ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING
NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 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, in-person-only 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 SEPTEMBER

Do you live in the virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion for all war? In your work for peace, are you nourished by peace within yourself?

– from Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association's *Faith and Practice*

A THANK YOU FROM ANN RITTER

Thank you on behalf of Jan Stansel and myself for the financial boost [a scholarship to Friends General Conference Gathering] that allowed me to help Jan run the Healing Center at the Gathering in Vermont in July. It was great to "gather" again after missing 2025 and to see everyone that I had been missing for two years.

And the Healing Center was truly a blessed and inspired place this year. We served many people and worked under a tremendous canopy of spiritual grace each of the four afternoons the Center was open. Your scholarship support allowed me to get there and be completely present for the work. That meant a great deal to me, to Jan and to all who participated.

Blessings to everyone there, Ann R. (now in Winston-Salem, NC)

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM DAVID FOSTER

Former member David Foster is a nature photographer. You can view an eBook with 80 of his photographs at https://tinyurl.com/3ezvbx4x. When the file opens, toward the upper right corner click on 'Slideshow'. To navigate through the pages, use the direction arrows or scroll. To exit Slideshow, use ESC. The book is formatted to be best viewed on a large screen. You can also receive weekly emails with a new photograph each Thursday. Subscribe at https://tinyurl.com/4at44bve. .

PLEASE HOLD IN THE LIGHT:

Rebecca Thornburley & family
Nan Roark
Jennifer Crumply
Diane Green and her brother David
Howie Sankofa
Becky Lough
Georgia Lord

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: afm.care.counsel@gmail.com
Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, susanfires@gmail.com
Committee on Undoing Racism in AFM:
Lissa Place, placesatellkids@gmail.com
Reparations,Reparative Justice and Right Relations:
Herb Edwards, herbmedwards@gmail.com
Religious Education: Waman French, wamanf@gmail.com
Young Friends Program Coordinator:
Rebecca Thornburley, afm.young.friends@gmail.com
Nominating: Elizabeth Lamb, gelds@comcast.net
Library: Chad Heiling, cmheilig@gmail.com
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.

SAYF WORSHIPJOURNALS FROM RECENT RETREATS

There's a large envelope with worship journals from recent Southern Appalachian Young Friends retreats on the rolling bulletin board near the patio window. They're an excellent window into the retreats and a reminder of the importance of this program.

LINK TO RASHIN DARDEN: JOY IS A SERIOUS MATTER

Plenary presentation for the 2026 annual sessions of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association and recorded via Zoom with restricted permission for distribution to SAYMA monthly meetings and their members & attenders until 2026/12/19. Please contact the office for the link at atlantaquakers@gmail.com.

FERGUSON CABINS AT LAKE BURTON

Gifted to Atlanta Friends Meeting in 1983 by Dwight Ferguson, the Ferguson Cabins include seven wooded acres and several cabin structures on a mountainside site with a dock on Lake Burton. The cabins are about a 3 hour drive from the Meetinghouse in the North Georgia mountains.
Go to the AFM website at https://atlantaquakers.org/ferguson-cabins/ for information on what to bring and how to reserve time there so you, family, friends and groups can enjoy time in nature, swimming and canoeing in the fresh air of North Georgia. Cabins are open into the fall. For more information, you can also email Jennifer Thompson at thefergusoncabin@gmail.com.

CAN YOU HOST OUR FWCC FRIENDS FOR 3 NIGHTS, NOVEMBER 12 to 14?

Friends World Committee for Consultation or FWCC (Section of the Americas) will be holding committee meetings at AFM in November, and we are looking for homes for them to stay. If you'd like to help, or need more information, please contact Alison Mawle at zumilla@gmail.com.

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

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 September 3, the group will be discussing poetry selected by members of the group. All are welcome, and the group encourages any one interested in a particular book to drop in. Future books include:

October 1: W*hiskey Tender by* Deborah Taffa
November 5: *Kin* by Tayari Jones
December 3: *Bad Bad Girl by* Gish Jen
January 7, 2027: *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison

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

GATHERED MEETING RETREAT: SLOWING DOWN – September 4 thru 6

This year's Gathered Meeting Retreat gathers Friends of all ages over Labor Day weekend around the theme of slowing down — exploring what it means to move through life with more intention, presence, and rest. It begins Friday evening with a potluck. The Saturday program includes intergenerational interest groups, worship sharing, and a talent show. On Sunday morning, retreat participants will join the broader Meeting for worship, and then come together for this forum to share what they discovered over the weekend.

If you have not already registered and are still interested, please contact Charles Hicks at mrcharleshicks@gmail.com in advance.

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS AND ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays, September 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 September 6, Jennifer Dickie will share her Spiritual Journey. To hear Cate Tedfords's Spiritual Journey, shared August 2, visit https://tinyurl.com/3rdyu4ft. If you'd like to listen to other 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.

(continued on next page)

On the second, third and fourth Sundays of the month, in September and October, Adult First Day School will be discussing the book *The Gnostic Gospels* by Elaine Pagels. You are welcome to join the discussion even if you have not read the book.

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

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 or go to www.atlantaquakers.org.) For more details or questions, please contact Elizabeth Lamb.

FORUM: WHAT CAN WE CARRY FORWARD? PRACTICES OF SLOWING DOWN – Sept 6

On Sunday, September 6, following Meeting for Worship, Atlanta Friends Meeting will host a special hybrid forum open to the entire community: "What Can We Carry Forward? Practices of Slowing Down."

This year's Gathered Meeting Retreat gathers Friends of all ages over Labor Day weekend around the theme of slowing down — exploring what it means to move through life with more intention, presence, and rest. The Saturday program includes intergenerational interest groups, worship sharing, and a talent show. On Sunday morning, retreat participants will join the broader Meeting for worship, and then come together for this forum to share what they discovered over the weekend.

The forum is designed not just for those who attended the retreat, but for all Friends. Whether or not you were at the retreat, you are warmly invited to join the conversation. What does slowing down look like in your own life? What practices have sustained you? What might we carry forward together as a community?

The forum will be held in a hybrid format, using the meeting for worship zoom coordinates.
All are welcome.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYllFWEhSQUtZRVVPalFFYmVDQT09
Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751
Passcode: 789456

FRIENDLY 8 GROUPS – sign up or create new groups thru September 6

It's not too late! People interested in joining a Friendly 8's group can still sign up! You can even create a NEW Friendly 8 group (if you're willing to convene). September 6 will be your Last Chance to join/sign up for the Quaker Fiction Book Group, the Roller Derby Fan Club, Biking in the City Club, Learn to Play Bridge, Bowling (mandatory) & Beers (optional), and Tara Theater Movie Goers. Questions? Email BetsyEggers@gmail.com.

What's a Friendly 8? Friendly 8's are typically groups of 8 people from Meeting who come together on a regular basis (typically monthly, for a year) to socialize with an enjoyable activity: eating out, visiting local museums, watching movies, creating art, playing games, learning something new, discussing parenting techniques, etc.

QUAKER VOLUNTARY SERVICE FALL INFORMATION SESSIONS – September 10, 11, 21, 24

Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS), according to their website, is “an experiment, living at the intersection of transformational spirituality and activism. Young adults work full-time in professional positions at community based organizations addressing a wide range of issues, while living in a cooperative house and worshiping with, and being mentored by, local Quakers. Fellows receive housing, transportation, food, support for health and wellness (including access to health insurance if needed), and a small stipend, while engaging in regular self-led workshops and retreats that allow for continuing education in social justice, faith, and community building topics.”

Want to learn more about QVS while meeting current Fellows, staff, alumni, and other prospective applicants? Join them for a virtual info session. Each info session includes a brief overview of the program as well as ample time for Q & A. Additional dates will be available in October and November. Application opens December 1 and close March 1. Information and registration links at https://quakervoluntaryservice.org/apply/.

STEPHEN G. CARY MEMORIAL LECTURE: LOVE CROSSES BORDERS – Monday, Sept 14

Pendle Hill invites you to the 2026 Stephen G. Cary Memorial Lecture featuring Atlanta Friends Meeting's Friend-in-Residence, Anton Flores-Maisonet, on Monday, September 14, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. (EDT). The lecture will be offered in person at Pendle Hill and online. In Love Crosses Borders, Anton will share stories from twenty-five years of accompanying immigrant communities, reflecting on how intentional community, radical hospitality, and Quaker witness invite us beyond the borders that divide us and into deeper practices of solidarity, faithfulness, and belonging. The event is free, with registration required at https://pendlehill.org/calendar/love-crosses-borders/.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS – Sunday, September 18

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. Last month's minutes are below
Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYlIFWEhSQUtZRVVPaIFFYmVDQT09
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. Another resource is Pendle Hill Pamphlet #307, *Beyond Consensus: Salvaging Sense of the Meeting.* The AFM library has copies.

NEWCOMER WELCOME DINNER -- Friday, September 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. All are welcome! Bert and Karen Skellie invite all who are new to the Meeting and all who would like to meet newcomers to come to their house at 6:00 PM on Friday, September18. Newcomers are invited to be our guests, and others are encouraged to bring a potluck dish. Please let them know if you plan to come (bertskellie@gmail.com, 404-680-4799, 2303 Dancing Fox Rd 30032). They will send you more detailed directions when you let us know you plan to come.

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE 2026 OUTREACH CONFERENCE -- September 25 to 27

Registration for the Friends General Conference 2026 Outreach Conference is open at https://www.fgcquaker.org/event/outreach-conference/. The conference is virtual by Zoom and will be Friday to Sunday, September 25 to 27. There will be two plenaries, four workshops, and a free resource journal for all registrants (full-color PDF). This conference is ideal for Friends who are interested in the growth of the Religious Society of Friends, invitational outreach in the local community, and best practices in visibility and communications.

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM GUN VIOLENCE ACTION CIRCLE – Wednesdays, September 30 to October 28

One Hour on Zoom for Five Wednesdays at Noon ET, plus One Hour of Preparation. Offered by the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Gun Violence in Prevention Ministry and led by educators, pastors and other faith activists. The Action Circle is designed for adults, parents, grandparents, teachers, pastors, church leaders, veterans, health professionals, gun violence survivors and others who believe that “Children are a heritage from the Lord” (Psalm 127). It’s for those who own firearms and those who do not. It’s for people of faith who are willing to face a difficult issue together in order to protect and nurture the children and youth in our midst. If that is you — and others from your congregation — please sign up at https://bit.ly/GVPAction26. More information at https://tinyurl.com/2bzmuc4h.

BRIAN GOLDSTONE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT DECATUR BOOK FAIR – Friday, October 2

The Decatur Book Festival begins with a keynote from Pulitzer Prize-winning author, AFM meeting attender/member ???? Brian Goldstone. Through the stories of five Atlanta families, *There Is No Place for Us: Working and Homeless in America* exposes a new and troubling trend — the dramatic rise of the working homeless in cities across America. October 2 at 7 pm, First Baptist Church of Decatur (MARTA recommended!). The keynote is a FREE event for all, but register to let Decatur Book Festival know you're coming at https://tinyurl.com/4u8f2u7t. General information about the festival at https://www.decaturbookfestival.com/.

ATLANTA PRIDE PARADE – Sunday, October 11

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer Concerns invites everyone in the meeting to march in the Atlanta Pride Parade on Sunday, October 11. The parade steps off promptly at noon, but we won't move til about 1 pm, so there's plenty of time after meeting to take MARTA to the starting point of the parade.

Most churches / religious groups in the parade are actually mostly allies showing up to support lgbtq people, and Friends for LGBTQ Concerns would love for AFM to join these groups and make the meeting's support visible.

Pride often looks like a party, not a protest, but it's always been both, especially in the last few years, and joy and the lgbtq's community's refusal to be less than our true selves has always been resistance and a queer cultural thing.

More logistics later. Friends for LGBTQ Concerns is also working on tee shirts that say SUPPORT TRANS KIDS as well as atlantaquakers.org. Questions about the parade, tee shirts, FLGBTQC, and lgbtq issues, contact Nina Gooch at atlantaquakers.com.

PENDLE HILL: *WELCOME FRIENDS* with ANTON FLORES-MAISONET – Thursday, October 15

Pendle Hill invites you to join Atlanta Friends Meeting's Friend-in-Residence, Anton Flores-Maisonet, for an online conversation about his book, *Welcome, Friends: Stories of Hope and Hospitality with Immigrants*, on Thursday, October 15, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. (EDT). Drawing on stories from Casa Alterna and years of accompanying immigrants, Anton will explore how radical hospitality transforms both guests and hosts. Reading the book beforehand is encouraged but not required. The program follows Anton's Cary Memorial Lecture and is free and open to the public, with registration required at https://pendlehill.org/calendar/hope-and-hospitality-with-immigrants/.

TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND RESILIENCE – Friday, November 20

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns will be hosting an event for those in the meeting and for the wider queer / trans community on Trans Day of Remembrance and Resilience, using the format of a Quaker memorial meeting. We'll begin with the usual reading of the names of those trans people killed in the past year, followed by space for people to share as at a memorial service, with finger foods and beverages afterwards.

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MINUTES FOR EIGHTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS
August 16, 2026, held in person and via zoom in a blended meeting
Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Folami Adams, Cathy Amanti, Jennifer Crumpley, Jennifer Dickie, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, Anton Flores-Maisonet, Julie Foster, Larry Foster, Jeremiah Gold-Hopton, Clive Gordon, Maia Hallward, Chad Heilig, Bill Holland, Jack Honderd, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Elizabeth Lamb, Allison Maule, Karen terHorst Morris, Mary Place, Jay Roache, Aaron Ruscetta, Barbara Seal, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, big softy, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Brent Wolff (Clerk), and Charles Hicks (Recording Clerk)

Worship

Query for the Eighth Month: Are our meetings for Worship with Attention to Business and our Committee Meetings held in a spirit of worship and in dependence on the guidance of God/Spirit?

– adapted from Britain Yearly Meeting

Discernment

Nominating — Elizabeth Lamb reported for Nominating Committee.

The following were brought forward at the July meeting and are being brought for approval today:

Minute-08-16-26:01: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Julie Foster as a member of the Ministry and Worship Committee for a term from now through December 2028.

Minute-08-16-26:02: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Chad Heilig as clerk of the Library Committee for a term from now through December 2028.

Administration Committee — Jack Honderd reported for the Administration Committee on the new temporary sign policy approved by Administration Committee on May 10, 2026.

1. General Information
    a. All signs will be reviewed by Atlanta Friends Meeting (AFM) Administration Committee before they can be approved and placed on Meeting grounds. Factors that the committee will consider in its review include size (number of square feet), general design, location (such as distance from street), length of time to be installed, materials to be used, other relevant factors listed in the current City of Decatur sign ordinance, and compliance with basic Quaker “SPICE” principles (Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, and Equality). In the case of a sign that includes a statement of faith, belief, or promotion of cause, the Administration Committee may decide to refer approval to AFM for Business.
    b. No signs for political candidates allowed.
    c. All signage is subject to periodic review by the AFM Administrative committee.
    d. Some signs may not need reviews by the AFM Administration Committee but must be reviewed and accepted by the Office Coordinator. Some examples are noted:
        1. Weddings approved by AFM.
        2. Memorial services sponsored by AFM.
        3. Other AFM sponsored activities
    e. Any Signs not specifically described in this policy can be brought to the attention of the AFM Administration Committee for discussion and review.
2. Permanent Sign
    a. A Permanent Freestanding Sign to be used by AFM must meet the present City of Decatur Sign Ordinance unless grandfathered in via previous sign ordinance. This design shall be reviewed by AFM for business and acquired consent by such meeting.
3. Tenant Sign
    a. For signs to be placed by renters on the permanent metal sign near the parking lot entrance, the renters must submit a Sign application for their sign to be considered by the AFM Administration Committee. This Sign application is available by contacting the Office Coordinator
    b. For signs to be placed by renters on the permanent metal sign near the parking lot entrance, the AFM Administration Committee will use the following criteria to determine

which renter(s) may hang a sign there, assuming space is available: average number of days per month Meetinghouse space is rented by renter, average monthly rent paid by renter, and the length of time that renter has been renting space at AFM.

c. Installed renter signage will be reviewed by the Administration committee prior to the beginning of the rental periods for each group's rental contract to determine if the signage will remain.

d. Renters must pay for the design, fabrication, installation and maintenance of any signs they request, after first obtaining AFM's written approval.

4. Temporary Banner
   a. All meeting groups requesting to install a temporary banner must submit a Sign application. This Sign application is available by contacting the Office Coordinator
   b. All Temporary Banners must be reviewed and approved by AFM Administration committee prior to installation, unless otherwise noted in this Policy.
   c. All Temporary banners must meet SPICE principles, have a backside that is blank, and be 4X6 sq ft.
   d. All Temporary banners must be maintained in good condition by the applicant.
   e. All Temporary banners will be installed no longer than 30 days. If the Temporary banner is not removed by the 30-day deadline the banner will be removed and the AFM Administration committee will consider this action during the review of any future requests.
   f. Temporary Banner Signs may be placed on a rotational schedule without prior approval by AFM Administration Committee if all the following conditions are met:
      1. If the banner design previously met with AFM Administration Committee approval.
      2. The banner is well maintained and does not show any signs of gross neglect or dilapidation.
      3. Verbiage has not changed since the approval by AFM Administration committee
      4. Banner does not go up prior to its scheduled installation date.
      5. Banner is removed by its scheduled removal date.
   g. There will be permanent posts for Temporary Banners.
5. Temporary Signs for Days of Events – This sign type is intended for use during events that are of limited duration, usually no more than one day.
   a. All parties requesting to install a Temporary Sign must submit a Sign application. This Sign application is available by contacting the Office Coordinator.
   b. All Temporary Signs must be reviewed and approved by AFM Office Coordinator (OC) unless the OC determines that the AFM Administration committee needs to review/approve the sign.
   c. All Temporary Signs must be maintained in good condition by the applicant.
   d. Installation of the Temporary Sign must be no earlier than the day of the event and removed at the end of the event.

There were no questions for Jack on the sign policy.

> **Minute-08-16-26:03**: On the recommendation of the Administration Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the new temporary sign policy as drafted.

Social Concerns — Bert Skellie presented on behalf of the Social Concerns Committee on Conscientious Objection regarding the selective service.

At last month's Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, some Friends asked that the Meeting revise the suggested wording in the proposed minute related to letters that young people can use to establish their status as Conscientious Objectors. Some Friends asked that the Meeting substitute "Young people" for "Young men" in the minute about draft letters. This is because both transgender

men and women can be affected by the new automatic registration process. The Social Concerns Committee met and agreed with the sense of the Meeting for Business.

> **Minute-08-16-26:04**: On the recommendation of the Social Concerns Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following minute: To bring Light to the recent change in the US Selective Service System's regulations, the Atlanta Friends Meeting, in support of our young people who are now automatically entered into the Selective Service System with no approved methodology to recognize their conscientious objection to war or to a draft, approves the following letters as templates to provide guidance to the young people who are faced with this dilemma. One template is meant to be sent to the appropriate Members of Congress and the other is to be given to the Clerk of Meeting for Business to be read into the Minutes of a Monthly Meeting for Business for documentation.

Draft Letter to the Meeting: To (Name) Clerk of Atlanta Friends Meeting:

Since the registration for the Selective Service System is now "automatic," and since there is specific language in the Code of Federal Regulations that requests for conscientious objection classifications will not be filed unless conscription is reinstated, I would like to go on record, at this time, that I am a conscientious objector. I have been attending Atlanta Friends Meeting since date , My beliefs stem from my attendance at Meeting, my attendance of Quaker gatherings, and my understanding of Quaker principles. In some of the earliest Quaker declarations of faith dating back to the 1600's there were statements that all war is utterly incompatible with the Commandment that "Thou shall not kill", and the whole spirit of His Gospel, and that no plea of necessity or policy, however urgent or peculiar, can avail to release individuals from the paramount allegiance which they owe to him who said, "Love your enemies." And as referred to in the 2021 Southern Appalachian Yearly Meetings Faith and Practice on page 45: "Denying the legitimacy of war, Friends support those led by the Spirit into conscientious objection to military service, resistance to conscription or a military draft, war tax resistance, or other acts of civil disobedience that witness against war-making. Friends do not recognize "just" wars, since war represents a refusal to pursue other ways of resolving conflict. We work to gain wider support for non-violent solutions." I am further asking that this letter be read and become part of the minutes of the next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, and that if conscription is resumed a Clearness Committee be convened to help me better discern my opposition to the armed forces and war.

Sincerely,

_____

Draft Letter to Congress: Name Address City, state zip code Date

Dear Senator/Representative: As one of your constituents, I am saddened that registration for the Selective Service System is now automatic. It increases the likelihood of war and violates the privacy of U.S. citizens and residents. Given threats and actions by the current administration to intervene militarily in an increasing number of places around the world, it is concerning that, at this time, steps are now being taken to increase the number of people who could be facing the threat of conscription.

Since the registration for the Selective Service System is now "automatic," and since there is specific language in the Code of Federal Regulations that requests for conscientious objection classifications will not be filed unless conscription is reinstated, I would like to go on record, at this time, that I am a conscientious objector. I have been attending Atlanta Friends Meeting since date , My beliefs stem from my attendance at Meeting, my attendance of Quaker gatherings, and my understanding of Quaker principles. In some of the earliest Quaker declarations of faith dating back to the 1600's there

were statements that all war is utterly incompatible with the Commandment that “Thou shall not kill”, and the whole spirit of His Gospel, and that no plea of necessity or policy, however urgent or peculiar, can avail to release individuals from the paramount allegiance which they owe to him who said, “Love your enemies.” And as referred to in the 2021 Southern Appalachian Yearly Meetings Faith and Practice on page 45: “Denying the legitimacy of war, Friends support those led by the Spirit into conscientious objection to military service, resistance to conscription or a military draft, war tax resistance, or other acts of civil disobedience that witness against war-making. Friends do not recognize “just” wars, since war represents a refusal to pursue other ways of resolving conflict. We work to gain wider support for non-violent solutions.” I am further asking that your office file this letter so that if conscription starts again, I have a paper trail that demonstrates I held these beliefs before the draft resumed or that I was drafted. It is indeed unfortunate that the 20th and 21st centuries have been marked by near-constant military involvement of our United States.

Sincerely,

_____

Reports

Finance — Bill Hooson reported for Finance Committee.

At the end of June, we are about $18,000 behind where we were last year. We would ask that people who close meeting over the next few months to affirm that we do need contributions. Budgets will be put together in October, and we would like to have budgets in from each committee by October 1st, 2026. Additionally, the Finance Committee is planning to have a forum on budgeting for committees.

A Friend asked if we could reduce the friction of donating by letting people know easier ways to donate to the Meeting.

A Friend asked if there was an exceptional gift given last year at this time to cause a shortfall. Bill replied that some members have moved away but hopefully we will be able to make up this difference over the next six months.

A Friend said it would be desirable to have a way to give without paying extra to PayPal. Bill said the Finance Committee is aware of this. However, the most reliable is a bank withdrawal or cash or checks. We are trying to make it as easy as possible to support the meeting. A Friend suggested automated clearinghouse (ACH), which does not cost anything for the donor. A friend asked whether AFM could set up automatic scheduled payments on a regular basis (monthly, quarterly or yearly)? Donations made by default on a schedule are more reliable than donations which require individual decisions each time. Bill said that was an option via PayPal.

Nominating — Elizabeth Lamb reported for Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee recommends Chad Heilig to serve as Archivist for a term from now through December 2027. We will bring his name forward next month for approval. We will also be bringing forward the motion of combining Archivist and Library Committee, in which case this position would be rolled into the Library Committee and go through December 2028.

There are five people currently working as teachers for religious education who have not been approved. However, we will bring them back next month for approval for a term starting now through June 2027. These people are: Aaron Ruscetta, Brent Wolff, Jamie Lockhart, Teresa Friesen, and Bob Place.

Clerk's Items

- The Ad-Hoc Committee on Relations with SAYMA is in process, and more information will provided next month.

Announcements

- None.

Approval of Minutes from 7th month 2026

Minute-08-16-26:05: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the 7th month 2026 minutes.

Events in the Life of the Meeting

- Jonas Kramer-Dickie and J Thomas had a baby, Luca Waters Thomas, on July 26, 2026. Jennifer Dickie and Michael Kramer are thrilled.
- We held a memorial service for Austin Wattles on July 25, 2026 and a memorial minute was brought later with consultation of the family.

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

Ways to communicate and receive information:

- You can receive the announcement sheets and other announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting. This is the announcement email list. (The announcement sheet is also posted online.)
- You can receive announcements AND posts about a broader range of topics relating to being a Quaker via email This is the discussion email list.
- You can receive notification that the newsletter is online. This is the newsletter email list.

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

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

Do we have your (correct) contact information so we can reach you? Please send your name and (updated) contact information to atlantaquakers@gmail.com.

Do you need a directory, printed or electronic?
Email atlantaquakers@gmail.com or call 404-377-2474

What does supporting your spiritual community look like for you and your family? Atlanta Friends Meeting accepts contributions of your time, resources, talents, and money! Place a financial contribution in the slot marked "Contributions" in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse or mail to our mailing address. Or donate online at atlantaquakers.org/contact-donate/ with a credit card or paypal. Sign up to volunteer on Sunday morning at http://tinyurl.com/afmvolunteers. Contact the Nominating Committee to serve on a committee. *Thanks!*

Want to submit an announcement, letter, article, etc to the newsletter? Email atlquakerltr@gmail.com. Submissions may be edited for length and format.

THE DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS IS THE 20TH DAY OF EACH PRECEDING MONTH

This newsletter is a publication of the Atlanta Friends Meeting.
Views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily that of the Meeting