

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 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 AUGUST

Do you work gladly with other religious groups in the pursuit of common goals? While remaining faithful to Quaker insights, try to enter imaginatively into the life and witness of other communities of faith, creating together the bonds of friendship. What are you doing as individuals or as a Meeting to spread the message of Friends and to cooperate with others in spreading that message?

POETRY

"It will turn up" my mother used to say
to a child prone to losing her things and her way
the path will open keep the faith, my child
and know that I'll be with you as you tread each mile
through this weary world which breaks your heart
through each fading day that promises nothing you can keep
as you grow into an old woman like me; but so unlike
It's difficult to raise a daughter like holding up a mirror and
watching it crack with the weight of expectations and the ever aching hope
that the world will be kind to you
which is the pain of watching her become
stronger than you ever dreamed possible
rejecting all my failures as if they could be erased
and all I see my child as I look at your beautiful face is
hope for a better road to turn up and give you a saving grace.

by Patricia Turner

A New National Anthem

The truth is, I've never cared for the National Anthem. If you think about it, it's not a good song. Too high for most of us with "the rockets red glare" and then there are the bombs. (Always, always, there is war and bombs.) Once, I sang it at homecoming and threw even the tenacious high school band off key. But the song didn't mean anything, just a call to the field, something to get through before the pummeling of youth. And what of the stanzas we never sing, the third that mentions "no refuge could save the hireling and the slave"? Perhaps, the truth is, every song of this country has an unsung third stanza, something brutal snaking underneath us as we blindly sing the high notes with a beer sloshing in the stands hoping our team wins. Don't get me wrong, I do like the flag, how it undulates in the wind like water, elemental, and best when it's humbled, brought to its knees, clung to by someone who has lost everything, when it's not a weapon, when it flickers, when it folds up so perfectly you can keep it until it's needed, until you can love it again, until the song in your mouth feels like sustenance, a song where the notes are sung by even the ageless woods, the short-grass plains, the Red River Gorge, the fistful of land left unpoisoned, that song that's our birthright, that's sung in silence when it's too hard to go on, that sounds like someone's rough fingers weaving into another's, that sounds like a match being lit in an endless cave, the song that says my bones are your bones, and your bones are my bones, and isn't that enough?

by Ada Limón

(to hear Ada Limón read this poem, visit <https://tinyurl.com/bdfpj65b>)

FOUR LEADERSHIP QUERIES FOR ADULTS AND YOUNG FRIENDS

from the the article of that title by Karen Greenler in the June/July 2023 issue of Friends Journal (<https://www.friendsjournal.org/and-a-child-shall-lead-them/>)

"Four leadership queries that are worth exploring when working with children, either as parents, First-day school teachers, or as meeting members at large. The first is, how do we lead or guide our children? The second is, how do we develop leadership skills in our children? In the other two queries, the dynamic changes; adults become the recipients of the leadership: How do we learn about leadership from our youth, and how do we accept eldering from our youth?"

**PLEASE HOLD
IN THE LIGHT:**

Charlotte & Anton Flores
Gray & Suzanne Folger
Althea Sumpter
Mina Rhee
Diane Green & brother
Myrna and Bob Trapp
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 FROM MONTEVERDE FRIENDS

Ellen Cooney, who worshiped with Atlanta Friends many years ago and is now attending Monteverde Friends Meeting in Costa Rica, provided an update on how Monteverde Friends are able to assist some of the families who were deported from the U.S. to Costa Rica, earlier this spring. [This is a follow up from June's Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. More details at https://atlantaquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/AFM_Newsletter_2025-07.pdf, page 11]

“It has taken a while, but we are finalizing the arrangements for at least 5 families with children — and perhaps a 6th family if we can find housing — to join us this Saturday (July 12), with plans for them to be with us for up to a year. Given the generous donation from the Atlanta Friends Meeting, we want to provide an update.

Two families are from Russia, two are from Armenia and will be housed in Monteverde, with the possible addition of a family from Azerbaijan. One dad and one teenager speak English, and we don't believe any speak Spanish. In addition, an Afghan couple and their baby will go to Liberia, a city in northwest Costa Rica to stay with the sister of one of our Meeting members.

There has been an outpouring of support from the Monteverde community, from both Quakers and area people. We have offers of free clothing, help in getting the children registered in the local public schools and the national health system, plants for vegetable gardens, and so on. Our major ongoing expense will be to provide funds to the families for them to buy food and basic supplies. We are working on a GoFundMe campaign for that to supplement the funds you have already granted us.

We got a sense yesterday of the complexity of what we are doing as we participated in a 2-hour Zoom meeting in English, Spanish, Russian and Farsi! We will try to keep you updated as things progress, but for the safety of the family members, we do not plan to share full names or pictures.

Thanks so much to the Atlanta Meeting and the Social Concerns Committee for supporting our effort!

THE GIFT OF PRESENCE IS ENOUGH

by Mary Ann Downey, originally appeared in the June/July 2025 Friends Journal
(<https://www.friendsjournal.org/the-gift-of-presence-is-enough/>)

On the last Sunday of 2024, we gathered for First-day class in the meeting library for worship sharing. After an introduction to the worship-sharing process for visitors and recent attenders, we settled in silence. The query was the following: 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? There were only a few messages in the hour of sharing, and I sensed that others were as challenged by the query as I was.

I said the query reminded me of Luke 12:48, which I recalled as, “To whom much is given, much will be required,” and that I struggle with feeling that I can never give enough. I know that I’ve been given many advantages: loving parents, a faith community, a good education, a career where I can use my talents, time, retirement, health, and the ability to keep learning with the support of material resources. My ministry among Friends, which is to offer spiritual guidance, is supported by Atlanta (Ga.) Meeting. Meeting regularly with an anchoring committee keeps me from accepting too many requests and becoming overwhelmed. I am getting better at discerning what is mine to do and when I need to say no. I am slowly learning to wait for guidance from Spirit and to share my gifts with the Light I’m given.

As I was leaving the library for meeting for worship, I noticed a friend who sat crying. I stopped and sat with them to listen. They spoke of living hand-to-mouth without money to donate to the meeting and felt that they could not be a member as long as this was true. They were a longtime attender who contributed time and skills on committee work that helped the meeting in many ways. I reassured them that a financial contribution is not a condition of membership and that gifts of time and talent are just as helpful. When they felt ready to leave, we went into meeting for worship.

This interaction along with the responses to the worship sharing query were on my mind when I tried to settle into worship, hoping to let it all go. I resolved to talk to the friend with money concerns later to see what the meeting might do to help, and I realized that their struggle was the same as mine: feeling that we can never do enough. We think we need to give what we do not have and that what we give is not enough. What if we could remember to share according to the Light we are given?

Eventually Issac Penington’s advice “sink down into the seed” helped me settle, and I began simply to feel grateful to be in meeting on this day. I looked around the room at all the Friends gathered and realized how glad I was that we were together. Gradually I felt the silence within me and around me deepen. The words “the gift of your presence is present enough” came clearly to me with the sense that they were spoken by Spirit. Even though I had occasionally seen this phrase on party invitations, I felt that now these words offered a profound, deep reassurance and relief from my struggles.

The gift of my presence reminds me that coming to meeting for worship is a gift I give myself. Just being present, simply showing up, especially when I’m tired and not sure why I’m there, usually leaves me feeling better. Advice from *Faith and Practice* reminds me to come, whatever state I’m in, and “[I]et meeting for worship nourish your whole life” (Britain Yearly Meeting). My first visit to Atlanta Meeting was in 1979 at the age of 33, and I think about the many ways this meeting has nourished my life for more than 40 years. When I enter the meetingroom and sit in my usual place, I feel at home and safe in my community. The light around us and within everyone gathered grounds me in the present, and I listen to be guided.

And today, I am struck by the realization that being present is a gift I receive and give at the same time. I know that my presence may help someone else, as perhaps it did when I sat and listened to my friend. We have opportunities to be a channel of God's love and hands.

When we show up for each other and feel held by all those gathered, we are supported by the meeting community through what individuals say or do. The weekly hour of worship embraces us and, I feel, is the experience expressed by the African word *ubuntu*: "I am who I am because of who we all are."

The gift we come to meeting for worship seeking is the gift of God's presence. When I sit in meeting, wondering when or if I'll ever be able to center, hymns and Bible verses that I memorized growing up in a Baptist church help me settle. The words of the hymn "Spirit of the Living God, Fall Fresh on Me" and the Bible verse where Jesus says, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20, KJV), are among my favorites. I read that this verse was the inspiration for the painting *The Presence in the Midst* by James Doyle Penrose. In a letter to *The Friend* in December 1916, Penrose described a visit he made to the historic Jordans Meetinghouse in Buckinghamshire, England, one autumn afternoon:

There seemed to rise before me a picture of the past. The benches were once more filled with those early Friends, the builders of our society. . . . The idea of showing in some way that this was the secret of their power, the close and intimate connection between Christ Himself and the soul of His humble follower wherever he is, took hold of me and I determined to try and paint a picture embodying this idea.

I am grateful that I have experienced meetings when we have been deeply gathered; I feel God's presence among us, and we are one in the Spirit.

Building the beloved community invites all of us to a Spirit-led process of giving and receiving, of being available and present for each other, and of seeing the Light within everyone. I accept that maybe all I can do is show up and sit with one person in need or attend meeting, and the gift of my presence is present enough.

SAYMA NOTES JULY 2025

SAYMA [Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association] Sessions & Retreat 2025

Minutes

Meeting for worship with attention to business minutes for the summer sessions are available at [SAYMA.org](https://sayma.org). You can go directly to the minutes at https://sayma.org/YM2025/Sessions_123.pdf.

Treasurers Thoughts on Generosity & Abundance

At Sessions we were reminded by the treasurer that 80% of the SAYMA annual budget pays for SAYMA personnel. We learned that SAYMA spends approximately \$400/SAYFer annually from our allotment income and donations to the General Fund. We hope to be able to support our WQO representatives at the full amount allotted for the next fiscal year. [<https://tinyurl.com/yc7cr9py>]

Survey

Help us to know how we did, what you liked and what you wish could change! The Yearly Planning Committee will use the results for planning next year's sessions & retreat. Access the SURVEY at <https://tinyurl.com/ms525udc>.

Wider Quaker Organizations

Presentations from WQOs at our sessions were helpful and enlightening to let us know what is happening in the vital organizations that we support with funding and representation. Please see the links below to read the reports.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: When you click on the links, the link may take you to the beginning of the minutes and then, after a pause, to the report itself. Please be patient]

Quaker House

Wayne Finegar, Executive Director of Quaker House, added to his written report to provide an update related to the nationalization of the California National Guard. A GI Rights hotline – which was developed in collaboration with Quaker House - has seen heavy use since this nationalization action. Now is a time of high volatility associated with unlawful orders. Friends are encouraged to visit quakerhouse.org for developing news. Currently there is no official SAYMA Representative to Quaker House. However, one Friend has been volunteering and will be reaching out to nominating@sayma.org. [<https://tinyurl.com/ymcydabk>]

Friends Committee On National Legislation (FCNL)

Jane Hiles (Birmingham), as SAYMA Representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), announced that the theme of FCNL's upcoming virtual gathering in November is "Still Speaking Truth to Power," featuring Timothy Snyder, noted historian and scholar of authoritarianism. She thanked her colleague as SAYMA Representative to FCNL, Susan Penn (Memphis), and emphasized that a SAYMA Representative to FCNL position is now open. If interested, contact nominating@sayma.org. [<https://tinyurl.com/4yy4v5vy>]

Friends General Conference (FGC)

Margaret Farmer (Asheville), as SAYMA Representative to Friends General Conference (FGC), announced the upcoming in-person gathering for FGC will be in Burlington, Vermont, in July 2026. A smaller in-person gathering will be held this summer in Michigan for Young Adults and Youth (YAY). Margaret also drew attention to the work of the FGC Governance Working Group, which reflected input from three SAYMA Friends. The Central Committee of FGC will be reviewing the Governance Working Group plan this fall. A second position for a SAYMA Representative to FGC remains open. However, given the unfinished business of the Governance Working Group, Margaret has not actively recruited an additional SAYMA Representative to FGC. [<https://tinyurl.com/hebpaptu>]

Friends Peace Teams

Turtle MacDermott, on behalf of Friends Peace Teams, asked for help spreading the word within SAYMA about the work of Friends Peace Teams, either informally as a volunteer or formally as a SAYMA Representative to Friends Peace Teams. If interested, contact nominating@sayma.org. Friends were encouraged to watch the video version of the Friends Peace Teams epistle, available on YouTube. [<https://tinyurl.com/bdzjf2au>]

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

2025 FWCC Report, Geeta Jyothi McGahey - It's been a big year for FWCC Section of the Americas; the capital campaign is finished and new projects are underway: Quaker Connect , a participatory program to grow meetings, An Interactive map to locate meetings in the whole section of the Americas, and a Digital English-Spanish Quaker glossary almost ready. We also have a new Executive Director Evan Welkin who was educated at Gilford and returns here from service to the Europe Middle East section of FWCC. [<https://tinyurl.com/26a5b4ev>]

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

Report submitted by our representatives Diane Rawley and Hugh Thomford

[<https://tinyurl.com/yc5vjym4>]

AFSC Annual Epistle [<https://tinyurl.com/3ru773pp>]

News to Share

FGC BBIPOC Epistle (5-31-2025)

Gloria Simon-Gould, Clerk & Tomi Nagai-Rothe, Assist. Clerk

Black, Brown, Indigenous and People of Colour Friends from many Yearly Meetings gathered on 31 May 2025 for our first time together. Thirty one of us came with hope, joy, and some wariness. We are from diverse backgrounds and locations including the US, Canada, South Africa, Kenya, Philippines, Zimbabwe, the UK and the Kingdom of Hawai'i. We came from Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Britain Yearly Meeting, Canadian Yearly Meeting, Intermountain Yearly Meeting, the Nairobi Yearly Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting, Pacific Yearly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting, Southern Africa Yearly Meeting, and Southern Appalachia Yearly Meeting and Association. We may be the first worldwide online Meeting between Quakers who are Black, Brown, Indigenous and People of Colour (BBIPOC), initiated by a grassroots group of Friends of Colour. Many are involved in anti oppression/ decolonization, racial justice, reparations, and community empowerment work through Quaker and other organizations. (READ THE FULL EPISTLE at <https://tinyurl.com/5n7twztm>)

Northern Yearly Meeting Minute of Concern for Gaza June 2025

NYM Nimble Responders

The Northern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Quakers of the Upper Midwest of North America, wish to voice and minute our opposition to the deliberate starvation and destruction of civilians' lives and properties in Gaza by the government of Israel. (READ THE FULL MINUTE at <https://tinyurl.com/y7537vp2>)

Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Request

War and Militarism Working Group, which is under the Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

This year is the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (as well as the Trinity Test in New Mexico). Might you share with us any activities that your YM or constituent Monthly Meetings are planning for this commemoration or beyond about the nuclear arms race (e.g. a called Meeting for Worship or a worship-sharing session, or by the showing of a film such as Silent Fallout)? (READ THE FULL LETTER at <https://tinyurl.com/3ah8b3f7>).

RESOURCES FROM FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

- Recording of Friends Committee on National Legislation's (FCNL's) July 22 webinar on Persistent Advocacy in the Face of Disappointment at <https://act.fcnl.org/go/156121>.
- FCNL's Congressional Recess Resources: how to contact your US Senators and Representative during the August recess at <https://www.fcnl.org/resources/congressional-recess-resources>.

FREE PIANO

Members and attenders are being offered the piano currently in the Greeting Room. This piano was donated to the Meeting by Harriet Treadwell, whose family say they are happy with the Meeting's decision to move the piano on to a new location. If you are willing to arrange and pay for the piano to be taken in a timely manner (by the end of August), please contact the Office Coordinator, Nina Gooch, atlantaquakers@gmail.com. If more than one person/family wants the piano, priority will be given to those with children who are taking lessons, who don't already have a piano, and who commit to moving the piano with an insured company.

FREE PRINTER

Member Lynda Kerr has an Epson all-in-one printer/scanner/fax that she no longer needs. It works well. If you know any person or organization that can use it, let her know at thebuck33@gmail.com.

SHARE YOUR LAST WISHES WITH CARE & COUNSEL

Care and Counsel Committee keeps the Last Wishes of members and attenders on file as a starting place when planning memorials. The fillable form is available for downloading and printing at <https://atlantaquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/last-wishes-with-fillable-fields.pdf>. Paper copies to be filled out can be found in the large literature rack near the front door of the meetinghouse. The completed form can be delivered via email attachment to afm.care.counsel@gmail.com, or delivered to the AFM office in person or by mail. If you need assistance using the form, please contact the Office Coordinator at 404-377-2474 or email to atlantaquakers@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>, which also has more details. There is a link in the form to pay by PayPal or credit card. 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.

FLGBTQC OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP & COMMUNITY – Sat, August 2 & Sun, August 3

At 5 to 6 pm, join FLGBTQC Friends online from all over the U.S. and Canada for a hybrid meeting for worship with time for introductions and conversation from 6 to 6:30 PM. Please contact Jeremiah Gold-Hopton at jeremiah313134@mac.com for the international FLGBTQC Zoom link. After this, AFM's local FLGBTQC monthly game night, now on the first Saturday of the month, begins at 6:30 pm at the meetinghouse. Conversation, games and potluck-style food! Allies welcome! 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. On Sunday, August 3, 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 H. Otis. To join the group email list and receive updates, contact Nina in the office.

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS & ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays, August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

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 August 3, Arianna Rodriguez will share her Spiritual Journey. (To hear Chad Heilig's Spiritual Journey shared June 1, visit <https://tinyurl.com/mr9rpycd>. To read a transcript, visit <https://bookdown.org/cmheilig/transcript/spiritual-journey.html>. If you'd like to listen to other past Spiritual Journeys, contact Mary Ann Downey.)

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 August, 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, including August 31, Adult First Day School has worship sharing based on a query, usually that month's query, sometimes 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, August 3

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) as well as Green Friends will meet during potluck this Sunday.

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

SOCIAL CONCERNS FORUM ON 2025 GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE SESSION – Sunday, August 3

The Social Concerns Committee hopes you will join us for a forum to be led by Georgia State Senator Elena Parent on 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 3,000 immigrants per day, unlimited power for the Public Service Commission which has raised Georgia 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. Please contact John Michael at 404-360-8036 or Bert Skellie at bertskellie@gmail.com for more information.

State Senator Elena Parent was elected to the Georgia State Senate in 2014. She represents the 44th Senate District, which includes portions of DeKalb and Clayton Counties. Senator Parent serves as the Chairwoman of the Senate Democratic Caucus, and is a member of the Senate Committees on Education and Youth, Judiciary, Appropriations and Government Oversight. Senator Parent also served two years in the State House, representing a district in North DeKalb. Gun violence prevention and gun safety legislation have been top priorities of hers since taking office. She additionally has focused on K-12 education, literacy, and affordable access to higher education so that Georgia's youth can achieve their dreams. Senator Parent is an attorney and resides in Atlanta with her husband, Briley, and her two sons.

MEN'S RETREAT AT FERGUSON CABINS – Fri to Sun, August 8 to 10 **Sign up by Aug 3**

The 2025 annual Men's Retreat ("man" is self-defined) at the Ferguson Cabins on Lake Burton in the North Georgia mountains will be Friday afternoon, August 8 through Sunday afternoon, August 10. Enjoy fishing (license required), swimming, hiking, canoeing, listening to the sound of nature and fellowship with others. When registering, please let us know about any health conditions that we might want to help accommodate. We will charge \$8 per night per person to cover the cost of renting the property. The maximum number attending will be 20. Sign up soon to get a spot! We will share cooking and share the cost of food. Costs will be \$4 for breakfast, \$5 for lunch and \$7 for supper. There will be vegan options for meals. There will be scholarship funds available, so don't let money stop you from joining us! Please add a donation for scholarship funds if you can. To sign up, please call or text Eric Glenn at (770) 744-9963 or call or email Bert Skellie at 404-680-4799 or bertskellie@gmail.com. For more details about the Ferguson cabins, go to this link: <https://atlantaquakers.org/ferguson-cabins/>. Payments for registration can be made to Bert Skellie on Paypal using bertskellie@gmail.com, or by check or cash. Please confirm the reservation and how you will pay by text or email. Please consider helping shop for and prepare the Friday or Saturday night meal.

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR -- Thursday, August 7

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 August 7 is *Soil: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden* by Camille Dungy. All are welcome. The group encourages anyone interested in a particular book to drop in. Upcoming books include:

- 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).

REGULAR CHILDREN'S FIRST DAY SCHOOL CLASSES RESUME -- Sunday, August 10

Regular First Day School classes resume on Sunday, August 10. All children birth through high school are welcome. Nursery-aged children may go directly to the nursery. All other children are welcome in meeting for worship and will go to class at 10:15 when meeting room doors are opened. Religious Education teachers look forward to welcoming your children in class.

YOUNG FRIENDS BACK TO SCHOOL PIZZA LUNCH – Sunday, August 10!

Please join the Young Friends Support Committee on Sunday August 10 for a pizza lunch on the patio following the rise of meeting. We will kick off the new school year, introduce ourselves, and eat some Mellow Mushroom! This event is primarily for young friends and their families, but all friends are welcome!

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS – Sunday, August 17

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.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYlIFWEhSQUtZRVVPaIFFYmVDQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751

Passcode: 789456

The minutes for our last meeting, in June, are at

https://atlantaquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/AFM_Newsletter_2025-07.pdf

ABOUT MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

"Friends' decision-making is rooted in the spiritual oneness of a religious community. We reject majority rule for the higher goal of reaching decisions in unity, through distinctive attitudes developed by Friends over the centuries. Our process is democratic in the sense that everyone is encouraged to participate. However, it also goes beyond democracy in that it does not rely solely on human will or ability. Participants are expected to put aside personal desires and allow themselves to be led by a Guide beyond the self." (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice 1998)

"Whenever we remember that we are in the presence of God, transformation is possible. Every task, no matter how mundane, becomes an act of worship, a word of praise offered to God. This is the basis for Quaker business practice. We call it 'meeting for worship with attention to business' because it is grounded in an awareness of God's presence!" (Friends General Conference)

Atlanta Friends Meeting guidelines for meeting for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business are at https://atlantaquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/Guidelines_for_Meeting_for_Business.pdf. In addition, <https://www.friendsjournal.org/meeting-for-business-as-spiritual-rehearsal> talks more about the spiritual side of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business as well as the ways the Quaker decision-making process differs from consensus. Another resource is Pendle Hill Pamphlet #307, *Beyond Consensus: Salvaging Sense of the Meeting, which is in the AFM library.*

NEWCOMER WELCOME DINNER -- Friday, August 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. For more details, see later announcement sheets.

