition for the Peoples Agenda, convened by Rev. Dr. Joseph Echols Lowery.

Over the past six years I have worked with Diane Nash, Chokwe Lumumba and Professor Janis McDonald of the Syracuse University Cold Case Justice Initiative to successfully litigate a suit arising from the brutal murder in the Philadelphia/Neshoba

County, Mississippi jail of Rexdale Henry, a Choctaw Indian. Since then, I have been employed by the Southern Poverty Law Center as an investigator in Neshoba County, developing a case against both the City of Philadelphia and Neshoba County. Currently, I am developing and directing a Citizens Court Monitoring Program that involves impacted communities in the assessment of the procedural justice administered by their elected Judges.

A reading of A Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice provided an insight into the spiritual basis for the practice of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association of the Religious Society of Friends.

I feel at ease in worship at the Atlanta Friends Meeting and I wish to continue my spiritual journey as a Friend.

Regards,

Kevin Moran

ALSO TO BE CONSIDERED AT MEETING FOR BUSINESS ON MARCH 20

2021 State of the Meeting Report:

Lissa Place, the 2020-2021 AFM Clerk, shared the [2021 State of the Meeting Report](#) during 2nd Month Meeting for Business. **If you contributed to the report, please review your committee's section and share any corrections or comments directly with Lissa as soon as possible.**

The state of the meeting report will come before the body at 3rd month Meeting for Business on March 20 for approval as it stands, or with any corrections. It will be read, with corrections, at Meeting for Business, but if you would like to read the most recent version in advance, it is at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fvHmptC9XeqJnu8_91zAfXxdwvxC9ocJ/view?usp=sharing.

Two Minutes relating to SAYMA:

Clerk Jennifer Dickie (afmclerk1@gmail.com) writes: "I invite you to read the linked documents related to the Atlanta Friends Meeting's relationship with Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA). Please take time to consider each and bring them to your committees (if any) for consideration and discernment. I also invite you to speak with Friends who attend or have attended SAYMA retreats and representative meetings and to those who currently serve on SAYMA committees or as representatives. If you are unsure who these Friends are, I invite you to reach out to me for some names of people you might speak with."

1. SAYMA Representative's Report on the Meeting for Threshing on 1/30/2022:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1X9NVFb54LZFWgwPwaXtJ_GuP87FgSWAuX9b4F4aCFKc/edit?usp=sharing
2. Proposed minute related to SAYMA Uplifting Racial Justice (URJ) that was brought for discernment to 2nd month meeting for business and will be considered again in March:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PGi_X8NTbI7MOLCeVhIQo4ExwnJpPV1r/view?usp=sharing
3. Proposed minute regarding SAYMA Undesignated Funds brought for discernment to 2nd month meeting for business and will be considered again in March:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17UjldFmEOahzIQe6rh0ufDStaqPLBhYm/view?usp=sharing>
(Atlanta's Minute on Reparative Justice and Reconciliation referenced in this proposed minute can be found at http://atlantaquakers.org/_site_pdf_docs/Minute_on_Reparative_Justice-20210815.pdf.)

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS AND ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays, March 6, 13, 20, 27

Adult First Day School will meet in person at the meetinghouse, and people will continue to be able to join via Zoom. (See above for Zoom details.)

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. On March 6, we will hear the spiritual journey of Kevin Moran. To hear Pat Michaelson's spiritual journey, shared February 6, visit <https://tinyurl.com/m4cyvy2k>. (To hear or read previous spiritual journeys, contact Mary Ann Downey.)

On second Sundays (previously third Sundays), Adult First Day School will have worship sharing, usually on that month's query. On other Sundays, we will discuss *Biblical Literacy: The Essential Bible Stories Everyone Needs to Know* by Timothy Beal. Please join us, even if you haven't read the book.

MEETING FOR THRESHING REGARDING BEQUEST TO MEETING – Sunday, March 6

On March 6, from 11:45 pm to 1:15 pm, Finance Committee is holding a Meeting for Threshing to share ideas about what do with the large bequest we received from the estate of Tom and Suzan Kenworthy, long time members of Atlanta Friends Meeting. This will be a hybrid meeting, combining in-person and Zoom, using the Zoom information for Meeting for Worship (see above). Childcare will be available at the meetinghouse. While Finance is proposing to use some of the bequest to increase our reserves (General Fund and Permanent Improvement Fund), we want to develop ideas on the use of some of this money in ways that align with Tom and Suzan's priorities. We encourage those attending to read the Kenworthys' memorial minutes to learn more about them. Finance Committee also welcomes thoughts ahead of the threshing session; you can contact Paul Mangelsdorf, Clerk of the committee, at mangelsdorf@bellsouth.net. For general information about meetings for threshing, see February's newsletter, and for Suzan and Tom's memorial minutes, see the minutes in January's newsletter and the newsletter for March 2021, all at <http://atlantaquakers.org/archive.htm>.

MONTHLY EASY HIKE / WALK – Saturday, March 12

On Saturday, March 12 at 9 am, we will take a walk of about 3 miles (total) round trip at Mount Arabia near Stonecrest mostly on flat, paved trails. The optional walk to the top of the mountain is about a mile round trip, and is steep. You can return after a mile for a flat walk. We should be done before 11 am. Meet at the Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Center (3787 Klondike Rd, Stonecrest, GA 30038) at 9 am. Watch for the turn into the parking lot just before that address as you head south on Klondike. To get there by MARTA and bicycle, take the blue line to Kensington station, then a bus to Mall Parkway at Klondike. Short bike ride south on trail. Here's a link to a map of the parking lot and trail: <https://goo.gl/maps/vvmBKUKwRxbc8kLy5>. Call Bert Skellie at 404-680-4799 if you have questions, if you have an emergency and need us to wait for you at the trailhead longer than 5 minutes, or if you would like information about future hikes, held the second Saturday of each month.

Friends gathered near the appointed hour with opening worship. A member of Ministry and Worship shared the Second Month Query out of the worship: How do we support those who serve our Meeting?

Discernment

Nominating

Minute 2-20-2022:01: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Jennifer Curmpley as an appointed member of the Care and Counsel Committee for a 3 year term from February of 2022- December of 2024.

Minute 2-20-2022:02 On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Don Bender for the position of Assistant Treasurer for a two year term from February of 2022- December of 2023.

Minute 2-20-2022:03 Minute of Appreciation for Ron Nuse: Nominating Committee would like to thank Ron Nuse for stepping in as interim Clerk of the Nominating Committee when he was needed during 2021. We are grateful for his support of the Meeting in this way.

Nominating

Lissa Place reporting for Nominating Committee would like to bring forward the name Lissa Place as Clerk of Committee for Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting for a term of three years.

Ministry and Worship

Bill Hooson reported for the Ministry and Worship Committee:

In June of 2004 the Atlanta Friends Meeting approved taking the Canton Worship Group under our care. In February of 2016 the Canton Worship Group announced that it was on "hiatus." The status does not appear to have changed. The facilitator of this group has been notified.

Minute 2-20-2022:04 : Friends approved the recommendation from the Ministry and Worship committee that the Canton Worship Group be laid down.

Membership

The Ministry and Worship committee recommends Kevin Moran as a member of Atlanta Friends Meeting. (Letter of Application attached).

The Ministry and Worship committee recommends Teri Key-Hooson as a member of Atlanta Friends Meeting. (Letter of Application attached).

[Editor's Note: These can be read on pages 7 and 8 above.]

SAYMA

Ministry and Worship is bringing forth a minute for the consideration of the Meeting. The minute arises from long-standing concerns over how we as a meeting and as yearly meeting respond to racial inequality and injustice drawing on the deepest wells of our spiritual life.

Our minute was precipitated by the Threshing session held on January 31. The session was structured to provide an open space for sharing experience and reflections but was explicitly designed to not reach decision. We have held SAYMA and our meeting in our hearts. The threshing sessions as well as communications with the SAYMA clerk and the reports of our SAYMA representative invites us to say where we are as a meeting.

[Editor's Note: The link to the report on this threshing session is above on page 8.]

Our proposed minute has three parts. The first is a statement that lays out the program we believe offers the way forward.

a. MINUTE: We invite each monthly meeting and the yearly meeting [in SAYMA] to consider the Minute on Reparative Justice and Reconciliation approved by Atlanta Friends Meeting 8-15-21 and to discern how Spirit leads us to carry out this work.

The second part reflects a Quaker practice known as a process minute. It is a recording of where the meeting is at this particular time. It establishes where we are and forms the basis of future discernment. In this case it is recording the recognition that we are not united.

b. Atlanta Friends Meeting is not in unity to continue support for the Uplifting Racial Justice Committee.

The third part of the minute is a decision minute that would record our meeting's decision. Ministry and Worship is united in this minute and recommends it to meeting for consideration.

c. We recommend that we lay down this committee [Uplifting Racial Justice] to seek unity for the work of reparative justice and reconciliation within our community.

Proposed MINUTE: We invite each Monthly Meeting and the Yearly Meeting to consider the Minute on Reparative Justice and Reconciliation approved by Atlanta Friends Meeting 8-15-21 and to discern how Spirit leads us to carry out this work. Atlanta Friends Meeting is not in unity to continue support for the Uplifting Racial Justice Committee of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting Association. We recommend that we lay down this committee to seek unity for the work of reparative justice and reconciliation within our community.

After discussion of the minute, Bill Holland suggested it might be considered as three separate minutes. The clerk requested that Friends take the minute as it is written back to their committees to continue discernment, to share their thoughts with each other and with Friends on Ministry and Nurture. The Ministry and Nurture committee will bring the minute back for consideration at 3rd month meeting for business.

Clerk's Items

Letter to Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting

Karen Morris spoke about the minute from the Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting removing themselves from SAYMA. The whole minute from SVFM can be read at SAYMA.org.

Karen and the clerk ask the meeting to create a letter of friendship to SVFM. Lissa Place and Bill Hooson will support Karen Morris to write a letter in response to the minute of withdrawal. She will bring the letter to 3rd month meeting for business for approval.

SAYMA Undesignated Funds

Bill Holland brings the following concern. At our 11th Month 2021 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Atlanta Monthly Meeting received a report from our SAYMA representative, Free Polazzo. Included in his written submission and shared with meeting was a report from the SAYMA Finance Committee [Relevant portion below] that included a request for "input" (direction) for expending "undesignated equity up to \$35,400." Atlanta Meeting has not responded to the request. Free Polazzo made a suggestion on how to deal with this we should respond as a meeting.

Proposed Minute: Atlanta Friends Meeting asks SAYMA representative body to return all undesignated equity (approximately \$35,400) to contributing monthly meetings and worship groups with the recommendation, but not requirement, to devote the funds to furthering the work envisioned in Atlanta's Minute on Reparative Justice and Reconciliation.

[Editor's Note: This minute from August 2021 can be read at

http://atlantaquakers.org/site_pdf_docs/Minute_on_Reparative_Justice-20210815.pdf

Relevant portion of SAYMA Finance Committee Report Free Polazzo shared 11th Month

Finance Committee Report from SAYMA

Karen Morris, Kendall Ivie, acting treasurer, Geeta McGahey, acting clerk

*Please Friends, respond to the nominating committee with names to fill the positions of finance clerk, treasurer and assistant treasurer. We would love to welcome more Friends to the committee, we also may need an additional member. **Please note the 2021 additional surplus in the undesignated equity, almost \$5000, bringing the total undesignated equity up to \$35,400 ,in addition to our reserves of over \$18,000. At a subsequent rep meeting, finance hopes to recommend a budget adjustment to use some of this money for good in the world. FWCC and URJ have both asked for money that has not yet been budgeted. SAYF may need increased hours for their staff. Or it could go to other national or international Quaker organizations and/or local and regional justice outreach organizations. Please give input to the Finance Committee about how you feel this money might best be used.***

Friends are encouraged to discuss this minute and share thoughts with Bill Holland/ Bill will bring this minute to 3rd months meeting for business for discussion and approval.

Reports

Administration-Solar Panel Report Steve Collins, clerk of Administration, reported. The City of Decatur recently issued the permitting required to begin work on our solar project. This had taken considerably more time than expected. Creative Solar, the firm that we have contracted with for the installation, is also backlogged due to supply chain issues and has our projected start date sometime in April.

Clerk's Items:

Jennifer Dickie, Clerk of Atlanta Friends Meeting, read a letter from Minneapolis Friends Meeting accepting Mary Bosserman into their meeting and care.

Lissa Place read the State of the Meeting Report 2021 (SEE ATTACHED). Lissa requests Friends read the letter and reach out to her with any concerns. Lissa will bring the report back in 3rd month for approval.

[Editor's Notes: The link to State of the Meeting Report is above on page 8.]

Committee Corner

Social Concerns

Glenn Plyler reported for the Social Concerns Committee. Disbursements of all routine annual funds from 2022 Annual Budget have been made.

SCC's next committee meeting is 13 March 2022 at 1pm only on ZOOM please check the newsletter for that information. We will review of leadings members have that may need distilling for further attention by committee and/or AFM particularly around reparatations.

FCNL Atlanta Advocacy Team-Quarterly Report

Sue May reported for the Friends Committee on National Legislation Advocacy Team and updated the meeting about the activities this past quarter, a time of frustration, enrichment, and a new challenge as we lobby our members of Congress from our moral conviction that war is not the answer.

NEW MISSION

With the repeal of the 2002 Iraq AUMF stalled in the Senate, we are charged with a new mission: urge our members of Congress to introduce and support a *Yemen War Powers Resolution* and end U.S. complicity in the rapidly escalating Saudi war on Yemen.

Unauthorized by Congress, the U.S. supplies maintenance and logistical support for Saudi bombings, and supports the cruel blockade which has cut off so much food and medicine that the U.N. calls Yemen the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. Continuing to push for restoring the war authority to Congress, FCNL has added a great many background pieces on their website, fcnl.org team toolkit, and assigned a brilliant senior lobbyist, Hassan El-Tayyab, to educate the Advocacy Teams. One event open to all was a virtual screening of *Hunger Ward*, Oscar-nominated documentary film about the human-caused famine in Yemen, held on Feb. 17 and attended by many here.

TEAM NEWS

Our Team has been enriched by the three college and graduate students who have joined us recently, lobbying with us and spreading the word about what we do on the Agnes Scott and Emory Law School campuses. We are also reaching out to other groups to build partnerships to strengthen and broaden our voice.

Julianna Bragg, for ex., talked to her professor at Agnes Scott, who connected us with someone active in the Poor People's Campaign of Atlanta. As their national goals are to address militarism and racism, we are seeking ways to lobby together in the future.

Julia Rademacher-Wedd, new to our Team, is not only a first-year Agnes Scott student, but also a member of the FCNL Advocacy Corps, a part-time paid advocacy group which is lobbying Congress for passage of the *Environmental Justice for All Act*. Several of our Team have joined her lobby visits; and Julia joins with us as well. And Simon Heinrich has recruited another Emory law student for the Team.

We lost two valued Team members who moved to other states. Joy Lewis was with us only a few months but made her mark by helping create a roster of GA media. Alberta Guise for many years provided inspiration, energy and leadership.

As always, we welcome the addition of new Team members, and encourage Friends and community members who are interested to contact us.

Announcements

Meeting for Threshing on March 6 at the rise of Meeting to consider the use of Kenworthys' bequest. The clerk reminds Friends to read the memorial minutes for Tom and Susan Kenworthy in the December 2021 newsletter.

The clerk requests committees share the names of Friends who completed terms of service in 2021

Approval of Minutes from 1st month 2022

Minute 2-20-2022:04 The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes from 1st Month 2022 with changes.

Events in the life of the meeting

- Roy Taylor's mother, Margaret Warren, passed earlier this year.
- Memorial on Feb. 6, 2022 for John Stabler

Closing Worship

Atlanta Friends Meeting
701 W. Howard Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030-2902

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Regular Office Hours have resumed: Monday thru Thursday, 10 am to 1 pm and Friday, by appointment
web and email: atlantaquakers.org, atlantaquakers@gmail.com voicemail/phone: 404-377-2474
Clerk: Jennifer Dickie, afmclerk1@gmail.com Treasurer: Judith Greenberg, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com

Ways to communicate and share 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.
- To join any of these email lists above, please email the office at atlantaquakers@gmail.com
- To receive weekly emails with details about Zoom and in-person meetings for worship and First Day School, email atlantaquakers@gmail.com
- To join the meeting's Facebook page, search for Atlanta Friends Meeting & click the + **Join Group** button.

If you need a directory:

Email 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.

What does investing in your spiritual community look like for you and your family? Atlanta Friends Meeting accepts contributions of your time, resources, and money! You can place a financial contribution in the slot marked "Contributions" in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse or mail to the Treasurer at our mailing address. To donate online with a credit card or paypal, visit atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm. Thank you!

Want to submit an announcement, letter, article, and anything else of interest to Friends for the newsletter? Send to atlquakerltr@gmail.com. Submissions may be edited for length and format. THE DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS IS THE 20TH 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.*