

Friendship Times

<http://www.friendshipmeeting.org/>

January 2012

Calendar

Fri, Dec 30	Memorial Service for Sage Hebner
Sat, Dec 31	9:00 pm New Years Eve Gathering, Meetinghouse
Sun, Jan 1	9:00 am Worship and Ministry, Peace and Social Concerns meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Jan 8	9:00 am joint meeting of Worship and Ministry, and Care and Counsel 10:00 am Group singing, Meetinghouse 10:30 am Meeting for Worship. A potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
Sun, Jan 15	9:00 am Friendly Bible Study 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Jan 22	9:00 am Deepening the Life of the Meeting 10:30 Meeting for Worship
Tue, Jan 24	Last day to send newsletter material to Editor
Sun, Jan 29	9:00 am extended Meeting for Worship 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, 7 th 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.

A memorial service is being planned for Benji and Suebear's child Sage on 12th month 30th at 2:00pm at Friendship Meetinghouse

In this Issue

The Minutes from Twelfth Month's meeting for worship with a concern for business are in this issue. In addition you will find a recommendation by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, suggestions for reducing your carbon footprint, pictures of our Angel Tree Family, another quiz on our Handbook and updates for the *Handbook Directory*. Of special interest to our readers is the launching of a monthly column contributed by Pat Loring on lesser known quotations from early and more recent Friends. They are to stir your own reflection, meditation and discussion of what we are about at this time in our history.

From the Editor

My intention is to distribute the newsletter no later than the last Sunday of the month; this will be January 29 for the February issue. Material for the February issue should be submitted, preferably by email, ***no later*** than **Tuesday, January 22nd**. Thanks to everyone in advance for your help.

Dave MacInnes, davmacinnes@gmail.com

First Month's Query Meeting for Worship

Do we faithfully uphold our testimony for worship which is based on silent waiting, and for a free and unprogrammed ministry that may be shared by all? Is there a living silence in which we feel drawn together by the Light of Christ, the power of God in our midst; and is this inspiration carried over into our daily lives? Do we come to meeting with hearts and minds open and ready to worship in silence or in vocal ministry or prayer as the Holy Spirit leads us? Does our Meeting encourage those who may have a gift in the spoken ministry?

Minutes

FRIENDSHIP FRIENDS MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS GATHERED ON THE 11TH OF TWELFTH MONTH 2011

The clerk read the 12th Query: *Do we welcome newcomers and non-members into our meetings. Are they encouraged to share in Meeting activities and to seek membership when they are in unity with the principles and practices of Friends.*

Sid Kitchens agreed to edit our response.

Care and Council Committee proposed an amended directory format: The directory will be divided into three sections: "Members/Attenders in North Carolina," "Members/Attenders Outside of North Carolina," and "Inactive Members." This change was approved.

We received a letter from Daniel Rhodes requesting membership. Sid Kitchens, Raleigh Bailey, and Darlene Stanley volunteered for his clearness committee, and Deborah Shaw was confidently recommended for that committee as well. (She agreed to serve as recommended when asked by the clerk on 12-12-11)

Since Kate Schurz, our present child care provider, is studying abroad next semester, Religious Education committee is considering applicants with the intention of hiring two new child care providers to begin in spring and hopefully to stay on long term. The meeting is encouraged to be open to opportunities to welcome them and make them feel part of the meeting.

The Meeting House Renovations Funding Committee has been meeting on a bimonthly basis. The committee is currently investigating funding sources and requirements for meetinghouse renovations.

Peace and Social Concerns committee minutes their thanks to the meeting for filling every slot on the gift-tree and more. These gifts will go to a family of seven.

Our revised response to Query 11 was read and approved.

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?

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.

For example, in Eleventh Month's business it was suggested that we add a link to our website that would make it more clear to seekers that we are a Lesbian

Gay Bisexual Transgender supportive faith community.

Issues of immigration have been close in our minds recently. Friendship meeting and others have been actively educating ourselves on these issues. Seeing education as key, our meeting has many resources we take advantage of to share information with each other.

We recognize that racism and homophobia are deeply embedded in our culture and that we are not immune from their influence. We know that the eradication of such prejudices is a long-range effort that may not show immediate results. We are called to be faithful in our efforts to be open to change within our own families and to be agents of change in our various communities.

LESSER KNOWN QUOTATIONS - A new Monthly Feature in your Newsletter

With the approval of Worship and Ministry and the Communications Committee, Pat Loring will place in the Newsletter each month some lesser known quotations from early and more recent Friends that remind us of the Quaker message as it came to Friends in the seventeenth century and as it's lasted to today. They are to stir your own reflection, meditation and discussion of what we are about at this time in our history.

We begin...

At last, after all my distresses, wanderings and sore travails, I met with some of the writings of this people called Quakers, ... After a long time, I was invited to hear one of them... When I came, I felt the presence and power of the most high among them, and the words of truth from the spirit of truth reaching to my heart and conscience, opening my estate as in the presence of the Lord.

Yea, I did not only feel words and demonstrations from without, but I felt the dead quickened, the seed raised; insomuch as my heart, in the certainty of light and clearness of true sense, said: "This is he, this is he; there is no other; this is he whom I have waited for and sought after from my childhood, who was always near me, and had often begotten life in my heart, but I knew him not distinctly nor how to receive him or dwell with him. " And then in this sense ... I was given up to the Lord to become his both in waiting for the further revealing of his seed in me, and to serve him in the life and power of his seed.

Isaac Penington: *A True and Faithful Relation*, 16?? Quoted in Thomas Elwood's *Testimony* in the preface to Penington's works.

On one never-to-be-forgotten Sunday morning, I found myself one of a small company of silent worshippers who were content to sit down together without words, that each one might feel after and draw near to the Divine Presence, unhindered at least, if not helped, by any human utterance. Utterance I knew was free, should the words be given; and before the meeting was over, a sentence or two were uttered in great simplicity by an old and apparently untaught man, rising in his place amongst the rest of us. I did not pay much attention to the words he spoke, and I have no recollection of their purport. My whole soul was filled with the unutterable peace of the undisturbed opportunity for communion with God, with the sense that at last I had found a place where I might, without the faintest suspicion of insincerity, join with others in simply seeking his presence. To sit down in silence could at the least pledge me to nothing, it might open to me (as it did that morning) the very gate of heaven. And, since that day now more than seventeen years ago, Friends' Meetings have indeed been to me the greatest of outward helps to a fuller and fuller entrance into the spirit from which they have sprung; the place of the most soul-subduing, faith-restoring, strengthening, and peaceful communion, in feeding upon the bread of life, that I have ever known

Carolyn Stephen, 1890, Britain YM 2.02

Please hold the following in the Light:

Our thoughts and prayers recently have been with a number of Friends in our community. John Bowles and Dorothy Nielsen both are home from weeks at Camden Place a physical therapy facility. John is back in his apartment and Dorothy has returned to Friends Homes. Gay Bowles is happy John is home with her and Charlie Nielsen (who is in Whittier nursing care) can see Dorothy again every day.

Maureen Burns had some repair surgery recently and is recovering in time for the holidays. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Ray Treadway has undergone successful valve surgery to repair tears. He is expected to make a full recovery. Our prayers have been with Carole and his family.

The Hebner family has been surrounded by love and support during this time of loss of their baby. The community has taken food, many friends have brought comfort through their presence in the home and Artan has come to meeting events with friends. We continue to send our support to Sue, Benji and Artan for their healing process and will hold them in our prayers.

Other Things happening

The current issue of *Quaker Religious Thought* carries an article by our former member Richard Taylor (who has returned to Germantown Friends, Philadelphia). It describes ideas he first heard from Ted Benfey at Haverford College in the 50s about the similarities and parallels between the scientist's search for truths in the natural sciences and the spiritual truths sought by Quakers and the mystics throughout the ages.

Angel Tree Family

Friendship Meeting created a giving tree again this year and helped a family with mother, father and five children.

The family was thrilled when they picked up our gifts at the Meeting last First day. As you can see everyone was very happy.

Peace and Social Concerns sends out a big, warm thank you to the entire meeting for helping make their Christmas special!!



From the Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Friends Committee on National Legislation is asking that we contact our members of Congress concerning the debate on how to cut the budget deficit. Since the supercommittee failed to come up with a plan to cut the deficit, the Congress will make the final decision about how to achieve budget cuts. Our representatives need to hear from their constituents that we support reining in the runaway Pentagon budget.

Tell your representatives to cut the Pentagon budget rather than education, elder care and job creation programs. Pentagon funding takes up a huge percentage of our federal spending, yet can't even pass an audit. For more details, consult fcnl.org.

Last month we printed another question for our monthly quiz on our Meeting Handbook. The question was

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

Answer: President (Sid), VP (Neil), Treasurer (Ray), Secretary (Benji), there are four directors this year

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

Which Meeting committees are scheduled to report at the first month Meeting for Business?

Meeting 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, davmacinnes@gmail.com

New Addresses:

Beyond Joy: 6037 McLeansville Rd., McLeansville, NC 27301

Matt McGuire: 1006 Silver Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403, Tel: 336-271-2747
em: mebm McGuire@gmail.com

From New Garden newsletter and www.epa.gov

REDUCING YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Basic Information about Food Waste

Food waste includes uneaten food and food preparation scraps from residences or households, commercial establishments like restaurants, grocery stores, cafeterias and industrial sources.

The amount of food wasted in the US is staggering. The US generates more than **34 million tons** of food waste each year. Paper is the only material category where we generate more waste, but we also recycle more. Food waste is more than 14 percent of the total municipal solid waste stream. Less than three percent of the **34 million tons** of food waste generated in 2009 was recovered and recycled. The rest — **33 million tons**— was thrown away. **Food waste now represents the single largest component of MSW reaching landfills and incinerators.**

Generating food waste has significant economic as well as environmental consequences. Whether you're an individual, family, or business, chances are a considerable portion of your budget goes towards buying food — either for you, your family, or your customers. And since we now throw away more food than anything else, that means we are throwing away a lot of our money. Often, simple changes in food purchasing, storage and preparation practices can yield significant reductions in food waste generation. Not only will this reduce waste, but it will make your food dollars go further. Food waste cost savings have even greater potential at commercial establishments. Saving food means saving money.

Plan your menu and shop for just those things on your menu.

Buy in quantities that you realistically need and will use. If you buy in bulk, make sure to have a way to keep the food from spoiling before you use it. An entire head of lettuce may be cheaper than bagged or the salad bar pound for pound, but if you end up throwing most of it out because you didn't use it all, you may have just thrown away those savings.

Think "what do we have to eat" instead of "what do I want to eat." Use up the food you already bought and have in the house instead of buying more. You already paid for it — so use it.

Turn leftovers into a completely different meal. For example, extra cooked rice makes a great fried rice. The Internet has some excellent websites that have recipes for whatever food and ingredients you have leftover and on hand such as Love Food, Hate Waste. Go to your computer and enter "leftover recipes" on your favorite Internet browser and see all the great ideas that come up for all different kinds of leftover food. Challenge your kids to find a recipe for a leftover and have them help you make it.

FRIENDSHIP FRIENDS MEETING (336) 854-5155

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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

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Address Correction Requested

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