

Friendship Times

May 2009

Calendar

- Sun, Apr 26 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, May 3 9:00 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns meet
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, May 10 10:00 am Group singing, Meetinghouse
10:30 am Meeting for Worship, A potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sun, May 17 10:00 am Group singing, Meetinghouse
10:30 am Meeting for Worship, followed by a Forum on immigrants in our community in the current economic crisis, Lori Fernald-Khamala, southeast coordinator of the AFSC's Project Voice
- Sun, May 24 10:00 am Group singing, Meetinghouse
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Tue, May 26 Last day to send newsletter materials to Editor
- Sun, May 31 10:00 am Group singing, Meetinghouse
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 Fourth Month's meeting for worship with a concern for business. In addition there are notes from the All-Meeting Retreat, a **Finances Alert**, reflections on religious education and spiritual nurture, a report from the Long Range Planning Committee, news from the Library, and an addition 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 May 31st for the June issue. Material for the newsletter should be submitted, preferably by email, ***no later*** than Tuesday, **May 26th**. Thanks to everyone in advance for your help.

Cyril Harvey, cyrilhh@triad.rr.com

FINANCES ALERT for Friendship Friends Meeting

For the month of March, the Meeting spent approximately **\$175** on fixed operating expenses (newsletter, supplies, and sandwiches for the Urban Ministry) and **\$300** on utilities (electricity, gas for heat, telephone, and water). We can expect approximately the same amount for these expenses each month as the cost for gas goes down and the cost for electricity goes up. However, of real concern, the entire income in March for the general fund was **only \$226** from four contributors.

Over the first three months of the fiscal year, the Meeting is more than **\$3,500 below** what is needed to meet the budget for the entire year. At this time we very much need additional funds just to meet our ordinary expenses. Please help with a contribution.

Fifth Month's Query Meeting for Business

Do we regularly attend our meetings for business, and are they held in a spirit of love, understanding, and forbearance? Do we seek the right course of action in humble submission to the Authority of Truth and in the patient search for a sense of unity under Divine guidance?

Minutes

FRIENDSHIP MONTHLY MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS GATHERED ON THE 12TH OF FOURTH MONTH 2009

Meeting began with silent worship. In attendance were: Gay Bowles, John Bowles, Sandy Bowles, Maureen Burns, Judith Harvey, Kembra Howdeshell, Sidney Lee Kitchens, Claire Koster, David MacInnes, Bonnie Parsons, Carey Reece, Judy Reece, Neil Swenson, Carole Treadway, Ray Treadway, Darryl Waisner, Mel Zuck, and Priscilla Zuck.

Out of the silence clerk David MacInnes read Query 4 as follows:

Do we assume our rightful share in 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?

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

It is felt that in regards to the query, we are going through a low period, in the ebb and flow in the life of the meeting. Money contributions are down, and the same people are doing the main work of the Meeting. It appears as if the meeting is struggling right now.

It is believed that those who are serving are giving to the best of their abilities.

One Friend feels somewhat discouraged by this minute with regard to personal expenses, but feels our meeting does better than the national average with regard to social involvement and questions as to whether we live up to the query.

Whenever there is a real need in the meeting, Friends have come through.

Part of giving of our talents is the importance of sharing our need for assistance, so that the community can respond. What does it mean to be part of a community?

Ray Treadway has volunteered to revise this query answer and forward it to the Worship & Ministry Committee. Sandy Bowles will revise the query response of next month.

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

<u>Third Month</u>	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
General Fund:	\$ 226.20	\$ 2,653.03	\$ 5,893.03
All Funds:	\$ 226.20	\$ 2,403.03	\$ 16,970.14

Expenses of note during the month: newsletter and postage for 3 months - \$174.72, American Friends Service Committee - SE Region - \$250, American Friends Service Committee, national office - \$250, Friends World Committee - \$250, Friends Committee on National Legislation - \$500, donation to Quaker House of Fayetteville for operating expenses - \$100, heating and cooling annual contract - \$189, electricity - \$83.48, gas - \$147.33, telephone - \$58.88, and water and sewer (two months) - \$32.95. The Meeting received two loan repayments to the emergency assistance fund totaling \$250.

Contributions to the Meeting in March were significantly meager and were insufficient to even pay our utilities for the month, let alone our operating expenses and our obligations to various Quaker organizations that we support. Without more contributions, the meeting will need to suspend activities or draw on its reserves. 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.

Friends approved the report with thanks.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

The annual report from the Peace & Social Concerns Committee was presented by Neil Swenson, Clerk of that committee, as follows:

As with so many other individuals and groups, much of the work of the Peace and Social Concerns committee this past year has been shaped by the current global economic crisis and its effect on people both locally and abroad. Increasingly, our discussions have been focused on ways to respond to the many needs in our own community, as well as to better understand their relationship to needs in other communities around the world.

On the local level, members of the Peace and Social Concerns committee continued to be actively involved with the Care Team for the Burmese family that we sponsored last year. Because of the difficult job environment, Zaw Zaw continues to be unemployed and Tuza's hours have been cut back. As a result, the Care Team has continued to provide tutoring, transportation, mentoring, and fellowship beyond the year commitment that we originally gave. Current priorities for the Care Team are helping Zaw Zaw develop his English skills to make it easier for him to find employment, driving lessons for Zaw Zaw, and trying to find a donated car for them. Special thanks to the Meeting for being willing to accept a donated car on behalf of the Aung family, and to Bonnie Parsons and Judy Reece for their tireless efforts on

the Care Team. A highlight for the Care Team this past year was a party hosted by the Aung family on the anniversary of their arrival in Greensboro, at which the Aungs shared their appreciation with speeches, food, and gifts.

The Peace and Social Concerns committee also continued the tradition of a holiday Angel Tree. With the help of Darlene Stanley, we were made aware of the needs of two Congolese families in our community and the Meeting generously selected ornaments, and bought and wrapped gifts, that were brought to the families by Catholic Social Services.

As the economic situation worsened over the winter, our committee looked for other ways to meet the needs in our community, even after the holiday season rush. As a result, we organized ongoing collections for the Newcomers School and the food pantry at St. Paul's Catholic Church. Both organizations are located in our neighborhood and are doing important work; Newcomers School is not only a school dedicated to the educational needs of recent immigrant children to our community but also provides material support to the families; St. Paul's pantry provides food for many needy individuals and families in our area.

Looking ahead, we have organized a Forum with Lori Fernald-Khamala, the American Friends Service Committee's Project Voice Southeast coordinator, who has recently relocated to Greensboro, to inform us about the current situation with immigrants in our community in this economic crisis, and what we as Quakers can do to make a difference.

Our disbursements have also reflected this focus on meeting the economic needs in our community. This past fall we donated \$100 to the Care Team, \$100 to the Angel Tree, \$100 to Second Harvest Food Bank, \$100 to Operation Greensboro Cares and \$100 to FaithAction International House.

Similarly, we have also attempted to be mindful of the impact of the global economic crisis on needy people around the world. For instance, after the storms in Haiti this past summer we educated ourselves more about the devastation there and organized a collection of infant kits on behalf of the Emergency Material Aid Program of AFSC in High Point. Because of the efforts of the Meeting, we were able to gather thirteen complete infant kits to be sent to Haiti.

We also participated in the "Pennies for Peace" project at New Garden Friends School and were able to donate a jar of pennies for schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

We will also be co-hosting with New Garden Friends Meeting a Forum presented by the Center for Devel-

opment in Central America this coming April 20th at Friendship Meeting. At this event, Sarah Junkin Woodard will speak about their program in Nicaragua, as well as the effects of the global economic crisis on the people with whom they work.

Finally, we have also attempted to be responsive to other events and concerns in our Quaker community. For example, Don Smith led a well-attended Forum this past fall in which he shared his summer travels in Russia. A member of our committee was also on the planning committee for the "No to Torture" event that was held at New Garden Friends Meeting, and we donated \$100 to support this important gathering.

In closing, I would like to thank the Meeting for its support of this committee and its work. Every time we have come to the Meeting with a concern and/or collection, it has responded thoughtfully and generously, allowing us to continue to try to make a small difference in our community and in our world.

The Meeting accepted this annual report with gratitude for the work of the committee.

Audit Committee

Friendship Friends Meeting, NCYM-C
Audit Committee Report for 2008
April 12th, 2009

In our opinion, the accompanying statements of 1/7/2009 present fairly the financial position of Friendship Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Meeting's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements, based on our audit. The purpose of the audit is to obtain a reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatements. We believe that our audit, including the bank statements with Wachovia Bank, presents a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We met on April 1st, 2009 in order to verify the financial books of Friendship Meeting for the year 2008. The Treasurer of the Meeting, Ray Treadway, presented the books to us. He also, at our request, gave us a list of the account codes that he uses to describe the various committees, categories, contributions, Meetinghouse costs, and other funds that are retained.

Upon individual examination thereof, we mutually certify the great care taken with maintenance of the books. It is our opinion that it shows an accurate report of the financial operation of Friendship Friends Meeting for the year 2008.

Respectfully submitted, Mel Zuck, Dorothy Nielsen,
Ted Benfey (volunteer for Carey Reece)

The report of the Audit committee was accepted with gratitude.

Care & Counsel Committee Report

The following report was presented by Steve Hayes, Clerk of Care and Counsel:

Care and Counsel continues to meet regularly and in the last month has been in touch with several members of meeting who are ill. The Committee has coordinated meals and visited members who have difficulty attending meeting.

The committee has struggled with membership issues this month. We have sought to assist attendees in discerning whether they are called to membership. We have also sought ways to remain engaged with Friends who wish to give up their membership.

The committee, through the leadership of Maureen Bums, is on target for dinner circles to begin the second week of May.

This report was accepted.

Long Range Planning Committee

Following a brief report from the Long Range Planning Committee, it was determined that the meeting feels that the committee needs to communicate their suggestions to more members of the meeting than is possible in a business meeting. That committee will write an

item for the newsletter and look into presenting suggestions to various groups of people within the meeting.

Other Business

Friends approve asking the Finance Committee to pursue getting 501(c)3 non-profit status to be applicable to future fundraising.

Ben and Hannah Washburn have indicated that they do not wish to continue as members of Friendship Meeting. Both have fond memories of the meeting, and Ben occasionally attends with his father. The Meeting approves removing their names from our membership list. The Membership Recorder will be notified of this action.

The Clerk, David MacInnes, read the minutes of the 2nd Month 1st Day business meeting from the Salem Worship Group, to bring us up to date on what is happening at their meeting.

The Meeting then adjourned at 2:10 pm after a brief period of silence, purposing to reconvene on 5th Month, 10th, if consistent with Divine Will.

David MacInnes, Clerk
Claire Koster, Recording Clerk

All-Meeting Retreat — Notes from Discussion Groups

The discussions focused on the issues underlying our time together: What religious education/spiritual formation problems are we are facing now? How did they happen? What can we do to address them?

The history of spiritual formation at Friendship

First Day School options we have tried:

- a. Curriculum
 - using prepared materials
 - creating our own materials
- b. Teaching
 - one person teaches each unit
 - one person teaches each month
 - two people teach each month – a leader and a helper
- c. Having children attend meeting for worship with no First Day School

Adult spiritual formation we have tried:

- a. Monthly forums run by Worship & Ministry, Care & Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns committees and others
- b. Meeting together during forum time over six months to study and discuss Pat Loring's book, *Listening Spirituality*

- c. Covenant group met 3rd first day – explored personal issues
- d. Bible study – with Sid – read together and discuss, very small group but good experience
- e. Experiment with Light groups

How did we get to where we are now?

- a. Small numbers of children
- b. Adults often feel overcommitted, have little time to devote to planning and/or running a first day school program
- c. Hard to get long term commitment from members and attenders
- d. Number of members and attenders who feel comfortable with teaching is extremely low, few teaching professionals among us

Suggestions and questions from the three groups

One group felt we need a coordinator for religious education. All groups felt we need a strong and working religious education committee.

For First Day School

Work out first day school program with the parents

Planning for curriculum needs to address parental responsibilities and concerns

- a. process – religious education, newsletter, web page once a term, continuing something for children to look forward to, help parents want to bring their children on First Day
- b. movies, books

For adult spiritual formation

Have some form of Bible study – A/The Friendly Bible Study

Start Quakerism 101/Quakerquest (introduction for newcomers)

Have forums on what/where the Spirit is leading us
We are reminded that in terms of spiritual guides or guidance

The Overseer finds the need

The Elder addresses the need

Ministry & Worship Committee should involve young adults in breaking meeting

We should form study groups based on surveying where we feel we are spiritually and where we need to grow

A prime candidate: peace testimony in different eras

Run a six-month program using six Pendle Hill pamphlets

Discuss a common reading and share a meal

This was very successful at Salem; they felt they grew together as a group

Ideas: read from Burton Turkle and Marguerite di Agelie – for both adults and children

Have youngsters responsible for 5th first day meeting

Have some one-on-one occasions for discussion with those interested

Ask what those not present want to do

Have our newcomers go to New Garden Meeting to participate in their Quakerism 101

Not felt to be a good idea; need to also want to build community

Have two people each month run Quakerism 101

Have times where we share our spiritual journeys

Make religious education for adults a part of the (reconstituted) Religious Education committee

Hold the 4th Sunday before meeting for adult religious education

Bring back the forum

Explore different religions with the children as part of First Day School

Meet to discuss environmental issues and our response to them as members of Friendship Meeting

Have discussion and worship sharing where each of

us presents our rich life experiences

Questions raised by the groups

How do we acquaint newcomers with our history, beliefs?

What is happening in the silence?

How do we spend our time in preparing for Meeting for Worship?

What have we lost by an enlarged community as compared to early Friends?

Where is the voice?

Can we meet not to just discuss but to apply the concepts?

What is our mission statement? Can we make religious education a part of our website?

What does the meeting want? Getting to know each other? Getting to know Quakerism?

— notes collated by Dave MacInnes

Our thoughts and prayers are with

Kembra Howdeshell as she has gone through her cancer surgery. Thanks to David Bailey who has organized meals to be brought in to Kembra and her family during her recuperation.

Our prayers are also with Bobbie Torbert, who attends the Salem Worship Group. Bobbie is doing quite well after surgery on April 6th to install a Pain Pump in her body. She is hoping this will improve the quality of her life. She would welcome contacts from members in Friendship who know her. Her address and phone:

1901 Bramblewood Trail
Pfafftown, NC 27040
(336) 922-4875



Roman Mosaic — Bordeaux, France

Religious Education or Spiritual Nurturing?

Some reflections gathered by Janet Nagel

Religion and Spirituality

The Greeks had no word for religion, just as they had no concept of heresy. There was a Roman word, *religio*, which had the meaning of respect, awe or reverence for experiences of divinity.

By the time Constantine decided that the Empire should have a single religion, the new [Christian] movement had been taken over by leaders who imposed on it increasingly inflexible and doctrinaire organizational structures based on the Roman Empire. And because of this, [the] religious language of symbols and metaphors [used by the first Christians] turned into literal and historical matters for obligatory belief. So *religio* came to mean 'our' doctrines, dogma, cults and so on, as opposed to 'yours', with the implication that 'ours' were right and 'yours' were wrong.

— Donald Gill, "Where Have We Come From?" *The Friends Quarterly*, January 2004.

... early Friends were convinced that spirituality was universal, that it was an attribute present, at least potentially, in all men and women everywhere, and at all periods of history from primitive to modern times. The Inward Light, of course, has always been regarded by Quakers as a characteristic manifestation of spirituality.

The difference between spirituality and religion, and especially between the adjectives spiritual and religious, is not too clear. Most people would accept, I think, that the terms are not synonymous, so that one could be religious but not spiritual or spiritual without being religious.

Spirituality seems to refer to something inherent in the individual rather than in the institution, developing from first-hand experience rather than from a culturally loaded system of beliefs acquired from social training. It speaks of awareness, sensitivity, openness, and compassion. It is a marker of personality development towards wholeness and realization of potential.

Should we be asking "What does the Society of Friends say?" or should we be asking, with George Fox, "What canst thou say?" I think the first question reflects a religious approach and the second a spiritual approach. George Fox asserted that one of the functions of the Inward Light (i.e., spirituality) was to bring people into unity. Now if this is so, the integrity of the Society will be preserved through a common spirituality, without having to lay down religious statements of belief.

— Ralph Hetherington, *Universalism and Spirituality*, Pendle Hill Pamphlet 309, pp. 14-15

Education and Nurturing

[O]n the whole, it seems to me what most people mean by 'education' has got some ideas built into it or contains certain assumptions, and one of them is that learning is an activity which is separate from the rest of life Another assumption is that education is a designed process in which some people do things to other people or get other people to do things which will presumably be for their own good. . . . I wrote a book called *Instead of Education* . . . [but] I don't know what single word I'd put [in its place]. I would talk about a process in which we become more informed, intelligent, curious, competent, skillful, aware by our interaction with the world around us, because of the mainstream of life, so to speak. In other words, I learn a great deal, but I do it in the process of living, working, playing, being with friends. — John Holt

When I speak of education, I am not referring only to that which goes on in schools. Today "education" takes place in many guises and settings: through the mass media, in the workplace and in the home. We adopt the educative stance when we feel it is our right and duty to manipulate others for their own good.

Let me be clear: I am not against all forms of teaching. It is a privilege and a joy to help someone do something he or she has freely chosen to do, provided that we are invited to help. I am against unasked-for, I'm-doing-this-for-your-own-good teaching.

[I]f we agree that children are good at learning, let our attitude and dealings with young people bear this out. Let us resist the temptation to become educators, to rub the noses of the young in our greater experience by adopting the roles of teacher, helper, and instructor at the drop of a hat. Let us trust people to figure things out for themselves, unless they specifically ask for our help. (As it turns out, they ask frequently. Small children, whose curiosity has not been deadened by education, are usually brimming over with questions.) The nature of the toxicity inherent in education is precisely that so much of the teaching that goes on is unasked for. Let us endeavor to rid our own behavior of unasked-for help.

Additionally, let us create more spaces in our communities where young and old (and those in between), can get together to pursue unprogrammed activities of all sorts: arts, crafts, music, hobbies, discussion groups, etc. Let us end the policy of shunting young and old into separate institutions "for their own good."

Finally, think up more ideas of your own! As a society that has been addicted to education for several generations, we have lost the ability to imagine what it might be like to grow up and live in a world free of pedagogical manipulation.

— Aaron Falbel, "Learning? Yes, of course. Education? No, thanks" originally printed in the magazine, *Growing Without Schooling* (#92)

Long Range Planning Committee A Report & Request

The Long Range Planning Committee would like to bring to your attention the following. At the March Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, the committee presented a report and request for guidance from the monthly meeting. After exploring several options to address the current needs of the meeting, the committee discerned the following as possible choices arranged from the least financially costly to the most costly:

- A. That we make no changes to the meetinghouse, except to address the space needs of the children by combining the library and office and opening up the current library for the children.
- B. That we renovate the basement space and redo the stairs – possibly relocating them. Members of the committee observed that there are several individuals in our meeting with the experience and skills to complete much of the work in-house.
- C. That we consider an addition onto the rear of the existing building. This addition would then necessitate adding an elevator to meet code requirements. A pond would have to be installed to bring the property in line with the expanded size of the building.
- D. That we consider leveling the entire existing building and rebuilding on the lot in a different location.
- E. That we consider purchasing one of the lots to the north, leveling the current building and rebuilding.

The committee is currently exploring ways to open dialog within the monthly meeting to further discern the direction in which we may be called. Please take time to read through these options and prepare any questions you may have for the committee. We will be in touch about opportunities to meet and discuss this further.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact any member of the committee.

Current committee members are: David Brown, Ray Treadway, Rodney Owen, Dave MacInnes, Kembra Howdeshell, Carey Reece, and Richard Phillips.

Fifth Month Birthdays of our Young Friends

Sierra Herold 5/3/98

News from the Library

Did you enjoy and make use of the magazine exchange program at the Benjamin branch of the public library and do you miss it now that the library is closed for expansion? If so, you will thank Bonnie Parsons for placing a box in the meeting library where you can put magazines you have read (recent ones, please) for others to read and take the ones you would like to read that others have placed there.

New Books

- Bill, J. Brent. *Sacred Compass: The Way of Spiritual Discernment*. (Spiritual Life, SL/BIL)
- Birkel, Michael. *The Messenger that Goes Before: Reading Margaret Fell for Spiritual Nurture*. Pendle Hill Pamphlet 398
- Earthcare for Friends: A Study Guide for Individuals and Faith Communities*. Ed. by Louis Cox et al. (Earthcare EC/EAR)
- Grundy, Marty Paxson and Connie McPeak. *Matthew 18: Wisdom for Living in Community*. Pendle Hill Pamphlet 399.
- Macy, Howard R. *Stepping in the Light: Life in Joy and Power*. (Spiritual Life, SL/MAC)
- Marshall, Jay. *Thanking Blessing—The Sacred Art: Spiritual Vitality through Gratefulness*. (Spiritual Life, SL/MAR)
- McCallum, Chris. *Quaker House: 40 Years of Front-Line Peace Witness*. Ed. by Chuck Fager. (PSJ/MCC)
- Kelly, Richard Macy. *Three Ravens and Two Widows: A Perspective on Controversy among Friends*. Pendle Hill Pamphlet 401

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, and/or email them to the editor, cyrilhh@triad.rr.com.

New Contact Information:

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Dave MacInnes, Clerk
Ray Treadway, Treasurer
Claire Koster, Recorder
Clare Koster, 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

FIRST CLASS MAIL