

Friendship Times

August 2011

Calendar

- Sun, Aug 7 9:00 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel Peace and Social Concerns, House and Grounds meet
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Aug 14 10:00 am Group singing, Meetinghouse
10:30 am Meeting for Worship. A potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sun, Aug 21 9:00 am Friendly Bible Study
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Tue, Aug 23 Last day to send newsletter material to Editor
- Sun, Aug 28 10:30 am Meeting for Worship

Weekly 10:30 am each First Day, Meeting for Worship. Child care available for Worship and Business Mtgs. 7:30 pm Fourth Day, Midweek Mtg. for Worship, in Prayer Room, 7th floor Woolman Hall, Friends Homes, occasionally followed by discussion at 8 pm. 9:00 am fifth First Day (when there is one), Extended Meeting for Worship.

Salem Friends Meeting. Meeting for Worship, 10:00 am First Day, 3151 Reynolda Road, Winston-Salem NC 27106, at the intersection of Reynolda Road and Midkiff Road. Contact: Meg Zulick, 336-725-2377, or zulickm@gmail.com

From the Editor

We all owe Cyril Harvey our thanks for his editing the newsletter these past many years. Taking over from him is a new committee—name to be determined—which combines the jobs of the web committee and newsletter editor. Cyril has been distributing the newsletter just before the last Sunday of the month. That will not happen this month as I have to be out of town for several weeks and have not been able to collect all the various documents needed to make a full newsletter. Material for the next newsletter should be submitted, preferably by email, ***no later*** than **Tuesday, August 23th**.

Dave MacInnes, davmacinnes@gmail.com

Eighth Month's Query Manner of Living

Do we observe simplicity and honesty in our manner of living? Are we careful to live within the bounds of our circumstances, punctual in keeping promises, prompt in the payment of debts, and just in all our dealings? Do we choose those activities, which will strengthen our physical, mental and spiritual life; and do we avoid those harmful to ourselves and others?

The annual **Friends Progressive Dinner** for faculty, staff and students from Guilford College will be on Friday, August 26th, the first weekend after classes start. We are responsible for dessert.

Eighth Month Birthdays
of our Young Friends
Anne Joy Swenson, 8/2/03
Micah Pierce Coleman, 8/21/01

**Friendship Monthly Meeting for Worship with a
Concern for Business 6/12/2011**

Friends gathered after a period of food and fellowship. Ray Treadway presented the treasurer's report. The full report is attached; a summary follows:

Treasurer's Report for Fifth Month, 2011.
Reported on Sixth Month 12, 2011

Fund	Income	Ex-penses	Ending Bal-ance
Gen-eral	\$ 1,840.00	\$ 763.69	\$ 10,178.55
All Funds	\$ 1,990.00	\$ 763.69	\$ 17,163/32

Expenses of note during the month: supplies for the Care and Counsel Committee – \$11.18; sandwiches for Urban Ministry – \$16.31; fee for renewal of website (2 years) – \$135.13, regular donation to Quaker House of Fayetteville for operating expenses –\$100; electricity – \$100.80; gas – \$13.88; telephone – \$68.45, water – \$14.25, and supplies and lumber for rebuilding the back deck – \$153.87. It cost the Meeting \$110 under miscellaneous to have our piano tuned. The Meeting received contributions to the contingency fund of \$50.00 and the property fund of \$100.00.

For the year (five months) we have received \$7,822.00 to the general fund in donations, while we should have received over \$9,500 to maintain our 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.

Neil Swenson presented the Nominating Committee slate, which was approved as follows:

**Nominating Committee Report
June 12, 2011**

The Nominating Committee worked hard this spring considering committee, officer and representative positions for the coming year. We organized a meeting-wide survey, and contacted many members and attenders in person or via phone or e-mail. We also met several times to compile this information and attempt to discern the best balance of individuals' interests, personal gifts, and the needs of the committees.

As a result of this work, we offer a list below of committees, officers and representatives for the 2011-2012 year. At the end of these lists, we report on several updates or questions for consideration by the meeting.

Officers

Clerk – Sidney Lee Kitchens
Co-Clerk – Neil Swenson
Treasurer – Ray Treadway
Assistant Treasurer – George White
Recording Clerk – Benji Hebner
Membership/Statistics Recorder – Claire Koster
Assistant Membership Recorder – Sidney Lee Kitchens

Board of Directors

President – Sidney Lee Kitchens
Vice-President – Neil Swenson
Treasurer – Ray Treadway
Secretary – Benji Hebner
Director – Betty Austin
Director – Jim Hood
Director – John Bowles
Director – David Brown

Representatives

Yearly Meeting Representative – Claire Koster or Carole Treadway
Nominating Committee of NC Yearly Meeting-Conservative – Ray Treadway
Piedmont Friends Fellowship – Sue Hebner
Quaker House – David Barron
Friends Committee on National Legislation – Marilyn White

Committees

Audit – Dave MacInnes, Jim Hood, Ted Benfey
Care & Counsel – Claire Koster – clerk, Judy Harvey, Hannah Logan Morris, Raleigh Bailey
Finance – Ray Treadway – clerk, Stephen Holland, Jim Hood, George White, David Brown
Handbook – Claire Koster – clerk, Ted Benfey, Dave MacInnes
Hospitality – Christy Hopkins – clerk, Claire Koster, Darryl Waisner, Gay Bowles, Judy Reece, Sue Hebner, Neil Swenson, Marilyn White, Darryl Waisner, Kembra Howdeshell.
Sandwiches Coordinator – Gay Bowles
Greeting Coordinator – Gay Bowles
House and Grounds – Carey Reece – clerk, David Parsons, Jim Hood, Amanda Szabo, Joan Tillotson
Cleaning Schedule Coordinators –
Bonnie Parsons, Anne Morris
Supplies Coordinators –
Bonnie Parsons, Anne Morris

Library – Carole Treadway – clerk, Judy Harvey, Gay Bowles, Anne Morris
 Meetinghouse Renovation Funding – Carey Reece, Jim Hood, Kembra Howdeshell
 Peace and Social Concerns – Sheri Grace -- clerk, John Bowles, Ernest Miller, Marilyn White, Bonnie Parsons, Mel Zuck, Judy Reece
 Religious Education – Kembra Howdeshell – clerk, Anne Morris, John Bowles, Benji Hebner
 Web/Newsletter – Dave MacInnes – co-clerk, Chris Nelson – co-clerk, Ray Treadway, Stephen Holland, Don Smith
 Worship & Ministry – Darryl Waisner – clerk, Carole Treadway, Deborah Shaw, Neil Swenson
 Calendar Coordinator – Priscilla Zuck
 Updates and questions for discussion and guidance from the meeting:

In response to feedback from the Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business last month, we nominated three members for the Meetinghouse Renovation Funding Committee. This committee will consult with Finance committee throughout the year to benefit from their knowledge and guidance.

Last month we shared our concern about the small size of the committees for Care & Counsel and Worship & Ministry, and whether they can adequately meet the pastoral and spiritual needs of the meeting. One suggestion that was brought forward by the clerks of these two committees was whether it is time to combine these committees back into one. This possibility was brought to the two committees this past First Day and reports follow from the two clerks.

In response to a concern about the small size of Care & Council and Worship & Ministry, the two committees responded as follows:

At the recommendation of Nominating Committee, the responsibilities of the newsletter editor have been combined with the Web Committee. The newly formed Newsletter and Web committee will submit a description of their intended work to the Handbook Committee prior to August. The Handbook Committee has been approved to add this description to the handbook. Co-Clerk Neil Swenson read the clerks draft of the State of the Society report. After numerous revisions, it was approved. The full text will be sent to yearly meeting and appear in the August newsletter.

Membership Recorder Claire Koster submitted the following Annual Membership Report, which was approved:

Report from Friendship Friends Monthly Meeting

Monthly Meeting Officers

Clerk:	Sidney Lee Kitchens
Recording Clerk:	Benjamin Hebner III
Treasurer:	Ray Treadway

Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2011 Sessions

Carole Treadway	Ray Treadway
Sidney Lee Kitchens	Deborah Shaw
Claire Koster	

Changes in membership

We lost two members through death:
 October 2010 - Edith Mackie
 January 2011 - Nate Bailey-Harvey

November 2010 - John Cardarelli transferred his membership to Salem Mtg. Winston-Salem

April 2011 - Kitty Allen and Peter Seiler were removed due to no contact information for a number of years.

Nicole Martin and Gabriel Martin were removed by request of parent

Frank, Josephine and Patrick Keegan were removed by request of Frank Keegan

June 2011 - Don Smith transferred his membership from Beacon Hill Friends

Our membership total is now 105 (including 6 sojourners).

A request for membership was received from Esta Broderick. This letter has been forwarded to Care and Council, which will suggest a clearness committee

Ministers and Elders

Friendship Friends Meeting has no newly recorded ministers or elders. David Barron reported from the Quaker House board of directors meeting. A summary follows: A letter of transfer was received from Beacon Hill Monthly Meeting on behalf of Don Smith. The transfer was approved, and the membership report shall be amended to reflect this transfer. Judy Reece, Ann Morris, David and Mae Brown, and Gay Bowles volunteered to form a welcoming committee for Don Smith.

The Clerk read endorsements of Deborah Shaw's travel minute from [insert endorsements here]. The clerk read a minute of Faithful Service from the Board and Teachers of School of the Spirit Ministry in recognition of Carole Treadway's retirement after nine years of service as one of their three core teachers. We echo the gratitude expressed in that minute.

Query 5: 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?

Our meeting as a whole does not attend meeting for business regularly. However, those who attend, attend regularly. There is a sense that those who do not attend trust the leadership and guidance of the core business attenders. However, we still feel our work would be enhanced by larger attendance, and by attendance of a broader age range, most specifically those under 60 years. Our wish to include more of the meeting in business meeting reflects our desire to create community and connect better with one another.

We identified two issues that could inhibit attendance: lack of childcare and the time of business meeting. The provision of child care at our meeting's retreat and the concurrent high attendance indicate that

childcare for every meeting function would enable more people of a wider range of ages to attend. Though for families with young children, first day afternoons may provide precious family time. The difficulty of the time of meeting for business was highlighted as a concern at the meeting's retreat. Specifically, midday first day conflicts with the first day lunches at Friends' Home, a weekly highlight for many residents. Though it may be tight to do both, it does seem possible to attend the first day lunches and come back for business meeting if residents wish. Moreover we remain open to how we could include those who are interested.

We continue to seek the right course of action in humble submission to the Authority of truth and in the patient search for sense of unity under Divine Guidance. Our annual meeting retreat's theme this year was "Meeting for worship with a concern for business: responsibility, commitment and spiritual grounding" and was well attended. Our keynote speaker Bob Gosney especially focused on commitment and responsibility in our relationships to one another. A number of good insights regarding well led communications came to light in our discussions.

The clerk read the Sixth Query:

Ray Treadway agreed to edit our response.

We minute our appreciation to Cyril and Judy Harvey for their persistent work on the newsletter over the past 6 ½ years.

State of the Society Report to the Yearly Meeting 2010-2011

It is very difficult attempting to discern and write about the state of a spiritual society in which one is a proud member. With some fear and trembling I dare to say first of all that Truth is indeed prospering at Friendship Meeting. We have had a pleasant mix of meetings for worship in which we stood together on sacred ground the entire time in gathered silence as well as times where Spirit led vocal ministry reminded us of the power and beauty of the spoken word (sometimes in song!). I feel confident saying that we, as a faith community, are engaged in the daily task of living into and fanning the divine spark, that of God, that is within us all.

Some of the scheduled ongoing activities that have ably supported the spiritual life of the meeting are the monthly (third First Day) Bible study which is moving slowly but surely through the Gospel of John. It has continued through this year providing insights and spiritual profit for folks who have participated in it. From time to time vocal ministry in the regular meeting for worship has had its origins in the pre-meeting Bible ponderings.

The fourth First Day of the month at 9am we have had ongoing sessions titled, "Deepening the spiritual life of the meeting," which has been a series of facilitated worship sharing sessions responding to Queries created by the facilitator. A short sample of some of the queries that were asked follow: Who are you? (Now, not, "Who have you been?") Who are you as an individual? Who are you as a Quaker? (Now, not in the past.) What does being Quaker mean to you, to your personal life, your family life, your community life, your professional life, your life as a citizen of a country...? What brought me to Quakerism in the first place, and why have I stayed? If I grew up Quaker, when and how did I realize it was a good fit, and why have I stayed? Why do I come to Meeting for Worship? What do I find? What is my experience of God, the Divine, or whatever you want to call it? How do I experience God or the Di-

vine? How do I witness my Quakerism in my life outside of Meeting? How does being a Quaker guide the path my life is on right now? Who is Jesus, or Christ, to me? What role does Jesus or Christ play in my life? How have my thoughts and feelings about Jesus or Christ changed over the course of my life and spiritual development? What blocks have I had, or do I have, to thinking about or talking about Jesus or Christ?

You might easily imagine how interesting and productive some of the discussions we have had around these queries have been for us individually and as a community.

Extended worship - an hour of worship before meeting - continues on those months with a fifth First Day and although the numbers have sometimes been few in attendance it continues to be a sweet time of worship together for those seeking some extra corporate contemplative time.

Materially we continue to prosper or at least certainly have the capability of meeting our bills with funds left over to help sustain various Quaker organizations we have historically supported. Our House and Grounds committee has been outstandingly industrious through the year in resolving ongoing landscaping problems to the benefit of those who volunteer to mow. They have worked faithfully to maintain that which needed repairing and recently the committee has ambitiously taken on the tearing down and reconstruction of our back porch area deck which has been long needed. It is a wonderful thing to have a sound material body as the dwelling place for our corporate spirit.

The bone and sinew of a Quaker meeting could be seen as the committees and the work that goes on in and through them. Friendship Meeting is blessed with Spirit-led, capable committees which tend to the work and ministries of the meeting. Our Peace and Social Concerns committee continues as our largest ongoing committee and exemplifies our desire to be of service in the community beyond the meeting

The heartbeat of any Quaker meeting is the meeting for worship with a concern for business. Although we as individuals may differ in our opinions as to whether we might consider ours to be well attended, as clerk my sense of our business meetings is that we strive to have our intelligence guided by that Spirit which the Religious Society of Friends has typically believed is within each one of us. We have had differences on issues and the right course to follow while remaining engaged in that struggle to arrive at the sense of the meeting that is Divine will for us corporately in respect for each individual contribution among us. Our annual meeting retreat focused on business meeting and enriched our understandings of what it means to be responsive to the Holy Spirit and to one another as we engage in this form of worship and discernment. Our keynote speaker emphasized the importance of responsibility and commitment in our business meetings with a quote from John Adams, "There are only two creatures of value, those who make the commitment and those who require the commitment."

A couple of issues continue to challenge and sometimes baffle us. One, which we know is a luxury problem but even so at times can be vexatious, is the renovation of our meeting space. We have had many members labor and pour many hours of their time into the devising and revising of plans that would be appropriate for the space we have and the numbers we hope to serve. Currently we are struggling with how to begin and carry out the raising of funds sufficient to accomplish our plans. Any meeting which has tried to purchase, build or renovate a meeting space can appreciate the irritation and joy of this ambition. We trust that since we felt led by the Spirit to create a plan, we shall find the means to carry it out.

The second issue of perhaps deeper and certainly more sensitive importance is answering how to meet the spiritual needs of our children through childcare and religious education. There are some who have stepped up, spent a lot of time and have done an amazing job with the resources available to look out for our

youngest members/attenders recognizing there is no more important issue to the ongoing life of the meeting than trying to meet the needs of our children who are just beginning their spiritual journeys within a faith community. This has been a perennial issue at Friendship Meeting and a number of persons have carried the torch over the years as we have sought to have and maintain that which we know we cannot do without.

In the past year we have had more than the usual amount of young Friends in attendance from Guilford College some of whom have moved their membership to Friendship and who have enhanced the life of our meeting with their involvement and creative energies on our committees. We are grateful for their presence.

At the same time Friends Homes at Guilford and Friends Homes West has brought within easy distance to us elder Friends from all over the United States who in their attendance with us bring decades of experience in many matters great and small. Their years of faithful practice in sitting in and centering down in meeting for worship or business bring a wealth of dignity and a gravity which cannot be measured in earthly terms. A line from a John Burroughs poem *Waiting* reminds me of the effect brought about by our elders. "The waters know their own, and draw the brook that springs in yonder height; so flows the good with equal law unto the soul of pure delight."

Handbook Changes

New address:

Pat Loring
810 Ashland Drive, Apt A
Greensboro, NC

Announcing a New Handbook

It is time for the distribution of the updated *Handbook and Directory*. Those receiving an electronic copy will get them the last week of July. Hard copies will be distributed in August. The Annual Report from the Handbook Committee will be given at our eighth month Meeting for Business.

A **Rain Barrel Making Workshop** was held 7/16 at the Meetinghouse. Sherry Grace and Raleigh Bailey celebrate the completion of one of the barrels. Do you think she is laughing at one of his jokes?

Our back deck and patio was replaced under the care of our House and Grounds Committee. Many thanks for their hard labor in summer heat to Carey Reece, Richard Phillips, Steven Phillips, Jim Hood, Daniel Hood, Dave MacInnes, Don Smith, Esta Broderick and Ray Treadway. The deck will be stained and oiled once the wood ages enough.



FRIENDSHIP FRIENDS MEETING (336) 854-5155

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

Sid Kitchens, Clerk
Ray Treadway, Treasurer
Claire Koster, Recorder
Benji Hebner, Recording Clerk

Neil Swenson Co-Clerk/Reading Clerk
George White, Assistant Treasurer
Richard Phillips, Assistant Membership Recorder
Dave MacInnes, Newsletter

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

Address Correction Requested

FIRST CLASS MAIL