

Friendship Times

February 2009

Calendar

Sun, Jan 25	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Fri, Jan 30	7:30 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship, Friends Homes West, parlor nearest the Barnetts' apartment, #4101, (opposite the elevator)
Sun, Feb 1	9:00 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sat, Feb 7	3:00 pm Memorial Service for Louise Harris, Blessings, 823 Reynolda Road, Winston-Salem
Sun, Feb 8	10:00 am Group singing, Meetinghouse 10:30 am Meeting for Worship, A potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
Sun, Feb 15	10:00 am Group singing, Meetinghouse 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Tue, Feb 17	Last day to send newsletter materials to Editor
Sun, Feb 22	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Fri, Feb 27	Annual All-Meeting Retreat
Sat, Feb 28	Meetinghouse

Child care available during Meeting for Worship.
7:30 pm Fourth Day, Midweek Meeting for Worship, in Prayer Room, 7th floor Woolman Hall, Friends Homes, occasionally followed by discussion at 8:00 pm.
9:00 am fifth First Day (when there is one), Extended Meeting for Worship.

Salem Worship Group

Meeting for Worship, 9:30 am, First Day, at The Blessings, 823 Reynolda Road, Winston-Salem
Contact: Louise Harris/John Cardarelli, 761-0222

In this Issue

In this issue are the Minutes from First Month's meeting for worship with a concern for business, including a report on the budget for the coming year. In addition there are thoughts on encouraging community within the meeting; announcements of a memorial service for Louise Harris, a special mid-week meeting at Friends Homes West, a presentation on the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage, the annual all-meeting retreat, and an upcoming forum; a number of photographs of meeting members; and a list of additions to the Directory.

From the Editor:

My intention is to distribute the newsletter no later than the last Sunday of the month, which will be February 22nd for the March issue. Material for the newsletter should be submitted, preferably by email, ***no later*** than Tuesday, **February 17th**. Thanks to everyone in advance for your help. Cyril Harvey, cyrilhh@triad.rr.com

Delivery Options (ESP)

You may receive the *Friendship Times* in one of three ways: (1) **Email** delivery, (2) **Snail** mail delivery (US Postal Service), or (3) **Pick up** at the Meeting House (**P**ersonal delivery is possible at Friends Homes/Guilford).

If you would prefer to change your current mode of delivery, please let me know: Cyril Harvey, 925 New Garden Road, #2110, Greensboro, NC 27410, (336) 299-8269, or cyrilhh@triad.rr.com

Link to archived back issues of *Friendship Times*:

http://www.geocities.com/friendshipmeeting/friendshiptimes_newsletters.html

Provided by Chris W. Nelson - Web Clerk

Second Month's Query Meeting for Worship

Are we faithful in our attendance at meetings for worship and are we careful not to disturb the spirit of the meeting by our late arrival? Is our behavior therein that of open submission to God in silent communion?

Minutes

FRIENDSHIP MONTHLY MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS GATHERED ON THE 11TH OF FIRST MONTH 2009

Meeting began with silent worship. In attendance were: Lindsay Aldrich, Ted Benfey, Gay Bowles, John Bowles, David Brown, Mae Brown, Maureen Burns, Steve Hayes, Judith Harvey, Kembra Howdeshell, Sidney Lee Kitchens, Claire Koster, Patricia Loring, David MacInnes, Anne Morris, Hannah Logan Morris, Bonnie Parsons, Deborah Shaw, Don Smith, Carole Treadway, Ray Treadway, Darryl Waisner, George White, Marilyn White, Mel Zuck, Priscilla Zuck.

Out of the silence clerk David MacInnes read Query 1 as follows:

Do we faithfully uphold our testimony for worship which is based on silent waiting, and for a free and unprogrammed ministry that may be shared by all? Is there a living silence in which we feel drawn together by the Light of Christ, the power of God in our midst; and is this inspiration carried over into our daily lives? Do we come to meeting with hearts and minds open and ready to worship in silence or in vocal ministry or prayer as the Holy Spirit leads us? Does our Meeting encourage those who may have a gift in the spoken ministry?

The following is a summary of the Meeting's response to this query:

It is felt that we have a good range of vocal ministry and silence, and the question was asked how a meeting deliberately works on vocal ministry. We remain open and grateful for all ministries. Prayer is especially appreciated by some. For those with less than perfect hearing, some messages just continue the silence through not being heard. Should there be a part of this query expressing the need for people to speak more loudly?

As to the part of the query regarding taking worship into our daily lives, that is felt to be a personal question and hard to assess.

Our practice of encouraging afterthoughts is felt by some to enhance the vocal ministry.

Some Friends are called to speak to those who have given ministry and let it be known when a message has resonated with them.

The question was asked also, how do we prepare to come to meeting for worship?

For some Friends, silent meetings are cherished.

One young Friend compared Friendship with her home meeting and expressed the feeling that our silence here is more worshipful.

It was expressed that the quality of stillness here leads us to be held in a place where we can be united in spite of our diversity and feel to be part of a community.

Patricia Loring volunteered to revise this query answer and forward it to the Worship & Ministry Committee.

Friends approved the following revision of the response to Query 12:

Do we welcome newcomers and non-members to our meetings? Are they encouraged to share in Meeting activities and to consider membership when they are in agreement with the principles and practices of Friends? Are our younger members appointed to committees and encouraged to share in other responsibilities of the Meeting? Do we visit one another frequently, remembering those who may be lonely? Does this visitation and caring extend beyond the members of our own Meeting?

Suggested revision to 12th query:

There was a general sense among Friends that while the queries contained in Query Number Twelve reflect good intentions, as a body we often fall short in actually carrying out actions to address these queries. It was stated that one former attender reported feeling "unattended to" because he had been present at meeting for two months without receiving any direct invitations to visit Friends in their homes. However, other recent attenders spoke of being warmly welcomed. It was observed that generally speaking those attending for the first or second time are approached by meeting members during the social time. A suggestion was made that Friends again be encouraged to reach out to attenders, particularly when they return for a second time. It was reported that the Committee on Care and Counsel has continued to be diligent in efforts to contact those members and attenders no longer in regular attendance. The suggestion was offered that perhaps the committee could delegate some of the efforts to make contact to others in the meeting. Those present noted that while members and attenders living in Friends Homes at Guilford receive regular outreach from many in the meeting there are others who may be falling through the cracks.

Ray Treadway read the **Treasurer's Report** for the month of December, which was accepted. The complete report is attached to the minutes; a summary follows:

<u>Twelfth Month</u>	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
General Fund:	\$ 9,570.00	\$ 2,619.61	\$ 11,293.06
All Funds:	\$ 9,695.00	\$ 2,569.61	\$ 21,995.71

Expenses of note during the month: \$300 to reimburse a member who made three trips during the year to serve as representative to FCNL committee meetings; \$45 for child care; \$201.40 for newsletter expenses; \$393.67 from the Social Concerns budget for Faith Action International, Second Harvest Food Bank, Operation Greensboro Cares, and Angel Tree gifts; \$400 to the NC Friends Disaster Service, \$150 to People of Faith Against the Death Penalty; \$600 to the Greensboro Urban Ministry; \$100 to Quaker House of Fayetteville for operating expenses; and \$110 for tuning the piano. We received one loan repayment of \$50.

During the year 2008, the Meeting received contributions to the general fund of nearly \$22,500 but expended about \$23,100 from the general fund. We underspent our budget by about \$750. Of importance, we received an additional amount of \$1,440 designated for the emergency assistance fund but gave loans of over \$3,000 during the year. Contributions to meet our 2009 expenses are needed and welcome now. Checks can be made out to Friendship Friends Meeting and sent to POB 8652, Greensboro NC 27419 or left in the contributions basket in the meeting house.

Friends approved the report with thanks.

Finance Committee

Ray Treadway presented the following report.

The Finance Committee, consisting of David Brown, George White, Ray Treadway, and David MacInnes (as clerk, ex officio) met on First Month 16th, 2009 a proposed budget for 2009 and a request to consider the possibility of the Meeting receiving a donated car to be given to the Aung family.

We reviewed the summary of income and expenses for the year 2008. We received more than \$9,500 in December so that our income to the general fund was close to meeting our expenses for the year. The figures for the general fund were: income – \$22,477.86, expenses – \$23,114.80, and 2008 budget – \$23,860. This past year a substantial amount, namely \$1,440, was specifically designated for the emergency assistance fund and over \$3,000 was given out for emergency assistance loans.

The Finance Committee is aware of the need to cut expenses where possible in 2009. We considered specific requests for committee expenditures and made adjustments based on these suggestions. We propose to provide a scholarship of \$1,000 for one child of a member, who will attend New Garden Friends School, in place of \$1,500 in 2008 for two members attending the School of the Spirit. We are aware that all of the organizations that we support need more money to carry out their important work and

we decided not to cut the amounts which we give to them. We adjusted the projected amounts for utilities by modest amounts, taking into consideration past history and an expected decrease in the price for natural gas. We increased the amount for the equipment and maintenance, given the purchase of a new dishwasher early in 2009, to \$1,500.

The committee is cautiously optimistic that donations will stay even with those of 2008. We hope that giving by members and attenders will remain constant or increase and that there will be a number of persons who have not given in the past but will be able to donate modest amounts in 2009. Hence the Finance Committee proposes decreasing the budget for 2009 about 4%, from \$23,860 to \$22,815.

This budget represents the best “guess” that we can make for the needs of the monthly meeting in the coming year. If the situation warrants, the meeting can always adjust the budget at a later time. The proposed budget is given below.

One of the members of the Finance Committee looked at IRS documents online. The information found seems to indicate that Friendship Friends Meeting could receive the donation of a car and the donor could receive a tax deduction, but the determination of the fair market value would have to be done very carefully. Claiming deductions of more than \$500 triggers additional paper work for the charitable organization, such as completing IRS Form 1098-C. IRS Publication 501, entitled Determining the Value of Donated Property, and IRS Publication 526, entitled Charitable Contributions, give details. The following is found on page 8 of Publication 526:

Deduction more than \$500

If you donate a qualified vehicle to a qualified organization and you claim a deduction of more than \$500, you can deduct the smaller of the gross proceeds from the sale of the vehicle by the organization or the vehicle's fair market value... You must attach to your return a copy of the Form 1098-C (or a statement) which you received from the organization. ... You must get Form 1098-C within 30 days of your donation.

Exceptions

1. The vehicle is used or improved by the organization
2. The vehicle is given or sold to a needy individual. If the qualified organization will give the vehicle, or sell it for a price well below fair market, to a needy individual to further the organization's charitable purpose, and you claim a deduction of more than \$500, you generally can deduct the vehicle's fair market value at the time of the contribution. But if the vehicle's fair market value was more than your cost or other basis, you

may have to reduce the fair market value to get deductible amount...The Form 1098-C will show whether this exception applies. This exception does not apply if the organization sells the vehicle at auction. In that case, you cannot deduct the vehicle's fair market value.

There are similar conditions for deductions of \$500 or less. Details about determining the fair market value for cars are found on page 5 of IRS Publication 561.

The Finance Committee recommends that the Meeting accepts a donation of a car for charitable purposes, if there can be an agreement between the donor and the Meeting on the value of the car conforming to IRS regulations.

The suggestion by the Finance Committee that Friendship Meeting be a conduit for the donation of a vehicle is approved.

Worship and Ministry Committee

Darryl Waisner presented the following report.

On Twelfth Month 24th, 2008, Worship and Ministry sponsored the annual Christmas Eve Worship at Friends Homes – Guilford. The program was well attended, with yet an increase again in 2008 over 2007. Positive responses were again abundant about the depth and richness of the unprogrammed worship experience.

The service consisted of: two readings; the birth narrative from the gospel of Matthew by Gay Bowles and the Magnificat read by Christy Hopkins. The program ended with Sara Beth Terrell, Jim, Daniel, and Julia Hood singing three verses of *Silent Night*.

There was some wonderful discussion concerning the content of a vocal ministry given by Friend Ernest Miller. Spirit was truly working in those who heard the ministry and the one giving ministry!

Worship and Ministry is thankful to those who helped to make this Meeting for Worship experience happen: Those who read and sang mentioned previously; Judy Harvey and Ted Benfey who were the contacts with Friends Homes; and the Worship and Ministry committee who worked to plan and organize the worship service.

Worship and Ministry is now working on another major part of the committee's role in the meeting; the All Meeting Retreat. This is planned for Second Month 27th/28th, 2009 with a backup date of Third Month 6th/7th, 2009. The theme for the 2009 retreat is "Nurturing the Life of the Spirit: a lifelong commitment." An underlying issue in the theme is religious education throughout the life of an individual.

This report was accepted with minor modifications.

Care and Counsel Committee

Steve Hayes presented the following report:

Update on members:

Clearness Committee: C&C continues to provide clearness committees for families in the meeting facing life decisions.

C&C is interested in working with the Worship & Ministry Committee who would be responsible for establishing a time for worship at Friends Homes West, as the first worship planned for January 2nd was cancelled due to illness. Members who wish to attend such a meeting should check first with the contact person for this event for the Worship & Ministry Committee (Ted Benfey).

Esther Shyaka (formerly Mukashyaka) is expecting a baby girl in April. Bonnie will contact Esther to see if she would like Friendship Friends to have a shower for the baby, and, if so, whether the shower should take place after the baby is born or prior to the birth. Bonnie will send a picture and a brief update of Esther to C&C members and to David MacInnes for a meeting email or for inclusion in a newsletter. Bonnie will forward her son Siddeeq's date of birth.

Members needing outreach from C&C:

It was agreed that George White would request that Marilyn White purchase a small plant for some members living in Friends Homes Guilford to let these members know of our continuing support and concern.

Sharing news of members with the committee: When a member of C&C has news of a meeting member, that person will forward the information to the clerk, Steve Hayes, and the clerk will then decide whether or not to send this information to the meeting.

Request for membership:

The meeting has received a letter from Hannah Morris requesting membership. Her letter was read to the committee. Clearness committees for membership need at least three meeting members, at least one of whom should be from C&C. C&C named three people to serve on the clearness committee. Maureen Burns, Bonnie Parsons and Steve Hayes. These names are now brought forward at this monthly meeting for approval.

Dinner Circles:

C&C proposes that a dinner circle be set for the spring. Maureen Burns will: identify possible hosts, assign members to specific groups, work

with Worship & Ministry to identify a topic of meeting wide conversation for the groups, and take care of the logistics of setting up such an event. The members of each group can then determine whether they wish to meet for lunch, dinner, or dessert and will decide on a time that suits the particular group. The groups can then discuss how they wish to proceed after the first meeting.

Forums:

C&C established that it would like to sponsor two forums during the coming six Months.

Financial Management:

C&C asks the membership at this monthly meeting for business to suggest possible speakers. This forum might be held in May.

End-of-Life Preparation:

Priscilla Zuck will contact Holly Stevens to see if she would be interested in leading a forum discussion on this topic, possibly on the 3rd Sunday in March 2009. It was suggested that the January 2009 issue of *Pastoral Care* (Vol 16, No. 2) be recommended to meeting members in preparation for this forum as its topic is: *Sensing the Spirit in Planning Memorial Services*.

Survey of Missing members:

Holly Green has been contacted and wishes to remain affiliated with the Meeting.

Friends note that this report did not mention the Meeting Christmas party, held on December 21st, which was well attended and enjoyed by all, as well as the New Year's Eve gathering at the home of Maureen and Alex Burns which was also well attended and most enjoyable.

Friends approve the proposed clearness committee for Hannah Morris: Maureen Burns (convenor), Bonnie Parsons and Steve Hayes.

The Welcoming Committee for Patricia Loring (Judy Harvey, Ray & Carole Treadway) spent an evening together with her and discussed Friendship Meeting and North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and expressed delight that Pat has joined us.

The Meeting expressed gratitude to Kembra Howdshell for arranging the purchase of a new dishwasher for our meetinghouse.

After a brief period of silence Friends adjourned, purposing to reconvene on Second Month, 8th, 2009, if consistent with Divine Will.

Respectfully submitted,

David MacInnes, clerk

Claire Koster, recording clerk



Patti Hoyt, with her daughter, Callie

Hanna Hobson, with her son, Kerry



Photos by Chris Nelson

Thoughts on encouraging community at Friendship Friends Meeting

How do we create and encourage a sense of community among our members and attenders? It is hard to have community when we all come from different places with different histories. And yet many of us feel we have built a living community among us.

Since successful Quaker Meetings are also flourishing communities, as a member of such a Meeting I'd like to look first at how we build and encourage community. The most important thing you need to know is the emphasis Quakers place on community. While not always successful, all Quakers know that building community is important and that you need to continually work at it. Thus there are a number of activities that we engage in to encourage and support community outside of the traditional weekly Sunday Meeting time.

- (1) One common activity is to spend time learning each other's history in order to relate to each other better. Friends do this through both formal gatherings with leaders such as forums or retreats, and informal gatherings where people talk about what is important to them, about their personal history and their spiritual journey. Since most of this time is spent in listening to others, we quickly learn good listening skills, an essential part of any community.
- (2) Another technique is to physically work together on cleaning or repairing the Meetinghouse and grounds, serving the poor, peace building activities, building or rebuilding houses and so on. I remember working together on the house for Wence and Soledad with Habitat for Humanity. Working together on a worthwhile project is a

good way to establish and enhance community among any group.

- (3) It is also important to have a space that you define as your own, whether it is a temporary space such as the All College Meeting in the Moon Room, a traditional Meetinghouse like or a renovated house like Friendship Meeting. Having your own space allows you to more easily leave behind distracting thoughts and concerns and focus in the silence.
- (4) Another important thing Quakers work at is to find ways for everyone to learn how to listen to others and to disagree without denying the validity of other's views. Here the older/more prepared members of the Meeting guide the newcomers to learn how to listen and how to raise concerns without seeming to attack or belittle other's views. Sometimes these members have the formal name of elders, sometimes they are only tacitly recognized by others as good mentors. Demonstrating how community works is one way you get everyone to sign on to being a contributing member of the group.
- (5) Other important activities which are common with all organized religions are to find and define common values, particularly the religious and spiritual basis of what Quakers believe. This is perhaps the hardest of all for us since we come to Quakerism from many different backgrounds and for different reasons. The most important place to build community is the Meeting for Worship and the living silence that is the love of God. If we remember and carry this silence with us during the week, we are an active part of this community.

Shalom, Darryl



Greensboro, North Carolina

Moving Day for Mark and Mary Ellen Chijioke

3 January 2009

Mary Ellen and Mark Chijioke Loaded Up and Ready to Go To Nigeria

Photo by Chris Nelson

Thoughts and Prayers

Our thoughts and prayers are with John Carderelli on the loss of his wife, Louise Harris, who died on January 17th. Louise and John have been valued members of Friendship Meeting and our prayers are with John at this time of loss.

Our thoughts are also with Al Carwile who suffered a heart attack recently and was hospitalized. Al is now home and undergoing cardiac rehabilitation.

Upcoming Events

A **memorial service for Louise Harris** will be held on Saturday, February 7th, at 3:00 pm, at Blessings, 823 Reynolda Road, in Winston-Salem. Donations in Louise's memory may be made to Blessings Project Foundation or to a Quaker organization of your choice.

A **"Midweek Meeting for Worship"** will be held at 7:30 Friday evening January 30th at Friends Homes West in the parlor opposite the elevator when you emerge on the second floor, where the Barnetts live in apartment #4101.

Eli, Brett and Stephen will make a presentation on their **Quaker Youth Pilgrimage** to Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland at 9:45 am on Sunday, February 22nd, 2009 at New Garden Meeting.

The annual **All-Meeting Retreat** is scheduled for February 27th and 28th 2009, with a backup date of March 6th and 7th. The theme will be "Nurturing the Life of the Spirit: a lifelong commitment. Considering way forward in matters of religious education for children and the whole meeting."

Further information will be sent out via email to members and attenders regarding specifics as time nears. If there are any questions about this announcement, feel free to contact Darryl Waisner:

telephone: 883-4711

email: wingateu94@northstate.net

ANNOUNCING a vital **Sunday Forum** on the Quaker approach to planning for the inevitable — when death occurs. Forum leaders will be Holly Stevens and Kathleen Overman-Jeske. Mark your calendars and plan to attend on Sunday, March 15th.



Esther Shyaka, who came from Rwanda about 10 years ago sponsored by Friendship Meeting in collaboration with Catholic Ministries, is now an American citizen, has a responsible position with Flowers Bakery, has a six year old son and owns her own house. She and her partner, James, are expecting their second child this spring. James' son, Shaquille, also lives with them. Esther sends her warm greetings to everyone at Friendship Meeting. — submitted by Bonnie Parsons

Directory Changes

Please call Claire Koster (766-9769), clerk of the Handbook Committee, if you have questions about the *Directory*. Give corrections, additions, or deletions for the *Directory* to Claire, or email them to the editor, cyrilhh@triad.rr.com.

New Contact Information:

Holly Green

7912 170th Avenue NE, Unit 201

Redmond, WA 98052

(425) 269-0557

hollyemail@aol.com

New Apartment Number:

John and Gay Bowles

P-102

New Email Address:

Mary Ellen and Mark Chijioke

mchijioke@gmail.com

FRIENDSHIP FRIENDS MEETING (336) 854-5155

Friendship Friends Meeting
Box 8652
Greensboro, NC 29419
Phone: (336) 854-5155

Dave MacInnes, Clerk
Ray Treadway, Treasurer
Claire Koster, Recorder
Martha Lang, Recording Clerk

David Bailey Co-Clerk/Reading Clerk
George White, Assistant Treasurer
Richard Phillips, Assistant Recorder
Cyril Harvey, Newsletter

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Address Correction Requested

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