

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026



Current and back issues of the newsletter are available at <https://atlantaquakers.org/newsletter/>
<https://atlantaquakers.org/announcement-sheet/> has the most recent announcement sheet with up-to-date event information

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 are in the announcement sheet (link just above). The most up-to-date information about events can also be found there.

QUERY FOR MAY

How are we going to use our Light to encourage and protect people who are being oppressed?

source: Atlanta Friends School, 7th Grade Class

FOLLOW UP AND RESOURCES FROM THE TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY FORUM

On March 22, in honor of Trans Day of Visibility (actually March 31), Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns, hosted a forum focusing on the query "How do trans and non-binary Quakers in our meeting live their faith in a time of rising hatred?" Panelists were Jeremiah Gold-Hopton, AJ Strom, Connor McMahon and Erica French with moderator Nina Gooch. Questions for the panelists included

- What's your name and pronouns?
- How do you describe your gender?
- How did you first come to Atlanta Friends Meeting?
- How have you been supported or not supported by the Atlanta Friends Meeting community as a trans or non-binary person?
- What type of support would you like to get from AFM as a trans or non-binary person?
- What has been your experience of rising anti-trans sentiment and legislation? How has it affected you?

From the forum and from later suggestions from members of FLGBTQC, here are some ways that you can help support trans and non-binary people:

- Use correct pronouns. If you make a mistake, quickly correct yourself (and thank whomever corrected you, if applicable) and move on.
- Share your own pronouns, especially if you're cisgender, so that trans and non-binary people don't have to be the first to share pronouns

- Continue to welcome trans and non-binary people to use the restroom that trans folks believe most closely aligns with their gender
- Learn the facts about how trans and non-binary people are being impacted by legislation and public sentiment. Avoid sharing second hand information until facts are checked.
- Work actively to help counter this negative impact
- Join FLGBTQC in the Pride Parade (most religious groups in Atlanta's Pride parade are actually predominately cis and straight allies) and other LGBTQ events at AFM and in the community. The 2026 Pride Parade is Sunday, October 11.

RESOURCES:

Words that describe gender and sexuality: pflag.org/glossary

Pronouns and why they matter: <https://sojourngsd.org/pronoun-guide/>

Media guide for journalists, but what it says about using language is useful for everyone: <https://www.glaad.org/reference/transgender>

About being trans: <https://transequality.org/trans-101/about-transgender-people>

About being non-binary: <https://transequality.org/trans-101/about-nonbinary-people>

Friends Journal March 2026 issue, focusing on Gender and Sexual Identity

intro: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/to-be-known-and-loved/>

articles: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/issue-category/2026/gender-and-sexual-identities/>

QuakerSpeak podcasts (also available to be read):

<https://quakerspeak.com/video/identity-and-christianity-navigating-gender-transition-as-a-quaker/>

<https://quakerspeak.com/video/transgender-quaker/>

<https://quakerspeak.com/video/told-quaker-meeting-im-transgender/>

<https://quakerspeak.com/video/inclusive/>

(what's the difference between a welcoming and an inclusive space?)

PFLAG: <https://pflag.org>. Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides support and advocacy for lgbtq+ people and for family and friends of all lgbtq+ people. Lots of excellent online resources including a glossary at pflag.org/glossary, plus info on advocacy. Also local chapters across the country, including Atlanta: <https://www.pflagatlanta.org/>.

National Organizations:

Advocates for Trans Equality at transequality.org. Advocacy and information.

Translifeline. <https://translifeline.org/>. Peer support hotline for trans people staffed by trans people.

Also has resource library, focusing on trans people, at <https://translifeline.org/resources/>

Anti-bullying / making K-12 safer for lgbtq+ youth:

Glisten at <https://glisten.org/> & HRC Foundation's <https://welcomingschools.org/>

More national trans & non-binary organizations, plus additional resources:

<https://www.glaad.org/transgender/resources>

Sources of news:

The Advocate: www.advocate.com/. National, has a daily email news summary and shares news articles on Facebook, which is an excellent source of lgbtq+ news

National news, Erin in the Morning: <https://www.erininthemorning.com/>. Focuses on news about trans & non-binary people and issues.

Georgia Voice, now a part of Rough Draft Atlanta, local: <https://roughdraftatlanta.com/georgiavoice/>

Charis Books and More / Charis Circle (non-profit arm): <https://www.charisbooksandmore.com/>
Excellent feminist bookstore on Candler Street just two miles from the meetinghouse (you can also order books online). Offers book events and other programs, including ongoing groups for trans and non-binary people and for parents of gender-creative kids. Let a bookseller know what you're looking for and they can help you find it, but here are two booklists as a start:

<https://live-charis1747038143.pantheonsite.io/gender-creative-parenting-booklist>

<https://live-charis1747038143.pantheonsite.io/gender-identitytransgender>

Local organizations:

Trans Housing Coalition: <https://www.transhousingcoalition.org/>

Solutions NOT Punishment Collaborative (SnapCo): <https://www.snap4freedom.org/about>

local PFLAG chapters (see description above): <https://www.pflagatlanta.org/>

Georgia Equality: georgiaequality.org. LGBTQC+ advocacy & politics, including endorsements for local and statewide races.

Lost-n-Found Youth provides services for homeless lgbtq+ youth and has a thrift store at 2585

Chantilly Dr NE, Atlanta, GA 30324: <https://www.lnfy.org/>

Georgia Safe School Coalition: <https://gasafeschools.org/>

Atlanta Pride: <https://atlantapride.org/>

PLEASE HOLD IN THE LIGHT:

Jay Roache & Janet Minshall
Amara Lynch & father
Diane Green
Julia Ewen & family

*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: Brent Wolff, afmclerk1@gmail.com

Office Coordinator: Nina Gooch, atlantaquakers@gmail.com

Treasurer: Stacey Sharer, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com

Ministry & Worship: Folami Adams, drfolami@me.com,

Finance: Bill Hooson, 770-786-8096

Administration: Jack Honderd, jkhonderd@gmail.com

Social Concerns: Karen Morris, karenth.1415@gmail.com

Care & Counsel: Georgia Lord, 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

Reparations, Reparative Justice and Right Relations:

Herb Edwards, herbmedwards@gmail.com

Religious Education: Amanda Gendreau, AmandaGendreau5@gmail.com

Young Friends Program Coordinator:

Rebecca Thornburley, afm.young.friends@gmail.com

Library: Derek Harootune Otis, dharootuneotis@gmail.com

Nominating: Elizabeth Lamb, gelds@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor: Nina Gooch, atlquakerltr@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.

as presented at Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on April 20, 2026 by David Small, who was Clerk of the Meeting 2024 to 2025

“Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope.” — Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr.’s words speak deeply to the condition of our Meeting in this season. They remind us that hope is not separate from sorrow or struggle. It is shaped within them. It is carved slowly and faithfully out of what is hard, by people willing to remain present to one another, attentive to Spirit, and committed to the life we share.

This year, the Atlanta Friends Meeting has lived amid both burden and blessing. We are not untouched by the griefs and anxieties of the wider world, nor by the personal hardships carried out within our own fellowship. We live in a time marked by violence, division, uncertainty, and weariness. Many among us know despair not as an abstraction, but as something intimate and real. Yet we have also known grace. We have continued to gather in worship, to listen for the divine within ourselves and our community, and to labor together in love. In stewardship, teaching, discernment, care, and witness, we have continued the quiet work of shaping a stone of hope.

The reports from our committees show a Meeting that is active, growing, tender, and still being formed. They also reveal real challenges: the strains of a troubled world, the demands of growth, the need for more volunteers and stronger succession in leadership, and the continuing work of becoming more inclusive, more just, and more faithful. Yet taken together, the reports testify to resilience, gratitude, and a continuing willingness to do the work love requires.

Ministry and Worship Committee described both richness and strain in the spiritual life of the Meeting. Friends continue to seek depth in worship while adapting to changes such as the use of microphones and the pressures of a troubled political climate. At the same time, the committee celebrated new members, marriages, memorials, recognized ministries, and opportunities for spiritual formation. Its report reflects a Meeting still seeking how best to remain gathered in love.

Care and Counsel Committee continued to embody the Meeting’s pastoral heart through cards, visits, wellness contacts, clearness and reconciliation work, memorial support, and care for new and expectant parents. It also reflected on how the Meeting can respond to material needs and worked to make support funds and newcomer materials more accessible. Its report reminds us that community is sustained through steady, loving accompaniment.

Administration Committee continued caring for the Meetinghouse and grounds, managing building use, supporting employees, and overseeing important repairs and improvements. It also revised handbook materials, considered policy changes, and reflected on racism within its own work. Much of this labor is unseen, but it helps create the conditions that make Meeting life possible.

Landscape Committee cared for the grounds by fighting invasive species, especially in the ravine, and refreshing the flower bed by the front sidewalk. Its goal for 2026 is to complete the paths in the ravine. This steady stewardship of the land is part of how the Meeting offers beauty, welcome, and refuge.

Nominating Committee continued calling forth the gifts of Friends and strengthening the structures of Meeting life. This year it devoted much of its effort to revising the Handbook and helping committees clarify their roles. Its work has been quiet but foundational.

Religious Education Committee reported encouraging growth in First Day School at all age levels, along with the challenges that growth brings. The committee named needs for more teachers, more space, stronger leadership succession, and clearer safety practices. It responded with careful planning, updated guidelines, and deeper reflection on curriculum. Its work reflects hope rooted in the lives of children and young people.

Social Concerns Committee continued the Meeting's witness for peace and justice by advancing the Minute on Sanctuary, supporting refugee and relief efforts, contributing to work in Gaza and El Salvador, and hosting forums on legislation, women's equality, and housing insecurity. Its report shows a committee attentive to both global suffering and urgent local needs.

Quakers for Racial Equality continued substantial work toward helping the Meeting become a more anti-racist multiracial community. Through forums, education, material support, sanctuary efforts, reparative justice work, and Indigenous solidarity, QRE joined reflection with action and accountability. Its report reflects a deep commitment to truth, repair, and right relationship.

An especially important ministry in the life of the Meeting is **Casa Alterna**. Through radical hospitality and faithful accompaniment, it offers housing, support, and dignity to immigrants and asylum seekers, and it has become one of the clearest outward expressions of the Meeting's witness. Its presence among us has deepened our understanding of equality, courage, and love across borders.

Taken together, these reports show a Meeting tending worship, buildings, grounds, children, pastoral care, committee structures, public witness, and racial justice work. They also remind us that we are not without tension or incompleteness. Some Friends feel unsettled by change. Some committees need more people and more continuity. Some questions about care, inclusion, and right relationship remain unresolved. Growth itself can be both joyful and demanding.

And yet, there is reason for gratitude. Again and again, the reports show Friends offering their gifts with generosity and faithfulness. They show a Meeting trying, however imperfectly, to live in truth. This year has reminded us that hope is not usually dramatic. More often it appears in small and faithful acts: a room made more welcoming, a child taught, a grieving person visited, a ministry supported, a sanctuary affirmed, a flower bed renewed, a path cleared, a harmful history more honestly faced. These things matter and are how the life of the Meeting is sustained.

We remain an imperfect community. We continue to face challenges of capacity, discernment, inclusion, and the pressures of the wider world. But the Spirit continues to gather us. Friends continue to offer their gifts. New life continues to enter the Meeting. Long-standing faithfulness continues to bear fruit. Even in times of uncertainty, the Atlanta Friends Meeting continues to be shaped by love, service, courage, and the search for truth.

Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope.

This year, that stone has been shaped in self-examination and public witness and in love for one another across generations. May we continue, with humility and courage, to shape such hope together.

QUAKER WORKS

This semiannual column from *Friends Journal* highlights the recent works of Quaker organizations: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/quaker-works-april-2026/>

FLGBTQC OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY – Saturday & Sunday, May 2 & 3

On May 2, AFM's FLGBTQC monthly game night begins at 6:30 pm at the meeting house. 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.

On the first Sunday, May 3, Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC) will eat together at potluck (look for the queer flag).

For more information about these events or about FLGBTQC in general or about lgbtq+ issues, contact Nina Gooch or Jeremiah Gold-Hopton. To join the group email list and receive updates, contact Nina in the office.

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS AND ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays, May 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 May 3, Amara Lynch will share her Spiritual Journey. If you'd like to listen to past Spiritual Journeys, contact Mary Ann Downey at madowney@mindspring.com.

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.

On the second, third and fourth Sundays of the month, Adult First Day School will be discussing the book *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr. You are welcome to join the discussion even if you have not read the book.

Each fifth Sunday of a month, including May 31, Adult First Day School will consider a query using worship sharing. For more about worship sharing, visit https://friendsgc.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Worship-Sharing-Guidelines_1.pdf.

Adult First Day School meets at 9 am 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, May 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. Green Friends as well as the FCNL Action Team and FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns) 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.

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

The book group reading works by and about people of color meets at 1:30 pm on the first Thursday of the month in person in combination with Zoom. On May 7, the group will be reading and discussing *We The Animals* by Justin Torres. All are welcome, and the group encourages anyone interested in a particular book to drop in. The book for June 4 is *The Wilderness: a Novel* by Angela Flournoy. For questions or the Zoom link, contact Susan Cole (cole2544@bellsouth.net).

PENDLE HILL WORKSHOP: CHRIST IN THE STRANGER AND OUTCAST – Saturday, May 16

A collaboration of Woodbrooke, Barclay Press, and Pendle Hill, this workshop explores justice, hospitality, and care through stories of Quaker asylum and refugee advocacy in Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Online: May 16 at 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm EDT. Free, but registration is required at <https://pendlehill.org/calendar/christ-stranger/>.

CELEBRATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH – Sunday, May 17

The 2025 / 2026 Religious Education school year will end on May 17 with the Celebration of Youth! This has been a tradition at Atlanta Friends Meeting for many years, and the teachers, children and AFM community look forward to it each year. Short updates/announcements are made by teachers/children. Teachers, doorkeepers and nursery volunteers will be recognized. Each child will receive a special gift for their engagement and participation in class this school year! (Children in First Day School classes and the Nursery will go to their classes at 10 am to talk about the Celebration and then will come back and join their families in Meeting for Worship for the Celebration.) Summer classes will start May 24. (See article below.)

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

Stay after meeting for worship, whether in person or via Zoom. Minutes from last month are below. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held in a combined format about 11:45, using the Zoom coordinates for Meeting for Worship. The minutes from January are below.

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYlFWEhSQUtZRVVPaIFFYmVDQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751

Passcode: 789456

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 . . . Our process . . . 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)

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. <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*. The AFM library has two copies.

NEWCOMER WELCOME DINNER -- Monday, May 18

On the 18th of each month, Atlanta Friends Meeting hosts a home-based meal for newcomers! This is an opportunity for those new to Meeting to ask questions and get to know a few Meeting folk. The May Newcomers' dinner will be held on Monday, May 18. More details will be in the weekly announcement sheet.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO FRIENDS OF COLOR -- Saturday, May 23

Friends of Color will offer a Meeting for Worship with attention to Friends of Color once a month thru June. We worshipped together at our annual December gathering and many expressed interest in doing so on a regular basis. We will borrow some of the practices of the Ujima Friends Meeting in Philadelphia and invite you to bring your ideas and musical instruments. We will worship from 3 to 4 pm and fellowship from 4 to 5 pm. We began on April 25 and future dates are Saturdays May 23 and June 27. Based on interest level, we may continue beyond the next three months. The Ministry and Worship Committee suggested we meet a few times before committing to it on an ongoing basis. Bring a snack or finger food to share. Most gatherings, including April 25, will be in the library. If the meeting room is ever available, we will meet in it. All are welcome. Contact Folami Adams for more information. drfolami@me.com; 404.593.6548

SUMMER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Sundays, beginning May 24 (HOW YOU CAN HELP!!)

Summer classes will begin May 24 and end early in August. Over the summer, most Religious Education teachers take a break and committees sign up to teach for a week about how their committee contributes to the life of the Meeting. The Religious Education Committee will support the committees who sign up to teach.

We will continue to need nursery volunteers and Doorkeepers for the Elementary class.

– If you are a parent and have questions, please contact Amanda Gendreau

(AmandaGendreau5@gmail.com, 678-078-5212), Clerk of the Religious Education Committee

– If you are a committee and have not yet signed up, please reach out to Amanda Gendreau!

– If you are interested in being a doorkeeper this school year, this summer or next school year, please contact Amanda Gendreau! Or you can just fill out the volunteer sign up sheet at the meetinghouse or online at <http://tinyurl.com/afmvolunteers>.

– If you are interested in helping in the Nursery this summer or next school year, continue to sign up on the volunteer sheet and contact Amanda Gendreau or Nina Gooch in the office for more info!

– If you are interested in being a religious education teacher next school year, please contact Amanda Gendreau or Alison Mawle now!

SAYMA ANNUAL SESSIONS -- Thursday to Sunday, June 18 to 21

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) is our yearly meeting, a regional umbrella for Quaker meetings in Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky. SAYMA also holds an annual gathering each year, this year June 18 to 21 at Berea College in Berea, Kentucky. The theme will be **Seeking Spirit Together** and workshop proposals are now being accepted. Registration is open. Info: www.sayma.org. There are AFM scholarships available, with full scholarships set aside at AFM for Young Adult Friends (ages 18 to 35). Contact Ministry and Worship Committee for scholarship info.

Discernment

- Nominating — Elizabeth Lamb reported for Nominating Committee.

We are bringing back Maia Hallward for approval as assistant clerk of the meeting.

Minute-04-19-26:01: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Maia Hallward as Assistant Clerk of the Meeting for a two-year term from now through December 2027.

- Social Concerns — Karen Morris reported for the Social Concerns Committee.

We are bringing the following for expedited discernment and to ask for approval in the same Meeting if the Clerk feels it is appropriate. We ask the Clerk to send the minute, if approved, to Decaturish, and to the AJC, the Church Action Newsletter of the (Atlanta) Regional Council of Churches, this month in the interest of time.

Here is the Minute:

Based on our long-standing Quaker peace testimony, Atlanta Friends Meeting firmly opposes the U.S. war with Iran as wrong and immoral. We believe that all people have the spark of the Divine. We are appalled by the loss of lives in the Gulf region and the potential for wider devastation due to this war. We urge a permanent ceasefire and active international diplomacy that respects the humanity and cultures of all involved and seeks to address root causes of the conflict.

A Friend questioned whether the word "firmly" was necessary. Another Friend asked whether we should include a line condemning attacks on civilian infrastructure as a war crime, as well.

Minute-04-19-26:02: Based on our long-standing Quaker peace testimony, Atlanta Friends Meeting opposes the U.S. war with Iran as wrong and immoral. We believe that all people have the spark of the Divine. We are appalled by the loss of lives, the attacks on civilian infrastructure, and the potential for wider devastation due to this war. We urge a permanent ceasefire and active international diplomacy that respects the humanity and cultures of all involved and seeks to address root causes of the conflict.

This minute also reflects a later conversation during the meeting for business regarding the minute initially saying, "loss of lives in the Gulf region." Though the minute was initially approved with this phrase, the Clerk determined it was alright to subsequently alter this phrasing and reaffirm the minute since the meeting for business had not concluded and it more accurately reflected the sense of the meeting.

Reports

- State of the Meeting Report — David Small gave the State of the Meeting Report 2025.

[Editor's Note: see article above]

- Religious Education — Cathy Amanti reported for Religious Education Committee.

Twenty-eight people responded to the RE survey that was disseminated in early March. Over half of the survey respondents are related to a child attending First Day School (60.7%) and over half said they are interested in learning more about the First Day School program (64.3%). Less than half the respondents are interested in learning more about becoming a teacher in First Day School (42.9%) but more than half are interested in learning more about becoming a Doorkeeper (57.1%). For those who expressed an interest in learning more about teaching in First Day School, Amanda Gendreau (RE clerk) and Cathy Amanti (RE co-clerk) held an information session on March 29, 2026 for prospective teachers and doorkeepers, reaching out with a personal invitation to survey respondents who expressed an interest in becoming a teacher.

Regarding the open-ended questions on the survey, many respondents shared skills and talents they would be willing to share with First Day School. Comments were generally positive in terms of what respondents think is going well in First Day School. Some would like to know more about what is being taught in the program and a few parents would like recommendations for resources they could use at home to reinforce the First Day School curriculum. Although relatively few respondents commented specifically about the current three-year curriculum cycle – Old Testament, New Testament, Quaker Faith and Practice – while some respondents want to keep the current curriculum cycle and bring back an emphasis on Godly Play lessons, others would like to see changes in how the Old Testament is taught. Other respondents would like to see innovations in the curriculum.

The Religious Education program is still in need of 3-4 additional teachers at the lower and upper elementary level for the fall. There is also still a need for committees to volunteer to teach a lesson to a combined lower and upper elementary class in First Day School in the summer. If anyone is interested in either or both of these opportunities please reach out to Amanda Gendreau (clerk) and/or Cathy Amanti (co-clerk).

Overall, the Religious Education Committee appreciates everyone who responded to the survey and hopes that the number of adults in our meeting that are involved in First Day School in one way or another will continue to increase.

A Friend asked how we would decide what the curriculum will be. Cathy responded that the new Clerk is interested in reviewing the possible curriculum with a committee this Fall.

A Friend (Clive Gordon) said the first time he volunteered as a teacher, he did not know what to do for the full time of the First Day School and that he is looking forward to being a door keeper this year because it is more his speed. He said if he could do it, then anyone can do it.

- Gathered Meeting Retreat — Charles Hicks reported for Gathered Meeting Retreat Committee.

Friends, I wanted to share a brief date update on the Gathered Meeting Retreat. The retreat will be held over Labor Day weekend, September 4 through 6, here at the meetinghouse. This is one weekend earlier than previously announced. Planning is underway, and we're shaping a weekend that will include intergenerational programming, small group conversations, and time for both reflection and connection.

We are planning for this to be a "pay as you can" retreat, with a suggested cost of \$25 per person to help cover meals, and childcare will be available for younger children. We'll be sharing more details soon, and we expect registration to open in mid-May. In the meantime, we hope Friends will mark their calendars and begin holding the retreat in mind.

A Friend asked why we made the shift to a retreat at the meetinghouse. Charles said it was to drive down costs after receiving feedback that the retreat was costly. Another Friend said that it was becoming more challenging to find places to host our retreat.

A Friend said perhaps the Finance Committee could agree to subsidize the retreat to help with costs. Charles said the Finance Committee is subsidizing the retreat with \$1,000.00.

- Nominating — Elizabeth Lamb reported for Nominating Committee.

We are bringing forward Waman French as Clerk of the Religious Education Committee for a three-year term from June 2026 through May 2029. He will be brought forward next month for approval.

We are bringing forward the following names as teachers for a one-year term from July 2026 through June 2027. We'll bring them forward individually next month for approval, but I'll just read them all

now: Margaret Miller, Stacy Sharer, Elizabeth Tolmach, Victoria Holland, Ryll Mathews, Katherine Ostrom, Amanda Gendreau, and Jillian Minarich. And as substitute teachers: Laura MacNorlin, Folami Adams, and Betsy Eggers.

A Friend made a comment that all of the names of the teachers are women. Alison Mawle made the comment that nominating committee was working to recruit more men into the teaching role. Additionally, there was a comment that there is a new effort to revive curriculum.

Clerk's Items

- None.

Announcements

- Folami Adams announced we are putting together an anchoring committee for Jeremiah Gold-Hopton.

Approval of Minutes from 3rd month 2026

- **Minute-04-19-26:03:** The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the 3rd month 2026 minutes.

Events in the Life of the Meeting

Closing Worship

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ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Office Coordinator's usual hours: Monday thru Thursday, 10 am to 1 pm and Friday, by appointment
web and email: atlantaquakers.org, atlantaquakers@gmail.com voicemail/phone: 404-377-2474
Clerk: Brent Wolff, afmclerk1@gmail.com Treasurer: Stacey Sharer, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com

<p>Ways to communicate and receive information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p><i>To join any of these email lists above, please email the office at atlantaquakers@gmail.com.</i></p> <p><i>To join the meeting's Facebook group, search for Atlanta Friends Meeting & click the + Join Group button.</i></p> <p>Do we have your (correct) contact information so we can reach you? Please send your name and (updated) contact information to afmdirectory@gmail.com and atlantaquakers@gmail.com.</p>	<p>Do you need a directory, printed or electronic? Email atlantaquakers@gmail.com or call 404-377-2474</p> <p>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/ 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. <i>Thanks!</i></p> <p>Want to submit an announcement, letter, article, etc to the newsletter? Email atlquakerltr@gmail.com. Submissions may be edited for length and format.</p> <p><i>THE DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS IS THE 20TH DAY OF EACH PRECEDING MONTH</i></p>
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