

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

JULY 2025



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 as well as worship opportunities with the Macon Worship Group, in person and via zoom, are in the announcement sheet (link just above). The most up-to-date information about events can also be found there.

QUERY FOR JULY

Do we share our deepest beliefs and values with each other and with our children, while leaving others free to develop as Spirit may lead them?

WHY REPARATIVE JUSTICE

by Althea Sumpter, who was one of four panelists at a forum hosted by the *Reparations, Reparative Justice and Right Relations Committte on November 24, 2024, as a newly formed formed standing committee.*

The AFM Minute on Reparative Justice and Reconciliation approved by the Atlanta Friends Meeting (Quakers) on 8-15-21 (Minute 8-15-21:03) defines reparative justice this way:

Reparative justice refers to compensation, which may include a national apology; educational, housing and health care programs; and financial redress from the U.S. government to African Americans to eliminate, to the extent possible, the badges, incidents, and relics of slavery and involuntary servitude which only perpetuate and deepen past injustices and effect society. More specifically, reparations are a system of redress for injustices since 1619.

I own part of a plantation where my family was enslaved, which was bought by my great-great grandfather in the 1860s after he gained freedom. My family dates back into the 1790s on St. Helena Island, SC. When someone says reparations, it seems to be interpreted as those formerly enslaved wanting money. I do not want money. I want a congressional apology. I cannot take my tax dollars out of one pocket and put it into another. Also, who will be paid for representing a family member formerly enslaved?

The idea of reparations ignores the reality that Africans, who have been a part of the story in what would become the United States, were a free people, who worked the appropriate number of years to get a couple hundred acres long before 1619, the date which actually represent the first Africans used as commodity in exchange for food. Slavery for life was not instituted until a court case in 1649.

Reparations fail to take into account the story of where I come from, off the east coast of South Carolina, when in 1526 Africans were involved in the first revolt in the forming of this country.

I mention these two historical points from a long list of others on how free Blacks numbered in the hundred-thousand by 1860 -- half of them lived in the South.

So, the question becomes: who gets monetary reparations when the African history in the making of this country is more expansive than slavery. I know about the history of slavery because in the Southern story the plantation is still real. It is a matter of how the story is interpreted -- this from a person who grew up in a culture whose roots are based on plantations and slavery.

In October 1861, the Union military captured the Beaufort District -- current day Beaufort, Jasper and Hampton Counties -- and held the territory throughout the Civil War. The blueprint for the Reconstruction Era was created in that district; the plan was implemented throughout the South starting in 1865.

The Reconstruction Era, which ended in 1877 for specific historical reasons, was a period marked by diverse and progressive thinking. Reconstruction led to significant advances in education, public administration, and politics. During this time, interracial marriages found acceptance. However, Southern Whites who wanted their Antebellum way of life back created a strong backlash to this progress. To them, the fast pace in the growth of political and social change was unacceptable, especially the Civil Rights Act of 1875, which gave equal rights to a population once enslaved.

People of the Antebellum South wanted their way of life back. The backlash was severe against supporters of Reconstruction, which included White allies -- and the fast pace in the growth of political and social change, was not received well. The Southern Redeemers hit back hard over the following 20 years, creating justifications for lynching those who opposed them, including White allies. Lynching reached its peak during the 1930s.

Jim Crow laws were created in the 1890s, turning back integration, instituting the segregation I remember as a child in the 1950s. I learned those laws so that everyone was safe, especially my father. Black children had to learn good behavior while in predominantly White environments. Otherwise, "just cause" from Whites could lead to legal problems for that Black family.

The stolen land from those formerly enslaved who became successful as farmers was curtailed in the 1900s. By 1900, 17 million acres of land were owned by Blacks. By the 1970s, less than 2 million acres were still held by Blacks. My family is among those people. I am one of those people, owning part of the Southern story.

I want Reparative Justice. The period between Reconstruction, with a Civil Rights Act nearly one hundred years later, destroyed the possible. Imagine where this country would be now, but political and social animus should never have happened. The list of harm done is long. Much of it documented.

The blueprint for Civil Rights was recreated in the 1960s with ideas that stemmed from the 1860s. I want Reparative Justice. There is a need to revisit the legacy of those years between Reconstruction to Civil Rights and learn more about how social and civil gains was then reverted into hardships and loss.

At this moment in time, I am seeing a repetition of that story, one we should address by understanding what happened, heal the hearts and loss of those who still bear scars of desegregation, as I did in 1965, a third grader in one of three bus-loads of Black children from the islands going across the bridge into town to the White public schools. The yelling and screaming by White adults rest permanent in my memory. My body holds memories of those moments of hate.

There are enough stories from people in the past who left their stories to guide us on how to move forward. I remember being taught the stories of my parents and their parents before them, on how to bear up, stand for social and civil change.

It is imperative to repair the damage that has been done. Some of us are still in pain.

7 WAYS FOR YOUR QUAKER MEETING TO WELCOME TRANS AND NONBINARY FRIENDS

from a pamphlet from Baltimore Yearly Meeting shared by Jim Fussell when he was here April 18 & 19 for workshops with AFM's Friends for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer Concerns

- 1 **Use the pronouns (she/her; he/him; they/them; etc.) a person uses.** If you don't know someone's pronouns, just ask! Avoid assumptions. Welcome and accept trans and nonbinary visitors to your Meeting exactly as you would any other visitor.
- 2 **Create safe spaces for gender nonconforming children.** Let children define and express their gender however they choose, whether or not that expression matches their assigned sex. If other children or adults are engaging in "gender policing," make it clear that bullying is not tolerated at Meeting. When participating in gendered activities -- like choosing roles for a pageant--let children choose their roles without regard to gender.
- 3 **Make sure young people in the Meeting know they have adult allies** willing to listen to their truth and experience.
- 4 **If your Meeting has single-stall restrooms, consider making them all-gender or unisex.** Many trans folk, particularly those who are not "out" or who are just beginning to transition, are more comfortable using single-stall, gender-neutral restrooms. For multi-stall restrooms, consider signage that does not police gender, for example: "Gender diversity is welcome here. Please use the restroom that most comfortably fits your needs."
- 5 **Make your welcome visible.** Display a trans pride or progress flag. Add trans stories to your library. Mark the Transgender Day of Remembrance (Nov. 20) and the Transgender Day of Visibility (Mar. 31). Participate in your local Pride Parade. Ensure your welcome to trans and nonbinary people is visible on your website and publications.
- 6 **Invite trans and nonbinary people into the full life of the Meeting.** Include trans and nonbinary **Friends** in leadership roles, committee assignments, work with children, etc. Hear the voice of the Spirit speaking through trans and nonbinary bodies.
- 7 **Educate your Meeting about issues facing the trans/nonbinary community.** Invite a speaker from a local LGBTQC+ organization. Be patient with yourself and your Meeting as you commit to working towards greater inclusivity!

SOME BASIC DEFINITIONS

Trans/transgender: An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation.

Nonbinary: An adjective describing a person who does not identify exclusively as a man or a woman. Nonbinary people may identify as being both a man and a woman, somewhere in-between, or as falling completely outside these categories.

Gender Identity: A term that describes an individual's inner-most sense of self as male, female, somewhere in-between, or somewhere outside of those gender designations; everyone has a gender identity. Gender expression refers to the ways in which people externally communicate their gender identities.

Gender Policing: The act of imposing or enforcing "normative" gender expressions on an individual who is perceived as not adequately performing such expressions in their appearance or behavior.

RESOURCES

Friends for LGBTQ Concerns: <http://flgbtqc.org/>

Trevor Project Guide to Being an Ally to Transgender and Nonbinary Young People:
<http://thetrevorproject.org/>

Human Rights Campaign: <https://www.hrc.org/>

Advocates for Trans Equality: transequality.org

transbodies: a resource guide for the transgender community: <http://transbodies.com/>

PFLAG: Our Trans Loved Ones: <https://pflag.org/resource/our-trans-loved-ones/>

OTHER TRANS AND LGBTQ+ RESOURCES FROM ATLANTA'S FLGBTQC

- Why pronouns matter: <https://sojourngsd.org/pronoun-guide/>
- Other resources from SOJOURN: <https://sojourngsd.org/resources-2/>
- How to be an ally to Trans and Nonbinary people: <https://pflag.org/resource/s4e-guide-to-being-a-trans-ally/>
- How to be an ally to FLGBTQ+ people: <http://pflag.org/resource/s4e-guide-to-being-a-straight-ally>

GREETINGS FROM THE CLERK OF FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE ON CONSULTATION SECTION OF THE AMERICAS

From FWCC's website at <https://fwcc.world/>: "Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), represents Quakers around the world. The Religious Society of Friends, whose members are known as both Quakers and Friends . . . circles the globe, spanning a rich diversity of regional cultures, beliefs and styles of worship."

Greetings, we are like one family, a community composed of a diversity of members, but united by a faith that has stood the test of time and that, in its essence, continues to light up the path of justice, peace and truth. We are heirs to a legacy of deep spirituality, commitment to justice and a living faith in the daily witness of those who continue to embrace this faith.

From the days of George Fox until today, Quakerism has embraced the conviction that Christ must be our Light and Guide, and that each person, without distinction, carries a space that can only be filled by a Divine essence. Over the centuries, we have been builders of peace, defenders of human dignity, and heralds of a faith that does not depend on temples or hierarchies, but on a direct relationship with the Holy Spirit.

However, we also recognize that our diversity has presented challenges. Differences in the expression of faith and practice have arisen between the various branches of our community. But if history has taught us anything, it is that our strength lies not in uniformity, but in unity in the midst of differences. As followers of the Light, we are called to seek the truth together, to walk in love, and to testify with our lives to the values that have identified us since our beginnings.

Today, more than ever, in a world divided by violence, inequality, and the noise of the superficial and the temporary, Quakers must raise our voices in unity. It is not time to separate ourselves because of secondary differences, but to reaffirm what unites us:

- Our faith in the living presence of God, who speaks today as he spoke in the past.
- Our testimony of peace, in times of war and despair.
- Our dedication to justice, when the world cries out for equity.
- Our life of simplicity, in a society consumed by the material.
- Our integrity and commitment to the truth, when falsehood becomes a daily currency.

Dear friends, we are not called to be merely observers of history, but to be protagonists of a living testimony, like many who have gone before us. In our meetings, in our actions, and in our prophetic voice to the world, let us remember that the Light of Christ shines brighter when we are united.

Let us move forward, together, with humility and courage, remembering that our calling is not only to preserve a tradition, but to embody the truth of THE GOOD NEWS with our lives. Do not forget that we are called to continue opening paths to be able to build destinies.

May peace and grace guide us on this path.

In the Light of Christ,

Nelson Ayala

Clerk

FWCC Section of the Americas

STAYING CONNECTED WITH OTHERS IN THE MEETING / AFM DIRECTORY INFO

We want to be able to reach everyone so we can build connections within the meeting. In addition, the Office Coordinator often finds herself unable to reach someone because she doesn't have contact information. Therefore, she encourages everyone to include their info in the new directory!!!!

This year we are asking EVERYONE to fill out their information again EVEN IF you are already in the last directory. If you did not receive an email with the link, please visit

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdnzsuzFnz4TGdidwd255MdZ7mltNgBFwBxmI7j8sBPd_ojslQ/viewform?usp=sf_link.

If you do not have a google account, do not have an email address, have questions OR need help completing the form, please email atlantaquakers@gmail.com or contact the Office Coordinator in person or at 404-377-2474.

**PLEASE HOLD
IN THE LIGHT:**

Mina Rhee
Jennifer Thompson
Myrna & Bob Trapp
Gray & Suzanne Folger
David Small

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
Office Coordinator: Nina Gooch, atlantaquakers@gmail.com
Treasurer: Stacey Sharer, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com
Ministry & Worship: Clive Gordon, 404-534-1091
Finance: Bill Hooson, 770-786-8096
Administration: Jack Honderd, jkhonderd@gmail.com
Social Concerns: Karen Morris, karenh.1415@gmail.com
Care & Counsel: Jennifer Crumpley, afm.care.counsel@gmail.com
Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, susanfires@gmail.com
Committee on Undoing Racism in AFM: Lissa Place, lissaplace@yahoo.com
Religious Education: Amanda Gendreau, AmandaGendreau5@gmail.com
Young Friends Program Coordinator, Asa Kramer-Dickie, afm.young.friends@gmail.com
Library: Derek Harootune Otis, dharootuneotis@gmail.com
Nominating: Ellen McQueen, missliveoak@aol.com. and Elizabeth Lamb, gelds@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor: Nina Gooch, atquakerltr@gmail.com
Webmaster: Emma Bingham, afm.web.wizard@gmail.com
Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, 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 ON DECATUR REPARATIONS TASK FORCE

This updated story from [Decaturish.com](https://decatrish.com), dated May 24, 2025, about the Decatur reparations task force includes the types of members, types of projects to redress harms, and discussion by members of the City Commission about the importance of Decatur owning up to and addressing past and current harms. The task force will include people with ties to the Beacon Hill Community. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q_BFCI8woH2PHSs96hkgRSUtBpoAhM3O/view?usp=sharing

RECORDING OF MARCH FORUM ON RACISM AND WOMEN'S HEALTH

Video recording of March 23, 2025 "Racism and Women's Health" forum at Atlanta Friends Meeting with guest speaker Diane Rowley. A member of AFM, she is Emeritus Professor of the Practice of Public Health, Gillings School of Global Public Health, UNC and is board certified in pediatrics and preventive medicine. In the forum, she focused on systemic racism and activities Black women have engaged in to promote their health in response to it. Use the following link and passcode to access the recording stored on the AFM zoom account:

<https://tinyurl.com/afm250323-racism-womens-health>

Passcode: %2U+R8L^

RECORDING OF MAY 25 BOOK EVENT

THERE IS NO PLACE FOR US: WORKING AND HOMELESS IN AMERICA

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/4e8nyard> to view the recording of the May 25 presentation about the book *There is No Place for Us: Working and Homeless in America* by attender Brian Goldstone. If needed, use the passcode: x^%6dE*?

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR -- Thursday, July 3

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 July 3 is *Rental House* by Weike Wang. All are welcome. They encourage anyone interested in a particular book to drop in.

Upcoming books include:

August 7, *Soil: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden* by Camille Dungy

September 4, poetry selected by members of the group

October 2, *Earth Keeper* by M. Scott Momaday

November 6, *Dream Count* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

December 6, *My Documents* by Kevin Nguyen

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

NANSEERA WOLFF AT EDDIE'S ATTIC -- Saturday, July 5

Attender Nanseera Wolff will be back in Atlanta for a show at Eddie's Attic on Saturday, July 5 at 7 pm. Doors open at 6 pm. Tickets at <https://eddiesattic.com/event/nanseera-album-release-show/>.

FLGBTQC OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP & COMMUNITY – Sat, July 5 and Sun, July 6

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC) will meet for worship on Saturday, July 5, from 5 to 6 pm at the meetinghouse, joining FLGBTQC Friends from all over the U.S. and Canada online, with time for introductions and conversation with these friends from 6 to 6:30 pm. If Atlanta Friends cannot get to the Meetinghouse in person for this worship and want to attend online, please contact Jeremiah Gold-Hopton at jeremiah313134@mac.com for the international FLGBTQC Zoom link. Following this, at 6:30 pm in the meetingroom, Atlanta's local FLGBTQC group will hold their monthly game night, now on the first Saturday evening of each month. We gather for conversation, games and potluck-style food. Allies welcome! We encourage you to bring a 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.

On Sunday, July 6, we will also eat together at potluck (look for the queer flag).

For more information about these events or about FLGBTQC, contact Nina Gooch or Derek Harootune Otis. To join the group email list and receive updates, contact Nina in the office.

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS & ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays, July 6, 13, 20, 27

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 lives. On July 6, Cate Tedford will share her Spiritual Journey.

We offer a standing invitation to all attenders and members (those new to meeting, transfers from other meetings, or longtime Atlanta members and attenders) to share your answers to these questions. Some Friends find it helpful to do this as an interview. For more information and to schedule a time to tell your story, contact Mary Ann Downey at madowney@mindspring.com.

On the second, third and fourth Sundays of the month in May, Adult First Day School will be discussing the book *God Is Not One* by Stephen Prothero. You are welcome to join the discussion even if you have not read the book.

On fifth Sundays, Adult First Day School has worship sharing based on a query, either that month's query or another query.

Adult First Day School meets in person at the meetinghouse, and people can also join via Zoom. (Zoom details in the announcement sheet; see link at top of page 1.) For more details or questions, please contact Elizabeth Lamb.

FIRST SUNDAY POTLUCK -- Sunday, July 6

Please join us for a potluck lunch following the rise of Meeting. Weather permitting, there are several outdoor tables for those who prefer to eat outside. FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns) will meet during potluck this Sunday (see details above.)
Green Friends will NOT meet in July, but will meet again on August 3.

If you can, please bring not only enough food for your family, but also extra for newcomers and guests.

NEWCOMER WELCOME DINNER -- Friday, July 18

On the 18th of each month, newcomers to Atlanta Friends Meeting are invited to dinner at the home of a member or long-time attender. You'll have a chance to get to know other new attenders as well as long-time Quakers in a casual setting. Bert and Karen Skellie will host the July Welcome Dinner. For more details, see later announcement sheets.

NO MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS IN JULY

Next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be August 17.

SEWING CIRCLE – Saturday, July 26

Join us for a Sewing Circle, meeting in the library on Saturday, July 26 at 3 pm. All art/craft mediums (that are easily cleanable!!) welcome as we create deeper community around shared interests. For more information, contact Lisa Magee, lisammagee@gmail.com.

GATHERED MEETING RETREAT – Friday to Saturday, September 5 to 7; ***register by August 1***

AFM's Gathered Meeting Retreat will take place September 5 to 7, 2025 at Calvin Center in McDonough, GA. We will be led by Dr. Folami Adams and Christina Repoley on the topic of Discernment: Personal and Collective. Laura MacNorlin will lead the program for youth. Registration is now open thru August 1 by using the form at <https://forms.gle/72U4M4GJtp9kPiqDA>. There is a link in the form to pay by PayPal. Checks can also be dropped to the meeting or mailed. Please be sure to put "Retreat" in the memo line of your check! Scholarships, partial and full, are available and can be requested through the form. We hope to see you all there!

MINUTES FOR SIXTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

June 15, 2025, held in person and via Zoom in a blended meeting

Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Richard Allen, Jennifer Crumpley, Jennifer Dickie, Mary Ann Downey, Elsayed Elbaz, Susan Firestone, Jeremiah Gold-Hopton, Nina Gooch, Clive Gordon, Chad Heilig, Bill Holland, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Kathy Johnson, Elizabeth Lamb, Judy Lumb, Karen terHorst Morris, Caroline Morris, Aaron Ruscetta, Daren Skellie, Myrna Trapp, Austin Wattles, Lamia Zaidi, Brent Wolff (Acting Clerk), and Charles Hicks (Recording Clerk)

Worship

Query for the Sixth Month: Do I respect that of God in everyone though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or be difficult to discern? How do I explore differences with grace, curiosity and deep listening?

Discernment

- **Nominating Committee** — Elizabeth Lamb reported for Nominating Committee.

Nominating is bringing back for discernment Bill Hooson as clerk of Finance Committee.

Minute-06-15-25:01: On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Bill Hooson as clerk of Finance Committee for a term of 3 and a half years from July of 2025 through December of 2028.

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

In the 5th month we reported the Meeting received a letter from Elsayad Elbaz requesting membership in the Atlanta Friends Meeting. A clearness committee met with him and found him clear for membership. Ministry and Worship united with their report and recommended the Meeting welcome Sayad into membership by application. Sayad shared his spiritual journey with Adult First Day on May 4, 2015, and a recording of that presentation is available.

Minute-06-15-25:02: On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the membership of Elsayed (Sayed) Elbaz by application. We welcome him into our community.

Reports

- **Nominating Committee** — Elizabeth Lamb reported for Nominating Committee.

Nominating is bringing forward Georgia Lord's name to serve as clerk of Care and Counsel. We will bring her name back for discernment next month.

- **Administration** — Aaron Ruscetta reported for the Administration Committee.

The water sprinklers are in the process of being replaced, which will cost about \$40,000. This is a required repair and may cause some disruption but it is necessary.

A friend asked about the mold that is reoccurring in the ceiling after the painting and said this was evidence of a leak in the roof. The friend asked for this concern to be brought back to the Administration Committee.

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

Ministry and Worship will hold a forum after meeting on June 29 focused on the Meeting for Worship. We will use the Pendle Hill pamphlet *Four Doors to Meeting for Worship* as a resource. We encourage all Friends to attend and share their experience of worship. Copies of the pamphlet are available.

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

AFM Update on Support for ABESUCHI

Andrew Cummings joined the Social Concerns Committee meeting by zoom on June 8th and brought the news that Abesuchi would like to make a report to our committee and to the Meeting. Atlanta Friends Meeting has a history of supporting Abesuchi, a youth organization in El Salvador. When AFM members Frank and Carol Cummings retired and moved to Suchitoto, El Salvador, in the 1980s they started a scholarship program and invited Atlanta Friends to participate. Frank made arrangements for continuing this support in his will and made Atlanta Meeting responsible for administering these funds, along with funds contributed by Atlanta Friends for these scholarships. An AFM Committee met regularly to administer these funds that included Andrew, their son who was living in El Salvador. The Social Concerns committee thanked Andrew, We invited the Abesuchi President, Wilson Olmedo, to present his full report in a forum on June 22, at 11:45 am on zoom, following Meeting for Worship.

Monteverde Friends Meeting in Costa Rica

Ellen Cooney, formerly from AFM, joined the June 8 meeting from Costa Rica to report on a concern that Monteverde Friends are working on. Costa Rica accepted two plane-loads of people deported from the U.S, but they were not prepared to feed or house them. The Monteverde Quaker Meeting is offering to house some of them. They have identified some housing options. The deportees are from all over, including Russia, and most do not speak Spanish or English. Monteverde Meeting has one person who can translate Russian. They expect the deportees to be in Costa Rica for at least a year and the country has issued them 90-day renewable visas, which allow them to come and go from the housing facility, but do not allow them to work. There is a person from the American Friends Service Committee at the facility where the deportees are currently housed. They are looking for some financial help. The Social Concerns committee agreed to provide \$200 now with options for more later. Ellen will continue to report to us as the ministry in Monteverde unfolds. For more information, or to make a contribution speak to Bert Skellie.

Georgia Senator Elena Parent to speak at AFM

Our committee has set a date for State Senator Elena Parent to present a Forum at AFM: August 3rd, after potluck, beginning about 12:30. She will also attend the potluck to talk informally with people. The discussion will include bills passed by the Georgia Senate and House and signed by the Governor which will dramatically change education, immigration, and voting in the state, which take effect in the Fall. Topics may include rule changes with vouchers for private schools, immigration concerns with deputized police and FBI, removing immigrants at \$3,000 per day, unlimited power for the Public Service Commission which has raised GA Power bills, and concerns about purging voter rolls. Even if Senator Parent is not your state senator, please plan to attend the forum to learn more about how citizens can bring about change.

