

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2024



Current and back issues of the newsletter are available at <https://atlantaquakers.org/newsletter/>

<https://atlantaquakerspeak.com/video/peace/ers.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.
Details for Sunday worship and for our Wednesday small meetings for worship, in person and zoom, are in the announcement sheet (link just above).

QUERY FOR NOVEMBER

Do we avoid commitments beyond our strength and Light as well as the clutter of multiple activities?
Are we careful how we choose to use our time and energy?

QUAKERISM AS A “DO IT OURSELVES” PATH

by Bill Holland

One of the important sites in the Quaker tour of England is Pendle Hill in the Northwest of England. George Fox ascended Pendle Hill in 1652 and on top, looking to the North had a vision of a “people in white raiment” and a “mighty people to be gathered.” He had already experienced a “great opening” of the direct teaching, but now was in search of others who shared his vision. After solo searching, he was hungry for others. It is easy to get caught up in a sort of hero-worship of George Fox, but I think we lose something very important, if we do. There were a whole group of people who had come to similar insights. They were worshipping separate from others and who were gathered in silence to be directly reached. Fox joined this group.

Ben Pink Dandelion, a British Quaker Scholar has said that Quakerism is not a “do it yourself” path, but, rather, a “do it ourselves” path. We, gathered together, listen and support each other and encourage each other in word and silent accompaniment to be faithful.



Atlanta Friends Meeting members and attenders along with guests from Stone Mountain Evangelical Friends, Athens Friends Meeting, Peachtree Friends Meeting in Norcross, Macon Worship Group (under the care of AFM), as well as the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Regional Office after meeting for worship on October 6, World Quaker Day.

**PLEASE HOLD
IN THE LIGHT:**

Jennifer Crumpley's family
Adam Hicks' aunt
Diane Green & brother,
Julia Ewen

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: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280
Social Concerns: Kevin Moran, moran.kevinmoran.kevin@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: Lissa Place, lissaplace@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor: Nina Gooch, atlquakerltr@gmail.com
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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.

A BANNER YEAR



One of the current projects of the Social Concerns Committee of AFM is to provide banners for the encouragement of voting. This year, about sixty-eight quality banners were made and given free to non-partisan groups doing voter registration in communities that have historically been discouraged from participating in the electoral process. Another twenty-five banners were recycled from previous years with new dates for non-partisan get-out-the-vote purposes. About thirty Atlanta Quakers volunteered their time for this activity during this historic election year.

WISH LIST FOR HAGAR'S HOUSE

The Decatur Cooperative Ministry (of which AFM is a member) has a wishlist for Hagar's House (<https://www.decaturcooperativeministry.org/dcm/our-programs/>), their emergency homeless shelter for families with children. Find the wishlist at <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/238OM6JWQRT1J>.

FRIENDLY DRIVERS NEEDED

Julia Ewen needs several Friendly drivers to help her get from her condo in Avondale Estates to medical appointments. Currently she's receiving outpatient treatment at Northside Hospital two to three times per week for eight weeks, as well as keeping appointments at doctors' offices in the Northlake area. Call or email her at 404-534-3043 (land line, no texting) or jewen@bellsouth.net

INTERESTED IN QUAKER CAUCUS ON GUN SAFETY??

Are you interested in forming a Quaker caucus on gun safety? Such a caucus could join the coalition Majority for Gun Safety which has been formed to lobby the Georgia House and Senate to pass some kind of gun safety legislation. The coalition will have an information meeting in early December. If interested please contact Don Bender email: djbender76@gmail.com or phone 912-596-8922.

LOST & FOUND VERY FULL -- PLEASE SEE IF ANYTHING IS YOURS

Please check the Lost and Found box near the front door to see if anything is yours. It is very full again, and the Office Coordinator will be donating items or taking them to the thrift store soon.. If you've lost jewelry, keys, glasses or other small, valuable items, please check with Nina in the office. Also please check for leftover containers of any kind from potluck / coffee hour in the kitchen drawer labeled *Plastic Containers* OR on the counter top in the kitchen.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MARGIE RECE -- Saturday, November 2

A memorial service for Margie Rece will be held on November 2 at 2 pm in the meetinghouse. The service will be hybrid, in person and on Zoom using the Meeting for Worship Zoom coordinates. Let Becky Lough know if you are willing to bring finger food for the reception after the service.

For more information, see Mary Ann Downey.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYlFWEhSQUtZRVVPalFFYmVDQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751

Passcode: 789456

MACON QUAKERS WORSHIP – in person with zoom option, Saturdays, November 2 & 16

The Macon Worship Group, which is under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting, is now meeting in person for worship the first and third Saturdays at 2 pm at Centenary United Methodist Church, 1290 College Street, Macon, GA. Enter through the side door on Ash Street. (People of all ages are welcome, but there is no childcare available.) For more information, contact maconquakers@gmail.com or Bill Holland or Mary Ann Downey. Macon Quakers also worship via Zoom only on the the second and fourth Wednesday evenings of the month. See details on Wednesday evening in the announcement sheet (link on page 1).

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

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 life. On November 3, Cheryl Cowherd will share her Spiritual Journey. (To hear Devin Lenz' Spiritual Journey heard on October 6, visit <https://tinyurl.com/5x6bfvpa>. To listen to other past Spiritual Journeys, see previous newsletters or 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 at madowney@mindspring.com.

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 questions, please contact Elizabeth Lamb. On second, third and fourth Sundays each month, Adult First Day School reads and discusses a book. The next three books are *Do Quakers Pray?* by Jennifer Kavanagh, *The Depth of Our Belonging: Mysticism, Physics and Healing* by Mary Coelho, *Quakers and Science* by Helen Holt. All are welcome whether you have read the books or not.

POTLUCK – Sunday, November 3

Please join us for a potluck lunch following the rise of Meeting on the first Sunday of the month. Weather permitting, we have tables outside for you to enjoy. IGreen Friends will meet during potluck in classrooms A/B. Atlanta's FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender – and genderqueer, nonbinary and genderfluid – Concerns) will also eat together at potluck. (Look for the queer flag.)

If you bring things to be reheated on the stove at potluck, please see the announcement sheet for information about which pans work on our new induction stove.

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

FLGBTQC GAMES NIGHT – Monday, November 4

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

ELECTION DAY -- Tuesday, November 5

In person voting today at your regular polling place. Absentee ballots must be returned by the time the polls close on November voting. Early voting thru November 2. You can find early voting locations and your regular polling place as well as see a sample ballot at <https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/>.

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR -- Thursday, November 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. On November 7, they will read and discuss *Behind You Is the Sea: A Novel* by Susan Muaddi Darraj. The book for December 5 is *Daughters of the Dust* by Julie Dash. For questions or the Zoom link, contact Susan Cole (cole2544@bellsouth.net).

BOOK TALK: *HIKING INTOWN ATLANTA'S HIDDEN FORESTS* – Thursday, November 7

Member Jonah McDonald's intown hiking guide is out in a new edition with new co-author Zana Pouncey. The new book has 37 new hikes, and all chapters are fully revised and updated. Brand new features include a "Hikes at a Glance" table, safety & difficulty ratings, and "Other Trails to Explore" section. All hikes in this book are inside or "on" the I-285 Perimeter. You can buy a signed copy of the book at <http://hikingatlanta.com/shop/> or join Jonah and Zana for a book talk at Trees Atlanta at 7 to 8:30 pm. Details for book talk at <https://tinyurl.com/57j7avtp>.

YOUTH VOLUNTEER EVENT AT WEST ATLANTA WATERSHED ALLIANCE -- Saturday, Nov 9

Saturday November 9, time 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM. Youth Volunteer Event. Youth ages 10 and older are invited to the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA) Service Learning Saturday (wawa-online.org). Children younger than 10 welcome with a parent. Activities include trail maintenance and invasive plant eradication. Meet at 9:30 AM at the Meetinghouse parking lot for carpool to WAWA. Lisa Kruse and Brent Wolff will drive youth to return to the Meetinghouse at 1:30 PM. Bring water, lunch, sunscreen, insect repellent. Tools provided by WAWA. Optional Pizza Provided. PLEASE RSVP!! to Lisa Kruse, liskruse42@gmail.com, 706-540-1680. Let us know if you'd be willing to drive if needed.

MEMORIAL FOR CHARLIE GREINER -- Saturday, November 9

A memorial service for member Charlie Greiner will be held on November 9 at 4 pm in the meetinghouse. The service will be in person only. For more information, contact Clive Gordon.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS -- Sunday, November 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. The minutes for last month's meeting are below. To find out how meeting for business works, please visit https://atlantaquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/Guidelines_for_Meeting_for_Business.pdf and <https://www.friendsjournal.org/meeting-for-business-as-spiritual-rehearsal>, which talks about the spiritual side of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business as well as the ways the Quaker decision-making process differs from the usual understanding of consensus. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYlFWEhSQUtZRVVPaIFFYmVDQT09>
Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751
Passcode: 789456

WELCOME DINNER FOR NEWCOMERS -- Monday, November 18

On the 18th of each month, newcomers to Atlanta Friends Meeting are invited to dinner at the home of a member or attender to meet other new attenders as well as long-time Quakers in a casual setting. See announcement sheet for more details.

(If you are interested in hosting a fall or winter Welcome Dinner, held on the 18th of each month, please contact Jim Tolmach at 404-294-5194 or jimtolmach@icloud.com.)

SEWING CIRCLE -- Saturday, November 23

Join us for a Sewing Circle, meeting in the library, on Saturday, November 23 at 3 pm. All art/craft mediums (that are easily cleanable!!) welcome as we create deeper community around shared interests. For more information, see Lisa Magee, lisammagee@gmail.com.

Reports

- **Ministry & Worship** — Mary Ann Downey reported for Ministry & Worship Committee.

Upcoming events:

- Memorial service for Margie Rece, Nov. 2 at 2pm at meeting and on Zoom
- Memorial service for Charlie Griner, Nov. 9 at 4pm in meeting only (no Zoom)
- Thanksgiving worship Nov. 28 11:00-11:45am, Potluck lunch following

Mary Ann brought a concern to Ministry and Worship this month about technology. We began a process during the pandemic of making it possible to attend on Zoom. We have decided to use microphones for most meeting functions, including meetings for business, memorials, and forums. There is only one place where we're not using mics, which is meeting for worship. Mary Ann brought forward the possibility of starting to use mics for meeting for worship.

She explained that we have mics hanging from the ceiling (part of the assisted listening system), and we've had acoustical engineers come to tell us how to make it easier for people to hear messages during meeting for worship, but it is still difficult to hear unamplified (and especially quiet) voices in the meeting room. We can hear better the people who are on Zoom than the people in the room who are giving messages. And some people in person at meeting for worship do better at projecting their voices than others. It can be hard to project your voice.

Mary Ann said that Friend Alberta Guise moved to Friends Meeting at Cambridge, and they use a small microphone during their meeting for worship, and they have a mic runner (they call it "mic ministry"). Mary Ann wondered how that would feel to her. She said she felt speaking during MfW is very different from other public speaking, and it would be hard if someone handed her a microphone. But we also want to make our messages heard. If we're not able to be heard, then not everyone gets the same message. Mary Ann asked if people had ever not heard a message during meeting for worship, and many Friends raised their hands.

Mary Ann proposed gradually phasing in microphones during meeting for worship, starting with the person closing meeting, and going to people making announcements, and then newcomer introductions, and finally for people giving messages. She has talked to others about it, and knows it is used in other meetings.

A Friend said his wife (who was not present in meeting for business that day) would say that she has gotten tired of going to meeting for worship and not being able to understand a single word during the entire meeting unless he whispers in her ear. The worship is totally silent for her no matter how many messages are given. She will be glad that this is being proposed. With the gradual approach, she will ask what date can be put on her calendar for when she can start hearing messages and vocal ministry again.

Another Friend said that she has been encouraging this for a long time, particularly for memorial services. There are lots of people who are hard of hearing, and a common phobia is public speaking, and these make for problems on both sides. She suggested that instead of giving the mic to the person to hold, have the runner hold it up to them so the person speaking doesn't have to figure out how to hold it. She also apologized for the heated way that this issue is being proposed. Many suggestions in this vein have been rebuffed for years. She went to an Friends General Conference meeting and the suggestion there was to have people sit down next to hard of hearing people and jot down notes for them. But this was resisted and not implemented. She said that if you feel like we [those advocating for change] are cranky, she apologizes.

A Friend who manages technology, including the assisted listening system, said the assisted listening system is about as good as we're going to get for that type of system. He had to put modifications in when Zoom came in to help the audio quality because you have to fight the acoustics of the room. His focus when installing the tech was to respect the spirit of meeting for worship. He is thrilled that Ministry and Worship wants to move forward with a system that will make it easier to be heard. Even with good hearing it can be hard to hear messages. Handheld mics will make a big difference.

A Friend thanked Ministry and Worship for considering this. She wanted to hear Mary Ann's message during meeting for worship that morning but couldn't hear it even though she was sitting a few rows back. She understands it might be difficult, but thinks we can be flexible. She was observing at a school and they had a whole school silent meeting in their gym, with high schoolers down to four year olds. Nobody could have heard anybody speak without mics. There was a lot of rustling and ambient noise. They had two microphone ministers who stood on the edge of the room. People would wait quietly if they had a message while someone brought them the mic.

A Friend said she didn't like the idea, but that it seemed like we should try. But she feels that if a person does not want to use a microphone, they should not be required to. It should be in the spirit that God wants you to speak. Microphones are going to be very hard to get used to. She asked if the ceiling microphones (for the assisted listening system) can be lowered, but the Friend who helps manage them said they were at an optimal height for hearing everything in the room. She used to hear very well, but it's just in this room it's hard to hear. She reiterated that she doesn't think people should be required to use them.

A Friend asked if everyone can hear him. He said he's purposely not standing up, and he's been told by 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 people, you have to stand up, it's part of our Quaker tradition. Back when George Fox was deciding whether to do Zoom or not... He said he's going to talk about tradition and process. Tradition could be anything from having coffee every week, or requiring men and women to be in separate spaces. Maybe consider a 4pm non-technology meeting for worship, non-Zoom, non-microphone, just your presence. He's on three Quaker committees, including two yearly meeting committees. He presented a hypothetical that him and three other people decided they were going to move to North Carolina, and participate on Zoom only. Then the four of them are able to affect the space here in the real world, in real life, but they're in computer space. He added to the hypothetical, suggesting that Brian Kemp decides, after stepping down from governor, he wants to be a part of Atlanta Friends Meeting, like the four of them, and he's on the computer, on Zoom, and able to affect what happens here. He said these hypotheticals brought up issues of jurisdiction and tradition and process. Decision making could be affected by the false idols behind him [i.e. on the screen], Facebook, Instagram, Zoom, and other tech companies.

A Friend said he finds himself resonating with both sides of the argument. He can see that someone holding up a microphone can be very distracting. He likes the idea of giving people a choice, and the idea of piloting the microphones. He remembers during Covid, the discussions about setting up a screen, but he has found the screen welcome. He said it's worth giving it a try. He also wants to suggest something futuristic, planting a seed. In the work we're doing, we're thinking about artificial intelligence. Every corner of our lives might be affected by AI. The meeting for worship we had today had a lot of messages, and he sometimes thinks it would be good to have a written record. We could use AI to create transcripts. It might be a lovely thing. Need to think about the pros and cons.

A Friend on Zoom said she is grateful for the Zoom connection, since she wouldn't be able to attend meeting in person due to her mobility and health issues. She wants to hear what is said during meeting for worship, and would love if there was a microphone. It occurred to her that one of the

major focuses of Ministry and Worship Committee is to nurture verbal offerings, and to offer advice on how to project, and do it in a thoughtful and loving way. This would potentially minimize the need for microphones. She suggested using gentle language, such as 'Friend, we'd like to hear what you said...' etc. Make the people who are rising to speak feel valued and appreciated.

Another Friend on Zoom said she is a quiet person and struggles with public speaking. It's important to remember that this is a loving atmosphere. She has often been hesitant to speak, but once she has spoken, she has never regretted it. No one has made her feel bad for speaking up, so she says people shouldn't worry about letting others hear what they have to say.

A Friend said technology is a pretty interesting thing, and the spoken word. When Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, it was on a hillside where people could hear him at the bottom of the hill, like an amphitheater. The Romans developed the amphitheater, a technology where more people could be heard. And different kinds of voice amplification technology have been developed throughout the years since. He would favor microphones being available and for our process to start using microphones. It would be disappointing if people didn't want to use a microphone. He strains and can't hear what a person is saying, and he feels a sense of loss. Maybe we need more than two microphones? Perhaps lavalier mics to wear. Mics might be tedious and cumbersome when we start, but we can become more comfortable. It would make the meeting feel more welcoming.

A Friend said sarcastically, it has been great to hear what everyone had to say, but I have been so distracted by seeing the microphone being run around by Jennifer. It has made the meeting almost worthless. It's highly distracting for my worship. I know we can all hear, I know it makes it accessible. As Christ said, let those that have ears strain... [then switching out of sarcasm] He recalled going to SAYMA remotely, as his job meant he couldn't go in person, and that experience was made possible by technology and microphones. He said the tradeoff of whatever elusive tradition we're holding on to is not worth it compared to allowing more people to be involved.

A Friend said that it's only when she comes to meeting for worship that she wonders if she is losing her hearing. She can hear everything perfectly well elsewhere, but not here in the meeting room [which is not great acoustically]. Also, sometimes it's not how loud people speak, it's just sitting behind them and in the back of the room, etc.

A Friend who is new said they are not opposed to the accessibility, but a question they have is that (adding that they are lucky to hear every piece of vocal ministry) how can you support someone near you regardless of whether mics are added? And how do you help people be comfortable if mics are added?

A Friend said we did a survey back when we were considering Zoom. There weren't a lot of people in the survey saying it's definitely a bad idea. But people were asking about what if it did something we didn't like. We need to remember that and not get stuck in 'what if it goes badly'.

A Friend said this meeting helps him be conscious of his ableism that he can be able to hear from everywhere in the room. But he is conscious he might lose his hearing later in life.

A Friend spoke a second time to say that the laws of our country prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities. As a religious organization we are not subject to this, but she thinks there is a moral issue here about accessibility. She just got her third set of hearing aids. She got her first in order to be clerk of meeting. She has been told before when discussing hearing loss about the need to appreciate losses and diminishments, and she says that is very hard to hear.

A Friend said she is brought back to the query from this morning of whether we include people. She brought up the idea of microphone ministry, which she does informally during meeting for business.

She tries to move slowly when taking the microphone around. It will require some training, not to be a burden of racing from one person to the next, and how to help people know how to use the microphone.

A Friend on Ministry and Worship said that it seems important for him to remind us something about spoken ministry in meeting for worship. By the time someone decides to stand and offer vocal ministry, they should have already answered the question, is this for me or is it for the group? If you say it's for the group, people must be able to hear you. Mics help with that.

A Friend asked if we can put standing mics for people to use instead of carrying around mics. Another Friend reminded us we've been using mics (both standing and handheld) in meeting for business for three years. It's not too disruptive. He thinks we can get used to it in meeting for worship.

A Friend said that, while she understands the need to help people who are hard of hearing, and make vocal ministry (which is supposed to be for everyone) understood, she has some concerns about microphone use. It can be disruptive during meeting for business when people have to be told repeatedly to wait for the mic, and then told to hold it close to their face. Also, a mic is not just a neutral technology, but instead may cause people to speak in a way they wouldn't have without it. She said that we should consider the ways that it will change vocal ministry and be thoughtful about how we implement the use of mics if we go forward with it.

A Friend asked if we had considered stenography, as it's a lot less invasive.

A Friend said he has also felt both sides of this argument. There needs to be a way to make people feel welcome if they are handed a mic.

Another Friend spoke a second time. He said the talk about AI had reminded him that once Zoom had translated "clerking with joy and confidence" to "twerking with joy and confidence". He also said this meeting for business was feeling to me like some meetings for business a long time ago, 1988-1991, when the meeting was talking about whether to offer marriage to same sex couples. He said issues were raised of how it might change the meeting, and how people might not feel comfortable to raise objections to it. He said that yes, it had changed the meeting. Back then he was wondering if his family would move from second class to first class citizenship. With his wife currently shut out of meeting for business due to hearing loss, he's wondering again if his family will be fully included.

Clerk's Items

World Quaker Day was a success! We had Friends visiting from the Stone Mountain, Athens, and Peachtree Meetings and the Macon worship group. American Friends Service Committee was there as well as some Friends School of Atlanta families. We plan to keep doing World Quaker Day. It is the first Sunday in October each year.

The clerk attended the World Day Against the Death Penalty at the state Capitol.

The clerk also attended a Decatur Faith Leaders Luncheon. During the luncheon, the foster care system was discussed. There are 662 children in the foster system. The children move around a lot, and they put their belongings in trash bags to move. There's a collection they're doing for suitcases, so the children can have somewhere to store and carry their belongings. The clerk felt our meeting could contribute to this collection effort.

