

# ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER 2024



Current and back issues of the newsletter are available at <https://atlantaquakers.org/newsletter/> <https://atlantaquakers.org/announcement-sheet/> will always have the most recent announcement sheet

Meeting for Worship each First Day (Sunday) in Person & via Zoom, 10:00 am  
(For those who prefer a more intimate worship experience, we have resumed small meetings for worship in the library at 10 am.)  
Details for Sunday worship and for our Wednesday small meetings for worship, in person and zoom, are in the announcement sheet (link just above).

### QUERY FOR DECEMBER

Do we regard our time, talents, energy, money, material possessions and other resources as gifts from God, to be held in trust and shared according to the Light we are given?

### A GUIDE TO MEETING FOR WORSHIP IN ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

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*from Ministry & Worship committee*

“Give over thine own willing; give over thine own running; give over thine own desiring to know or to be anything, and sink down to the seed which God sows in the heart, and let that grow in thee, and be in thee, and breathe in thee, and act in thee, and thou shalt find by sweet experience that the Lord knows that, and loves and owns that, and will lead it to the inheritance of life, which is his portion.”  
*from Issac Pennington, “Some Directions to the Panting Soul,” 1661*

*“What to do in the Meeting for Worship”  
by N Jean Toomer*

“I never go to the meeting with an ‘itch to speak,’ though it sometimes happens to me, as to others, that I am moved to speak before arriving at the meeting house. Even so, I usually restrain the urge until we have had at least a short period of silent waiting before God. One is vain indeed if he thinks that his words are more important than this waiting. If I have not been moved to speak before arriving, such an impulse, if it comes at all, is likely to arise after I have been waiting a while. It arises

within my silence. An insight or understanding flashes into my mind. A prayer or a pleading or a brief exhortation comes upon me. I hold it in mind and look at it, and at myself. I examine it.

- Is this a genuine moving that deserves expression in a meeting for worship or had I best curb and forget it?
- May it have some real meaning for others, and is it suited to the condition of this meeting?
- Can I phrase it clearly and simply?

If it passes these tests, I regard it as something to be said but I am not yet sure it should be said here and now. To find out how urgent it is, I press it down and try to forget it. If time passes and it does not take hold of me with increased strength, I conclude that it is not to be spoken of at this time. If, on the other hand, it will not be downed, if it rebounds and insists and will not leave me alone, I give it expression.

If it turns out that the words were spoken more in my own will than in the power, I feel that egotistical – I have done it, and that this self-doing has set me apart from the other members of the meeting. I am dissatisfied until again immersed in the life of the group. But if it seems that I have been an instrument of the power, I have the feeling that the power has done it and has, by this very act, joined those assembled even closer. Having spoken, I feel at peace once again, warmed and made glowing by the passage of a living current through me to my fellows. With a heightened sense of fellowship with man and God, I resume my silent practices . . . The message should form with the silence a seamless whole."

*(originally published in "An Interpretation of Friends Worship" Philadelphia: The Committee on Religious Education of Friends General Conference, 1947, pp.20-27)*

#### Ministry in meeting for worship – listening for guidance



## Advice for Vocal Ministry

*(Adapted from Westminster Quaker Meeting by Ministry & Worship Committee for AFM)*

1. Try not to minister in the first or last ten minutes of meeting for worship. This allows the meeting to settle into, and conclude in, silence.
2. Be brief.
3. Leave silence after previous ministry so that it can be taken in and settle.
4. Beware of speaking predictably or too often
5. Try to speak clearly so all can hear. If you can, you should stand up to minister. Wait for the microphone, if applicable.
6. Before ministering ask yourself from a deep place if your ministry is in a true spirit of worship and whether the message is for the whole meeting rather than just for yourself.
7. Only minister once.
8. Build on previous ministry, but don't debate it.
9. If you want to give an announcement or make a protest, meeting for worship is not the place for it. Announcements can be given at the rise of worship.
10. Ministry should arise from the meeting itself, and not consist of pre-prepared speeches or pre-selected readings.
11. Arriving in time for the start of the meeting, and not leaving before the end, will help maintain the worshipful atmosphere in which ministry is given and received.

After considering our guidance, if you do feel moved to minister then please do so – it will enrich our worship. And please don't worry if you feel shy or frightened. You are, quite literally, among Friends!

## PEASE HOLD IN THE LIGHT:

Myrna Trapp's husband  
Nan O'Connor's brother  
Shannon McNeal

*If you wish to have requests for holding in the light included in this monthly newsletter and in the announcement sheet, please give the names to a member of Care & Counsel.*

## Atlanta Friends Committees and Other Contacts

Clerk of the Meeting: David Small, [afmclerk1@gmail.com](mailto:afmclerk1@gmail.com)  
Office Coordinator: Nina Gooch, [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: Stacey Sharer, [afmtreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto:afmtreasurer1@gmail.com)  
Ministry & Worship: Clive Gordon, 404-534-1091  
Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280  
Social Concerns: Karen Morris, [karenth.1415@gmail.com](mailto:karenth.1415@gmail.com)  
Care & Counsel: Jennifer Crumpley, [afm.care.counsel@gmail.com](mailto:afm.care.counsel@gmail.com)  
Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, [susanfires@gmail.com](mailto:susanfires@gmail.com)  
Committee on Undoing Racism in AFM: Lissa Place, [lissaplace@yahoo.com](mailto:lissaplace@yahoo.com)  
Religious Education: Amanda Gendreau, [AmandaGendreau5@gmail.com](mailto:AmandaGendreau5@gmail.com)  
Young Friends Program Coordinator, Asa Kramer-Dickie, [afm.young.friends@gmail.com](mailto:afm.young.friends@gmail.com)  
Library: Derek Harootune Otis, [dharootuneotis@gmail.com](mailto:dharootuneotis@gmail.com)  
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Webmaster: Emma Bingham, [afm.web.wizard@gmail.com](mailto:afm.web.wizard@gmail.com)  
Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, [afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com](mailto:afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com)

**For info about these and other committees, visit or download the AFM Handbook from <https://atlantaquakers.org/handbook/> OR contact the Clerk of the committee you're interested in.**

## UPDATE FROM SWANNANOVA VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

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An update from Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting following Hurricane Helene, including how you can help: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Iso3PJwn3xsJZK-S1cAk3zFitB3EZzDuWE6XxO6wJX0/edit?usp=sharing>

## SCHEDULE CHANGES FOR DECEMBER AND EARLY JANUARY

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- The announcement sheets for December 22 and 29 will be combined and the deadline for submissions will be December 18.
- There will be no small meetings for worship held on December 25 and January 1.
- For other changes, see announcement sheet or check with the group.

## FLGBTQC GAMES NIGHT – Wednesday, December 4

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Atlanta's local FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender – and genderqueer, nonbinary and genderfluid – Concerns) group will be holding their monthly game night on Monday, November 4 at 6:30 pm at the meetinghouse. We will be meeting in the Nursery again this month. You (and all your friends) are invited for conversation, games and potluck-style food. Allies welcome! We encourage you to bring any board game or other tabletop game you'd like to share with the group. Just be willing to explain the game to new players, or (if it's your first time playing it) be willing to learn it along with the rest of us. For more information, contact Nina Gooch or Derek Harootune Otis. To join the group email list, contact Nina in the office.

## BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR -- Thursday, December 5

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The book group reading works by and about people of color meets at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month in person in combination with Zoom. The book for December 5 is *Daughters of the Dust* by Julie Dash. For questions or the Zoom link, contact Susan Cole (cole2544@bellsouth.net).

## OUT OF OUR HANDS: HOLIDAY ART & CRAFT SALE – Friday & Saturday, December 6 & 7

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This group of local artists / artisans returns for the third year in a row on Friday from noon to 5 pm and Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm. There will also be handcrafts from Ghana, with the proceeds from these going to the organization Children Inspiring Hope.

## GUN SURRENDER EVENT: VOLUNTEERS WELCOME – Saturday, December 7

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Oakhurst Presbyterian Church will host a gun safe surrender event on Saturday, December 7, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church parking lot at 118 Second Avenue, Decatur (enter parking from East Lake Drive). They are holding this event because they are concerned about the high level of gun violence in our State and across the country. Anyone can bring unwanted and unloaded guns to be dismantled and made into garden tools. (Ammunition is not accepted.) The Social Concerns Committee is a co-sponsor. If you'd like to volunteer to help on December 7, contact Mary Smarr at mhsarr@gmail.com. There will be a meeting with all volunteers on Tuesday, December 3, 6:30 pm on zoom, but they will also be available to work with anyone who cannot participate on December 3.

## AFM ART SHOW – to be hung Sunday, December 8

We are planning to have another group art show at the meeting house in December and hope you will want to participate. The show will be hung after meeting on Sunday, December 8. If you are unable to be there on the 8th, you can also leave your artwork in the Library December 1 to 7. Please provide the following information for each piece: Name, title, media, and if it is for sale. If you know of more folks who might like to participate, please encourage them to get in touch. We will look forward to seeing all the beautiful work! Please let us know if you have questions: Carol Gray, [chezgray@mindspring.com](mailto:chezgray@mindspring.com); Ron Nuse, [ronnuse@gmail.com](mailto:ronnuse@gmail.com); Mary Bartlett, [marybart12@gmail.com](mailto:marybart12@gmail.com). If you need to drop your work off before December 8, please contact Nina in the office.

## AFSC & FCNL: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS & DEPORTATION DEFENSE WORKSHOP -- Tues, Dec 10

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) invite Friends to join them on Human Rights Day, December 10, at 4:30 p.m. ET, as we team up with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) to hold a know-your-rights and deportation defense workshop. We will work to ensure communities have systems and resources to prepare for President-elect Trump's mass deportation and detention agenda. A time for relentless advocacy is ahead, but we also hope to support communities with pressing and immediate needs. Register at [https://act.fcnl.org/survey/kyr-deportation-defense-12\\_10/](https://act.fcnl.org/survey/kyr-deportation-defense-12_10/) by the end of day on December 9.

## MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS – Sunday, December 15

Stay after meeting for worship, whether in person or via Zoom. Meeting for Business will be held in a combined format about 11:45, using the Zoom coordinates for Meeting for Worship. The minutes for last month's meeting are below. To find out how meeting for business works, please visit [https://atlantaquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/Guidelines\\_for\\_Meeting\\_for\\_Business.pdf](https://atlantaquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/Guidelines_for_Meeting_for_Business.pdf) and <https://www.friendsjournal.org/meeting-for-business-as-spiritual-rehearsal>, which talks about the spiritual side of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business as well as the ways the Quaker decision-making process differs from the usual understanding of consensus. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYlIIFWEhSQUtZRVVPalFFYmVDQT09>  
Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751  
Passcode: 789456

## DONATE TOYS FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL – drop off toys by Mon, Dec 16

International Community School will have its annual Holiday Toy Market, where families are able to shop with dignity for new toys at a much-reduced price. In order to do this, they need new toy donations by December 16. Volunteers at the Holiday Toy Market on Wednesday, December 18 would also be welcome. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/yhaptssf> for more details on both. You can also bring toys and your questions to Charlotte Flores, who is a Counselor there.

## SEWING CIRCLE -- Saturday, December 21

Join us for a Sewing Circle, meeting in the nursery again this month, on Saturday, December 21 at 3 pm. All art/craft mediums (that are easily cleanable!!) welcome as we create deeper community around shared interests. For more information, see Lisa Magee, [lisammagee@gmail.com](mailto:lisammagee@gmail.com).

*"Creativity is universal, innate, and vital to our well-being. Whether we are creative in the recording, dance, or art studio, in the kitchen, the garden, the workplace, interpersonally, or in other ways, we all have the capacity to create. Creative thinking and doing is part of our design."*

from Jesse White, *God's Invitation to Creative Play* (Pendle Hill Pamphlet 468)

Join the Ministry and Worship committee for an interactive, playful and introspective hour exploring the connections between Creativity and Spirituality. If you think of yourself as 'not creative' we especially welcome you to join us! MaryAnn Lockard and Elizabeth Valera will guide you into a simple creative process as a way to reflect on spiritual quandaries and experiences. We hope this will be a meaningful time for connection and contemplation at the tail end of the year! This forum will take place in the Meeting room at 11:45 on December 29th. In person only.

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WATCH NIGHT SERVICE -- Tuesday, December 31

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On December 31, 1862, Americans of African descent gathered together on "Freedom's Eve" to await the news that the Emancipation Proclamation had become law. At midnight, according to Lincoln's promise, all those enslaved in the Confederate States were legally free. Atlanta Friends participate in this tradition each year with a time for fellowship at 10:30 pm, followed by a worship service at 11:15 PM on New Year's Eve. The service ends at midnight. For more details, email Bert Skellie or call 404-680-4799. For more info on the history of Watch Night, check out this link from the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture:

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/historical-legacy-watch-night>.

Zoom link (not the regular meeting for worship link) <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89913651279>

Meeting ID 899 1365 1279

Passcode: 404496

To connect by phone with sound only, call 1 646 931 3860.

~\*~\*~\*~ JANUARY & BEYOND ~\*~\*~\*~

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APPLY FOR FCNL PROGRAM ASSIST FELLOWSHIP – apply by January 2, 2025

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Fellows work under the title "Program Assistant" and work directly with Friends Committee on Natural Legislation (FCNL) staff, gaining first-hand knowledge of the legislative process and the organizing and communications work that is necessary for policy change. The mission of this program is to provide young adults with an opportunity to start their careers in Washington, DC, and in the world of policymaking/advocacy. These are paid positions. More details and how to apply at <https://apply.workable.com/friendscommittee/j/99BA919F56/>. Deadline January 2, 2025

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FGC: QUAKER TOOLS FOR THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY Mondays, January 13 thru April 8, 2025

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Friends use many different tools to live with integrity, make thoughtful decisions, and stay grounded amidst the hubbub of life. Starting on January 13, the Spiritual Deepening program, which is part of Friends General Conference (FGC) is offering an eRetreat called "Quaker Tools for the Spiritual Journey." It includes time to listen and learn together in community. Get details and register now at <https://www.fgcquaker.org/event/quaker-tools-for-the-spiritual-journey-eretreat/>.



## **Discernment**

- **Ministry and Worship: Memorial Minutes** — Mary Ann Downey and Sue May read the memorial minutes.

Memorial Minute for Marguerite (Margie) Ann Rece

Mary Ann Downey read the memorial minute for Margie Rece.

Mary Ann noted that the minute was composed by her daughter Julie (with additions from Mary Ann) and will be sent to Friends Journal.

Marguerite (Margie) Rece, 90, died peacefully June 13, 2024, at The Fountainview Center for Alzheimer's Disease, in the care of that staff and of Cross Roads Hospice. Margie was born on December 5, 1934, to Henry W. and Flora M Schaedel in Long Island, New York. She was the loving mother of Julie Rece, Will Rece, and Katie Kirby and wife of Ellis H. Rece.

Margie attended Hempstead (Long Island, NY) High School, Hiram College, the University of Arizona as a Danforth Graduate Fellowship recipient, Yale University and the Medical College of Georgia, where she earned her BS in Nursing. She was a lifelong learner, a lover of books and a tireless champion for social justice.

Margie was a charismatic advocate for those in need, dedicating her life to bettering the lives of others. She was a force of nature; a volunteer in the mission towards racial equality with Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the early days of Head Start. Margie joined Augusta (GA) Quaker Meeting and formally embraced pacifism as an extension of her faith. She campaigned against the Death Penalty and visited those in prison; she wrote hundreds of letters for Amnesty International to those imprisoned abroad; knit countless sweaters for refugee children under the auspices of the American Friends Service Committee; marched on Washington as part of the Poor People's Campaign for economic justice; organized and attended peace vigils during the Vietnam War; counseled young Conscientious Objectors; and tirelessly advocated for Universal Healthcare. After she became an RN, she worked with Vietnam Veterans suffering Post Traumatic Stress Disorder through the VA and with victims of other traumas through private practice.

Margie served for one term as Clerk of Southeastern Yearly Meeting and served as a longtime member of the Southeast Regional Executive Committee of The American Friends Service Committee. In 2005, Margie moved to Atlanta and transferred her membership to the Atlanta Friends Meeting. She came to meeting regularly always wearing her famous bucket hat covered with buttons for the many causes she supported. When she offered the story of her spiritual journey, she told us that there is a "oneness in all life from the simplest microbe to all humanity." She lived walking cheerfully over the earth answering that of God in everyone.

Margie was a relational powerhouse and a lover of travel. She was a great letter writer, keeping in touch with friends and loved ones over many years. She helped organize Danforth Graduate reunions, traveled with friends from Process Therapy circles and attended conferences in Cuba and South Africa on behalf of Universal Healthcare. As her parents got older, she made regular road trips to Virginia, to spend time with them and to visit with her brother Joe 's family. Margie's road trip companions were often her trusty canine buddies, Genie and Sundance.

As Margie's dementia became evident and progressed, her kids worked together to show their love-in-action to her, by managing her finances, providing direct care, arranging care resources and making frequent visits and weekly ZOOM calls. She is very greatly missed. She was cared for and well loved by the staff at Fountainview Center for Alzheimer's Disease for almost 8 years.



Margie is survived by her brother Joseph A. Schaedel (Nancy); her children Julianne M. Rece of Glenside, PA, William E. Rece (Virginia) of Stone Mountain, GA, and Kathleen R. Kirby (Robert) of Charlotte, NC; four grandchildren; one great grandson. She is pre-deceased by her former husband Ellis H. Rece, Jr, and 2 granddaughters.

**Minute-11-17-24:01:** The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the memorial minute for Margie Rece.

### Memorial Minute for Charles (Charlie) Alfred Greiner III

Sue May read the memorial minute for Charlie Greiner.

Charles Alfred Greiner III, 82, died on June 25, 2024, in Atlanta, GA, after a long illness, maintaining his courage, grace, and dignity to the end.

A valued member of Atlanta Friends Meeting meeting since he joined in 1982, when we worshiped at Quaker House on Fairview Ave. He was most known for his extensive expertise and success keeping costs down in planning our new meetinghouse. Knowing the building extremely well, he then served as clerk of the building committee and supervised contractors doing repairs and maintenance. His was a life of considerable achievement in business and dedication to family and community.

Charlie was born in New York City on Oct. 14, 1942, the oldest of six children. He moved to Atlanta to attend Georgia Tech, working part-time jobs throughout his career to pay for tuition and board.

He met the love of his life, Anita, and raised three children. He worked for the prominent architectural firm Heery and Heery for fifteen years. After hours, he would moonlight at jobs that were too small for his firm to handle. It was from this enterprising activity that he eventually built the firm Costing Services Group, In., in 1978. For forty years the firm would be a significant player in the booming Atlanta construction industry.

Charlie's contribution to the city of Atlanta reached beyond his successful business. He was a founding member of SAND, South Atlantans for Neighborhood Development. In 1975 he moved to Grant Park and became president of the Association to Revive Grant Park, the Neighborhood Planning Unit-W and Neighborhood Housing Services. He was called to leadership again and again!

Charlie was ambitious, enterprising and practical. He was also on a spiritual path, and inspired by members of Atlanta Friends Meeting he had met, found his spiritual home in 1982, when he joined.

As an entrepreneur he saw his firm prosper. He continued expanding his expertise in the construction field, earning a degree in Quantity Surveying from the University of Reading, UK, became a member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, and was selected as a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

While he was earning these credentials in the UK, his professional credentials in the U.S. also grew. He became an Associate of the Association of Professional Engineers (ASPE) in Atlanta and was a member of the Society of Value Engineers.

It would be easy to focus exclusively on Charles's objective achievements, but to do so would be to lose sight of his true character. He was charitable and kind. He had a great smile! He worked tirelessly for political causes and candidates he believed in. He remembered those who had helped him when needed, and he gave generously to non-profit organizations throughout his life.

Among his beneficiaries was St. Francis Hospital in Roslyn, NY, where he spent two years at age 10 recovering from a serious illness. He remained loyal to friends he had made in his youth and in his

years at his beloved Georgia Tech. Over the years, he attended their weddings in Austria, England and Turkey. He visited all of Western Europe and traveled to his destinations on the Concord and the Queen Elizabeth II. He was a man with many horizons and no sense of limitations.

Charles was a responsible and loving husband, father, son and brother. He is survived by Anita, his wife of 56 years; his three children, Charles, Amy and James; his grandchildren Sonia, Eva Ocie, Alex, Lily, Luke and Estelle; and by his siblings, Clinton, Dolores and Arlene.

Even as we celebrate his life of great value, we also mourn his loss. His memorial service was held at Atlanta Friends Meeting on November 9, 2024.

**Minute-11-17-24:02:** The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the memorial minute for Charlie Greiner.

■ **Ministry and Worship** — Clive Gordon reported for Ministry and Worship Committee.

Membership Transfer for Jim Cain

Jim Cain, a member of our meeting has requested we transfer care of his membership to the Deland Monthly Meeting. Before his move to Florida, Jim was an active and involved member of our community. Ministry and Worship recommends we approve his transfer request.

Clive shared a letter from Jim Cain requesting that his membership be transferred to Deland Monthly Meeting.

**Minute-11-17-24:03:** On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the request of Jim Cain to transfer his membership to Deland Monthly Meeting (Southeastern Yearly Meeting). Atlanta Meeting asks Deland Monthly Meeting to assume continuing care for his membership. Jim was a vital and useful member of our meeting for many years.

## **Reports**

■ **SAYMA** — Alison Mawle reported as SAYMA representative.

Alison received a letter several weeks ago from Chattanooga Friends Meeting to share with Atlanta Friends Meeting and respond to some questions. She read the letter and said she would later organize a meeting to consider the questions raised. She said to reach out to her if you want to participate in this meeting.

*Dear Friends,*

*We hold a vision of SAYMA as a stronger, more spiritual, diverse and actively anti-racist body, with children, teens and young adults flocking to our sessions. The need to overcome the culture of racial bias within the Society of Friends and SAYMA is indeed important. We see the YM taking steps toward becoming an anti-racist community and understand that the journey will take many years.*

*But we wonder: how long it will take for SAYMA to get to this vision — or will it implode from conflict and the withdrawal of monthly meetings and individual Friends?*

*Over the last few years, Chattanooga Friends have witnessed very unFriendly behavior at SAYMA sessions. We have seen shouting during business meetings, rants, name-calling, bullying, and other antagonistic conduct that went unchecked. Quakers tend to be conflict-averse in many situations, and this unFriendly conduct continued through several clerks without the YM establishing firm boundaries for acceptable behavior and tactics. This year, in response to a letter from Chattanooga*

*Friends Meeting (CFM), SAYMA clerks implemented Guidelines for Participants in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business with some success. However, Chattanooga Friends still observed toxic behavior and what felt like manipulation of the YM at large.*

*As a result of this ongoing turmoil, several of our long-time SAYMA participants have completely dropped their connection with the YM after being personally attacked, belittled and otherwise mistreated. The number of Chattanooga Friends attending YM has dwindled significantly, and only one person currently serves on a SAYMA committee. Thus, we find ourselves wrestling with what our relationship with SAYMA should be in the future, especially whether to continue our financial support in 2025.*

*CFM wonders if this turmoil is “normal” in the journey toward racial conflict transformation and becoming an anti-racist community or whether SAYMA’s tumult is the result of personalities that seek to manipulate our path through divisive power tactics instead of through spiritual leadership. We hear voices in the YM on both sides of this concern.*

*So we offer these questions for consideration by the clerks of SAYMA, YM committee clerks, and the other monthly meetings of SAYMA:*

- 1. How would (or how does) SAYMA recognize and respond to someone whose behavior is out of step with Friends testimonies and practices?*
- 2. How would SAYMA distinguish between someone following a Spirit-led leading or an ego-led leading?*
- 3. Would SAYMA ever remove an attender from participation in and influence over YM matters? How would the YM determine it needed to initiate this process? What would this process look like in person and on Zoom?*
- 4. How does SAYMA assess the value of Monthly Meeting engagement and membership versus maintaining the involvement of individuals whose behaviors sow division?*

*CFM cannot answer these questions for SAYMA, but we ask that the YM and its constituent meetings consider them soon. We welcome your direct feedback at [ChattanoogaFriendsMeeting@gmail.com](mailto:ChattanoogaFriendsMeeting@gmail.com).*

*Yours in the Light,*

*Chattanooga Friends Meeting*

■ **Social Concerns** — Karen Morris reported for Social Concerns Committee.

The issue of sanctuary came up in Social Concerns Committee’s meeting last week. They are hearing and reading about concerns from immigrant populations, including DACA recipients — people who have temporary protected status to work here — as well as people of color in our country. Immigrants are concerned about getting rounded up and put in prison.

Social Concerns Committee realized that AFM approved two minutes on sanctuary in the past, one in 1983 declaring that Atlanta Friends Meeting would be a sanctuary for Central American refugees, and another in 1985 making the work more public and joining with other Friends meetings in doing so. See the [Quaker Testimonies/Human Rights page](#) on our website and [this document containing minutes of note from 1951-2007](#). At the time, this work could have brought about prison for people who helped provide sanctuary for refugees. If there is interest, could there be a working group put together now to consider the issues and whether there should be a new minute.

A Friend asked how to get involved in creating a minute and when it would take place. Karen said

Social Concerns doesn't know yet.

A Friend asked how a possible minute will interact with Casa Alternativa. Karen said they don't have answers, and they're just putting this out as an idea or call. She said to reach out to her, David Small, or anyone on Social Concerns Committee, such as Bert Skellie, Mark Yates, Julia Ewen, etc. SCC's clerk has resigned and left the meeting, so they don't currently have a clerk to reach out to.

■ **Finance** — Paul Mangelsdorf reported for Finance Committee.

Paul reported on the finances from the past quarter. This Finance report is a month out of date because Paul had a prior commitment last month. He said this is the financial report that goes through September, which would normally be presented in October. [See the Financial Statement document here.](#)

As of September 30, 2024, AFM is running a \$40,031 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 \$2,450 more than the \$37,581 deficit that was budgeted through September. Revenue YTD is \$1,153 higher than budgeted however, expenses are \$3,603 more than budget.

Revenue YTD is \$68 more than the same period in the prior year with lower donations (\$996 less than 2023) offset by slightly higher rental income (\$750 more this year). Interest and Dividend Income, which is higher by \$313 the year.

Expenses are running \$3,123 more than the prior year driven by higher building maintenance costs, higher utilities costs (utility rates are up), slightly higher personnel costs due to the cost-of-living adjustment, and higher Administrative Costs. Also, this year we have \$1,522 in costs for the upcoming Gathered Meeting Retreat (no retreat has been held since COVID. Additionally, we have \$420 in unbudgeted expense as the final payment for legal work related to the neighbor encroaching on the cabin property. All other variances are purely a timing issue.

Compared to year-end, our balance sheet is \$30,895 larger. This is primarily the result of the addition of \$60,000 in Endowment funds and the \$8,800 seasonal increase in the Beloved Community Scholarship Fund offset by the YTD deficit of (\$40,031). On the asset side of the balance sheet Receivables (Undeposited funds and Due from Pay Pal) decreased by \$17,512. The Endowment Funds is reflected in other assets. In keeping with our practice, we maintain lower balances in our checking account as it does not earn any interest.

We will also be receiving some income from the endowment in the last quarter which is not budgeted.

Paul then moved on to discuss the proposed budget for next year. See the [Preliminary Budget Worksheet](#), the [Gifts and Affiliations Budget](#), and [notes about the proposed budget](#). He noted items that are different from last year's budget:

- Income from the endowment and investments will be included in the budget. Friends Fiduciary, our new investment manager, recommends an amount to budget each year that we expect to receive from our investments. Next year, we expect to receive \$4800 from the endowment and investments. It is a 4% return, which doesn't seem like much, but we have to account for inflation and paying Friends Fiduciary, and our investments are conservative.
- We've been getting more contributions, which mean our credit card processing fees have gone up.
- Utility rates are higher for water, gas, and electrical.

- SAYMA changed their methodology for assessments. In the past, it was a dollar amount for each member and attender, and we had to assess how many members and attenders we had. A SAYMA committee convened to discuss how to assess contributions and deal with inflation better, and they decided that the way assessments will be done in the future is to look at the amount of contributions each monthly meeting receives and ask for a percent. They came up with 12.5%. This would increase our SAYMA contribution by a lot.
- The Social Concerns Committee wanted to raise the amount they give to the organizations they donate to.
- The Committee on Undoing Racism in AFM (CURAFM) is looking for \$3000 in training, which is \$2000 more than they spent last year.
- The Gathered Meeting Retreat Committee is also asking for more money.
- The Committee on Reparations is asking for \$3500.
- With all of these additions to the budget, we will need to increase our contributions by 7.5%. This is a lot. Paul asked if we are comfortable with raising our expected contributions by that much in the budget or if we should go back to the groups that requested money and see where we can cut.
- Paul also noted that our rental income is still down since Covid. Back then we had Jonah McDonald working on renting out the building, and he was very effective. They will ask him to help again. Finance believes rentals can be increased again. Paul also said if anyone feels called, they can join in and help with renting out the meetinghouse.

A Friend suggested that if you will have a large party, such as a children's birthday party, it is easier to rent the meetinghouse than have it at your home.

A Friend also noted we have a cabin you can rent (the Ferguson Cabins). Paul said the rental money from that doesn't count because it goes to the cabin fund.

A Friend noted that our rental income is down largely because of lack of weddings and large events, not lack of regular tenants.

A Friend said that the church he attended growing up went out and visited members to ask for contributions. He said he thinks Paul needs some reassurance to bring this budget back for approval next month with the 7.5% increase in contributions. He said he will personally pledge to increase his contributions for next year and hopes others will follow.

■ **Nominating** — Ellen McQueen reported for Nominating Committee.

Here is the "slate" for 2025 as Nominating Committee has it so far. They will bring it back next month for approval.

Jack Honderd — Clerk of Administration

Clive Gordon — Clerk of Ministry and Worship, 1 year

Karen Skellie — Appointed Member of Care and Counsel

Mark Bryans — Ferguson Cabin Steward, 3 years

Susie Lippold — Ministry and Worship, 3 years

Nina Gooch — Facebook Moderator

Nina Gooch — Newsletter Editor

■ **Ministry and Worship** — Clive Gordon reported for Ministry & Worship Committee.

- Membership Recommendation for Ian Lawrence Wells (Big Softy).

The meeting has received an application request from Ian Lawrence Wells (Big Softy) for membership in the Atlanta Meeting. A clearness committee has met with him and recommends we approve his membership. Ministry and Worship unites with this recommendation. We will bring this recommendation back in 12th month for discernment.

- Membership Recommendation for Derek Harootune Otis.

The meeting has received an application request from Derek Harootune Otis. A clearness committee has met with them and found them clear for membership. Ministry and Worship Committee also unites with this recommendation. We will bring this recommendation back in 12th month for discernment.

Clive shared a letter from Derek Harootune Otis requesting membership in Atlanta Friends Meeting.

- Recognizing and Celebrating Membership.

One December 22 at rise of meeting we will have a celebration in recognition of all those who have applied for membership in 2024. The process of discerning to apply for membership, opening oneself to open heartfelt clearness and publicly holding oneself as a Friend is a profound personal and spiritual moment.

- Request to Lay Down Membership of Kevin Moran.

On November 6, the meeting received a request from Kevin Moran to lay down his membership in Atlanta Friends Meeting and the Society of Friends. We will be following up with Kevin and will bring a recommendation for meeting action as appropriate.

A Friend asked if there's anything that can be shared about why Kevin Moran decided to lay down his membership. Clive said that in the spirit of community, and not letting anyone just walk away, we are obligated to reach out. Ministry & Worship is in the process of doing that, and while they're in that process, they don't feel they can share.

- Microphone in Meeting for Worship

We thank the meeting for business and all of those who have shared their reflections on our proposal to begin using the microphone during our 10:00am Meeting for Worship. While we already use the microphone during memorial services, marriages and our Meeting for Business, we are now taking another step. We are profoundly moved by the desire to include everyone in the richness of our spoken ministry. Those on Zoom and those at a distance from the speaker, frequently have difficulty hearing what is shared deeply from the heart.

For the remainder of the year, we plan to have the person closing meeting to use a microphone after the handshake for introductions and announcements. We will bring a microphone to those standing to speak. We will begin recruiting microphone ministers to bring the microphone to speakers.

Beginning in January, we will use the microphone during meeting for worship. Those offering vocal ministry will be asked to stand and wait for the microphone to be brought to them.

■ **Gathered Retreat Report** — Lisa Magee reported for the Gathered Meeting Retreat Committee.

The Gathered Meeting Retreat Committee is pleased to give a report on the Fall 2024 Gathered Meeting Retreat that took place at Lutheranch in Tallapoosa, GA on September 6-8. We had 49 adults staying all weekend, and 3 adults who joined for Saturday only. Of those adults, 7 were Young

Adult Friends. We had 6 Young Friends who stayed all weekend and 4 who joined just for Saturday. We provided 17 scholarships for those who needed it.

On Friday evening the group arrived and had dinner with some intergenerational community time afterwards. On Saturday, Facilitator Christina Repoley led the adults through the programming “The Story of Me, The Story of Us, The Story of Now”. A timeline of AFM history was curated by Folami Adams and presented at the retreat to help participants learn more about where we have been so we can look to the future of where we are going. Saturday evening was a casual night of talent and sharing time together. Christina led us in a time of sharing dreams of what we hope to create for “The Story of Now” before closing worship, lunch, and departure on Sunday. Laura MacNorlin guided our Young Friends in simultaneous programming with the help of teacher Arianna Rodriguez. Friends said they enjoyed the beautiful grounds, the food, and facility. They felt they walked away with a better sense of community and know the Friends they have sat with in meeting better now.

We look forward to putting on the retreat again next year. Unfortunately Lutheranch is closing, so we are looking into reserving the Calvin Center in McDonough and have Sept 5-7, 2025, preemptively on hold.

We are requesting \$3000 for our 2025 budget to cover the honorarium and expenses for 3 facilitators (\$1000 per facilitator). Two facilitators for the adult program and one for the children’s program.

A Friend said he wanted to appreciate Lisa for putting it all together (and then not being able to be there herself) and he looked forward to future retreats.

■ **Administration** — Jack Honderd reported for Administration Committee.

1. **Sprinkler system maintenance.** We received a noncompliance notice from the city of Decatur on our sprinkler system. They got an estimate of \$7400 cost to rectify this. Nina is in the process of scheduling these repairs, including replacing the escutcheons, etc.
2. **Induction range installation complete.** Final cost \$9,428 (up to \$10,000 budgeted). This included electrical and fire suppression and cabinetry work.
3. **Roof leak/ceiling repairs & painting update.** This should be done later this month. It was reported previously that the man who was supposed to do it had broken his arm, and now he is back and able to do the repairs soon.

Repairing the ceiling will require renting a hydraulic lift. Admin will work with Finance Committee on all these upcoming expenses. Paul noted that we have the Permanent Improvement Fund, so money for these repairs will come from that, not the regular budget. He also noted that Admin came in under the estimated amount for the stove.

A Friend of Color (who asked to be referred to in that way) said that there were more bike commuters in October. Therefore the proposed bike rack in the front would be useful.

■ **Naming** — Charles Hicks reported for Naming Committee.

Earlier this month, the Meeting Clerk assembled a Naming Committee to nominate prospective members of the Nominating Committee. The Naming Committeemembers met in person at Sally Ferguson's home, contemplated prospective members for the Nominating Committee, and have identified three willing candidates to join the Nominating Committee: Charlotte Flores, Elizabeth Lamb, and Connor McMahon. Therefore, the Naming Committee formally recommends Charlotte, Elizabeth, and Connor to serve on the Nominating Committee beginning in 2025. Next month, the Naming Committee will seek the Meeting's approval of these three new members of the Nominating Committee.

It was clarified that the Naming Committee presents its recommendations in the 11th month and brings them back for approval in the 12th month.

**Announcements**

Cheryl Cowherd had hip surgery last month and is now recovering at home.

**Approval of Minutes from 10th month 2024**

[Newsletter – Atlanta Friends Meeting \(atlantaquakers.org\)](http://atlantaquakers.org)

In the 10th month minutes, it was mistakenly noted that Lissa Place reported for Nominating Committee, but no one on Nominating Committee was present. The minutes will be corrected to say the clerk reported on behalf of Nominating Committee in their absence.

**Minute-11-17-24:04:** The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the 10th month 2024 minutes with the above correction.

**Events in the life of the meeting**

A memorial meeting for worship was held under the care of the meeting to celebrate the life of meeting member Margie Rece on Saturday, November 2.

A memorial meeting for worship was held under the care of the meeting to celebrate the life of meeting member Charlie Greiner on Saturday, November 9.

**Closing Worship**

~\*

**ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING**

Regular Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday, 10 am to 1 pm and Friday, by appointment  
web and email: [atlantaquakers.org](http://atlantaquakers.org), [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com) voicemail/phone: 404-377-2474  
Clerk: David Small, [afmclerk1@gmail.com](mailto:afmclerk1@gmail.com) Treasurer: Stacey Sharer, [afmtreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto:afmtreasurer1@gmail.com)

**Ways to communicate and receive information:**

- You can 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 can receive announcements AND posts about a broader range of topics relating to being a Quaker via email This is the discussion email list.
- You can 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](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com).*

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

**Do we have your (correct) contact information so we can reach you?**  
Please send your name and (updated) contact information to Brent Wolff at [afmdirectory@gmail.com](mailto:afmdirectory@gmail.com) and to the office at [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com).

**Do you need a directory, printed or electronic?**  
Email [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com) or call 404-377-2474

**What does supporting your spiritual community look like for you and your family?** Atlanta Friends Meeting accepts contributions of your time, resources, talents, and money! Place a financial contribution in the slot marked "Contributions" in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse or mail to our mailing address. Or donate online at [atlantaquakers.org/contact-donate/](http://atlantaquakers.org/contact-donate/) 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 [atquakerltr@gmail.com](mailto:atquakerltr@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.*