

Friendship Times

April 2009

Calendar

- Sun, Mar 29 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Wed, Apr 1 7:30 pm Public Forum on the 287(g) Program in Guilford County, Iglesia Cristiana International
- Sun, Apr 5 9:00 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns meet
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Apr 12 10:00 am Group singing, Meetinghouse
10:30 am Meeting for Worship, A potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sun, Apr 19 10:00 am Group singing, Meetinghouse
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Mon, Apr 20 7:30 pm Presentation by the Center for Development in Central America on their program, and the effect of the global economic crisis on their work. Friendship Meetinghouse.
- Tue, Apr 21 Last day to send newsletter materials to Editor
- Sun, Apr 26 10:30 am Meeting for Worship

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: Meg Zulick, 725-2377

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 (Personal 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

In this Issue

In this issue are the Minutes from Third Month's meeting for worship with a concern for business. In addition there are announcements of upcoming forums, a call for Work Day, a plea from the Clerk to fill out a form for the Nominating Committee, a letter from Nan Bowles, a group photo 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 April 26th for the May issue. Material for the newsletter should be submitted, preferably by email, **no later** than Tuesday, **April 21st**. Thanks to everyone in advance for your help.

Cyril Harvey, cyrilhh@triad.rr.com

MEETING WORKDAY

There will be a workday at the Meetinghouse

Saturday, April 4th

9:00 am until 12:00 noon

The weeds are growing, the grass needs mowing, we have gumballs galore and inside chores.

Please come out and help if you can.

Fourth Month Birthdays
of our Young Friends

Michael Heitfield 4/12/92

Moe Owen 4/12/92

Fourth Month's Query Work of the Meeting

Do we assume our rightful share of the expenses of our Meeting? Do we regard our time, our talents, and our possessions as given us in trust, and do we use them freely for the needs of others?

Minutes

FRIENDSHIP MONTHLY MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS GATHERED ON THE 8TH OF THIRD MONTH 2009

Meeting began with silent worship. In attendance were: Rodney Owen, Ray Treadway, Sandy Bowles, Mae Brown, David Brown, Chris W. Nelson, Sidney Lee Kitchens, Don Smith, Kembra Howdeshell, Bonnie Parsons, Marilyn White, George White, Darryl Waisner, Judith Harvey, David MacInnes, Carole Treadway.

Out of the silence clerk David MacInnes read Query 3 as follows:

Do we follow the teachings of Jesus and seek the inspiration of his Holy Spirit in our daily lives? Are love and unity maintained among us? Do we cultivate a forgiving spirit, and do we avoid and discourage needless and destructive criticism of others? When differences arise, do we endeavor promptly to resolve them in a spirit of love, honesty, and humility?

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

It is difficult to put into words a response to the question, "Do we follow the teachings of Jesus and seek the inspiration of his holy spirit?" We can say only that we try and hope to come closer to fulfilling the spirit of this question. Since listening is part of the teaching of Jesus, then we can say that this meeting does know how to listen, not only to one another but also to the Holy Spirit moving among us.

In many small matters we do well in trying to resolve things promptly and in a spirit of love. In larger matters we are less able to resolve our differences in honesty and humility. We don't always do well in listening to one another's points of view in these larger issues. We need to guard against spiritual deafness which can arise and impede our following the guidance of the holy spirit. We recognize that the big issues need time for seasoning. We also acknowledge that even in these difficult matters, in the long run, the right way to go emerges.

Sandy Bowles volunteered to revise this query answer and forward it to the Worship and Ministry Committee.

Ray Treadway volunteered to revise the Fourth Query next month.

In the absence of the recording clerk, Carole Treadway served for the day with the meeting's approval.

The revision of the response to Query 1 was approved.

The revision of the response to Query 2 was approved.

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

<u>Second Month</u>	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
General Fund:	\$ 1,509.00	\$ 1,117.90	\$ 8,279.86
All Funds:	\$ 1,509.00	\$ 1,127.90	\$ 19,106.97

Expenses of note during the month: support for travel of a member to a committee meeting of Friends World Committee — \$50, support of the care team for the Burmese family from Social Concerns — \$100, membership in the North Carolina Friends Historical Society — \$50, donation to Quaker House of Fayetteville for operating expenses — \$100, repair of furnace — \$274, electricity — \$83.43, gas — \$386.67, telephone — \$58.88, and water and sewer — \$14.05. The Meeting received a loan repayment to the emergency assistance fund of \$50.

Contributions to the Meeting in January and February (nearly \$1,900) are about one-half of what is needed (\$3,800) to maintain the Meeting's budget. Contributions to the general fund and to our special funds would be appreciated. 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.

House and Grounds Annual Report

Rodney Owen presented the annual report for the House and Grounds committee as follows:

The last year has typically been busy for our committee. Our committee has been blessed with the addition of Jim Hood and Harry Nagle. They are welcome and much-needed additions. In addition to regularly scheduled workdays we have overseen the Meetinghouse cleaning list and undertaken several projects. We have over time removed the majority of the undergrowth in the front corner of our lot facing Guilford College. We have, in the process of maintaining the deck, replaced the handrails and most of the ramp boards. We have purchased fluorescent bulbs to be utilized as older bulbs burn out. At our last workday we replaced the thermostat with a new user-friendly digital thermostat that we believe will assist in comfort and energy conservation. Along with the much-appreciated help we have received from the body of the Meeting we have patched the roof, cleaned the gutters, mulched and trimmed the trees and hedges, raked leaves and gumballs, and kept the lawn mowed.

We are grateful for Kembra Howdeshell's assistance in sourcing a new dishwasher which was

recently installed. We are working with the Long Range Planning Committee to coordinate our efforts in the best interest of the Meeting as a whole. To that end we have a couple of impending challenges that are premised on whether we stay in our current building, remodel it, or build another: We should consider replacing the deck and ramp; we should paint the exterior trim; we should expect to replace the current furnace within a couple of years, as the heat exchanger doesn't have much life left and replacement would be more economical than repair at that point. We are ready and willing to do what we can to assist in any remodeling or rebuilding that may come about as result of long range planning decisions.

While we are grateful for the help we receive from the Meeting in accomplishing our ongoing tasks, we must emphasize again the necessity of participation. The workload is fairly constant and is greater than the committee could accomplish alone. We anticipate challenges aplenty in the year ahead and thank the body in advance for the forthcoming help and assistance.

This report was accepted with gratitude.

Long Range Planning Committee Report

Sandy Bowles presented the report of the Long Range Planning Committee.

Throughout the fall and winter of this year, the Long Range Planning Committee continued to seek contact with Steve Freyhaldenhoven, the architect who agreed to assist us with an initial evaluation. These efforts finally culminated in a meeting held on February 13th, 2009 with several members of the committee present.

In completing the initial assessment, Steve worked with Keith Broderick of Civil Designs, PA, who is familiar with the watershed issues of our area and has worked with Friends Homes in the past. Both Steve and Keith attended the meeting on the 13th.

During the meeting on the 13th, Steve presented information to the following effect:

More detailed information about the watershed issues of our lot and assurance that we were not *legally* bound to do anything.

The observation that because our current building is of wood-frame construction, we would be greatly limited in what we could do with any major remodeling.

What our options might look like in terms of watershed issues, cost, and access should we explore the possibility of acquiring the lot to the north of the current location.

Given all the factors above, Steve presented a clear opinion that the existing property is ideally located and could accommodate any changes we might wish to make.

Upon consideration of the information presented during this meeting, the Long Range Planning Committee would like to present the following:

We recommend that efforts to explore the possibility of relocation to a different site be laid down as our current location seems adequate.

The Meeting was united with the committee's recommendation that we lay down the exploration of a totally new location at this time. Friends agreed that a first step is to keep the door between the children's room and the library open. Some rearrangement of furniture may be needed. Faith Josephs, who cares for the children during meeting for worship, will be consulted as to the best arrangement. The Meeting will consider other options at a later time in light of looking at who we are and who we are to serve. There is agreement that the issue of the growth of the meeting should not be focused on intentional growth but rather on making our meeting place more adequate for our use as our financial condition allows. The committee was asked to proceed in planning in consultation with other committees.

The meeting expressed gratitude to the committee for its hard work.

Web Committee Report

Chris Nelson presented a proposal from the web committee. In view of the inadequacy of the support for our website from YAHOO, the committee requested that the meeting have its own stand-alone website. Chris Nelson displayed what our website would look like. The meeting approved that we have our website on Go-Daddy web service provider.

Naming Committee Report

David MacInnes reported that the Naming Committee proposes the following names for the Nominating Committee: Bonnie Parsons, Neil Swenson, and Marilyn White. These names were approved, with Bonnie Parsons agreeing to be the clerk.

Worship and Ministry Committee Report

Darryl Waisner gave a brief report of the All-Meeting Retreat for the Worship and Ministry Committee as follows:

Worship and Ministry sponsored the All-Meeting Retreat on Second Month 27th and 28th, 2009. The focus of the retreat this year was religious education across all demographics of the meeting. The retreat began on Sixth Day evening with a presentation by Nan Bowles, "Scattering the Seeds." This dealt with Nan's experience living on the edge of a marsh near the North Carolina coast.

Her presentation was very thought provoking and Spirit filled/led.

On Seventh Day, those in attendance gathered to discuss a reading assignment authored by Patricia Loring excerpted from *Listening Spirituality* volume II. Later in the day the group broke into small groups for more intense brainstorming on ideas on approaching religious education/spiritual formation for the meeting.

The feedback has been positive and insightful. The ideas from the small groups will be presented at an upcoming Meeting for Business.

Care & Counsel Committee Report

A written report from Care and Counsel was read as follows:

Care and Counsel continues to focus on the needs of members unable to attend meeting on First Day.

Several members of meeting have recent health diagnoses and Care and Counsel has reached out to them in various ways offering the support of meeting. Additionally, Care and Counsel has reached out

to members who are grieving the recent loss of family.

A baby shower will be held on March 21st for Esther Shyaka at the home of Bonnie Parsons. The time is from 4:00 to 5:30 pm.

Care and Counsel, guided by the skillful hands of Maureen Bums, continues to plan for the series of dinner meetings to foster community and spiritual growth in the meeting. The dinner meetings are planned to begin in April.

The forum on End of Life planning is scheduled for next First Day at the rise of meeting.

The report was accepted.

The meeting ended with silence, purposing to reconvene on Fourth Month 12th, 2009, if in accordance with divine will.

Respectfully submitted,
David MacInnes, Clerk
Carole Treadway, Recording Clerk for the day.

Message from the Clerk

The Nominating Committee has put together a request for your preferred committee and position assignments for next year. Copies are available at the Meeting-house. Please complete this form and send it back to Bonnie Parsons no later than April 18th.

Our thoughts and prayers are with

Kembra Howdeshell and Don Smith during this time when Kembra is making decisions concerning her cancer treatment. Kembra will also be in our prayers during her time of treatment.

Friendship Friends Monthly Meeting at Friends Homes West



Greensboro, North Carolina

Ray, Chris, John, Carole, Ted, Deborah, Sid David, Gay, Becky, Bonnie and Mae

30 January 2009

Letter from Nan Bowles

Dear Members and Attenders of Friendship Meeting,

How did you all enjoy the snow fall last week? No snow for us this time.

A light-full morning dawns, as the sun pours in through the windows. Beautiful golden yellow and warm. The woodstove crackles and pops downstairs. We are cozy in our wee home on the marsh.

Tom and I have been using prayer/meditation cards that I made using a poem that came to me four or five years ago. Prayer/meditation - are they the same? I am listening, open to exploring that question. Meanwhile, on the reverse side of each phrase are photos or paintings from the marsh community that reflect whatever the words are. The poem reads:

I AM

I am Freedom

I am Peace

I am Light-ness

I am Light-full

I am the Stream

I am Truth

I am Strength

I am Clear Voice

I am Clear Spirit

I am Love

I am the Power

I am Whole

I am Home

Yesterday the card I drew was "I am Light-full". The image on the other side is a sun sparkle from a swamp puddle magnified on the computer. Looking closely, the image shows a circle of light with eleven rays! I will never look at a sun sparkle the same knowing they have beautiful circles of light with eleven rays inside. Continuing revelation indeed.

I hold up the image of the sun sparkle. In Spirit's presence I listen with an open heart to all the ways/levels I am light-full and all the ways I can become more light-full. I can extend that query outward and ask, "How are we, Friendship Meeting Light-full? How are Quakers Light-full? How is humanity light-full and how might we increase being Light-full?"

Thanks to the tiny sun sparkle on the surface of a swamp puddle.

To any who received the seeds of the marsh community parables, I am open to listening to suggestions on how the sharing of the ministry might be improved, or adjusted. Thank you for being there.

Take care of yourselves, Nan

Upcoming Events

On Monday, April 20th at 7:30pm, there will be a Forum at Friendship Meeting, co-hosted by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and New Garden Friends Meeting. A representative from the **Center for Development in Central America** will speak about their program, and discuss the effect of the global economic crisis on their work in Central America. We hope you can join us!

Public Forum on 287(g) in Guilford County

Will This Program Damage Human Relations and Public Safety?

Iglesia Cristiana Internacional

2119 South Elm-Eugene Street

Wednesday, April 1st at 6:00 pm

The Guilford County Sheriff's Office has announced that it will soon implement a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Homeland Security to begin the 287(g) Program in Guilford County.

There is a lot of controversy about the 287(g) Program because, in some locations, there have been documented cases of racial profiling, and in other places law enforcers have neglected their core work of public safety in order to focus on finding undocumented immigrants.

La Iglesia Cristiana Internacional, in conjunction with others, has put together a Public Forum for the community, featuring Sheriff B. J. Barnes and the Chief of Police, Tim Bellamy. The Executive Director of FaithAction International House will be one of several panelists.

The purpose of this forum is to initiate clear dialogue between local authorities, the Latino Community, and the community in general regarding the potential effects of the 287(g) law on Guilford County.

Everyone is invited to participate.

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 Email Address:

Alex and Maureen Burns

ambur@triad.rr.com

New contact for the Salem Worship Group:

Meg Zulick

725-2377

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

We are met in a great task when we meet together in worship: no less a task than to realize the Divine Presence, and it is our part to make ready for that realization and, as far as in us lies, to create an atmosphere in which that Presence and Power can touch us into fuller life. When once we remember this, we cannot but approach the occasion with reverent humility and expectation and the desire that nothing on our part may hinder or disturb. It is something holy and wonderful we are trying to build up together – the consciousness of the presence of God with us here and the reality of communion with Him.

– Statement posted in Jordans (England) Meeting House

Friendship Friends Meeting
P. O. Box 8652
Greensboro, NC 27419

Address Correction Requested

FIRST CLASS MAIL