

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



JULY 2021

UPDATES: LIFE AT ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING DURING COVID-19

Virtual Meeting for Worship
Each First Day (Sunday)
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

The Ministry and Worship Committee (M&W) is considering how we might return to the meetinghouse for Sunday morning worship. Please see the Minutes for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business below for more details and share any thoughts you may have with members of the committee. (Bill Hooson is the current Clerk.)

In the meantime, we are still holding Sunday meeting for worship via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/908004190> at 10 a.m. Sundays (**Meeting ID: 908 004 190 & Passcode: 842962**). See below for more details on this and other online worship and First Day School opportunities as well as other resources, including ways to connect to the meeting if you need help or if you can help others.

For those who prefer to worship in person, we are holding small, in-person worship groups at the meeting house on Mondays at 7 pm, Wednesday at 9 am and Thursdays at 2 pm. See the announcement sheet for more details of all three opportunities for midweek worship. You can also still join the Wednesday am meeting via Zoom, and Zoom info is below.

Guidelines for these worship groups and for other small groups have been updated. See <https://tinyurl.com/small-meeting-guidelines> and the Minutes below for more details. Contact people for groups currently meeting at the meetinghouse should have received an email from the office.

If your group is interested in returning to the meetinghouse, please email the Office Coordinator at atlantaquakers@gmail.com.

You can still mail a check (see address on last page) or pay securely with Paypal or credit / debit card on our website at <http://www.atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm> and scroll down to the DONATE button. You can set up monthly / recurring contributions when you use Paypal or your debit/credit card on the website. You can also set up payments through your bank's ACH bill payment system. (Please contact your bank for more details on their ACH bill payment system.)

The Office Coordinator continues to work from home and checks email / voicemail regularly. If you need a directory, please contact her.

WAYS TO SHARE INFORMATION WITH US

- Weekly announcement sheet. Email atlantaquakers@gmail.com by Thursday noon.
- Monthly newsletter. Email atlquakerltr@gmail.com by the 20th of the month before.
- Discussion email list. To join, email atlantaquakers@gmail.com.
- Facebook group. To join, find the group on facebook and click on the **Join Group** button. Please answer the question about why you want to join!

QUERY FOR JULY
How do you welcome a variety of styles of expression as being appropriate and spirit-led during Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business?

WHAT IF THERE IS NO GOING BACK?

“What if there is no going back?”

“As the United States shifts again, seeking the right fit and comfort in addressing a yearlong pandemic, hugged by politics and grief, we find ourselves being asked to tap our own inner guidance on what comes next. We are not a collective voice, let alone united, but responding to this wild year has centered on how we tap into our inner guidance, and for me with Quaker roots, it has begged my imagination to dream up something new.

“Can I imagine my spiritual home, that of Quakers and meetinghouses, being more vast and inclusive than ever?”

to read the rest of this article by Keira Wilson from July's Friends Journal, visit <https://www.friendsjournal.org/transformative-return-for-quaker-communities/>

OTHER RESOURCES FROM FRIENDS JOURNAL AND QUAKERSPEAK

The November 2020 issue of *Friends Journal* with the theme Quakers in Translation talks about translation both between languages and between cultures:

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/issue-category/2020/quakers-in-translation/>.

One article in particular (<https://www.friendsjournal.org/listening-in-tongues-translation-to-transformation/>) seems to speak very directly to July's query (on page one) and also to the query we considered in January's forum about listening and learning from messages from different cultural backgrounds from our own. For a recap of the January forum, see the newsletter from March:

http://atlantaquakers.org/_afm_newsletters/AFM_Newsletter_2021-03.pdf

In this QuakerSpeak video (and transcript with additional resources and queries), Chloe Schwenke talks about her recognition that she was transgender and about the way the Quaker clearness process and accountability and support within her meeting made that possible:

<https://quakerspeak.com/video/transgender-quaker/>. The book she mentions is *SELF-ish: A Transgender Awakening*, available through Pendle Hill books at <https://pendlehill.org/self-ish-a-transgender-awakening/>. The *Friends Journal* review (https://www.friendsjournal.org/book/self-ish-a-transgender-awakening_chloe-schwenke/) linked in this listing is excellent with useful questions, for both those new to thinking about gender identity and those who have thought more about it.

For more information about clearness committees, visit

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/resources/clearness-committees-what-they-are-and-what-they-do>.

In this 2010 article (<https://www.friendsjournal.org/applying-quaker-thought-food/>), Shaun Chavis, who recently spoke with the Macon Worship Group for their Third Thursday (now Wednesday) Educational program, asks how we apply our Quaker beliefs to food. Some of the queries Shaun suggests in the article:

- Are the people who raise, catch, harvest, butcher, and cook my food being treated fairly?
- Are people getting access to affordable, fresh food?
- Are we creating a sustainable food system so that future generations will have the food and water they need?
- Is everyone being invited to the growing national discourse on food?

Shaun also provided these updated resources for 2021: <https://tinyurl.com/t4nr8cdt>

Originally posted on the Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) website by Claire Hannapel on April 29, 2021 and slightly reformatted for the newsletter

For QVS to be successful, we need the support of local Friends. But what does that entail?

From QVS' inception we knew that a fundamental piece of our model would include partnering with local Quakers. We knew we couldn't build a program alone, so we enlisted the support of local meetings and churches to hold the QVS house under their spiritual care.

Local Friends not only volunteer their time and practical gifts and services — they are also spiritual midwives to this program, ensuring that the program and our young adult Fellows are offered spiritual accompaniment and support.

Over the years, we fine tuned our model and grew clearer about the structural ways we needed to connect local Friends to QVS. A **Local Support Committee (LSC)** draws Friends from host meetings and churches to share in the work of hospitality, housing, event planning, and more. In addition, each Fellow is assigned a **Spiritual Nurturer** to support their discernment and reflection throughout the QVS Year. The **Spiritual Nurturer Anchor** is a local Friend who helps recruit and orient those who serve as Spiritual Nurturers.

Since 2012, and now stretched across five cities, we estimate nearly 200 Friends have served as spiritual nurturers, and 100 Friends have served as LSC members.

Synergy of Support

In Atlanta, our founding program city, Atlanta Friends Meeting holds the QVS house under their spiritual care. In July 2013, a year after the first cohort of QVS Fellows arrived in Atlanta, Mary Ann Downey wrote a reflection that highlighted the work and synergy of supporting QVS. She wrote: "We've learned from them more about living in community, serving others, being transformed and deepening our faith as we translate it into practice. Our journey together this year reminds me of the words from the prayer of St Francis, 'For it is in giving that we receive.'" [Read Mary Ann's full reflection in the original blog post at <https://quakervoluntaryservice.org/local-friends/>]

Honoring Mary Ann Downey

At this time, we are called to record our deep appreciation for the service and ministry of Mary Ann Downey. Mary Ann is a member of Atlanta Friends Meeting and long-standing QVS supporter. Mary Ann served as:

- A member of Christina Repoley's support committee when Atlanta Friends Meeting first recognized her ministry to start QVS;
- A spiritual nurturer for five Atlanta Fellows from 2012 – 2021;
- The Atlanta *Spiritual Nurture Anchor* from 2012 – 2019, recruiting and training multiple cohorts of spiritual nurturers; and
- A member of the Local Support Committee from 2015 – 2020.

Each year, it is not uncommon that she and her husband, Bill Holland, supported local programming, including facilitating a clerking workshop for Atlanta Fellows.

Naming Mary Ann's Gifts

In recognition of Mary Ann's contributions to QVS and the many young adults she supported, two Friends on the Atlanta LSC presented Mary Ann with a handmade journal. Friends and Alumni each contributed a page. Images of some of these pages are included in the photo gallery [in the original blog post at <https://quakervoluntaryservice.org/local-friends/>]

Additionally, some QVS staff who worked with Mary Ann took some time to name our gratitude for Mary Ann and the gifts she offered over the last decade.

“Mary Ann set the gold standard for what it means to anchor Spiritual Nurturers in a QVS city. As QVS grew, each new city worked to replicate the wisdom and gentle support that Mary Ann provided Fellows and Nurturers in Atlanta. Not only is Mary Ann a pillar of QVS as an organization, she’s a delightful and generous human being who has blessed many of us as individuals.”

Mike Huber
QVS Director of Program

“Mary Ann has been such an inspiration to QVS Fellows over the years offering her spiritual guidance, a warm smile, and a kind heart with everything she does. From our first clerking workshop to hosting our final days of QVS in her home she embodies Quaker hospitality and leadership. As a Coordinator she offered consistency and warmth to carry on the work with Fellows in asking really important questions about the lives of Fellows. This summer, she played a crucial role in preparing the new QVS House for the next generation of Fellows not just as a place to live, but as a home.”

Rachael Carter
2018-2019 QVS Fellow and current Atlanta Coordinator

“Mary Ann is an exemplar of hospitality (it was baked in from her southern roots), deep listening, of patience and fortitude. She calls us all to be faithful to our inner guides, and to attune to the ways we might need to lean in, or pause for rest in our work. My heart is overwhelmed in knowing how deeply Mary Ann’s energy has grown, shaped, and nurtured QVS in all of its life stages thus far.

This nurturing has looked like a thousand cups of tea, an ocean of well-timed queries, a groundswell of connecting calls, emails, and conversations, a mountain of used tissues over hard and tender conversations, a house full of homecooked potluck meals, more quilt squares and firm hugs than one could imagine, enough pies to fill her prius, a spiritual practice for every season (or QVS day for that matter), laughter that fills the meetinghouse corridor, curiosity and compassion like the solid foundation of a home, and a garden bed of generosity of time, resources, and spirit. She has helped till the soil of QVS for it to become a fertile space for spiritual, personal, and communal transformation for everyone who is a part of the wide community.”

Liz Nicholson
2012-2013 QVS Fellow and former Atlanta Coordinator

“Mary Ann has been an anchor for QVS and for me personally for over a decade. When I was in seminary beginning the process of starting QVS, I regularly met with Mary Ann for spiritual care, support, brainstorming, and friendship. Her wisdom guided not only the formation of the spiritual nurturer program of QVS but also many aspects of how QVS came to be structured and supported. She hosted fundraising meetings at her home, she hosted informational meetings at AFM, she welcomed board members and others traveling to Atlanta to support QVS. She even traveled to Portland and Philadelphia when we were launching our programs in those cities to help shape how local Friends engaged with QVS and the Fellows. Her love, care, support, humor, and guidance helped QVS launch, deepen and thrive. I am so grateful for Mary Ann and can’t imagine having done what we did without her!”

Christina Repoley
QVS Founder & former Executive Director

WALK THROUGH AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

Flat Rock Archives, a local organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the rural African American history of Flat Rock, Georgia (now in Stonecrest, South Dekalb), is offering tours several days a week. The guide, Johnny, is a direct descendant of slaves that grew up on the local plantations and his family has lived there since, so the tour is rich with family stories and facts alike. During the tour, you'll visit the historic Lyon's House, Flat Rock Historic Cemetery, the first African American Methodist church of the Flat Rock Community, and end at the Flat Rock Archive museum. Janelle Kilber found this tour an informative, inspiring and deeply moving experience. Book the tour through their website, 3/4ths of the way down the page (<https://www.flatrockarchives>), and feel free to ask Janelle any questions about it (kiblerjl@gmail.com). They will also have volunteer days later in the summer that Janelle will share.

RECORDING & RESOURCES FROM MAY REPARATIONS & RIGHT RELATIONS FORUM

Thanks to Waman French, Herb Edwards, and the Ad Hoc planning group, here is a recording of the whole Reparations and Right Relations forum on May 23 and a pdf of the introductory slide presentation. Herb Edwards provided the historical introduction, Melchor Hall moderated, and special guest panelists included Grace Shimizu, Director of the Campaign For Justice: Redress NOW For Japanese Latin Americans; Woullard Lett, the Education Commission Male Co-chair for the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'cobra) and Unitarian Universalist Association New England Regional lead; and Afro-Panamanian activist Yvette Modestin, founder of the Encuentro Diaspora Afro. Forum begins a few minutes into recording.

Link to recording: https://friendsschoolatlanta.zoom.us/rec/share/0w4P7wyTZ-R_osUMalyqP5QC9ldlrI7kURwLnA41K0-X3gWU1iXLI4uldHp3dYCW._Jy9lfDpa_vWk5_j

Passcode: 0biua^jJ (passcode begins with a zero rather than a letter, but it may be easier to cut and paste the passcode rather than typing it in)

Pdf of slide presentation by Herb Edwards on attempts at reparations in the U.S. and elsewhere: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GtOjGg0_v1ApyGxroyKYBVPK2fasqbD7/view?usp=sharing, based on <https://guides.library.umass.edu/reparations>.

Additional resource on racial violence in the United States since 1660:

<https://www.blackpast.org/special-features/racial-violence-united-states-1660/>

QUAKER LEADERSHIP JOB POSTINGS

Please share any of these opportunities with those who might be a good fit.

- The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in New York City is seeking a new Director. Find a job description and apply online at <https://tinyurl.com/3ewvtac2>.
- Pendle Hill, a retreat center outside Philadelphia, is hiring an Education Director. Find details and apply at <https://pendlehill.org/explore/employment/>.
- The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), seeks a General Secretary to lead the largest faith-based lobbying organization in Washington, DC. More info at www.fcnl.org/gsearch. Email applications and nominations to gsearch@fcnl.org. For additional open positions at FCNL, see <https://www.fcnl.org/about/work-fcnl>.

PRINTER AND CARTRIDGES AVAILABLE TO GOOD HOME

We have recently replaced our printer/copier because it no longer copies or scans. It still prints, though not beautifully – it adds black smudges along the edges. If you just need printed copies and don't care if they're pretty, please contact the office at atlantaquakers@gmail.com. If no one wants the printer, we will have TN450 Brother laser cartridges, either new or very slightly used, available. Please email the office if you're interested in these.

FCG GATHERING -- online June 27 to July 3



Join Quakers from all over the country for workshops, worship sharing, evening programs, and much more at the Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering, which is virtual this year. This year's theme is *Way Will Open*. You can attend the whole Gathering, or go part-time with the 'Workshop Plus' package. Registration is closed for youth (up to age 18), but adults may register at any time. Fees vary and include a 'Pay as led' option. Most workshops are weekday afternoons, but some are on Saturday only. Get more information and register now at www.FGCgathering.org.

SCHEDULE CHANGES FOR SUMMER

- First Day School for Children is taking a summer break. Adult First Day School and the Young Adult / High School group are continuing.
- No *Let's Talk about Race* virtual forum for June and July
- No meeting of the book group reading *Works by and about People of Color* in July.

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS AND ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sunday, July 4 and ongoing

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 of spiritual journeys, stories where Friends describe their understanding of God and religion in their life. On July 4, we will hear the spiritual journey of Nina Gooch. To hear Anna O'Driscoll and Elizabeth Foster-Jones (current Quaker Voluntary Service Fellows) spiritual journeys from June 6, visit <https://tinyurl.com/4s5dw87p>. If you'd like to hear other past Spiritual Journeys, please contact Mary Ann Downey.

On third Sundays, Adult First Day School will have worship sharing, usually on that month's query. On other Sundays, we will be discussing Howard Thurman's *Jesus and the Disinherited*.

See below for Zoom details, which are new as of March 2021.

GREEN FRIENDS COMMITTEE MEETING Monday – July 5 via Zoom

Green Friends will meet via Zoom on Monday evening this month. July 5 at 8 pm.

<https://citizensclimate.zoom.us/j/96278420823?pwd=aWdpaWZiWmRZSm5hTURIVkNWRDZYUT09>

Meeting ID: 962 7842 0823

Passcode: 123

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

Meeting for business will be online again this month. Simply stay in the Zoom Meeting for Worship after worship ends. Zoom details and minutes from June are below. In 1996, meeting approved these guidelines for how we conduct meeting for worship with attention to business:

http://atlantaquakers.org/_site_pdf_docs/Guidelines_for_Meeting_for_Business.pdf

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR NEXT MONTH – Tuesday, July 20

Please send articles, announcements, information about upcoming events, and other submissions to atlquakerltr@gmail.com by July 20. Please send as an email or in Word or other text format.

DID YOU ATTEND SAYMA OR FGC GATHERING?

The newsletter editor would like to let those who have not attended before know what it's like to attend these gatherings. What important things happened this year? What made this year unique? Since these these gatherings will be in person again next year, what is it like to attend an in-person yearly meeting or FGC Gathering? Please email the editor, Nina Gooch at atlquakerltr@gmail.com. If writing isn't your thing, she's happy to talk with you and take notes.

SAVE THE DATE: HECTOR BLACK MEMORIAL – Saturday, September 4

"To celebrate the remarkable life of our Dad, we're planning an early afternoon event with an in-person option (on the farm at 170 Hidden Springs Lane, Cookeville TN) and via live-stream. Details to follow. Questions? Contact aggieblack@shaw.ca"

Love, Rose, Aggie and Annie Black

NEW EARLY WEDNESDAY MORNING WORSHIP VIA ZOOM

During Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting's (SAYMA's) Annual Sessions earlier this month, one of the options was early morning worship via Zoom. "Having been nurtured and moved by our participation in Early Morning Worship during SAYMA Yearly Meeting," three participants, Mary Kedl of West Knoxville Meeting, FolamiPrescott-Adams of Atlanta Meeting, and Daryl Bergquist of Birmingham Meeting, "met in worship Wednesday morning and agreed to continue meeting in this manner and invite others to join them." Time is 7:00 am to 7:40 am for those in the Eastern time zone and 6:00 to 6:40 AM for those in Central Time.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78695466285?pwd=dGw2SVIsL1JGbXhZK245SnJeDISZz09>

Meeting ID: 786 9546 6285

Passcode: acsTz9

MACON WORSHIP GROUP NOW MEETS ON WEDNESDAYS

The Macon Worship Group, which is under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting, invites us to join them for meeting for worship via Zoom. As of June 2021, the Macon Worship Group has changed its meeting day for worship via Zoom to Wednesdays at 7:00 pm (except the fifth Wednesday of a month when there will be no worship). The third Wednesday each month will be an educational program instead of worship. For more information, you can email: maconquakers@gmail.com.
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84095899009?pwd=SFhhOGNnWHZFbDdKRUhVnFqdFk0dz09>
Meeting ID: 840 9589 9009
Passcode: 542278

MEETING VIRTUALLY: WORSHIP AND FIRST DAY SCHOOL AT ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

For the most up to date information and for more detailed instructions for Zoom, see the most recent announcements at www.atlantaquakers.org/announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf or in your email inbox. To call in using your phone, dial 1-253-215-8782 or 1-301-715-8592 and enter the meeting ID and password, if needed, when prompted. This may be a toll call from your landline.

Sundays:

ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL will meet at 9:00 am to 9:50 am (new Zoom info as of March 21)
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86063665797?pwd=Nms0Vm5MSW91UXdWRGJSOXA5NWRjZz09>
Meeting ID: 860 6366 5797
Passcode: 013191

Usually on the first Sunday of each month, we will listen to the Spiritual Journey of one of our members or attenders. On the third Sunday, we will have worship sharing, usually on that month's query, and on other Sundays, we will discuss Howard Thurman's *Jesus and the Disinherited*. We will end in time to be in meeting for worship.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN
taking a break for the summer

FIRST DAY MEETING FOR WORSHIP will begin at 10:00 am
Link: <https://zoom.us/j/908004190>
Meeting ID: 908 004 190
Passcode: 842962

The meeting link will remain open until about 11:45 for those who would like to chat. On the third Sunday of each month we will have meeting for business via Zoom after worship and a short break.

Calling All Families:

We would like to issue a special invitation to all families with children to attend the first 15 minutes of worship together, as has been our custom when meeting in person. We really miss seeing you! If your mike is muted, your children will not be distracting to others, even if we see them wiggle. And of course, you and your children are welcome to join us for the entire hour.

Suggestions for Meeting for Worship on Zoom:

"Worship is our response to an awareness of God. We can worship alone, but when we join with others in expectant waiting we may discover a deeper sense of God's presence. We seek a gathered stillness in our meetings for worship so that all may feel the power of God's love drawing us together and leading us." (From Advices and Queries, Britain Yearly Meeting.)

Some things to keep in mind as we adjust to “the new normal” of worshipping via Zoom: Even though it may feel strange, remember that this is a worship service. To help create the kind of shared space that allows all of us to listen for the Divine within us, please keep your mic muted unless speaking to us. If you’re eating or having a lengthy conversation with another member of your household, please also turn off your video temporarily or step away from the camera to avoid distracting others. However, if your children are joining us for meeting for worship, please do not feel the need to turn off your video. We welcome their presence in meeting for worship.

YOUNG FRIENDS/HIGH SCHOOL GROUP usually meets at noon

For current high schoolers and students in upper middle school as well as recent grads.

Contact Emily Weyrauch at emily.weyrauch@gmail.com for more information and Zoom details.

Wednesdays:

WEDNESDAY MORNING MIDWEEK MEETING FOR WORSHIP at 9:00 am

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92038862952>

Meeting ID: 920 3886 2952

Passcode 726229

Contact Bert Skellie at 404-680-4799 for more info.

Now also in person at the meetinghouse. Details in the announcement sheet.

CARING CONNECTIONS AT ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

If you need practical help (meal delivery, errands run, transportation, etc) or contact with others during this time OR if you can help, Care & Counsel Committee has set up an online way to connect people. Visit our website under Members and Attenders at

<http://www.atlantaquakers.org/members.htm#CARINGCONNECT> to request help or to volunteer or contact Karen Skellie at 404-680-4524 or kskellie@gmail.com.

FINANCIAL HELP THROUGH THE ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING ASSISTANCE FUND

This is a time to reach out and care for each other. Care & Counsel Committee maintains an Assistance Fund for Members and Attenders for providing temporary assistance with financial emergencies. Information about the process and an application form can be found at www.atlantaquakers.org/members.htm). Look for the Assistance Fund Description & Request Process and the Assistance Fund Application Form. Or contact Clerk of Care & Counsel, Karen Skellie at 404-680-4524.

Would you like to help others through the AFM Assistance Fund?

By check: mail to the meetinghouse address to the attention of the treasurer or if you’re at the meetinghouse, leave in the Contribution slot. Make out the check to Atlanta Friends Meeting, and on the “for” line of the check, write “Assistance Fund.”

By PayPal or Credit / Debit Card: www.atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm on our website.

To designate an online donation for the Assistance Fund, please also send an email addressed to both the treasurer and the bookkeeper: afmtreasurer1@gmail.com & afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com

SIXTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

June 20, 2021, held via Zoom

Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Steve Collins, Bill Hooson, Teri Key- Hooson, Mary Ann Downey, Alberta Guise, Alison Mawle, Anton Flores-Maisonet, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Beth-Ann Buitekant, Brent Wolf, Caroline Morris, Mike Aland, Cathy Amanti, David Small, Elizabeth Lamb, Eugene Jennings, Free Palazzo, Georgia Lord, Glenn Plyler, Henry Slack, Jay Roache, John Carpentier, Jennifer Thompson, Judith Greenberg, Julia Ewen, Karen Morris, Mark Yates, Nina Gooch, Bill Holland, Patricia Garrett, Sallie Carpentier, Sue May, Lissa Place (Clerk), Coryn Murphy (Recording Clerk)

Friends gathered near the appointed hour with opening worship. A member of Ministry and Worship shared the Sixth Month Query out of the worship: "How do you build community through monthly and yearly meeting for fellowship, service, and learning?"

Discernment:

Administration: Steve Collins, reported for the Administration, brought forward the following minute last month

Minute 06-20-2021:01 The Atlanta Friends meeting approves for the Meeting to contract with Creative Solar from Kennesaw, GA to install solar panels on the Meetinghouse roof at a total cost of \$46,818. Based on a financial analysis by the Finance Committee, approval is also requested for the Meeting to take advantage of a 0% interest loan of at least \$10,000 from Georgia Interfaith Power & Light to reduce the amount of funds to be used from the Meeting's Permanent Improvements Fund. Work would commence later in 2021.

Reports:

Administration: Steve Collins reported for the Administration Committee. During the last week of May, the shingles on the Meetinghouse roof were all replaced by Atlanta Roofing Specialists with new red shingles. Total cost of the project, including the replacement of water-damaged wooden sheathing, was \$39,818.

Cabin Committee: Sallie Carpentier reported that one of the large properties adjacent to the Ferguson cabin was recently re-zoned commercial, from agricultural, with the owners planning to build a storage facility (for boats, and personal storage units) on the property. The neighbors and the Lake Burton Civic Association (LBCA), have been negotiating with the developers to halt the construction of the facility, and to possibly purchase the land from the developer. They have retained the services of an attorney due to several irregularities in the process of the rezoning. The attorney representing the LBCA feels it would strengthen the lawsuit significantly if the owners of an adjacent property were on the list of plaintiffs. Yesterday the committee was asked whether the Meeting would be willing to be listed as a co-plaintiff in the suit.

Minute 06-20-2021:02 The Atlanta Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, otherwise known as Quakers, as property owners of the Ferguson Cabin 1395 Mindy Mountain Road Tiger, Georgia 30576, authorizes the officers of Atlanta Friends Meeting and Stewards of the Cabin to join the Friends of Murray Cove as Co-Plaintiffs in support of the appeal of the rezoning property adjacent to the land adjoining the Ferguson Cabin on Lake Burton and keep meeting informed.

Ministry and Worship:

Bill Hooson reported for the Ministry and Worship Committee on returning to In-Person Meeting for Worship. The committee continues to be under the weight of the charge by the ad hoc committee to offer a proposal for when Ministry and Worship has been discerning how, and in what format(s), we will continue our worship together once it becomes safe for some form of in-person worship at the meetinghouse to resume. While some Friends hope for resuming in-person meeting for worship the beginning of August, this depends on when it is safe, following the best public health advice we are able to access.

Since March of 2020, we have creatively used technology to meet virtually in our meeting for worship. This new form has been a challenge to all of us. Despite reservations, some Friends have found this to be a meaningful and spirit-led practice. We have been gratified and nourished by the participation of distant Friends. At the same time, there are many Friends who find technology to be distracting and draining, encouraging chatter rather than centeredness. These Friends are no longer participating with us regularly. As we begin to move back towards meeting in the meetinghouse, we want to increase opportunities for worship and deepen our spiritual life as a community. We want to honor our testimony of simplicity, minimizing distracting forms to seek the life of the Spirit.

Proposed Minute: Ministry and Worship recommends that when we return to in-person meeting for worship, each first day friends will have the option of either meeting in person or by zoom at the 10:00 hour. Friends will choose either in-person or zoom format. One Sunday a month, the entire community will worship together in a hybrid format.

- a. We recommend that this be the third Sunday of the month, to permit those joining by zoom to participate in business meeting. Ministry and Worship will arrange for the opening and closing of meeting for worship including welcoming newcomers, sharing joys and making announcements.
- b. The third first day hybrid meeting will require the development of the capacity for those gathered in the meeting room and those gathered by zoom to hear and to be heard, to speak and be spoken to.
- c. This plan is a first step, Ministry and Worship will modify this plan as we gather experience.

Working Group on the Use of the Meetinghouse: Alison Mawle reported for the Working Group on the Use of the Meetinghouse on updated guidelines and changing conditions.

Atlanta Friends Meeting is deeply concerned about the safety of all groups using the Meetinghouse. We strongly encourage everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated as the surest way to protect themselves and others. However, we recognize that not everyone has received or wants to receive a vaccine at this time, and that children under 12 currently do not have a vaccine available to them. We have developed the following guidelines as we move to reopen the meetinghouse to regular activities. They are based on CDC's current guidelines for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, and we expect them to be updated as CDC guidelines change.

- All people who have been fully vaccinated (that is, 2 weeks after their final recommended vaccination visit) can be in the meetinghouse without wearing masks or physically distancing.
- Anyone not fully vaccinated (except children under the age of 2) should wear a mask covering their mouth and nose at all times and maintain physical distance (at least 6') from non-household members. This includes children between the age of 2 and 11.
- Outside the meetinghouse, everyone is free to use the Meetinghouse grounds, but we encourage those not fully vaccinated to maintain physical distance from others. The CDC recommends that those who are not vaccinated also continue to wear a mask outside.

- For closed groups (with a set membership) only, if everyone is vaccinated, eating is permitted inside the building. Otherwise, we request that all food be eaten outside.
- The kitchen and water fountain are currently closed. Please bring your own beverages in your own container.
- Access to the office is restricted.
- Those who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past ten days or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the previous fourteen days should not come to the meeting house
- Should groups learn that someone in their group has tested positive for COVID-19, they will contact AFM and let them know when that person was in the Meetinghouse and in what areas. The identity of the person may remain anonymous.
- Those who are ill for any reason are asked to stay home until their symptoms are gone and/or they are no longer contagious.
- Hand sanitizing and hand washing are requested to promote health and reduce disease transmission of all types. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the meeting house, including in the bathrooms.

Nominating Committee- Eugene Jennings and MaryAnn Downey brought forth the changes for the Memorial Committee Handbook Description.

Purpose: At the time of death, many details require our immediate attention, and we form a Memorial Committee to tend to them. The Committee acts on specific, practical concerns, and can sensitively offer help to a bereaved family. The family starts the process by notifying the Clerk of the monthly meeting. If the Clerk is not immediately available, either the clerk of Ministry and Worship or of Care and Counsel should be called. The clerk taking the initial call will ensure that both of the other clerks are informed and that a memorial committee is formed.

Membership: Members or attenders of the Atlanta Friends Meeting. The Memorial Committee will be formed with 1-2 members from both the Ministry and Worship and the Care and Counsel committees to work closely with the family.

Meetings: Scheduled as needed

Duties – General:

1. Burial or cremation arrangement: The Committee starts by checking for a member's file in the Meeting Office that may contain previously determined wishes. The committee helps the family identify options for burial or cremation, and funeral homes providing these services.
2. Notify Friends and Relatives: The committee notifies the meeting and helps the family with notices to others.
3. Managing Visitors: If needed, the committee arranges for help in answering the door and telephone and keeping a record of calls and visitors.
4. Food: The committee coordinates and records the gifts of food to the family.
5. Memorial Service: The committee helps the family plan, announce and conduct a memorial service including their wishes regarding donations.
6. Donations. The committee determines wishes regarding donations.

7. Obituary - The committee may assist the family in writing a newspaper obituary to the appropriate media, including arrangements for services, and wishes regarding flowers or donations.

8. Meeting for Business - The memorial committee notifies Meeting for Business of the death. The committee invites a Friend to write and present a memorial minute to Meeting for Business for approval.

9. Memorial Minute: This minute is a celebration of the Friend's life and relationship to the Meeting and to the world. It includes revealing anecdotes or illuminating reminiscences that capture the gifts and spiritual characteristics of this person that made them special.

Duties – Friends Memorial Service

1. Schedule (meetinghouse or other location): The committee schedules and announces the time and place of the service to the meeting.

2. Family Wishes: The committee consults with the family about any special arrangements for the service, such as flowers, music, or speakers and prepares a memorial service program.

3. Program: The committee arranges for a friend to prepare and print copies of a program for the memorial service that may include: name, photo, date of birth and death; "Memorial Service in the Manner of Friends,"; order of service (music, welcome, worship, closing) and an obituary.

4. Greeters: The committee arranges for greeters to hand out a program for the memorial service.

5. Building and Parking: The committee prepares the building and arrangements for parking.

6. Registration: The committee obtains a guestbook and permanent ink pen for attenders to sign if the family wishes. Arrange for someone to ask guests to sign.

7. Memorial Meeting: A member of meeting is asked to open and close the service with an explanation about Friends Worship, order of service, the closing of meeting and arrangements for refreshments after the service.

8. Refreshments: If refreshments are to be served after the service, arrange this with the Hospitality Committee.

9. Childcare: Arrange for adequate childcare during the service. Memorial Service in the Manner of Friends

[description of a memorial meeting for worship to be shared with attenders]

The Religious Society of Friends holds, as the basis of its faith, the belief that God endows every human being with a measure of the divine spirit.

Our manner of worship is an outgrowth of this belief. We gather in quiet worship mindful of the words: "Be still and know that I am God."

A Friends memorial service is similar in many ways to a Meeting for Worship. We come together in reverent silence, with the desire to draw nearer to God, and to understand God's will. It is a time not only for a sharing of loss, but also a time of thankfulness for the life of the person for whom the memorial service is held. We reflect on the value of that life as it relates to the lives of all of us.

All present share equally in this service. We sit quietly; at times an individual may be moved to

speak, to offer prayer or a message that has come out of the silence. All are welcome to do this. The meeting closes with handshakes.

The responsibility for the spiritual depth of the meeting rests with each person. Those who keep silent as well as those who give a vocal message do their part when they yield their minds and hearts to the guidance of the Spirit.

Friends hope that in the Meeting for Worship a consciousness of the Divine Presence will come to every person to be a source of direction and of strength after leaving the meeting.

Current Handbook Memorial Committee Description:

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Approved 12/1999

Purpose: At the time of death, many details require our immediate attention, and we form a Memorial Committee to tend them. The Committee not only acts on specific, practical concerns, but in a more general way, can sensitively offer help to a bereaved family. The family starts the process by notifying the Clerk of the monthly meeting. If the Clerk is not immediately available, either the clerk of Ministry and Worship or of Care and Counsel should be called. The clerk taking the initial call will ensure that both of the other clerks are informed and that a memorial committee is formed.

Membership: Members or attenders of the Atlanta Friends Meeting. The Memorial Committee will be formed with 1-2 members from both the Ministry and Worship and the Care and Counsel committees to work closely with the family. **Meetings:** Scheduled as needed

Duties – General:

1. **Burial or cremation arrangement:** The Committee starts by checking for a member's file in the Meeting Office that may contain previously determined wishes. If such instructions exist, insure that they are followed, including any arrangements with the Georgia Memorial Society. If the family desires cremation, they may contact Wages and Son in Stone Mountain (770-469-9811) or Winkenhofer-McCurdy in Smyrna (770-432-0771). At least once a year, the newsletter should print a notice to remind Friends that arrangements for death can be kept on file with the Meeting. The Care and Counsel Committee is responsible for the creation and maintenance of this information.
2. **Notify Friends and Relatives:** The committee organizes a phone tree to notify families in the meeting directory, as well as others from Meeting who are not currently listed in the directory. News of the death should not be stated on a recorder; when leaving a message, ask someone to return the call. You can convey the news in a more caring way by doing so in a real conversation.
3. **Managing Visitors:** If needed, the committee arranges for help in answering the door and telephone and keeping a record of calls and visitors.
4. **Food:** The committee coordinates and records the gifts of food to the family.
5. **Scheduling:** The committee determines whether there will be a memorial service. If so, and the service is to be held at the Meeting House, clear a time with the office.
6. **Donations.** The committee determines wishes regarding donations.
7. **Obituary -** The committee may, if asked, write a newspaper obituary, including arrangements for services, wishes regarding flowers or donations. If necessary, supply the obituary to the appropriate media.

8. Meeting for Business - The memorial committee should notify Meeting for Business of the death so that it can be minuted.

Duties – Friends Memorial Service at the Meetinghouse:

1. Announcements: The committee announces to the Meeting the time of the service. Use the phone tree, as mentioned above, as necessary.
2. Family Wishes: The committee consults with the family about any special arrangements for the service, such as flowers, music, and whether they have a particular reading they would like to have read.
3. Greeters: The committee arranges for greeters to be at the door to hand out the pamphlet, "A Friends Memorial Service," to those unfamiliar with a Friends memorial service.
4. Parking: The committee arranges with someone to arrange parking.
5. Orientation: The committee picks someone to open the service with an explanation. That person will state whether the family will receive friends in the Greeting room afterwards.
6. Preparations: The committee clears the hallway of extraneous material.
7. Registration: The committee obtains a book with permanent ink pen to be set up for attenders to sign if the family wishes. Arrange for someone to ensure that everyone signs.
8. Refreshments: If simple refreshments are to be served after the service, arrange this with the Hospitality Committee.
9. Childcare: Arrange for adequate childcare during the service.

Announcements:

Free Polazzo announced that Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association met last week using zoom. Among other business, SAYMA approved the revisions to the queries in SAYMA's Faith and Practice. Free was Clerk of the committee working on the revised queries and thanked Atlanta Friends Meeting for their help in the process.

Minute 06-20-2021-03: Friends approved the minutes from Fifth Month

The meeting ended with some closing worship

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT:

Harriet Unfug
Cindy Berg
Jeremiah Gold-Hopton
Steve Collins
Roland Heath
Kellie Divis
Muireann Brennan
Bob Trapp

Those wishing to have requests for holding in the light included in this monthly newsletter may give the names to a member of Care & Counsel.

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ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

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Atlanta Friends Meeting email lists & facebook group:

- You may receive the announcement sheets and other announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting. This is the announcement list. (The announcement sheet is also posted online.)
- You may receive announcements AND posts about a broader range of topics relating to being a Quaker. This is the discussion list. (You do not need to belong to both the announcement list and the discussion list.)
- You may receive notification that the newsletter is online. This is the newsletter list.
- To join any of these email lists above, please email the office at atlantaquakers@gmail.com
- To receive weekly emails about Zoom and in-person meetings for worship, email atlantaquakers@gmail.com
- To join the meeting's Facebook page, search for Atlanta Friends Meeting & click the + **Join Group** button.

Would you like to appear in future AFM Directories?

Do you need to correct your directory information? Send your name and contact information to Brent Wolff at afmdirectory@gmail.com.

What does investing in your spiritual community look like for you and your family? Atlanta Friends Meeting accepts contributions of your time, resources, and money! You can place a financial contribution in the slot marked "Contributions" in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse or mail to the Treasurer at our mailing address. To donate online with a credit card or paypal, visit atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm. Thank you!

Want to submit an announcement, letter, article, and anything else of interest to Friends for the newsletter? Send items to 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.*