

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2022



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

The most recent announcement sheet is always at http://atlantaquakers.org/announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf

Meeting for Worship each First Day (Sunday) in Person & via Zoom, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Details on page 4

QUERY FOR NOVEMBER

Do you listen patiently and seek the truth which other people's opinions may contain for you? Do you think it is possible that you may be mistaken?

Source: Australia Yearly Meeting: Advices and Queries No. 19 [adapted]
<https://www.quakersaustralia.info/advices-and-queries>

THE JOY OF QUAKER COMMITTEES

by Steve Smith; reprinted from Western Friend, June 2, 2009

Editor's Note: This is a follow-up to September's article about Atlanta Friends Meeting committees and what they do. It is one possible answer to Patricia Loring's question in Listening Spirituality, volume 2: "How might we encourage committee or business meetings to become times of refreshment, of a renewed worship in our sense of giving ourselves and affairs over to God, of being drawn into living, loving, fellowship with one another – rather than a crowded, anxious, hurried burden on already burdened lives?"

When we gather together in Quaker committees to do the work of our community, where do we put our attention? With no more than a moment of quiet, do we dive immediately into the tasks and problems before us – or do we settle deeply into worship, centering our hearts and minds upon the Source of all Light and Truth?

Anticipating a committee meeting, do we calculate how to secure an outcome we have chosen in advance? As we settle into the meeting, are we mistrustful and querulous with one another? Or do we lay aside differences and planned scripts, and give ourselves to goodwill, Divine guidance and love?

Do we see the matters before the committee merely as tasks to be completed as efficiently as possible – or do we see them as opportunities to seek deeper unity? Which do we pursue more urgently: our private ease, or the joyfulness of doing God's work?

Acquired over many years of working on various Quaker committees, my own experience encompasses all of these patterns and more. I have sat on committees that degenerated into

lengthy, heated arguments between two members, while others sat in embarrassed and awkward silence. I have participated in (and sometimes clerked) committees in which it was obvious that some who were present viscerally disliked and mistrusted others: as one opened her mouth to speak, another was poised to disagree. And I have frequently experienced committee meetings in which members impulsively digressed from the agenda item before the committee onto this or that irrelevant tangent, like kangaroos scattering in all directions.

Yet I have also been blessed by Quaker committees in which members happily looked forward to meeting with each other, and when gathered, brought all of themselves into the room, ready to share intimately from their lives. I have known committees that were as deeply centered and gathered as any Meeting for Worship can be. I have been delighted by committees in which everyone eagerly came together to address the shared work and, when additional tasks arose, vied to take responsibility for those tasks in order to spare others from undue burdens. I have spent full days and even weekends immersed in extended committee meetings, and left those meetings exalted not only by what we had accomplished, but even more by the spiritual power of our fellowship.

Perhaps no other faith tradition relies so heavily as does Quakerism upon small groups that labor together to conduct necessary business. Our testimony of equality and our relative lack of formal hierarchy mean that most Quaker decisions are jointly made. Committees exist not only to accomplish tasks, however, but also to build community. We may see this truth more clearly in other settings. For example, veterans of Friends' work camps and other joint service activities know that while such laudable efforts are initiated to meet an external need – to house the homeless, to reach out to those in conflict, to listen to those who have no voice, and a thousand other worthy causes – the external outcomes of those efforts may appear modest in comparison to the bonds of fellowship that are fostered through laboring together in laughter and love.

At their best, Quaker committees are small catalysts for community, cells of centering and faith that strengthen our bonds and deepen our spiritual lives. Committee meetings are typically overshadowed by our larger gatherings. But the best measure of a Meeting's spiritual health may lie not in the more public events of meeting for worship or business (where public posturing may simulate good order), but in the small gatherings of Friends who are charged with the ongoing tasks of the Meeting.

How can we tell whether these gatherings reveal a healthy spiritual community – or one that is drifting into decay? We recognize that a committee is going badly if:

- Committee meetings are poorly attended;
- The loudest or quickest voices dominate, shunting quieter persons aside;
- Impulsive reactions and self-indulgent digressions dissipate energy;
- A few members of the committee are overburdened with most of the tasks;
- Some members of the committee mistrust or even disdain one another;
- Committee work is divorced from the personal lives of its members.

Seasoned Friends can doubtless describe many other symptoms of dysfunction. Shortcomings of Quaker process often arise from an absence of trust and love. If an undercurrent of suspicion pervades a committee, our prejudices override our patience. Focusing upon the faults and foibles of others, we dig in our heels. At such times we are prone to proclaim abstract principles that are divorced from an open heart.

When we extend ourselves in good will and kindness to one another, however, everything goes better. Resting in God, loving one another as we are loved, we find clarity and strength to do our work. Forgiving others' weaknesses, we are glad to be together.

As Friend Deborah Haines writes, “Whenever we remember that we are in the presence of God, everything seems to be illuminated from within by divine radiance. Every task, no matter how mundane, becomes an act of worship, a word of praise offered to God. Thus worship should not be merely a pro forma silence before we 'get down to business,' but the cradle and source for all that we do. The many patterns that disrupt good order – a hurried pace, interrupting one another, hurt feelings and argument, diffuse and digressive chatter, and so on – naturally drop away.” The manner in which we do our business is at least important as the outcome. Again, Deborah Haines expresses the point well: “When we focus on the product, we are tempted to paper over unresolved differences in the name of consensus, often generating a lowest-common-denominator solution that will not stand the test of time. When we focus on the process – opening ourselves to the Inward Light and truly attending to each other – the sense of the meeting that emerges is strong and deeply rooted, knitting the group together in a shared experience of the divine.”

While no formula captures the essence of good Quaker committee work, these guidelines reflect Friends historic understanding of Gospel Order:

- Unite in silent worship. George Fox asked Friends to “meet together and know one another in that which is eternal.” (Epistle #149) Begin and end meetings with settled silent worship. If difficulties arise, a period of silent reflection may restore perspective and open way for wisdom to emerge.
- Build the blessed community. We work best together when we are trusting, loving and joyful with one another. Good group process creates and sustains a loving community.
- Know one another as whole persons. While most committees do not function as support groups for their members, a tender sensitivity to each other’s emotional and spiritual state (perhaps aided by brief personal “check-ins” at the beginning of the meeting) can deepen the shared life of the group.
- Be deliberate. Haste makes waste. Good committee work is unhurried, even (or especially) when the agenda is lengthy.
- Wait to be recognized by the clerk. Speaking out of turn is like “cutting in line,” implying that one’s own words are more important than anything others might say. The clerk’s role is to invite orderly attention to the matter at hand and ensure that all may speak. Seek a balance between rigid formality, and a chaotic “free-for-all” in which the quickest voice dominates.
- Stay focused and on track. Impulsive reactions and “pop-up” digressions drain time and energy from the group. While all are charged with maintaining good order, the Clerk bears primary responsibility for overseeing process and bringing the group back when it has strayed.
- Invite all voices. Most groups include some who talk easily, and others who are shy, diffident or reserved. When talkers drown out listeners, group process suffers. Make space for the quietest members to speak, if they wish. Then listen!
- Avoid lengthy speeches. “Let your words be few,” advised early Friends. Speak as much as necessary – and no more. The traditional “This Friend speaks my mind” is preferable to restating a point that has already been made.
- Be flexible. “Dearly beloved Friends, these things we do not lay upon you as a rule or form to walk by, but that all, with the measure of light which is pure and holy, may be guided: and so in the light walking and abiding, these may be fulfilled in the Spirit, not from the letter, for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.” –Advices, Elders at Balby, 1656

Good process properly governs all that we do and are as Friends. When committee meetings are infused by Light and Truth, our hearts open and our difficulties ease. In the words of George Fox, we awaken to “the hidden unity in the Eternal Being,” and delight in its life-transforming gladness and joy.

**PLEASE HOLD
IN THE LIGHT:**

Peter Schantz's family
Erin Daniel
Donna Roberts' son Philip
David Small
Susan Firestone 's
brother-in-law Dave
Julia Ewen's family
Karen Head
Rebecca Cole Sullivan

*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, kskellie@gmail.com
Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, susanfires@gmail.com
Committee on Undoing Racism in AFM: Lissa Place, lissaplace@yahoo.com
Religious Education: Laura MacNorlin, laura.norlin@gmail.com
Library: Cal Gough, calgough@bellsouth.net
Nominating: Lissa Place, lissaplace@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor: Nina Gooch, atlquakerltr@gmail.com
Webmaster: Aaron Ruschetta, arxaaron@gmail.com
Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, afmbookkeeper1@gmail.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.

PLEASE JOIN US ON SUNDAYS FOR WORSHIP AND FIRST DAY SCHOOL



We will continue to worship on Sunday at 10:00 am in person at the meetinghouse in combination with worship via Zoom for the indefinite future. Please choose the option that is best for you. For the most up to date Zoom information and COVID guidelines for in-person worship, see the current announcement sheet at www.atlantaquakers.org/_announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP

10 am Sundays, combined in person and Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYlFWEhSQUtZRVVPalFFYmVDQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751

Passcode: 789456

ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL

(see more details for each Sunday below)

9:00 to 9:50 am Sundays, combined in person and Zoom

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

Meeting ID: 860 6366 5797

Passcode: 013191

FIRST DAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

10:15 am Sundays, in-person,

Children and teens 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.

COMMITTEE ON UNDOING RACISM IN ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING -- Tuesday, November 1

The Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting (CURAFM) will have an online meeting on the first Tuesday of the month, November 1 at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Lissa Place (lissaplace@yahoo.com or 678-793-9260) or Susan Firestone (susanfires@gmail.com or 404-268-6480). See announcement sheet for zoom coordinates.

WEDNESDAY AM MEETING FOR WORSHIP – Wednesdays, November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

8:30 am. This ongoing meeting for worship is again both in person and Zoom.
Contact Bert Skellie at 404-680-4799 for general info.

<https://zoom.us/j/92038862952>

Meeting ID: 92038862952

Password: 726229

WED EVENING WORSHIP WITH MACON WORSHIP GROUP – Wed, Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

The Macon Worship Group, which is under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting, worships via Zoom every Wednesday at 7:00 pm.. They invite us to join them for this ongoing meeting for worship! For more information, contact Bill Holland and Mary Ann Downey.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85017745787?pwd=RUQ3OGJPenMrYktXemlxL1d2R3Q2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 850 1774 5787

Passcode: 22Light

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR – Thursday, November 3 and ongoing

The book group reading works by and about people of color meets at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month They are currently meeting in person and via Zoom. On November 3, they'll discuss *The Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka . Future books include:

December 1, 2022 – *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich

January 5, 2023 – *The Love Songs of W.E.B. DuBois* by Honoree Fanonne Jeffers

February 2, 2023 – *Daughter of Fortune* by Isabelle Allende

For questions or the Zoom link, contact Susan Cole (cole2544@bellsouth.net).

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

Adult First Day School meets in person at the meetinghouse, and people can also 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. (To hear Judy Lumb's Spiritual Journey, shared October 2, 2022, visit <https://tinyurl.com/5xsznksd>. To hear other past Spiritual Journeys, contact Mary Ann Downey.)

(continued on next page)

On second Sundays, Adult First Day School will have worship sharing, usually on that month's query. On third, fourth and fifth Sundays, beginning November 20, they will be discussing *After* by Bruce Greyson, M.D, about what near-death experiences reveal about Life and Beyond. All are welcome, whether you have read the book or not.

POTLUCK – Sunday, November 6

Starting in October, please join us for a potluck lunch following the rise of Meeting on the first Sunday of the month. Each month a different committee will take charge of set up and clean up.

LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE -- Wednesday, November 16

Our monthly online, drop-in forum about race meets at 7:30 pm on the third Wednesday of November and December (and the fourth Wednesday of other months). Each meeting starts with a quote from anti racist literature or other media to be the springboard for the evening's conversation. All are welcome whether you have attended before or not. No special knowledge or background needed. We contribute from our personal experiences and backgrounds. We learn from the stories and questions we are willing to share. For more information, contact Lissa Place, 678-793-9260. See announcement sheet for Zoom details.

FCNL ANNUAL MEETING AND PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE – November 16 to 20

Friends Committee On National Legislation's (FCNL's) annual meeting will be November 17 to 20. If you would like to attend virtually, **register by November 9** at <https://www.fcnl.org/events/annual-meeting-and-quaker-public-policy-institute> Cost: \$75. You'll meet FCNL senior lobbyists, program assistants, and other outstanding speakers in various workshops. Info: Sue May, 404-775-5958 or susanmay1@icloud.com .

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS -- Sunday, November 20

Stay after meeting for worship, whether in person or via Zoom. Meeting for Business will be held in a combined format about 11:45. Minutes from our last Meeting for Business are below. http://atlantaquakers.org/_site_pdf_docs/Guidelines_for_Meeting_for_Business.pdf has more information about how meeting for worship with attention to business works.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE SAYMA

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) is our yearly meeting, our regional gathering of programmed Quaker meetings in the southeast. SAYMA's Nominating Committee is seeking people to serve the yearly meeting in the following capacities: Ministry and Nurture Committee, Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, Peace and Social Concerns, Earth Justice, SAYMA Friend (newsletter) editor, Outreach Committee, and representatives to wider Quaker organizations. <https://tinyurl.com/yn2jsh7f> has more details on all these positions, but particularly Ministry & Nurture. Please contact Julia Ewen (jewen@bellsouth.net; or 404-534-3043 – no text messages) if you have an interest in serving in any of these roles, or if you know of an Atlanta Friend whose gifts might be a good fit for any of these positions.

MINUTES FOR TENTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS
October 16, 2022, held in person and via Zoom in a blended meeting
Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Aaron Ruschetta, Brent Wolff, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Bill Holland, Mary Ann Downey, Cathy Amanti, Caroline Morris, Cheryl Cowherd, Don Bender, Judy Bender, David Small, Elizabeth Lamb, Erin Daniel, Glenn Plyler, Jay Roache, Jim Tolmach, Sally Tolmach, Judy Lumb, Julia Ewen, Kathy Johnson, Karen terHorst Morris, Lynn Leuszler, Mark Yates, Micheal Allison, Myrna Trapp, Nina Gooch, Paul Mangelsdorf, Richard Allen, Ron Rocz, Steve Collins, Susan Firestone, Susan May, Jennifer Dickie (Clerk), Coryn Murphy (Recording Clerk)

Opening Worship

Query for Tenth Month:

How has continuing revelation informed my spiritual journey?

Source: *SAYMA A Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice*, 4th edition, 2021 Queries B.3

Discernment

Social Concerns Committee:

Mark Yates reported for the social concerns committee. The Georgia Medicaid expansion minute was introduced last month. At that time, Mark received several suggestions for changes that he implemented in the minute below. Following discussion two more changes were made to the last paragraph to emphasize that this minute is aligned with our Quaker values.

Minute 10-16-22:01: The Atlanta Friends Meeting, on the recommendation of the Social Concerns Committee, approves the following minute concerning expanding Medicaid coverage in Georgia:

Atlanta Friends Meeting (Quakers) ask that members of Georgia's State Government find in their hearts and consciences the will to fully expand Medicaid to provide hospital medical care for all Georgia citizens.

The recent announcement of closure in November 2022 of Atlanta Medical Center, Wellstar Level 1 trauma hospital brings sharp focus to the need to strengthen Georgia's health care systems. Additionally, eight rural hospitals have already closed over the past decade, making Georgia one of the top three states having closed rural hospitals in America. There appears to be a strong correlation between states' failure to expand Medicaid eligibility and closures of hospitals. Eight of the states with the most hospital closures have not expanded Medicaid coverage. Failure to expand Medicaid coverage in Georgia leaves one in five of fellow Georgians without health care insurance. Expansion of Medicaid would provide health care access to at least 600,000 Georgians.

Expansion of Medicaid would also help maintain the medical service providers within our communities and increase economic activity. It has been estimated that at least 50,000 jobs would be created annually with over 10,000 of those in rural areas. In addition, Georgia's economic output would increase over 6 billion dollars every year. Loss of hospitals and medical care reduces Georgia's economic health and social attractiveness in our present ever-changing world.

Medicaid expansion would reduce costs through dependable payments to Georgia from the Federal Government. The federal government pays 90% of costs of the expansion rather than

the current 67% of Georgia's traditional Medicaid insurance. Since Medicaid expansion became available in 2014, concerns that states could not depend on that extra federal funding have been unfounded. The 90% payments to states that have expanded Medicaid have been reliable.

We believe that there is that of God in every person and that extending lifesaving care is the moral and loving thing for us to seek for our neighbors. Atlanta Friends Meeting (Quakers) ask that Georgia State Legislators fully expand Medicaid so that Georgia may be a healthier home for all.

Ministry and Worship:

Bill Hooson shared a minute from Ministry and Worship recognizing the work of Sue May.

Quaker principles of plain speaking and simplicity are an ongoing challenge. Newcomers who come into our spaces want to know about us and our concerns. Several years ago, Sue May looked at our greeting area spaces and the bulletin boards and saw how our enthusiasm and interests had led to too many layers of information being posted. She took up a "bulletin board ministry" to bring clarity and provide information and invitation to newcomers and attenders. Sue May is now laying down this leading.

Minute 10-16-22:02: The Atlanta Friends Meeting thanks Sue May for the new eyes she brought to our spaces. We thank her for taking responsibility for bringing clarity and simplicity to our messaging by repurposing and clearing the clutter. We recognize the deep value she brought to us. We release her from this work.

Jennifer Dickie, the clerk, reported that Nina Gooch has been managing the bulletin board in her capacity as AFM office coordinator and said Nina felt it was aligned with the job description to maintain the greeting area. Nina asked for support from a volunteer for times when creative changes or solutions would be required to the bulletin board. Bill Hooson said Susie Lippold had volunteered to be this person. Nina will reach out to Susie as needed.

Bill Hooson brought for discernment the membership of Joshua Whittle and reread his membership request letter.

Minute 10-16-22:03: The Atlanta Friends Meeting under the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee accepts and welcomes Joshua (Josh) Whittle into our membership.

Mary Ann Downey read the following memorial minute for Beth-Ann Buitekant

Minute 10-16-22:04: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following memorial minute for Beth-Ann Buieikant.

Beth-Ann Buitekant died on August 22, 2022, and a memorial service celebrating her life was held at the Friends School of Atlanta on September 10, 2022. There are a few people in this life whose belief in human goodness shines even more brightly amid the dark social and economic times of these past few years. All who encountered Beth-Ann Buitekant knew her as such a person – a humanitarian, an uncommonly keen and kind listener, and a consistent voice of hopefulness and encouragement.

Born in Ridgefield, New Jersey, on February 15, 1946, to Rubin and Sylvia (Bickwit) Buitekant she grew up with Jewish traditions and a focus on social action. Beth-Ann was the younger of two children, whose brother Michael, died in 2008. She attended Illinois Wesleyan University and graduated with a B.S. in Nursing in 1968, a pivotal moment for the U.S. anti-war and Black freedom movements, in which she became deeply involved.

Beth-Ann's adult life was framed by her enduring commitments to racial and social justice, peace, and feminism. During her 20s and 30s, she worked full time as a nurse throughout her years as a farmer and found joy and comfort in country living. She moved to Atlanta in 1981 and continued her work as a nurse and as a peace activist.

She met members of the Atlanta Friends Meeting at a peace demonstration of The War Resisters League and began attending the meeting in 1981. She said she found that "Quakers put words to what I already believed." Speaking about her spiritual journey in 2020, she said that the words, "Here I am," remind her to live in the present, and to be present to others. She worked as a volunteer at WRFG radio, hosting interviews for the "Just Peace" program, and when the meeting began renting space to Congregation Bet Haverim for services, Beth-Ann became a part of this community as well.

Beth-Ann realized a lifelong dream of becoming a mother when her daughter Ruby-Beth Essra Yakira Ifetayo Bueitkant was born in 1987. She spoke of her daughter as her greatest gift and favorite person. They enjoyed sharing their love of nature by going to the Meeting's cabin in north Georgia and traveling to US National Parks on camping trips.

Beth-Ann returned to school in the 1990s and earned a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the Georgia School for Professional Psychology. She became the counselor for the Friends School of Atlanta and established a private family therapy practice, which she maintained until 2021. She was honored to help run the race conscious parenting collective with Charis Circle, a feminist community she was connected to for decades. With her counseling skills and deep spirituality, she was a spiritual nurturer for the Quaker Voluntary Service Program and opened her home to many young people needing support.

As her physical health plummeted, she exchanged sight for insight, possessing an optimism that was dimmed at times but never extinguished. She entered hospice care in July 2022. Her survivors include daughter Ruby-Beth Buitekant and son-in-law Taylor Grandchamp, who served as her tender primary caregivers, as well as grandchild Lazuli Jaq Buitechamp, of who she was vastly proud. She also leaves behind beloved dog Veijo and cat Poppysed. Beth-Ann was a mother, sister, or auntie to a powerful network of loving friends too numerous to list here. She is forever missed. Beth-Ann was buried at the Honey Creek Woodlands Preserve in Conyers, GA.

Nominating Jim Tolmach reported for the nominating committee.

Minute 10-16-22:05: On behalf of Nominating Committee, AFM approves Teri O'Neil as a member of Young Friends Support Committee for a term of three years from October 2022 to December 2025.

Minute 10-16-22:06: On behalf of Nominating Committee, AFM approves David Small as a member of Young Friends Support Committee for a term of two years from October 2022 to December 2024.

Minute 10-16-22:07: On behalf of Nominating Committee, AFM approves Nina Gooch as Facebook Coordinator until December of 2023.

Minute 10-16-22:08: On behalf of Nominating Committee, AFM approves Mark Bryans as Clerk of Ferguson Cabin Stewards Committee for a term of three years from October of 2022 until December of 2025.

Reports

Nominating Jim Tolmach brought forward Gwen Davies to serve on the Young Friends Support Committee. Nominating will bring her name back next month for discernment.

Finance Committee - Paul Mangelsdorf reported the third quarter finance report

As of September 30, 2022, AFM is running a \$19,102 deficit YTD. A deficit through this part of the year is usual, as contribution income is largely received in the 4th quarter. The deficit is \$15,059 less than the \$34,161 deficit that was budgeted through September. Income YTD is \$6,557 higher than budget and expenses are \$8,502 less than budget.

Income YTD is \$3,949 more than the same period in the prior year driven by the slightly higher donations (\$1,594 more than 2021) and significantly higher rental income (\$14,330 higher this year) offset by higher expenses.

Expenses are running \$11,755 more than the prior year driven by occupancy expense, contributions to the Permanent Improvement Fund (we did not make any contributions last year and they are \$5,625 YTD). Employee expense is higher than last year although below budget. Occupancy expense is over budget by \$1,1606 and higher than the prior year by \$2,268. Higher Occupancy expense is a result of higher utility expenses (including the impact of a delay in the Solar Panels going live) and higher building maintenance (repairing an HVAC unit repairing an electrical circuit in the kitchen and repairing an outside faucet).

Compared to year-end, our balance sheet is \$53,217 smaller. This is the result of the YTD deficit of \$19,102 and payment of the initial amount due on the solar system installation and by minor changes in the balances of the other funds. On the asset side of the balance sheet Checking balances are lower as we transferred funds to the Savings Account. Receivables (Undeposited funds and Due from Pay Pal) decreased by \$20,218.

[Editor's Note: Third quarter's financial statement can be read at <https://tinyurl.com/5cazcmac>]

Paul requested that all of the committees please submit a budget to the finance committee by the second Sunday in November.

Administration Steve Collins reported for the Administration Committee.

Georgia Power Line Replacement:

We were notified this week that Georgia Power contract crews are starting work in our area to replace portions of the power lines. As a result, they expect fewer and shorter outages in the area once this work is complete. Construction will occur in the road right-of way, which often includes the sidewalks and portions of lawns or vegetation. Traffic controls or closures may be needed, but we should continue to have access to our property. Protective covers or barriers may be temporarily placed in these areas during construction. We're not sure where this work will occur. Georgia Power does show two addresses on our account: the West Howard mailing address and 104 Adair Street, which may indicate the side of the building where the meters are located -- and where the planned work may occur.

Solar panel update;

Creative Solar, the Meeting's solar panel installer, says our panels are ready to be tested and approved by Georgia Power. When contacted, Georgia Power said their technicians are scheduled to be onsite by early to-mid November. Once they approve our system and it is turned on, we should start seeing lower electric bills. Creative Solar has recently made some repairs to the south facing panels to try to stop a leak in the roof. If heavier rains result in more leaks, they will work with a roofing firm to repair the roof.

SAYMA Nominating Committee

Julia Ewen reported for the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association [SAYMA] Nominating Committee: The SAYMA nominating committee is asking member Meetings to come forward to serve in the following open positions on SAYMA's various committees:

- **Ministry and Nurture:** 2 open, one nominated by Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association and one more available from AFM specifically as a monthly meeting representative
- **Yearly Meeting Planning:** 6 open: The positions are less important as members of the committee operate in a flexible capacity. If there is something you feel passionate about in the yearly meeting session and would like to explore that with the committee, please sign up. (1-co-registrar; 1-workshop coordinator; 1-Young Adult Friends Representative; 1-Southern Appalachian Young Friends Representative, 1-bookstore assistant, 1-program layout manager)
- **Peace and Social and Concerns:** 5 open positions
- **Earth Justice:** 1 open
- **Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association Friend (newsletter) editor:** open
- **Outreach:** 2 open
- **Representatives to Wider Quaker Organizations:** 1 - American Friends Service Committee Corporation; 1- Friends General Conference; 1-Friends Peace Teams; 1- Right Sharing of World Resources.

Please contact Julia Ewen (jewen@bellsouth.net; 404-534=3043 (no text messages)) if you have an interest in serving in any of these roles, or if you know of an Atlanta Friend whose gifts might be a good fit for any of these positions.

Clerk's Items

- Jennifer Dickie, the Clerk of the Atlanta Friends Meeting, is preparing to write the state of the Meeting year end report. She asked each committee to consider these queries. "What has brought your committee joy this year? What have the challenges been for your committee this year?"
- The clerk is assembling a Naming Committee of three members to serve through 2022 and name 2 Friends to nomination committee. Confirmed is Sally Ferguson. The other two members will be reported next month.
- The clerk will form an Ad hoc Committee for the kitchen update (electric cooking appliance, update vent, update electrical as needed, consider a small industrial dishwasher). The clerk asked for interested Friends to let her know. She will bring the names of those serving on committee to the next month's meeting for business.
- Jennifer Dickie, as the clerk of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association Planning Committee [YMPC}, reported that SAYMA's YMPC is looking for a new venue to host this year's annual sessions and retreat as Warren Wilson College is not hosting any summer conferences. Please email her for new space ideas (jenniferdickie01@gmail.com).

Events in the life of the meeting

Peter Schantz' memorial will be 10-22-2022 at the meeting house.

Approval of Minutes from 9th month 2022

Minute 10-16-22:09: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the Minutes from the 9th month meeting.

Closing Worship

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

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Office Hours: 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: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com

Ways to communicate and receive 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.
- **You may receive weekly reminders about in person and Zoom worship and First Day School via a new email list.** This is the worship reminder list.

To join any of these email lists above, please email the office at atlantaquakers@gmail.com

To join the meeting's Facebook group, search for Atlanta Friends Meeting & click the + **Join Group** button.

Do you need a directory, printed or electronic?

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! Place a financial contribution in the slot marked "Contributions" in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse or mail to our mailing address. Donate online at atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm with a credit card or paypal. Sign up to volunteer on Sunday morning, at <http://tinyurl.com/afmvolunteers>. Contact the Nominating Committee to serve on a committee. Thanks!

Want to submit an announcement, letter, article, etc to the newsletter? Email 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.*