

Friendship Times

<http://www.friendshipmeeting.org>

December 2011

Calendar

- Sat, Dec 3 9 am Meeting Workday
- Sun, Dec 4 9:00 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel
Peace and Social Concerns meet
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
7:00 pm Guilford College Choir Holiday Concert,
Dana Auditorium
- Fri, Dec 9 6-8 pm, potluck supper and movies, sponsored by
Peace and Social Concerns Committee
- Sun, Dec 11 10:00 am Group singing, Meetinghouse
10:30 am Meeting for Worship. A potluck meal
follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sun, Dec 18 9:00 am Friendly Bible Study
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
4:00 pm Meeting Christmas Party, Meetinghouse
- Tues, Dec 20 Last day to send newsletter material to Editor
- Sat, Dec 24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship, Living Room at
Friends Homes/Guilford
- Sun, Dec 25 10:30 Meeting for Worship
- Sat, Dec 31 9:00 pm New Years Eve Gathering, Meetinghouse

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.

In this Issue

The Minutes from Eleventh Month's meeting for worship with a concern for business are in this issue. In addition you will find a list of upcoming holiday events of interest to Meeting members, and updates for the *Handbook Directory*.

The **Friendship Meeting Christmas Party** will be in the Meetinghouse on Sunday, December 18th, at 4:00 pm. Stories and musical contributions are welcomed and encouraged! If you wish to contribute, please contact Christy Hopkins, Kembra Howdeshell, or Joan Tillertson. Bring finger foods.

From the Editor

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

Dave MacInnes, davmacinnes@gmail.com

Twelfth Month Birthdays
of our Young Friends

Mia Jolly, 14-Dec-2004

Demetri Herold, 15-Dec-2004

Twelfth Month's Query
Outreach

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?

Minutes

FRIENDSHIP FRIENDS MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS GATHERED ON THE 13TH OF ELEVENTH MONTH 2011

Friends gathered in the silence after a time of food and fellowship.

Ray Treadway presented the treasurer's report, and a summary of income to the general fund by month for the last five years. These were accepted with gratitude. The full report is attached, a summary follows:

Treasurer's Report for Tenth Month, 2011.

Fund	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
General	\$ 1,080.00	\$ 806.66	\$ 8,757.70
All Funds	\$ 2,180.00	\$ 806.66	\$ 17,283.56

Expenses of note during the month were the following: sandwiches for Urban Ministry – \$13.98; supplies \$62.34; regular donation to Quaker House of Fayetteville for operating expenses – \$100; contribution to Friends General Conference – \$350.00, electricity – \$101.11; gas – \$14.85; phone – \$54.64, and water – \$93.70 (a leak was found and fixed). The Meeting received one contribution to the building fund of \$1000.00, as well as contributions to the property fund totaling \$100.00. The Pax World Fund reported a decrease in the market value of \$7,937.42 for the third quarter of the year.

For the year (ten months) we have received about \$13,000 to the general fund in donations, which is about 53% of our total budget. Contributions to the general fund and to our special funds would be appreciated. Checks can be made out to Friendship Friends Meeting and left in the contribution basket in the Gathering Room or sent to POB 8652, Greensboro NC 27419.

Claire Koster presented the annual report for Care and Council Committee. It was accepted as follows:

CARE & COUNSEL ANNUAL REPORT 11TH MONTH, 2011

Present members: Raleigh Bailey, Judy Harvey, Claire Koster (Clerk) and Hannah Logan Morris.

Care & Counsel has continued to meet regularly and also had combined meetings with Worship & Ministry several times during the year. During 10th month our two committees held a retreat and discussed, among other items, the subject of remaining as two committees versus combining into one. A consensus was reached that the two committees would remain separate.

Also, together with Worship & Ministry Committee we answered the special Queries for submission to Yearly Meeting.

The Clerks of C&C and W&M worked on the subject of the guest book overhaul and how to better stay in touch with attenders. A visitor card was introduced which has already proved useful. We are grateful to David MacInnes for printing these.

Our committee members have done their best to keep contact with absent/sick Friends which has become more difficult now that we only have four members, and we are thankful for those in Friendship Meeting who assist us with this outreach.

We continue the practice of following up a year after new members and transfer members enter our meeting.

Throughout the year we have discussed possible recommendations with regard to the "Inactive/Lost Members" category, and are progressing slowly in this regard.

Friends approved a revision to the handbook under the heading "Membership of Children":

Minor children of members of Friendship Friends Meeting may become members at the written request of both parents/guardians or a single parent/guardian, whether one or both parent(s)/guardian(s) are members of Friendship Friends Meeting. Minor children of members may also be received into membership at their own request.

Friends approved the following revision to the handbook under the heading "Final Affairs":

The Clerk of the Meeting, or the Clerk of Care & Counsel shall take responsibility at the time of death to look into the membership folder of the deceased to ascertain specific wishes needing to be taken care of by Friendship Friends Meeting. The family of the deceased will be contacted to offer assistance.

Darryl Waisner requested that the Friendship Monthly Meeting website link directly to our minute on same-sex marriage in an effort to publicize our acceptance of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Trans-gendered people and their relationships. This request was approved and referred to the Communications Committee, who will return a proposal on the specific details of the website revisions, which may address other minutes as well.

Kembra Howdeshell presented the annual report from the Religious Education Committee. Friends expressed gratitude to this committee for the opportunities for collective growth that their work has provided. Their report was accepted as follows:

Annual Report for Religious Education Committee

Committee Members: John Bowles, Anne Morris, Hanna Passmore Hobson, Benji Hebner, and Kembra Howdeshell (clerk).

For the past year, the Religious Education Committee has been responsible for coordinating childcare, First Day School activities and adult Religious Education opportunities for the meeting. Childcare was regularly available during Meeting for Worship. Cate Schurz was our primary childcare provider for the months of September 2010 through July 2011. Madeline Straubel and Morgaine Johnson also assisted with childcare over the course of the past committee year. The committee expresses gratitude to our childcare providers for their willingness and care in nurturing the children of the meeting. Childcare was available for some, but not all, business meetings over the past committee year. The committee is working to ensure better communication with the childcare providers, so that we have this service available for all future business meetings. The committee did ensure that childcare was available during the 2011 Friendship Friends All-Meeting Retreat, and we observed that several families with children did take advantage of this service.

The committee coordinated the First Day School lessons and activities for the children during Meeting for Worship. The themes the children have explored this past committee year have been the Stories of the Old Testament and the Quaker Experience, including discussions on meeting for worship and centering. The committee encouraged Meeting members and attenders to volunteer to lead a First Day School lesson for the children. Volunteers created their own lessons and activities or use the meeting's First Day School materials, located in the library closet. Our goal is to recruit enough volunteers that each volunteer would lead one children's First Day School lesson every three months, so that the current frequent volunteers can participate Meeting for Worship. The committee is grateful to the members and attenders who volunteer for First Day School.

Another effort of the committee was to better integrate the children into our Meeting for Worship. In this regard, the children were in charge of the greeting and closing of Meeting for Worship, and the announcements on the 5th Sunday in October 2011. Demitri Harold was our greeter. Claire and Laurel Holland, and Seannie and Anne Joy Cahill Swenson read the

The Religious Education Committee also supports the development and implementation of adult religious education opportunities. Every 3rd First Day at 9 am, Benji Hebner convened a Bible Study group to read and discuss on the Book of John. Every 4th First Day at 9 am, Hannah Logan Morris facilitated a query-

based discussion group called "Deepening the Life of the Meeting", which explored who we are individually and as a community at Friendship Friends Meeting, and how we experience our connection to the broader Society of Friends. Carole Treadway replaced Hannah as facilitator of this query-based group in August 2011. The Religious Education Committee is grateful to Benji, Hannah and Carole for their leadership of these groups. We encourage members and attenders of Friendship Friends Meeting to bring forth more ideas for adult spiritual growth activities.

The clerk read the Eleventh Query: Do we reverence that of God in every human being with concern for the needs of each individual? Are we seeking to rectify existing social injustice and racial discrimination in our local communities and in the world at large?

Christy Hopkins agreed to edit our response.

Friends responded as follows:

It is evident that we do, in fact, stay mindful of issues of discrimination and injustice, and we take public stands on these issues as well as responding to specific concerns in practical ways. Issues of immigration have been close in our minds recently, and our meeting and others have been actively educating ourselves on these issues. A seasoned friend observed that even after many years of such active engagement, he could still find innate prejudices in himself. Another observed that cultural changes, like abolishing racism and homophobia, are efforts that span multiple generations: "You won't know how well you've done with your children until you've met your grandchildren."

Christy Hopkins, Kembra Howdeshell, and Joan Tillertson volunteered to coordinate a Christmas celebration on Sunday the 18th of December at 4:00.

The clerk read a letter to the meeting from Patricia Loring in which she expressed deep gratitude for the meeting's love and support.

Meeting closed with a few moments of silent worship.

Updated address for Zach Wortman:

517 Mather Mail Center
Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: (336) 406-5389 (cell)
Em: zwortman@college.harvard.edu

Mary Abu-Sava:
6100 W. Friendly Ave., Apt. 2106
Greensboro, NC 27410
Tel: 340-9458
Email: mabusaba1@gmail.com

Last month we printed the first questions for a monthly quiz on our Meeting Handbook. The two questions were

Which committee has the most members?

Answer: Hospitality Committee

Which committee has the fewest members?

Answer: the calendar coordinating committee has only one member

So get out your handbooks and answer the following questions (answers will be posted next month)

Who are the officers of the Friendship Meeting Corporation and how many directors are there this year?

Dinner and some movies!

Potluck supper • screening of short films by immigrants
 • Learn the issues • Get involved!

Join Friends from across Greensboro for an engaging, educational and fun evening. Share a potluck meal.

View several short films produced by immigrants and refugees, learn more about AFSC's work with immigrants, and share your ideas for how to make our community more welcoming.

Friday, Dec. 9, 2011
6pm-8pm
Friendship Friends Meeting
 1103 New Garden Rd.
 Greensboro, NC 27410
Bring a dish if you are able!

The films are a *powerful* and *inspiring* way to hear immigrant stories in their own *voices*.



Sponsored by Friendship Friends Meeting Peace & Social Concerns and by



American Friends Service Committee

Area Office of the Carolinas

For more info: Contact AFSC, 336-854-0633, LKhamala@afsc.org

Upcoming Holiday Events

The **Guilford College Choir** will present their Holiday Concert in Dana Auditorium on Sunday, December 4th, at 7:30 pm.

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The **Friendship Meeting Christmas Party** will be in the Meetinghouse on Sunday, December 18th, at 4:00 pm. Bring finger foods. Stories and musical contributions are welcomed and encouraged!

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A **Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship** will be held in the Living Room of Friends Homes/Guilford at 7:30 pm on Saturday, December 24th. Readings and music will be offered out of the gathered meeting.

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There will be a **New Years Eve Gathering** at the Meetinghouse on Saturday, December 31st. Come at 9:00 pm to share stories and games. A meeting for worship will be held shortly before midnight to welcome in the New Year. You are invited to bring finger foods to share during the evening or at the rise of meeting to celebrate the New Year!

FRIENDSHIP FRIENDS MEETING (336) 854-5155

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

Sidney 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