

Friendship Times

<http://www.friendshipmeeting.org>

September 2011

Calendar

- Fri, Aug 26 Progressive Dinner for Guilford College faculty, staff and students; begins at New Garden Meeting; Friendship Meeting provides dessert, beginning about 7:00 pm.
- Sun, Aug 28 9:00 am Deepening the Life of the Meeting
- Sun, Sep 4 9:00 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel
Peace and Social Concerns meet
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Sep 11 10:00 am Group singing, Meetinghouse
10:30 am Meeting for Worship. A potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sun, Sep 18 9:00 am Friendly Bible Study
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Tues, Sep 20 Last day to send newsletter material to Editor
- Sun, Sep 25 9:00 am Deepening the Life of the Meeting
10:30 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

In this Issue

Most of the Newsletter is devoted to the minutes of monthly meeting for business including a joint report from Carole Treadway and Sidney Lee Kitchens on the just concluded Yearly Meeting gathering which took place in Wilmington, NC.

From the Editor

My intention is to distribute the newsletter no later than the last Sunday of the month; this will be September 25th for the October issue. Material for the October issue should be submitted, preferably by email, ***no later*** than **Tuesday, September 20st**. Thanks to everyone in advance for your help.

Dave MacInnes, davmacinnes@gmail.com

Ninth Month Birthdays of our Young Friends

Artan Hebner, 9/2/07
Laurel Holland, 9/6/03
Kerry Liam Hobson, 9/12/08
Timothy Michael Washburn, 9/25/91

Ninth Month's Query Manner of Living

Are we mindful of Friends testimonies against alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and other harmful drugs; and do we refrain from using them or dealing in them, realizing that abstinence is the clearest witness against overindulgence? Do we seek to avoid all kinds of gambling and places of diversion that tend to be demoralizing? Do we keep in mind how diverse and widespread are the temptations to grow richer at the expense of others? Are we faithful to our testimony against taking oaths?

Friendship Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

August 14th, 2011

Ray Treadway presented the treasurer’s reports for sixth month and seventh month, which was accepted with gratitude. The complete reports are attached; a summary follows:

Treasurer’s Report for Sixth and Seventh Month, Reported on Eighth Month 14, 2011

Sixth Month

Fund	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
General	1,270.00	1,808.59	9,639.96
All Funds	1,920.00	1,808.59	17,465.82

Expenses of note during the month include sandwiches for Urban Ministry – \$17.43; donations authorized by the Social Concerns Committee – \$300 (AFSC NC Immigration Program \$50, Faith Action International \$200, and Church World Service Immigration \$50); scholarship for a student at New Garden Friends School -- \$1000; donation to Quaker House of Fayetteville for operating expenses –\$100; electricity – \$100.80; gas – \$13.88; telephone – \$69.00; water and sewer – 14.25; and maintenance of the meetinghouse – \$131.07. The Meeting received contributions to the contingency fund of \$50.00 and to the property fund of \$600.

Seventh Month

Fund	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
General	\$ 1,160.00	\$ 980.84	\$ 9,819.12
All Funds	\$ 1,310.00	\$ 1,480.64	\$ 17,294.98

Expenses of note during the month include books for the Library – \$21.95; child care – \$75.00; rain barrel project of the Social Concerns Committee – \$70.00; newsletter – \$50.00; regular donation to Quaker House of Fayetteville for operating expenses –\$100; electricity – \$100.80; gas – \$6.120; telephone – \$80.42; water and sewer -- 14.25; and maintenance – \$426.81. The Meeting received contributions to the property fund totaling \$150 and spent \$500 from the property fund for rebuilding the deck on the back of the Meetinghouse.

The total cost for rebuilding the deck, over three months, was \$1200.25, of which \$500 came from the property fund and the remainder from the maintenance

line-item of the general fund.

Our investment in Pax World decreased in market value a total of \$284.08 over the period between April 1 and June 30, but it did earn \$413.73 in dividends.

For the year (seven months) we have received \$10,252 to the general fund in donations, while we should have received more than \$13,500 in order to maintain our budget for seven months. The balance of nearly \$900 in the property fund is very much inadequate, in case we have some unexpected expenses in the future. Contributions to the organizations we support have been curtailed during the summer months. Contributions to the general fund are very much needed and contributions to our special funds would be appreciated. Checks can be made out to Friendship Friends Meeting and sent to POB 8652, Greensboro NC 27419.

We offer thanks to our house and grounds committee and to the numerous volunteers who put in many volunteer hours toward our beautiful new deck.

Darryl Waisner, on behalf of the nominating committee, announced that Gay Bowles will be stepping aside as sandwich coordinator and Marilyn White will be taking over.

Claire Koster delivered the following message from the handbook committee:

The Handbook Committee is not able to present a report at this time due to the fact that relevant committee information has not yet been received. We hope to be able to distribute the handbook prior to the 9th month meeting for business and have a report at that time. –Claire Koster, David MacInnes, and Ted Benfey

The new committee formed from the web committee and the newsletter committee would like to be called the Communications Committee. Friends approved.

Carol Treadway and Sid Kitchens presented their reports on the annual gathering of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). A synthesis of those reports follows:

Report on Yearly Meeting
by Carole Treadway and Sidney Lee Kitchens

The theme of this year's yearly meeting, our 314th annual sessions, was "Living the Faith: Becoming the Beloved Community." Each of the evening presentations and Bible study illustrated the theme in one way or another and it was also reflected in the meetings for worship with attention to business and in our informal conversations and gatherings.

Andrew Wright of Durham Meeting started us off in the mornings facilitating a Bible study he felt related to the theme of the gathering. He considered how the understanding of God's covenant with God's people appears in the Hebrew testament and in the New Testament. In that covenant God promises to lead and prosper God's people and they, in turn, must promise to worship no other god and faithfully follow the God of the Hebrew people. In the New Testament, the promise is extended to all people who live by God's commandments to love God and one another. Two queries of Andrew's presentation have stayed with us: "What are the life-giving and life-transforming promises that God holds out to individuals or to a people? What are the promises we commit to living into with all our heart, soul & mind so that our lives may be an expression of gratitude and responsive love?"

The first of the three evening meetings comprised a panel of four persons, one of whom was Ray Treadway. They spoke of how living their faith guided them during their lives, especially when major decisions were made. Karen Stewart of Durham Meeting told of becoming a Friend and being led into work with Friends General Conference. Ray's stories related to his profession and the formation of his family. Janis and Charlie Ansell of West Grove Meeting each spoke of their journeys in faith that have taken them from Virginia Beach where Charlie was a successful architect to a farm in Alamance County where they are establishing a way of life consistent with nurturing and sustaining the land and building a small beloved community.

In the plenary speech Evelyn Jadin, a Guilford College Quaker Leadership Scholar and a student at the Earlham School of Religion, related the spiritual movement that has brought her to her current understanding of how to live faithfully in the world with the seeds of evil all about her. Important to her understanding were the examples of five women from the story of Moses: the two midwives who feared God and refused to carry out Pharaoh's command to kill all male Hebrew children at birth; the mother of Moses who followed Pharaoh's command to throw male children in the river but used a straw vessel lined with pitch that floated the basket; and the daughter of Pharaoh who

was sensitive and obedient to the motion of compassion in her own heart upon seeing the Hebrew baby. And lastly Miriam, the sister of Moses, who followed the floating basket and seized the opportunity to ask Pharaoh's daughter if she wanted a wet nurse for the child who was, of course, the child's mother. Without the actions of these five women who were obedient to their hearts (and who feared God) the Hebrew people might have had to wait a lot longer to be freed from the already 400 years of slavery they were enduring. It is, perhaps, no coincidence that Andrew Wright referred to the same five faithful women, as well as to the parable of the sower, which was also an important reference in Evelyn's talk.

We cannot report on Evelyn's talk without referring to Chuck Fager's Quaker House report. Chuck put aside his usual factual report and spoke from his heart on the horrifying dilemma he envisions facing our society: a growing danger of rising fascism that he related to that of pre-World War II Nazi Germany. In speaking of our expanding military industrial complex and how it has become a power almost beyond our legislative bodies to control; the ongoing sanctioning of torture; and the failure of traditional means of protest--marches and gatherings, letter writing, voting--to change the political arena, he described a scene so frightening and resonant with many of our own feelings that we were stunned into silence not even knowing how to respond. It was the description of a problem for which we had no answer and it was important for us to hear it said aloud. Evelyn reminded us that we are not helpless in the face of such evil. As we are faithful in the seemingly small but actually daring actions taken in obedience to the Spirit, we as a people, individually and corporately, are freed from the paralysis of despair. We are free to become who and what we are intended to be. We parted from one another inspired by the cloud of witnesses, contemporary and ancient, and encouraged to greater boldness in our own witness in the world.

Business sessions occupied the middle part of our day and we were reminded as we have often been at yearly meeting how well the body houses the Spirit and holds the thread of our reports as they are presented. We continue to find in it the heartbeat that sustains the activities of the body. One of the most interesting and unexpected developments occurred when it was reported that the yearly meeting is on Facebook. How it happened was not known at first, and since the yearly meeting had not considered, and therefore not approved, joining Facebook, questions were raised about whether it was a right move for us and if so, how to manage it. In the end the meeting was united in the feeling that our

presence on Facebook, if authorized and managed by the yearly meeting, was an opportunity for letting the world know what this yearly meeting stands for and engaging those who are interested in it. A committee was appointed to consider how a Facebook presence can best serve Truth and what policies would support that effort.

Wilmington Friends Meeting is small in numbers but great and great-hearted in hospitality and efficient planning. There are many details involved in making arrangements for yearly meeting to be held on the large and sprawling UNCW campus, but all went smoothly and we are very grateful to them and to the Divine Spirit that guides them.

Clerk Richard Miller of Greenville Meeting allowed time for careful and prayerful discernment about this and other issues while Recording Clerk David Perry of Davidson Meeting crafted minutes

The answers to queries and states of society reports submitted by each meeting and read in yearly meeting sessions illustrated how deeply engaged each meeting is in its own unique way with living faithfully and building a beloved community. One meeting is dwindling in active members since it is located in a part of the state that offers little opportunity for young people to remain a part of the community and the meeting. Yet, this meeting is deeply grounded in love and faith and continues to serve as inspiration and witness for the rest of the yearly meeting and many others. Another of our very small meetings is growing in numbers after many years because one couple has sustained it so that when there were people ready to be a part of it, it was there to be a part of.

Some of us have missed the reports from Friends schools in NC and Virginia Beach. This year we had a report from Virginia Beach Friends School only. There was no representation from any of the schools. There were opportunities in afternoon interest groups to learn more about AFSC and FCNL but no official reports

On Seventh-day evening we were led in an interactive and intergenerational experience called Interplay, which is a program of movement, storytelling and word-play designed to enhance the integration of body and mind. It is meant to be fun and to strengthen our connections with one another. Participants and spectators both enjoyed it. As always we had a large number of visitors, some of them regular visitors, some for the first time. We note that many Friends at a distance are drawn to the particular spiritual gifts of this yearly meeting and we always receive them gratefully into our

midst. Pat Bradbury and Ken Randall came the farthest—from England—and spent time among North Carolina Friends prior to yearly meeting. A regular visitor for many years, Bill Geary from New Jersey' gave his annual report on the participants in the North State prison Friends fellowship, which he has helped lead for many years. As always, his account of the transformations that occur among these men is inspiring. He brings written messages from the men and invites us to respond with our personal messages..

We rejoiced in the presence of more than a dozen children who enjoyed a rich and varied program that included opportunities to be with and interact with older Friends. Many of us remember that only a few years ago we had no children and no program for them. Now that there is a program a concern was voiced that yearly meeting's official connections to Friends schools seem to be at a low point (NCYM(C)) received a report from Virginia Beach Friends School, but not from New Garden Friends or Carolina Friends). The clerk has agreed to pass on this concern to the clerk of Yearly Meeting and see if there is a clear way forward.

Care & Council is forwarding the names of Hannah Logan Morris and Deborah Shaw to serve as clearness Committee to assist Esta Broderick in her journey toward membership in Friendship Meeting. Those names were approved.

The clerk read the Eighth Query:

Judy Harvey agreed to edit our response.

Our meeting is certainly careful to live within the bounds of our circumstances and punctual with payment of our bills. One Friend shared a story of his grandfather weathering the crash of 1929 without declaring bankruptcy as an example of accepting personal responsibility. One Friend acknowledged that members' track record for meeting commitments to committees is somewhat spotty. This query addresses issues that are raised in other queries as well, for example, the issue of indulgence in alcohol and substances named directly in the 9th query, is also alluded to here. Our meeting does engage in activities that are strengthening, mentally, physically, and spiritually. We must acknowledge that our larger society does not seem to live within realistic bounds of global circumstances, but as we are powerless to change this culture of indulgence all at once, this situation only emphasizes the importance of honestly reflecting on each of our personal responsibility in this respect.

Information for the Action Box from Peace and Social Concerns submitted by Marilyn White

FCNL is requesting that Friends contact their U.S. Representative as follows: Please oppose the United Nations Transparency, Accountability, and Reform Act of 2011 that Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen plans to introduce this summer. This legislation would likely result in a reduction of U.S. dues paid to the U.N. It would require that the U.S. oppose the expansion of existing U.S. peacekeeping missions and the creation of any new U.N. peace operations. It could also cut off funding to vital U.N. organizations such as UNICEF and the World Health Organization. Also, failing to pay U.N. dues would seriously damage prospects for peace in many parts of the world and could affect the U.S. reputation and influence in the international community. For more information, see www.fcnl.org. To find your U.S. Representative, Google House of Representatives, U.S.

Put on your calendar: Representative Body Meeting of the Yearly Meeting is coming up October 22 in Greenville.

Too hot for you? Cool off by remembering the big snow we had last winter. The Meetinghouse does not look like this now, but winter (and cooler weather) is coming.



Change of address

Pat Loring
310 Ashland Drive,
Apt A Greensboro,
NC 27403

New attenders

Jozef Landis-Midnight
4600 Big Tree Way, 3N
Greensboro, NC 27409
Tel: 704-701-3894
Noktomezo@gmail.com

Mylene and Dennis Dressler
6402 Muirfield Dr.
Greensboro, N C 27410
Tel: 336-617-5598
author@mylenedressler.com

Request from House and Grounds Committee

They would like to know if anyone has a lightweight vacuum cleaner they could donate to the meeting. Please contact Bonnie at 24peas@earthlink.net

From Gay Bowles

John Bowles is recovering from surgery and is now at Camden Place Health and Rehab. The address is 1 Marithe Court Greensboro, NC 27404. He is in room #408 on the Magnolia wing part of the building. I hope people can be in touch with us by any means and I can share that with him. We do not know how long he will be there. Please keep in touch

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
Sid Kitchens, Assistant Membership Recorder
Dave MacInnes, Newsletter

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

Address Correction Requested

FIRST CLASS MAIL