

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2022

Current and back issues of the newsletter are always available at <http://atlantaquakers.org/archive.htm>

Meeting for Worship
Each First Day (Sunday)
In Person & via Zoom
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

PLEASE JOIN US ON SUNDAYS FOR WORSHIP AND FIRST DAY SCHOOL

We are continuing to worship in person on Sunday at 10:00 am at the meetinghouse in combination with worship via Zoom. Please choose the option that is best for you.

Nursery care for children under three will continue to be available at the meetinghouse. First Day School for both adults and children and teens also continues both in person and via Zoom.

Beginning March 6, masks are optional at Atlanta Friends meetinghouse. You may wear a mask or not as you choose, **except for** the Nursery and First Day School for children and teens where masks are still required for everyone two and over. (In addition, groups meeting at the meetinghouse may also choose a stricter policy.)

This change is in response to updated CDC guidance (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>). We will continue to monitor the situation as well as changes in CDC guidance and will make adjustments in our COVID policies as needed.

If you attend in person, we do continue to ask that you sign in **every week** so we will know who was present in case we need to do contact tracing. Please print legibly and include contact information so we can reach you if needed.

Please do not come if you do not feel well, have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 10 days, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days.

QUAKER QUOTE (AND SONG)

Art thou in Darkness? Mind it not, for if thou dost it will feed thee more. But stand still, and act not, and wait in patience, till Light arises out of Darkness and leads thee.

– James Nayler, 1656

Quaker Paulette Meier has set this to music (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBttRzEo6m0>) and shared it with QuakerSpeak, a series of short videos about Quakerism, each accompanied by a written transcription and discussion questions / queries. For more of her songs, listen to her whole six-minute QuakerSpeak video at <https://quakerspeak.com/video/quaker-faith-in-song/>.

QUERY FOR APRIL

Are you able to contemplate your death and the death of those closest to you? Accepting the fact of death, we are freed to live more fully. In bereavement, give yourself time to grieve. When others mourn, let your love embrace them.

Source: *Britain Yearly Meeting, Advices and Queries #30*

DETAILS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP AND FIRST DAY SCHOOL AT ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

For the most up to date information, www.atlantaquakers.org/_announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf.



MEETING FOR WORSHIP (with new Zoom info as of September 5)
Combined in person and Zoom
10 a.m. Sundays
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYIIFWEhSQUtZRVVPaIFFYmVDQT09)
[pwd=M29EYIIFWEhSQUtZRVVPaIFFYmVDQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYIIFWEhSQUtZRVVPaIFFYmVDQT09)
Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751
Passcode: 789456

ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL (see under Events below for more details for each Sunday)

Combined in-person and Zoom

9:00 to 9:50 am Sundays

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86063665797?pwd=Nms0Vm5MSW91UXdWRGJSOXA5NWRjZz09>

Meeting ID: 860 6366 5797

Passcode: 013191

FIRST DAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (with new Zoom info as of September 5)

In-person for all ages: Sundays 10:15 am

Children can continue to join Meeting for Worship for the first 15 minutes or can go directly to Religious Education, as they and their parents / guardians prefer. This class is also available via Zoom at 10:00. Teens will meet in person from 10:15-11:00. For more info, contact Laura MacNorlin (laura.norlin@gmail.com, 404-762-3540).

Zoom for younger children: Sundays 10:00 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7279961727?pwd=ck1ROVZIRWRCVDGzdGRocFhQWEduUUT09>

Meeting ID: 727 996 1727

Passcode: Quaker!

PLEASE HOLD IN THE LIGHT:

- Dan May
- Bill Hooson
- Kevin Moran
- Mark Bryans
- Beth-Ann Buitekant
- Becky Lough
- Brent Wolff and family
- Clive Gordon

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If you wish to have requests for holding in the light included in this monthly newsletter, please give the names to a member of Care & Counsel.

Atlanta Friends Committees and Other Contacts

- Clerk of the Meeting: Jennifer Dickie, afmclerk1@gmail.com
- Office Coordinator: Nina Gooch, atlantaquakers@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com
- Ministry & Worship: Bill Hooson, bhooson@aol.com
- Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280
- Social Concerns: Glenn Plyler, 207-522-5295
- Administration: Steve Collins, shcollins75@gmail.com
- Care & Counsel: Karen Skellie, afm.care.counsel@gmail.com
- Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, susanfires@gmail.com
- Religious Education: Laura MacNorlin, laura.norlin@gmail.com
- Library: Cal Gough, calgough@bellsouth.net
- Nominating: Lissa Place, lissplace@yahoo.com
- Newsletter Editor: Nina Gooch, atlquakerltr@gmail.com
- Webmaster: Aaron Ruscetta, arxaaron@gmail.com
- Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, afmbookkeepe`ail.com

For information about these committees, download the AFM Handbook from <http://atlantaquakers.org/members.htm> (scroll down to the bottom to *AFM Documents to Download*) OR contact the Clerk of the committee.

SUNSHINE AND SPICES

by Mark Yates

“Sing and rejoice ye children of the day and the light . . . ”

Atlanta Meeting will soon be installing solar panels. About 70% of Meeting’s electricity will come from clean, renewable energy. In recognition of that joyful occasion and Earth Day, here is a reflection on how solar energy is in unity with the Quaker values of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship (s.p.i.c.e.s.).

SIMPLICITY

Scientists sometimes use the phrase “elegance in simplicity” to describe how the natural world tends to use the most simple pathway to achieve a goal. Biologist Ian Glynn says: “Looking at the overall picture it becomes clear that elegant proofs or theories or experiments possess most or all of the following features: They are simple, ingenious, concise and persuasive.” When scientists discover a solution to a problem or how a seemingly complex system works, they often say “why didn’t I think of that before?” Solar energy is one such simple, but elegant solution.

Our planet is blessed with an inexhaustible source of energy from the Sun, yet we persist in obtaining most of our energy through complex, dirty intermediaries such as coal, crude oil and uranium. Atlanta Meeting is taking a major step in simplifying our energy use.

PEACE

In the past few decades the nations of Sudan, Iraq, Iran and Yemen have been afflicted with major wars which killed hundreds of thousands of women, men and children. These countries all also have major oil and/or natural gas reserves. Fossil fuels have become a catalyst of conflict.

At first glance the horrible war in Ukraine would not appear to be energy related. However, Ukraine is the major transit route for the delivery of Russian natural gas to Europe. In addition, the Black Sea off the Ukraine coast is believed to have major untapped oil deposits.

On a global level, the worsening climate crisis will decrease natural resources and bring more drought and climate induced migration. This will escalate international conflict unless we reduce fossil fuel-induced carbon emissions.

Quakers have long acted on the fact that preventing wars is much preferable to fighting them. We can further support prevention by decreasing reliance on fossil fuels. Atlanta Meeting is taking a step toward a more peaceful world with solar energy.

INTEGRITY

Only about 13% of the energy produced by Georgia Power comes from relatively clean energy. About 63% that the company provides our homes comes from dirty coal, gas and oil. The rest is from nuclear power plants fraught with hazardous waste and possible accidents (as past and recent events in Ukraine and Fukushima attest).

Living a life with integrity involves complex and difficult decisions that balance many competing interests. Energy use is one example as we struggle to balance living in such a way that we can lessen our footprint on the Earth while also remaining economically viable and providing service to others.

Balancing competing interests is not a new concern for Quakers. Yet, early Friends understood that sacrifice is important. Lucretia Mott and others boycotted cotton goods and sugar produced through slave labor. While traveling to spread the anti-slavery message, John Woolman felt uncomfortable

accepting hospitality made possible by the wealth of slave owners. It was several years before he decided that in good conscience he must refuse hospitality enabled by slavery.

Atlanta Meeting took several years to take the steps to significantly decrease the use of dirty energy, but it is the right thing to do.

COMMUNITY

Atlanta Meeting made a communal decision to adopt solar power. One made possible through the dedicated work and financial contributions of many members of this community.

If it were in isolation, the step taken by Atlanta Meeting would have little impact on the world's environmental and energy crisis. Fortunately, it is a part of the collective actions of a larger movement toward sustainability that includes local governments and non-profits banding together to lower solar installation costs through collective purchasing. Organizations such as the Sunrise Movement, Sierra Club and Citizens Climate Lobby are working to create a more vigorous adoption of clean energy on a national level.

The grassroots movement also includes our community of believers who are taking individual action to bike, drive less, install home solar panels, adjust thermostats and other means to reduce carbon emissions.

EQUALITY

In the U.S. about 85% of the wealth is owned by 20% of the people while the remaining 15% of wealth is divided among 80% of the people. People of color are underrepresented in the 20%. Consequences of this inequity include disproportionately higher infant mortality rates and lower life spans among people of color. Centralization of energy production contributes to the transfer of income from the poor to the rich. On a national level, nascent attempts to help localize energy production through Build Back Better and the Green New Deal have been met with heavy resistance. Localized steps to break the energy monopolies, such as solar production are small, but important first steps.

STEWARDSHIP

Friends have long recognized that protecting and caring for the Earth is a sacred trust, but stewardship means more than the immediate environment. We also have an obligation to the next generations to leave them with the resources to be able to live complete and healthy lives by transitioning to clean energy like solar.

Unfortunately, humankind is currently lapping up coal, oil and natural gas and spewing carbon emissions. Our legacy may be a planet made unlivable unless current generations act wisely for the children of the future. Atlanta Meeting is taking the right action with solar energy.

LOVE

Another value should be mentioned . . . love. It is a great wellspring from which all the other values flow. It is believed by Friends to manifest as a "great ocean of light and love," with the power to change people and make a more just and peaceful world. As Earth Day approaches we should keep in mind that it is love for our fellow humans, for creation and the next generation that guides Quakers to act for a better future.

Sing and rejoice!

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT FOR 2021

Atlanta Friends Meeting

Lissa Place, Clerk

approved at Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on March 20, 2022

If we thought 2020 was a year like no other, 2021 was a year that felt like it went on longer than any of us expected. With the pandemic raging through the country for most of the year, we have learned to function in a new way. We are holding the Meeting, and ourselves in the light as we consider a future that is different, but still maintains our core beliefs as Quakers.

We have worked hard to support one another through this troubling time and have done our best to remain a vibrant community despite these circumstances. Although we were weary from the pandemic and all the changes it has brought to our lives, we continued to be there for one another. We have reached out to members and attenders in need and when needed, we have provided financial assistance.

We have become more adept at technology this year, providing hybrid worship as well as many workshops via Zoom to continue our work in activism as well as grow as a Meeting. The decision to reopen for in person worship came from Ministry and Worship, Care and Counsel, and other committees. Ultimately, it was Ministry and Worship who brought the recommendation for a hybrid worship to Business Meeting, recommending separate zoom and in person meetings except for 3rd First Day. Ministry and Worship struggled deeply to come up with a plan that would meet the needs of our community. We learned that friends have different understandings of safety – what is safe? One friend made a distinction between connection and presence, zoom provided the richness of the connection, seeing each other's faces, but being in physical proximity in the meetinghouse provided a deeper sense of presence.

The Working Group on the Use of the Meetinghouse, the group charged with determining COVID safety measures for the Meetinghouse, planned how to create hybrid worship. They learned from a survey that Friends were interested in continuing a Zoom option even when we returned to in person worship. They charged Administration committee to develop appropriate technology to allow this to happen, thanks to the expertise of Aaron Ruscetta. The committee developed a protocol for safe attendance, and a protocol for what to do if one of our members tested positive for COVID after attending the meetinghouse.

We were all set to start, until the CDC changed its guidance in the face of the Delta variant surge, and the Working Group recommended postponing the reopening. Instead, we held a listening session on August 1 to share our thinking, and to hear the concerns from the community. Members shared very different opinions of what was appropriate and safe, as well as very real mental health needs in the second year of the pandemic. It became clear that the cost of not opening was greater than the cost of opening. Because of feedback it had heard about concerns that the Meeting would split into one Zoom and one In Person Meeting, Ministry and Worship changed its recommendation. Because our Meeting treasures community, Ministry and Worship proposed reopening on Aug 29 as a hybrid meeting for a one month trial period. When we started in person First Day Meetings, we laid down the midweek worships on Monday and Thursday, retaining an in person Wednesday morning meeting.

The hybrid meeting format has been very successful. We were surprised at how easy it was to set up and were able to use mostly donated materials to start our hybrid experiment. We approved Ministry and Worship's recommendation to extend our hybrid experiment until June of 2022. Our meeting for Worship now has a "tech table" where someone makes sure the Zoom screen functions properly. Our technology team is now working to make the sound in Meeting more easily heard on Zoom.

The Working Group on the Use of the Meetinghouse continues to monitor both the pandemic in the face of the Omicron surge, and changes in CDC recommendations, making changes such as providing N95 masks.

So many of the things we did in 2021 had to be done with the pandemic in mind, but despite that, we functioned relatively normally. Throughout the Meeting, all committees made the decision to meet in person or by Zoom, depending on the needs of its members. We have had hybrid Meeting for Business since September, and some committees have been using this hybrid option all year. Zoom continues to provide blessings as it welcomes Friends from far away, as well as Friends who are unable to get to Meeting under these, or in some cases, any circumstances.

Ministry and Worship found ways to provide opportunities to introduce and nurture our spirituality. In January, Ministry and Worship held a forum on Queries as a Quaker Spiritual Practice using zoom breakout rooms for worship sharing and reflection. Later Ministry and Worship held a forum on spiritual nurture groups, introducing the meeting to these practices and inviting those interested to join an existing group. In October, we held a forum on membership, exploring what draws us to meeting, hearing what membership means to two friends, and describing the process of membership. Our Adult First Day class continues to meet weekly and each month a Friend shares their spiritual journey.

Last year, Ministry and Worship began work exploring our understanding of reparations and right relations. We have been gratified with how this work connects with others in meeting, which led to the formation of The Ad Hoc Reparations and Right Relations group, started by Ministry and Worship with representatives from Friends of Color, Quakers for Racial Equality, and the Committee Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting. We have developed our understanding of this concern through a series of online educational forums with expert guest speakers. The first forum focused on historical foundations and the second on réparations efforts by a wide variety of groups. Atlanta Meeting has now approved a minute on Reparative Justice and Reconciliation, which is on the AFM website and has been sent to all the Meetings in SAYMA. We look forward to hearing how it is received by other members of SAYMA.

In this time of loss and isolation, treasured Friends important to the life of the meeting have died since our last report. We treasure the memories and witness of Tom Kenworthy (12/28/20), Suzan Kenworthy (9/6/2021), Gene Singletary (2/1/2021), Freer Jarvis (7/26/2021), Renda McCaughan (7/26/2021), Rick Martinson (2/8/2021), and Robert (Bob) Westervelt (10/2021). Due to Covid, only one Memorial Service was coordinated by Care and Counsel in 2021.

We welcomed one new member and have held the ministries of four members in the Meeting's care. They have asked for their ministries to be taken under the care of the meeting and anchored in our spiritual accountability practices. This comes from an understanding that Atlanta Meeting recognizes that all Friends are called to minister to each other and to the world. In southern Georgia, Macon Worship Group continues under our care. Holding virtual Meetings for Worship of a small group has created challenges, but Friends remain faithful.

For our youngest Friends, First Day School has continued throughout the year. Teens and Young Adult Friends have been meeting separately for zoom calls. In-Person Class was held from 10-11am from August to December. Families were encouraged to join the first 15 minutes of worship (on Zoom or In Person) as has been the practice in our Meeting. Themes and lessons included Trusting and Listening for God, Becoming Community, and From Darkness to Light. Teachers' lesson plans were focused on the Old Testament this year. In the Spring, a dozen families participated in zoom calls, averaging four families a call, and several families participated in the SAYMA Play care Junior

Virtual Spring and Yearly Meeting sessions. In the fall, several families attended in person. Twenty-Five children, ages two to late teens came in person, with an average of five families per week.

Religious education outlined guidelines used for childcare and First Day School [FDS] activities this fall, at the time when most children were not eligible for the Covid-19 vaccination. All children ages 2-11 were required to wear masks while in the meetinghouse and also while using the AFM playground, which they did successfully.

Adults in contact with children as teachers, doorkeepers, or childcare volunteers were fully vaccinated, and wore masks. Adults in the First Day School classrooms and nursery maintained a physical distance as is reasonable for the care of children. The AFM nursery was open weekly, and childcare was provided for committee meetings as well as Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, though few used the nursery. In zoom class and in person, children and families were gathered and centered in worshipful learning. Youth shared joyfully of their lives and connection to one another. Children made bouquets of flowers to give to adults during fellowship after meeting, and a service learning project of making wreaths for AFM community in exchange for donations and pledge of food donations to Casa Alterna guests at AFM.

Our quest for racial justice continued this year, as several groups in the Meeting were involved in this work. Quakers for Racial Equality (QRE) had a robust year. Monthly Zoom meetings became opportunities for having speakers from across the country to address topics in the areas of reparative justice, state and national issues, as well as support for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. The Meeting enjoyed guest speakers from the Black Quaker Project, Housing Justice in Decatur/Dekalb, and Stolen Wealth Returns, an organization that paid off student loans for Black social justice organizers. We utilized experts from inside our community for talks on Racial Disparities in Women's Health, Educating Students about Systemic Racism: Truth Telling in Schools, Climate Change: Environmental Justice with Green Friends and QRE, and Asylum Seekers and Migrants in a Era of Mass Detention: A Georgia Perspective. We also learned about Voting Rights and its effect on Voter Suppression, and are preparing AFM to write a land acknowledgement to the Indigenous People who used to live where our building now stands.

In addition to all those programs, QRE staffed a weekly "Virtual Literature Table" as well as a monthly "Listening Ear," for concerns around racism. QRE also wrote two public statements and used them to educate and advocate for others on these issues. One of these statements was to support schools that are teaching about systemic racism, and the second one was to stand with Asian Americans, as there has been so much violence directed toward them. Links to these documents are at the end of this report.

QRE also collaborated with members of Social Concerns, Friends of Color, Ministry and Worship, and Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting on drafting two Minutes related to anti-racism that were approved by the whole Meeting. One was a minute on Reparative Justice and Reconciliation, and the other was a Minute on Hatred, Racist Violence, and Domestic Terrorism. Links to these Minutes are also at the end of this report.

Committee for Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting (CURAFM) was also very active this year. CURAFM focused its work on the Ad Hoc Anti-Racist Policies and Procedures Group. This Ad Hoc group was formed to write policies and Procedures to proactively address institutional racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting. We decided that the work of this Ad Hoc committee encompassed the goals of CURAFM, so we used our energy to organize the work for the Ad Hoc Group, rather than focusing on additional committee work. The Ad Hoc group was formed in late 2020 with representatives from Friends of Color, Care and Counsel, Religious Education, Social Concerns, Quakers for Racial Equality and Administration Committee. One of the representatives was also on

Ministry and Worship. Our first task was to review all policies in existence related to discrimination or anti-racism from our Meeting and some from other Meetings. We determined that there was no policy for adequately handling racist incidents between individuals at the Meeting, and so we set out to write one. With this goal in mind, we spent 8 months drafting a document which was then distributed to the wider community, including Friends of Color, for feedback. We want to be sure that we have accurately placed the needs of the person who was harmed by the racism in the center of the policy. The ad hoc committee looks forward to using the feedback to rewrite parts of the draft and will bring the final document to Business Meeting in 2022.

CURAFM also led Let's Talk About Race, a monthly forum to discuss race and racism that continued through 2021. They are now using Ibram Kendi's book, How to Be An Anti-Racist as a guide and source of prompts for their discussions. They plan to pick a book with a different perspective to follow once this one is completed.

In 2021, Casa Alterna welcomed 360 asylum-seeking guests into the meetinghouse! Here, guests were welcomed as friends and provided with simple but gracious acts of hospitality including meals, clothing, a hot shower, a warm bed, and a listening ear. This ministry is under the care of the Meeting and is stewarded by its Friend-in-Residence, Anton Flores-Maisonet. The ministry also has 501c3 non-profit status as Casa Alterna.

Scores of volunteers, both directly affiliated with the Meeting and beyond, offered accompaniment to people from over 50 different countries both at the Atlanta airport and at other major hubs of transportation. This work of welcome this past year involved over 30 members and attenders of the Meeting in both direct and indirect acts of service and solidarity. Additionally, for the past two months students from the Friends School of Atlanta have provided us with a weekly supply of sack lunches for our airport companions.

Thousands of asylum seekers have been assisted this past year at the airport with the 360 guests who stayed at the meetinghouse being the remnant who needed typically one night's lodging while awaiting their plane, bus, or ride to take them to their new home in the United States.

Social Concerns Committee was involved in many capacities this year. This committee includes several groups, such as QRE and Casa Alterna, as well as Green Friends, Women's Justice, and Alternatives to Violence Program. Here are brief reports from some of the other groups involved in the Social Concerns Committee.

Our Alternatives to Violence Program led a zoom workshop in LaGrange, Georgia, and is planning an advanced workshop there in January of 2022.

The Restorative Justice Committee works closely with the Restorative Justice Group of Georgia. RJGG had several educational programs this year in addition to working with Dekalb County officials to help establish restorative court and school programs.

The Banner Committee for Social Concerns made several professionally looking nonpartisan banners they used to encourage people in low voting and often low income areas around Atlanta to vote in the 2021 senatorial run off in January, as well as other elections. They also made a banner announcing the new solar panels that will be installed in the Meetinghouse.

The Green Friends group has been strong throughout the pandemic, both in spirit and in numbers. In addition to helping with the meetinghouse solar panel project, Green Friends sponsored several virtual forums, such as "Drawdown Georgia", which identifies ways to decrease the state's greenhouse gas emissions. The group's members also continue to work closely with Citizens' Climate Lobby.

In the area of Women's Justice, Social Concerns presented a letter requesting support for Women and Children to Business Meeting. This letter was distributed to the wider community to gain awareness of the worldwide strife that Women and Children face at this time.

Another group that worked beyond the walls of our meeting in 2021 was the Atlanta Advocacy Team of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). That group continued to focus this year on lobbying our Georgia members of Congress to support repeal of the 2002 Iraq AUMF (Authorization for the Use of Military Force). They were energized when our Congressional members all became co-sponsors and the House of Representatives passed the repeal. Next year they will lobby to end the U.S. involvement in the Saudi War against Yemen.

The Team grew stronger in several ways and is now a dedicated group of 15. They expanded their media presence, with postings on social media, a press release, a feature story and by developing a list of newspapers in major Georgia cities. They even had a team member write a song, "Get it to the Floor!" which they sent to both senators. FCNL loved this creative approach and opened the national TEAM SUMMIT with the song! Three hundred activists around the country from 127 Teams in 47 states were inspired by this song. We continue to lobby to shift foreign policy in the direction of greater reluctance to get involved in endless conflict.

Our Quaker Voluntary Service group had a good 2021. This is the 10th year of AFM's service as host meeting for a Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) cohort. The Local Support Committee (LSC) is charged with helping QVS and the local Coordinator. The committee has progressed into active engagement in a set of queries focused on equity, and is committed to explore these conversations more deeply over time. Some important topics have been in consideration of race (implications of Whiteness), class (affordability of site placements and diversifying options), and gender (use pronouns).

The current residence of the Fellows continues to be in the Grant Park neighborhood. Meals and house maintenance are mainstays of support from the LSC, as is actively considering other opportunities to connect, build relationships, and provide essential QVS programming content. This year has included an increase in hybrid (virtual and in-person) occasions.

Nominating Committee worked hard to get back on its feet in 2021. With multiple changes in leadership, the committee struggled to get traction, but still got their work done with the committed work of many strong committee members as well as a past Nominating Committee Clerk's help. They look forward to a more stable 2022.

Our building received a lot of work in 2021. The shingles on the Meetinghouse roof were all replaced with new shingles in May, due in part to the planned solar panel array installation. The project, initially proposed by Green Friends, was approved by the Meeting, and installation is expected to begin as soon as possible. Other completed Meetinghouse projects included repainting of parts of the building, pressure washing of sidewalks around the building; playground mulch spreading. We also installed new metal furniture for the rear patio and the back door areas to allow for more outdoor seating.

Our Young Friends Program Coordinator (YFPC) since 2009, left their position this summer. An ad hoc group was formed to review both the current YFPC job description and the current YFPC Support Committee description before a new person is hired. We would like for that person to do more work with 3rd through 8th graders, in addition to SAYF .

Renters, including a school, gradually returned to the Meetinghouse in 2021. Our Friend-in-Residence agreed at the request of the Administration Committee to serve a 3rd year through July 2022.

The Landscaping Committee continued to work with others on the lower area pathway behind the playground to inhibit invasive plant growth, create a walkway and meditation area, and spread more mulch.

Friends continued to enjoy the Ferguson Cabins, a property in Northern Georgia, with record use again in 2021. The committee conducted regular maintenance and improvements to the property. The cabins committee asked the Meeting to support them in a legal issue related to a proposed commercial development of the property adjacent to the cabin. Meeting for Business approved signing onto this case to support our neighbors around the lake. The committee has been working with others in the Meeting to address legal issues and will continue to report to Business Meeting as there are developments. The Committee is looking into having an internet calendar set up so Friends can view Cabins availability with actual scheduling continuing to be made by contacting the scheduler.

Our community has survived and thrived in 2021. We have worked hard to keep our spirits up, and we have asked ourselves, how do we remain vital, faithful, and prophetic in these times? Even so, we are eager to resume Friendly Eights and Welcome Dinners, as well as coffee hour and potlucks. We can only hope that 2022 will bring these things.

Links:

Quakers for Racial Equality Statements:

Supporting Schools Teaching about Systemic Racism (7/14/21)

http://atlantaquakers.org/_site_pdf_docs/QRE-SupportingSchoolsTeachingRacism-20210714.pdf

Standing with Asian Americans (3/26 2021)

http://atlantaquakers.org/_site_pdf_docs/QRE_Stand_With_Asian_Americans_3.pdf

Atlanta Friends Meeting 2021 Minutes Related to Anti-Racism

Minute on Reparative Justice and Reconciliation (Minute 8/15/2021:03)

http://atlantaquakers.org/_site_pdf_docs/Minute_on_Reparative_Justice-20210815.pdf

Minute on Hatred, Racist Violence, and Domestic Terrorism (2/21/2021-01)

http://atlantaquakers.org/_site_pdf_docs/Minute_on_Racist_Hatred_&_Violence-20210221.pdf

EASY WAY TO GROW THE FRIENDS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Since the Friends School of Atlanta (FSA) began participating in the Georgia Student Scholarship Tax Credit Program in 2010, FSA has raised close to \$1 million in additional financial assistance. They use an organization called Apogee to participate in this program. You or your business can redirect money you owe in state income taxes to dollars for FSA to give out as financial aid. This year, there is still time to apply for a 2022 tax credit through Apogee. In practical terms, that means once you are approved for your tax credit, you pay the money to Apogee. Then when you file your 2022 income taxes in the spring of 2023, you can apply the tax credit, thereby getting your money back. This is a painless way to give an enormously important boost to our financial aid program, bringing more students to FSA who add to our socioeconomic diversity and contribute their many gifts to our community. It takes less than five minutes to apply at <https://apogee123.org/>. If you have questions, feel free to contact Betsy Eggers, 404-831-8856, who can walk you through the application process.

SAYMA's NEW FAITH AND PRACTICE NOW AVAILABLE IN BOOK FORM

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association's (SAYMA's) 2021 *Faith and Practice*, with revised queries, is now available in printed form for a cost of \$5.00 at <https://tinyurl.com/ywfy4s6n>. The meeting will also have copies at the meetinghouse soon. Or you can download a free .pdf at https://www.sayma.org/online_documents.htm.

RECORDING & RESOURCES FOR FEBRUARY 27 FORUM: RACIAL EQUITY IN HOUSING

Recording and Resources are now available from the February 27, 2022 joint forum of Atlanta Friends Meeting and Friends School of Atlanta on "Racial Equity in Housing and Local Efforts for Reparative Justice." The forum guest speakers were Odetta MacLeish-White, Director of Georgia Initiatives for the Center for Community Progress, Dr. Akinyele Umoja, Professor of Africana Studies at Georgia State University, and Mawuli Davis, Civil Rights Attorney and Human Rights organizer. The moderator was Dr. Sara Patenaude, affordable housing researcher, member of AFM, and clerk of the Board of Trustees of the Friends School of Atlanta.

The recording is at <https://friendsschoolatlanta.zoom.us/rec/share/U7ICKQOALIEED-Qdntaxzh4PG47nPdG3f75F7pN5W3eO25TuoWS1S4M6H2INo87.-6M7y6N6N9cm1UnJ> and the passcode is 6w^pMw3n. Resources from the forum can be found at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OX2bXnzXZIMBlyiTmYYc4Auy0zcMf2I-/view?usp=sharing>.

Paideia Founder Bette Turlington Remembered

Bette Turlington passed away in late December. Once Paideia gained enough traction so that it was perceived as viable, there were more than a few people who claimed to be one of the founders of the school. I know, I was there and heard them. Bette Turlington actually *was* a founder.

The idea to start a school sprang from conversation between Bette and **Susan Brachman**. They were driving back from Athens where they had gone to a conference on school reform. As parents, they, along with a few others, were frustrated by what they experienced as rigidity and intransigence in the DeKalb County public schools. The age-old American impulse kicked in: build your own barn, head west, gather a community to move forward, dream. The result was Paideia that opened 18 months later in September 1971.

Bette remained on the original board of trustees for several years and was our original office manager. She later moved on to policy positions in the Atlanta Public Schools.

Join me in honoring gratefully Bette's initiative, her dedication, and her wise leadership those first few years.

— Paul Bianchi

MORE ABOUT JOHN STABLER

Atlanta Meeting member John Stabler died January 27, and a memorial service for him was held on February 6 at the meetinghouse. John and his wife Joan had not been able to attend Meeting for some years due to health issues.

John became a member of Atlanta Friends Meeting in November 1991, and for many years, he faithfully cared for the lawn and grounds as his way of service to the meeting. He jokes during his 2010 Spiritual Journey that this service got him named in the meeting history (see page 186 in *As Way Opened*, available by contacting the office). You can listen to that Spiritual Journey at <https://tinyurl.com/436c9zvy>.

In it, John mentions that he had written an autobiography. Called *Gladly Learn and Gladly Teach: The Autobiography of John Roberts Stabler*, it can still be read at <https://fliphtml5.com/smkuw/kmrb/basic/>.

MEETING FOR SHARING ON PEACE TESTIMONY AND UKRAINE WAR – Saturday, April 2

Quaker House in Fayetteville, NC (quakerhouse.org) is hosting a second Worship Sharing session on Saturday, April 2 at 4:00pm Eastern. Friends are invited to join to share their thoughts and discernment about the Peace Testimony of Friends and how the events in Ukraine have affected them. The Worship Sharing will be unprogrammed and we will wait for messages to rise from the silence. (As a time of worship, the session will not be recorded.) After the time of worship, we will discuss next steps in this discernment. If you wish to participate, send an email to wayne.finegar@quakerhouse.org or call 910-323-3912 and the connection information will be sent to you.

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS AND ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays, April 3, 10, 17, 24

Adult First Day School will meet in person at the meetinghouse, and people will continue to be able to join via Zoom. (See above for Zoom details.)

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 April 3 we will hear the spiritual journey of Sa'ed Atshan. To hear Kevin Moran's spiritual journey, shared March 6, visit <https://tinyurl.com/mwv4uzka>. (To hear or read previous spiritual journeys, contact Mary Ann Downey.)

On second Sundays (previously third Sundays), Adult First Day School will have worship sharing, usually on that month's query. On other Sundays, we will discuss *Biblical Literacy: The Essential Bible Stories Everyone Needs to Know* by Timothy Beal. Please join us, even if you haven't read the book.

RICHARD ALLEN'S EASTER PIECES – Sunday, April 3

Richard Allen will play his eight Easter compositions at the meetinghouse on Sunday, April 3, the Sunday before Palm Sunday, after meeting for worship and a chance to socialize.

GREEN FRIENDS -- Sunday, April 3

Green Friends will meet Sunday, April 3 at approximately 11:45 AM in the library at the meetinghouse as well as over Zoom. Newcomers welcome.

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

Meeting ID: 962 7842 0823

Passcode: 123

WEDNESDAY AM MEETING FOR WORSHIP ZOOM ONLY – Wednesdays, April 6, 13, 20, 27

8:30 am. This meeting for worship will be Zoom only until further notice. Watch announcement sheet for updates. Contact Bert Skellie at 404-680-4799 for general info.

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

Meeting ID: 92038862952

Password: 726229

WEDNESDAY EVENING WORSHIP WITH MACON WORSHIP GROUP – April 6, 13, 20, 27

The Macon Worship Group, which is under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting, worships via Zoom every Wednesday at 7:00 pm.. They invite us to join them!

For more information, contact Bill Holland and Mary Ann Downey.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84095899009?pwd=SFhhOGNnWHZFbDdKRUhVnFqdFk0dz09>

Meeting ID: 840 9589 9009

Passcode: 542278

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR – Thursday, April 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, still via Zoom. On April 7, members of the group will discuss *The Wrong End of the Telescope* by Rabih Alameddine. For more info or the Zoom link, email Susan Cole at cole2544@bellsouth.net.

QUAKERS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES – Sunday, April 10

Paula Palmer will be visiting Atlanta Friends Meeting on April 10. She is Co-Director of Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples (TRR) and has researched the roles that Quakers have played in the Indian Boarding Schools in the United States. She will give a summary of her work with both TRR and the Quaker Boarding Schools. We will meet at 1:30 pm on April 10 on Zoom. (Zoom details later.) TRR is a program of Friends Peace Teams (friendspeacetteams.org/trr/), co-directed by Jerilyn DeCoteau (Turtle Mountain Chippewa) and Paula Palmer. The goal of TRR is to build relationships among Native and non-Native communities based on truth, respect, justice and our shared humanity.

VIRTUAL DOCUMENTARY NIGHTS – Sundays, April 10 and 24

Community Documentary Nights hold online and in-person events where people come together to join in discussions about a wide range of topics which we explore through documentaries. Events are online in April, with participants watching the documentary online in advance and joining others to discuss online. More info at <https://documentarynight.wordpress.com/>

April 10, 7 to 9 pm, *The City With No Water*: "Imagine having to spend half your salary or more buying water, sometimes only available illegally from criminals. Or if water taps in your area only ran once a fortnight in the middle of the night for less than two hours. That was the situation for millions in the city of Karachi, Pakistan back in 2016, where climate change and mismanagement saw the supply of water drastically reduced." Watch the film for free here: <https://youtu.be/IWraEBec0Vg>. RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-documentary-night-tickets-302403676537>.

April 24, 7 to 9 pm, *Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai*: This is in honor of Earth Day and is a collaboration with the Rollins Environmental Health Action Coalition (REHAC), a student-run organization at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health. The film tells the dramatic story of Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai whose simple act of planting trees grew into a nationwide movement to safeguard the environment, protect human rights, and defend democracy. Watch the film for free here. <https://vimeo.com/223901837> and RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-documentary-night-tickets-300218721277>.

The Friends School of Atlanta (FSA) and the Atlanta Friends Meeting (AFM) will host an online forum titled, “Racial Disparities in Education and the Wealth Gap” on Sunday, April 24 at 1 pm Eastern. AFM's Ad Hoc committee on Reparations and Right Relations in conjunction with FSA has invited three panelists to speak about the impact that discriminatory policies and practices based on race and wealth have in K-12 and in higher education. One example according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is that the wealthiest 10% of U.S. school districts spend nearly 10 times more than the poorest 10%. We will also examine the Biden-Harris Administration’s Historic Investments and Support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities that were founded in the face of discrimination and now have a proud history and legacy of achievement. Despite this record of success, disparities in resources and opportunities for HBCUs and their students persist.

The panelists will be (see complete bios at <https://tinyurl.com/5cbkracw>):

Attorney Lezli Baskerville is a constitutional justice lawyer, a recognized expert, and author in equal educational and employment opportunity, and diversity. She is currently CEO of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, the nation's membership and advocacy association of the richly diverse HBCUs and PBIs.

Dr. Leslie T. Fenwick is Dean in Residence at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) and Dean Emerita of the Howard University School of Education where she is a tenured professor of education policy. She is author of *Jim Crow's Pink Slip: The Untold Story of Black Principal and Teacher Leadership*, about the systemic dismissal of black educators after Brown vs. Brown. The book will be released May 3. Use the code JCPS22 for a 20% discount thru September 3 when you order at www.hepg.org/hep-home/books/jim-crow's-pink-slip#.

Dr. Rosalind Fuse-Hall has nearly 30 years of experience in higher education, most of that time in senior management positions. In 2017, she became the Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs and Commission Support for the Southern Association of College & Schools Commissions on Colleges (SACSCOC) in Atlanta, GA.

The moderator will be Dr. Herb Edwards, a member of Atlanta Friends Meeting and member of the Board of Trustees of Friends School of Atlanta. Please register in advance for this meeting at

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlodu6trT4vGNH-4IKS8cm5H0z786_L8Eux

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Zoom meeting. For more info on the forum, contact Herb Edwards at herbmedwards@gmail.com or Waman French, waman.french@friendsschoolatlanta.org.

MINUTES FOR THIRD MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

March 20, 2022, held in person and via Zoom in a blended meeting

Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Alison Mawle, Alberta Guise, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Mary Ann Downey, Bill Holland, Anton Flores-Maisonet, Big Softy-Ian Wells, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, David Small, Elizabeth Lamb, Elizabeth Muller, Free Polazzo, Glenn Plyler, Jay Roache, Julia Ewen, Karen Morris, Kevin Moran, Lissa Place, Mary Place, Micheal Allison, Nina Gooch, Richard Allen, Steve Collins, Susan Firestone, Jennifer Dickie (Clerk), Coryn Murphy (Recording Clerk)

Friends gathered near the appointed hour with opening worship. A member of Ministry and Worship shared the Third Month Query out of the worship: When differences arise, how do we settle them in a spirit of love and humility? How can we demonstrate a forgiving spirit?

source: *Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association's Faith & Practice*

Discernment

Lissa Place, AFM clerk [2020-2021], reported several revisions to the State of the Meeting report for 2021. Please see the full report here. [EDITOR'S NOTE: Printed above as approved.]

Minute 3-20-2022:01: On the recommendation of Lissa Place, former clerk of the meeting, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the State of the Meeting Report with changes.

Bill Hooson reported for the Ministry and Worship committee to approve Kevin Moran for membership of the Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Minute 3-20-2022:02: On the recommendation of the Membership Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Kevin Moran for membership in the Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Bill Hooson reported for the Ministry and Worship committee to approve Teri-Key Hooson for membership of the Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Minute 3-20-2022:03: On the recommendation of the Membership Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Terri-Key Hooson for membership in the Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Bill Hooson reported for the Ministry and Worship committee that the proposed minute about SAYMA URJ [EDITOR'S NOTE: Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association's Uplifting Racial Justice committee], presented at second month Meeting for Business, had been discussed by several committees and individuals as requested by the clerk, and was being brought back to the Meeting for discernment as two separate and revised minutes.

Proposed revised Minute 1.

- a. We invite the yearly meeting and each monthly meeting in SAYMA to consider the [Minute on Reparative Justice and Reconciliation](#) approved by Atlanta Friends Meeting 8-15-21 and to discern how Spirit leads us to carry out this work.
- b. We recommend that other Monthly Meetings participate in Reparative Justice as they are led.

Glynn Plyler reported for the Social Concerns committee, stating they had discussed it. Several other friends reported feeling unsure about the minute. The sense of the meeting was that the proposed minute was not saying anything new to anyone new. There was agreement that the approved minute for reparative justice and reconciliation [Minute 8-15-21:03] could stand on its own. Friends suggested that a new minute that references Minute 8-15-21:03 might be brought to meeting for business in the future with updated information. The clerk requests that Minute 1 be set aside for now and leaves it to Ministry and Worship to determine when they will bring another minute forward.

Proposed revised Minute 2.

- a. Atlanta Friends Meeting is not in unity about the SAYMA Uplifting Racial Justice committee (SAYMA URJ).
- b. Atlanta Friends Meeting recommends that SAYMA prioritize engagement with the Friends Center for Racial Justice on understanding conflicts in SAYMA and building trust. This is consistent with SAYMA Minute 50-46-01: "Friends approved Friends Center for Racial Justice to lead a called meeting for the purpose of understanding conflicts and building relationships of trust between SAYMA and the Uplifting Racial Justice Committee." This conflict resolution process is necessary before other major decisions about SAYMA URJ are made.

Some Friends felt that part A of the proposed minute should state that AFM is not in unity to *continue to support* SAYMA URJ, as was stated in the minute that was presented in 2nd month. However, the sense of the Meeting resulted in Friends agreeing to approve only part A of the proposed minute

without changing the language. The meeting did not reach unity about part B of the proposed minute. The clerk will work with those involved with SAYMA to produce more information regarding SAYMA's current conflicts and possible solutions so that Friends who are not active in SAYMA can know more clearly the many perspectives about the concerns. This may be in the form of written experiences or a forum.

Minute 3-20-2022:04: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following Minute.

The Atlanta Friends Meeting is not in unity about the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association Uplifting Racial Justice committee (SAYMA URJ).

Mary Ann Downey read for the Ministry and Worship Committee the Memorial minutes for Nita Hinely and Bette Turlington.

Minute 3-20-2022:05: On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following Memorial Minute for Nita Hinely.

Doris Juanita Daniel Hinely, Nita was born in Social Circle, GA, March 5, 1926, the only child of Carolyn Inez Hutcheson and Charles Wayne Daniel. Her mother was a hat maker. Her father served in the navy in WW1 and later owned a gas station on Memorial Drive. When Nita was a young child, they moved to a house on Moreland Avenue, when she was 10, they moved to a house in Virginia Highland. Her parents died there, and she would live there for most of the rest of her life.

She attended Bass grade school in Little Five Points, and later graduated from Girls High School. She took ballet at the Decatur School of Ballet that was founded by her cousin. She would have the neighborhood children over to her house and they would play in the basement, putting on theater pieces.

She attended Young Harris College getting her degree in Religious Education. There, she met James Wilford Hinely who was also getting a religious degree. They married in 1951 in the Chapel at Emory University. Nita and Wilford hitchhiked across the country to work as staff at summer camps for disabled children.

In the summer of 1952 Nita and Wilford were off to Chicago to work at a summer project organized by the AFSC at the St. Charles School for Delinquent Boys. However, Senator McCarthy insisted that all participants had to swear they weren't communists. AFSC didn't comply, so the project was canceled. As a result, Nita and Wilford were stranded. They became the live-in house managers for the 57th Street Friends Meeting. During their 10 years living at Quaker House, they had 2 children. Nita worked full time while Wilford studied at the University of Chicago. Nita and Wilford divorced in 1963.

Nita got a job at the Chicago Juvenile Court System, a job she loved. She would travel the city going to client's homes, interact with a variety of people and HELP THEM. In the mid-sixties, she offered a pregnant 18-year-old homeless client to move in with her. This is the epitome of Nita. Bridget lived with her for a year, then Nita helped her get a job and apartment.

In 1972 she decided to move to Florida. On her way there, she stopped in at her parents' house for a visit but ended up staying in Atlanta. Being back in Atlanta, she sought out the Friends Meeting where she transferred her membership from 57th Street Meeting, worked as the secretary of the meeting for 8 years, helped start the Women's Group, and did childcare for the infants and toddlers of meeting. Nita worked with other Friends to offer an after school and summer youth program 1981-1982 for children at Grady Homes. On her 85th birthday, one parent summarized the gratitude of Friends:

Happy, happy Birthday! I appreciate all that you have done for my children and our family... and for the Meeting's children and the Meeting's family! Thank you for the many years of your kindly example in how to care for young ones, with a loving manner, quiet respect for their individuality, and a caring demeanor. You truly honor each little one that is brought to you. You helped give me confidence that I could be a good mother. You are a treasure to the Meeting families, and we love you very much! That you don't look or feel your age indicates more of us should follow in your footsteps... but who among us could log as many miles as you have? You make a lovely octogenarian, m'dear!

One former child of the meeting wrote: "Nita loved the kids at Meeting and we loved her back. When we started attending in 1973, Nita would greet us affectionately as "Elizabeth and Ted", seated in the hallway next to the chimes. She made us feel as though we belonged at Meeting; her friendliness and the welcome of Friends were the same thing in the mind of a four- and six-year-old. We will remember her always"

Her parents died in 1977 and 1979. She inherited the house. From 1980 – 2013, she had roommates so that she could pay the property taxes. She did childcare at the Haygood School and for private families as well.

She was an avid reader and loved to watch TV, particularly Oprah and Dr. Phil. She never learned to drive. She was the Queen of the MARTA schedule and would prefer to walk when the weather was good. She loved the sunshine and chatting to anyone she would meet. In 2001, Nita's daughter moved in to help take care of her. Nita gradually developed dementia which made living with her daughter untenable. In 2010 Nita moved to Calvin Court in Bulkhead, an independent living facility for seniors. In 2013, after a short time in the hospital, due to a hand injury, she was taken to the nursing home where she died of kidney failure on December 5th, 2021.

Minute 3-20-2022:06: On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following Memorial Minute for Bette Turlington.

Bette Turlington died December 23, 2021, in Brookhaven, GA. She was born in Washington D.C. in 1932 to Jesse A. and Elizabeth Morton Burks and moved to Atlanta at age seven. She graduated from North Fulton High School at 16, earned her B.A. degree in English from Mercer, and later received an M.S. from GA Tech's College of Industrial Management. She married Edwin Mack Turlington Jr. and lovingly raised 4 children.

Bette passionately lived her values. She was an activist in the civil rights movement and co-authored a book, "BECAUSE OF SEX: A Handbook on Sex Discrimination in Employment." She also strived to improve education. She was a co-founder of The Paideia School and later a research assistant for Atlanta Public Schools.

Throughout her life she searched for spiritual community in the Baptist church of her childhood, in Episcopal, Congregational, and Unitarian congregations before eventually becoming a member of the Atlanta Friends Meeting in 1991. She became a close friend of Elizabeth Hendricks who welcomed Bette to her first meeting. Bette then became the first to welcome people new to meeting especially gay and lesbian friends. After attending her first Gathered Meeting Retreat, Bette said, "I felt truly connected when I attended a Gathered Meeting Retreat. The first night we all introduced ourselves, deeply, and I felt that I *knew* 20 people. I later told Gay Houghton that I can't stand organized religion, and she responded: "You don't have to worry about Quakers being organized." Bette loved these retreats and helped plan them for many years. Bette was also a member of the meeting's first

Spiritual Nurture Group and helped Daphne Clement write a Pendle Hill pamphlet describing this process. She continued meeting monthly with her Spiritual Nurture Group until 2020.

Friends offered these reflections:

Like so many of us, I thoroughly enjoyed being with Bette because she was so upbeat and curious about everything. She was always interested in what others had to say and in learning something new. I'm very glad that I, along with a few friends, was able to sing with Bette when she was at an assisted living center nearby. I also admired her spunk when she came to our Quaker women's lunches at Thai Chili in her wheelchair, having arranged with a transport van to drop her off and pick her up. She was able to light up the whole room with her smile and bring joy to others with her laugh. I will miss Bette and her wonderfully quirky sense of humor. She was a loving spirit and one who often complimented others.

She was a writer, editor, and avid reader. Most of all, she loved to talk and was a great conversationalist and active listener. Favorite pastimes included cooking, birding, and tent camping with her family. "Vitamin N" -being outside in nature- was a priority. She also loved watching Braves games with her beloved husband Ed. She'll be remembered for her big smile and uproarious laughter.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, stepmother (Margaret England Burks) and 3 older brothers: Arnold, Ralph, and Bob. Survivors include her children, Beckie (Ken) Fuller, Maggie and Mary Turlington, Julia Turlington (Mickele McCleary); 3 grandchildren, Annie Laurie, Patrick, and Dylan Fuller (Veronica Park); and great-granddaughter Jiah Park Fuller.

Clerks Items:

Letter to Swannanoa Friends Meeting

Karen Morris created a letter to the Swannanoa Friends Meeting

Minute 3-20-2022:07: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following letter to the Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting.

To Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting
From Atlanta Friends Meeting
March 20, 2022

Atlanta Friends Meeting expresses our deep sorrow and concern about your Meeting's decision to leave the Yearly Meeting (SAYMA). We remember the many times in past yearly meeting sessions and gatherings when we have shared worship, meals, workshops, and business sessions with you. We imagine that this decision has been made after much prayer, thought and listening. We appreciate that your Meeting will be continuing its support of the Young Friends programs in SAYMA.

We care for you and we value our connection to you in Spirit. We will sincerely miss your presence in our regional gatherings.

In the Light,
(clerk)
For Atlanta Friends Meeting

Letter to Governor Kemp

Jennifer Dickie read an Amnesty International open letter to Governor Kemp opposing S.B. 319 "Permitless Carry," requesting that she be approved to sign the letter as a representative of AFM. Concerns were raised about the Meeting endorsing specific legislation and that such requests should go to Social Concerns Committee rather than Meeting for Business. While some Friends felt signing the letter as an AFM representative would be welcome, the clerk decided to withdraw the request and agreed to share the link via email so that Friends can sign the letter as individuals.

Reports:

Steve Collins reported for the Administration Committee. The solar panel project, slowed by delays in the City of Decatur permit approval process, will not begin until late April 2022. Two other factors contributing to the delay: general supply chain issues, and the contractor has a backlog of work ahead of us.

A rather large tree fell partially on the rear of the Meetinghouse earlier in the week. Damage to the building was minimal. The cost of the removal by our tree service was \$800.

An evening or overnight car break-in occurred in the parking lot the week of March 14. There were also reports of other car break-ins in the neighborhood.

Committee Corner:

Quaker Voluntary Service Support Committee

Steve Collins shared a QVS Local Support Committee report that was prepared by Jillian Eller, a member of the committee. Many thanks to Atlanta Friends Meeting for supporting QVS Fellows with food for their mid-year retreat in February. Special appreciation goes to Alison Mawle, Jennifer Dickie, Bert & Karen Skellie, Jim Tolmach & Sally Ferguson, Carol Gray, Steve Collins, and Elizabeth Valera, as well as others who volunteered for future meals. The Local Support Committee coordinates support for the Fellows, and if you'd like to get involved, contact Jillian at eller.jillian.k@gmail.com.

The deadline for selecting 2022-2023 site placements and QVS applicants (for all five sties) has been extended to March 31, 2022. After March 31, they will accept applications on a rolling basis. Questions? Check the national QVS web site. You can also reach out to Steve Collins or Rachael Carter if you have ideas for site placements.

Ministry & Worship

We have received three new membership applications: a transfer request from Sa'ed Atshan and membership requests from two attenders. Welcoming and clearness committees are being formed. They will be announced after Clearness Committees are formed.

Announcements:

There will be a memorial for Betty Turlington on May 15, 2022.

Approval of Minutes from 2nd month 2022:

Minute 3-20-2022:08: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the second month minutes.

Events in the life of the meeting

- Cynthia (Cindy) Berg passed away on March 5, 2022. Her memorial service was on March 10th, 2022.
- Brent Wolff's mother, Suzanne G. Wolff, passed away in March

Closing Worship

Atlanta Friends Meeting
701 W. Howard Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030-2902

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Regular Office Hours have resumed: 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: Jennifer Dickie, afmclerk1@gmail.com Treasurer: Judith Greenberg, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com

Ways to communicate and share information:

- You may 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 may receive announcements AND posts about a broader range of topics relating to being a Quaker via email. This is the discussion email list.
- You may 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 receive weekly emails with details about Zoom and in-person meetings for worship and First Day School, email atlantaquakers@gmail.com
- To join the meeting's Facebook page, search for Atlanta Friends Meeting & click the + **Join Group** button.

If you need a directory:

Email atlantaquakers@gmail.com or call 404-377-2474

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 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.*