

Friendship Friends Meeting (336) 854-5155

<http://www.friendshipmeeting.org>

Friendship Times

April 2012

Calendar

- Sat, Mar 24 7:30 pm Astronomy Open House and lecture
Guilford College Bryan Auditorium
- Sun, Mar 25 9:00 am Deepening the Life of the Meeting
10:30 Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Apr 1 9:00 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel,
Peace and Social Concerns meet
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Apr 8 10:00 am Group singing, Meetinghouse
- Sun, Apr 15 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
10:30 am Meeting for Worship. A potluck meal
follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
- Fri, Apr 20 Game night, 7-10 pm
- Sun, Apr 22 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Quakerism 101—At the rise of Meeting
Ray Treadway on the Yearly Meeting
- Tue, Apr 24 Last day to send newsletter material to Editor
- Sat, Apr 28 11 am Representative Body of NC Yearly Meeting,
Durham Friends Meeting
- Sun, Apr 29 10:30 am Meeting for Worship, no extended
worship this month
9:00 am Deepening the Life of the Meeting

Weekly 10:30 am each First Day, Meeting for Worship.
Child care available for Worship and Business Meetings.
7:30 pm Fourth Day, Midweek Meeting for Worship, in
Prayer Room, 7th floor Woolman Hall, Friends Homes,
occasionally followed by discussion at 8 pm.

Fourth Month Birthdays of our Young Friends

Luke Bailey (son of Rob Bailey) 4/5/06

In this Issue

The Minutes from Third Month's meeting for worship with a concern for business are in this issue. In addition you will find a series of readings from Pat Loring on Vocal Ministry, a update from the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, and an update for the *Handbook Directory*. There is also a box containing addresses and links for Bonnie and David Parsons as they leave us for a time to run a Quaker centre and bed & breakfast in Congenies, France.

From the Editor

I plan to publish the newsletter the last weekend of the month. This means I will need to receive materials by **Tuesday, April 24th**,

Dave MacInnes davmacinnes@gmail.com

Fourth Month's Query

Do we assume our rightful share of 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?

Representative Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative

Durham Friends Meeting
404 Alexander Ave
Durham, NC 27705
11 am April 28, 2012 (Saturday)

Minutes

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

Friends gathered in waiting worship after a period of food and fellowship. Meeting opened after a moment of silence.

In the absence of our regular recording Clerk, Dave MacInnes was appointed to be recorder for the day.

Ray Treadway gave the treasurer's report which was approved with gratitude. The complete report is attached to the minutes. The summary follows.

Treasurer's Report for Second Month, 2012

Reported on Third Month 11, 2012

Fund	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
General	\$ 1,475	\$ 3,361	\$ 9,531
All Funds	\$ 1,525	\$ 4,461	\$ 17,132

Expenses of note during the month: sandwiches for Urban Ministry (4 months) – \$162.14; child care – \$96.00; social concerns project (No More Deaths expedition for students at Guilford College) – \$200; travel and honorarium for a speaker – \$200; donation to North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative – \$1,500; donation to Piedmont Friends Fellowship – \$350; donation to Quaker House of Fayetteville for operating expenses – \$200 (two months); new vacuum cleaner – \$240.70; electricity – \$78.36; gas – \$119.90; telephone – \$69.17, and water and sewer -- \$14.25. A total of \$1100 was disbursed as an emergency loan. There was a contribution of \$50.00 to the property fund.

Contributions to the Meeting in January and February (\$2700) are below what is needed (\$3700) to maintain the Meeting's budget. Contributions to the general fund and to our special funds, particularly to the property fund, would be appreciated. CHECKS CAN BE MADE OUT TO FRIENDSHIP FRIENDS MEETING AND SENT TO

POB 8652, GREENSBORO NC 27419 OR LEFT IN THE CONTRIBUTION BASKET IN THE GATHERING ROOM.

Audit Committee report: the Audit Committee met and went over last year's financial records. We find everything in good order and commend our Treasurer for his diligence and effort. Audit Committee members: Ted Benfey, Jim Hood, Dave MacInnes, Clerk. The report was approved.

Responses to Query 3

We do follow the teachings of Jesus in sense that we care about each other. We need to look further than words of Jesus, look beyond/above to broader meaning of the Query. We also try to disagree without being disagreeable. There are those in the Meeting who act as an example to address the needless and destructive criticism of others. Members of meeting all challenge ourselves to do better. We know we aren't perfect and make mistakes but all strive to live our lives to teachings of J and holy spirit. Sometimes we are overly polite and polished instead of addressing the issue directly. However, there is a genuine search for living in integrity and while we do strive for the right way, the answer not always obvious.

Daniel Rhodes reported from the Peace and Social Concerns committee: The Friends Committee on National Legislation requested each Meeting send 5 concerns for the group to work on next year. The Committee wanted to share their ideas with the Meeting. Friends present were comfortable with the committee choices which were: 1) War with Iran. We are also planning on including something that addresses the concern for the suffering that current military personnel are experiencing (high suicide rate, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), given the two protracted wars that the United States has just been in. 2) Support reasonable immigration policies, including the Dream Act (this is for undocumented immigrants that came to this country when they were children and have grown up here). 3) Support job creation, particularly "green" jobs, with a living wage. 4) Support funding for public education for regular and

special needs children. 5) Stop oil company subsidies. 6) Stronger financial support for renewable energy.

Suggestions for next year's Nominating Committee are Daniel Rhodes, Darlene Stanley, and Darryl Waisner. The suggestions were approved with Darryl convening the first committee meeting.

A letter from Sandy Bowles requesting release from membership was read. Her request was accepted with regret by those present. :(The Clerk will write a letter to Sandy expressing our gratitude for her time with us and wishing her well in her search.

The revised answer to Query 2 was read, slightly modified and approved by those present.

The edited response: While this query addresses individual behaviors, we can say that, in general, there are few empty seats in meeting for worship, although the number of worshipers varies from meeting to meeting. Our children are learning to be quiet during worship. Worship is often deep and nurturing and gives rise to meaningful ministry. Few Friends are tardy and those who are take care not to disturb meeting.

Claire Koster brought up the fact that 4th month business meeting is on Easter this year. Some families may not be able to attend because of other commitments. Those present agreed to change business meeting and potluck to 3rd First Day. Quakerism 101 will be on the 4th First Day and the 5th First Day will see our program on deepening spiritual life of the meeting with no extended worship that month.

Sid Kitchen, Clerk

Dave MacInnes, temporary Recording Clerk

VOCAL MINISTRY quotations

A Friends Meeting, however silent, is at the very lowest a witness that worship is something other and deeper than words, and that it is to the unseen and eternal things that we desire to give the first place in our lives. And when the meeting, whether silent or not, is awake, and looking upwards, there is much more in it than this. In the united stillness of the truly "gathered" meeting, there is a power known only by experience, and mysterious even when most familiar. There are perhaps few things which more readily flow "from vessel to vessel" than quietness. ... It is out of the depths of this stillness that there do arise at times spoken words which, springing from the very source of prayer, have something of the power of prayer -- something of its quickening and melting and purifying effect. Such words as these have at least as much power as silence to gather into stillness.

Caroline E. Stephen. *Light Arising*, 1908, pp 68-9

What it is that constitutes guidance in ministry, and the means by which it is to be sought and found, is a difficulty with many. Some are afraid to speak in a meeting for worship because, though they know something of the love of Christ, they do not seem to have any experience of a call that is undeniably supernatural. Others may be too readily taking their own thoughts and feelings as a warrant for obtruding them on others. Our natures differ greatly, and it is not possible to lay down any precise rules that all can follow.

To some it seems that God speaks, as it were, by the earthquake and the whirlwind; to others it is in a very still small voice. There are strong impulses which make the heart beat and body tremble; there are, on the other hand, faint whispers which we need to be on the alert to hear. Both may be leading. What we can safely say is that His guiding hand and voice are not confined to meetings for worship and that we need to recognize it along the common ways of life, and to find it through the right use of our natural faculties.

If we are going our own way six days in the week, it is presumptuous to expect that He will guide us miraculously on the seventh. "My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow me."

London Y.M., *Christian Faith and Practice*, 1960, #291.

The Quaker group silence, the cooperative teamwork of the entire assembly, the expectant hush, the sense of divine presence, the faith that God and man can come unto mutual and reciprocal correspondence, tend to heighten the spiritual quality of the person who rises in that kind of atmosphere to speak.

But that group situation, important as it is, will not work the miracle of producing a message for the hour in a person who is sterile and has nothing to say. Even the miracle of feeding the multitude in Galilee needed at least a nucleus of loaves and fishes to start with. Vital ministry is not abstract and doctrinal, it is charged with insight for the meaning and significance of *life*. It answers back to specific human need. It "speaks to the condition" of souls. It correlates with concrete reality. It sets hearts beating. It quickens drooping spirits. It restores waning faith. It fortifies the wills of those who hear it. It makes the world look different. That means that it must *come out of life* and, if it is to have value, it must *refresh*

Rufus M. Jones: *The Trail of Life in the Middle Years*. 1934, pp 45-6

In the Meeting for Worship after the manner of Friends, it sometimes befalls that a person who feels moved to break the silence and share a fresh insight unknowingly expresses the thoughts of those listening. The speaker is not speaking to the Meeting; the gathered Meeting is speaking *through* one member.

Daisy Newman. *A Procession of Friends*. 1972, p.vii.

News from the Library

When Max Carter spoke to the meeting in January in the first of our "Introduction to Quakerism" series, he mentioned three books that would be interesting and helpful in understanding Quakerism and its evolution over time. They are

A Living Faith: An Historical Study of Quaker Beliefs, by Wilmer A. Cooper

Growing up Plain: among Conservative Wilburite Quakers : The Journey of a Public Friend, also by Wilmer Cooper

The Autobiography of Allen Jay (1831-1910), edited with a foreword by Joshua Brown.

A Living Faith is a clear exposition of the distinctive beliefs of Friends by the former and founding Dean of the Earlham School of Religion. His autobiography, *Growing of Plain* describes the Conservative branch of Friends in the early twentieth century as well as his journey into a wider vision of Friends. *The Autobiography of Allen Jay* is an account of the dramatic changes among North Carolina Quakers following the Civil War and Jay's own part in the reviving of Quakerism in North Carolina during that perilous time. These books are all (or soon will be) in the meeting library.

Also of interest is

Decision Making & and Spiritual Discernment: The Sacred Art of Finding Your Way, by Nancy L. Bieber. Nancy is a member of Lancaster Friends Meeting in Pennsylvania and has led popular workshops on the topic at Pendle Hill.

Please visit the library to see and borrow these and the many other books of interest.

Current Issue for Action

The **Peace and Social Concerns Committee** will often highlight issues of current importance that we would like to bring to the attention of the Meeting. Our hope is that Friends can use this information to educate themselves and take action as they feel led.

The Friends Committee on National Legislation has asked friends to contact our Congressional representative regarding H.R. 3974, the Sensible Approach to Nuclear Expenditures (SANE) Act. This act would freeze, delay and cut nuclear weapons and related programs, resulting in savings of more than \$100 billion over 10 years. This bill would help to develop a nuclear strategy that is appropriate to today's security threats and fiscal constraints, and we should encourage our representative to support it.

Bonnie and David Parsons are in France

directing the Quaker Centre/Bed and Breakfast for the next months. Bonnie has been writing a blog which you may want to follow. The link to her blog is bigitimes.blogspot.com. The other links she has shared with us are

Phone at B&B [+33 \(0\)4 66 71 46 41](tel:+330466714641)

Email at B&B centre.quaker.congenies@gmail.com

Address for B&B

11 avenue des Quakers
30111 Congénies, France

website for B&B (in French)

<http://www.maison-quaker-congenies.org/>

Youtube video on B&B

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Rthg8nWuHY>

Info about staying at B&B [http://www.maison-](http://www.maison-quaker-congenies.org/accommodation.pdf)

[quaker-congenies.org/accommodation.pdf](http://www.maison-quaker-congenies.org/accommodation.pdf)

email

Bonnie 24peas@gmail.com

David parsni@yahoo.com

Skype names

Bonnie: bigiparsons

David: david.parsons363

Handbook 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 temporary addresses for Bonnie and David Parsons

email

Bonnie 24peas@gmail.com

David parsni@yahoo.com

Skype names

Bonnie: bigiparsons

David: david.parsons363

New Attender

Mike Scott

3844 Battleground Ave., #117

Greensboro, NC 27410

Phone: 707-9807

email: mscottcvtech@yahoo.com

Announcement

Quaker 101

April 22, 2012

Begins 10 minutes after the rise of Meeting for Worship

General Topic: Yearly Meeting

The role of any yearly meeting in the life of Quakerism

Qualities of our yearly meeting – North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative (What does “conservative” mean?)

What will be happening at the NCYM-C yearly meeting sessions July 11-15 on the Guilford College campus?

Newcomers to Friendship Meeting are particularly invited to attend.

Led by Ray Treadway

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