



Friendship Friends Meeting for worship with attention to business 6/10/2012

The meeting opened with expectant waiting worship.

Friends approved that Neil Swenson clerk the meeting for business and that Deborah Shaw would serve as recording clerk for the day.

Neil Swenson presented the treasurer's report, prepared by Ray Treadway. The Finance Committee was asked to take up the question of what line item expenses for floral gifts should come from. The treasurer's report was approved.

The Nominating Committee Report was presented by Darryl Waisner. Friends were asked to add the name of Joan Tillotson to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and to note that the Nominating Committee is still working on discerning the second co-clerk for the Hospitality Committee.

The State of the Society Report. The latest version of the State of the Society Report was read which incorporated various changes suggested since the clerk sent it out earlier in the week. Several comments were offered which will be shared with the clerk for further refining of the State of the Society Report. Friends felt easy with approving the report, trusting the discernment of the clerk in incorporating these suggestions into a final version. Friends were appreciative of his efforts and look forward to seeing the final version.

The following Friends were named to represent Friendship at the upcoming yearly meeting sessions:

Claire Koster, Ray Treadway, Carole Treadway, Judith Harvey, Judith V. Reece, Carey Reece, Deborah L. Shaw, Sidney Lee Kitchens

The Membership Recorders Report was read by Claire Koster. Great appreciation was expressed for the work of the membership recorder.

The issue of child membership and how that is handled at Friendship came up after hearing the Membership Recorders Report. After much

discussion the following course of action was approved. Care and Counsel will take up this concern in the fall. Members and attenders will be encouraged to share their thoughts and concerns with Care and Counsel as part of the deliberations.

Friends approved that Kembra Howdeshell would serve as Friendship's representative to an upcoming Piedmont Friends Fellowship business meeting in the absence of regular representative Sue Hebner.

The meeting closed with a brief moment of silence. Deborah Shaw, recording clerk for the day.

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The bread which you do not use is the bread of the hungry.

The garment hanging in your wardrobe is the garment of him who is naked.

The shoes that you do not wear are the shoes of the one who is barefoot.

The money you keep locked away is the money of the poor.

The acts of charity you do not perform are so many injustices you commit.

St Basil the Great

Submitted by Darlene Stanley

## Nominating Committee Report for 2012 - 2013

The nominations come after personal contact between a member of the Nominating Committee and the member/attender (telephone, email, or face-to-face). This process was and always will be best facilitated when it is reciprocal. One struggle that the committee faced this year was the limited number of members and attenders that were willing/able to serve on committees. This ultimately lends itself to where some individuals are serving on more than one committee and some are serving as clerk and/or co-clerk on more than one committee. The committee attempted to objectively and prayerfully discern to make nominations that will benefit Friendship Friends Meeting. The committee would like to thank everyone for their understanding and openness on being nominated to serve.

Daniel Rhodes, Darlene Stanley, Darryl Waisner

### Officers

Clerk: Sidney Lee Kitchens  
 Co-Clerk: Darryl Waisner  
 Treasurer: Ray Treadway  
 Assistant Treasurer: Stephen Holland  
 Recording Clerk: Hannah Logan Morris  
 Membership/Statistics Recorder: Claire Koster  
 Assistant Membership Recorder: Gay Bowles

### Board of Directors

President: Sidney Lee Kitchens  
 Vice-President: Darryl Waisner  
 Treasurer: Ray Treadway  
 Secretary: Hannah Logan Morris  
 Directors: David Brown, John Bowles, Jim Hood, Judy Harvey

NCYMC Records Committee: Claire Koster

### Representatives

Nominating Committee of NCYM-C: Ray Treadway  
 Piedmont Friends Fellowship: Sue Hebner  
 Quaker House Board: David Barron  
 Friends Committee on National Legislation: Marilyn White

### Committees

*Audit:* Dave MacInnes (Convener), Jim Hood, George White  
*Care & Counsel:* Claire Koster (Clerk), Raleigh Bailey, Judy Harvey, Hannah Logan Morris, Ray Treadway  
*Communications:* Dave MacInnes (Co-Clerk, Newsletter), Chris Nelson

(Co-Clerk, Web), Ray Treadway, Stephen Holland, Daniel Rhodes, Don Smith  
*Finance:* Ray Treadway (Clerk), Jim Hood, Stephen Holland, George White  
*Handbook:* Claire Koster (Clerk), Ted Benfey, Dave MacInnes  
*Hospitality:* Christy Hopkins (Co-Clerk) Yet to be named (co-clerk), Claire Koster, Gay Bowles, Judy Reece, Darryl Waisner, Sue Hebner, Kembra Howdeshell  
 Sandwich Coordinator: Marilyn White  
 Greeter Coordinator: Gay Bowles  
*House and Grounds:* Carey Reece (Co-Clerk), Jim Hood (Co-Clerk), Neil Swenson  
 Meeting House Cleaning Schedule Coordinator: Anne Morris  
 Supplies Purchaser: Anne Morris  
*Library:* Carole Treadway (Clerk), Judy Harvey  
*Meeting Renovation Funding:* Jim Hood, Carey Reece, Kembra Howdeshell  
*Nominating:* Darryl Waisner (Clerk), Darlene Stanley, Daniel Rhodes  
*Peace and Social Concerns:* Sheri Grace (Clerk), Judy Reece, Marilyn White, Mel Zuck, Dennis Dressler, Daniel Rhodes  
*Religious Education:* Hanna Passmore-Hobson (Clerk), Anne Morris, John Bowles, Kembra Howdeshell  
*Worship and Ministry:* Darlene Stanley (Clerk), Carol Treadway, Deborah Shaw, Darryl Waisner, Neil Swenson  
 Calendar Coordinator: Sidney Lee Kitchens

### Peace and Social Concerns ACTION BOX

The Friends Committee on National Legislation recommends that we ask our representative and senators to call for an expedited audit of the Pentagon. Every federal agency -- with the exception of the Pentagon -- is required to account for what it spends each year. The Pentagon has acknowledged that its financial books do not conform to accounting standards and thus cannot be audited, in spite of the fact that it spends 39 cents of every income tax dollar. There is evidence that there is much waste and bureaucratic confusion on the Pentagon. Urge our members of Congress to speak out in favor of a full audit of the Department of Defense before 2017, the earliest the Department of Defense says it can complete a full audit.

## State of the Society Report to NC Yearly Meeting

To begin we of Friendship Friends Meeting would like to express our gratitude both to the Divine Spirit whose will we corporately seek as well as to our various members and attenders that, for the most part, all is well with Friendship Meeting. The meeting for business and the meeting for worship might be considered as the heart and soul of any meeting. Generally at Friendship we expect 20 to 35 persons on any given First Day. We continue to be blessed in our meetings for worship, many of which are richly quiet. At other times our meetings are endowed with spiritual messages which are sometimes mild and sometimes provocative, coming in the form of a song, an exposition of scripture, an illustration of the deeper implications of daily life activities, an expression of the need for social activism, or sometimes several different messages that are linked together in meaning. The 4th day 7:30pm midweek meeting for worship at Friends Homes Guilford continues to offer a very deep and comforting time of prayer and meditation with folks who have been settling in together for many years. It is noted with delight that in recent months a 7:00pm 3rd day evening meeting for worship has begun at Friends Homes West through the good graces of some folks who have been attending Friendship.

Our meetings for business are reasonably well attended with approximately 12 to 20 persons per session. Many of these are seasoned friends who have years of experience in corporately seeking Divine Will as we strive to discern what we shall do with our material and spiritual gifts. So, in general, it could be said that we feel very fortunate to have this material place where we come together to pray and meditate, to break bread and to take care of our business. It is in this spiritual space that we hold ourselves in expectant waiting and in which we endeavor to share our joys and sorrows in the glow of that scripture that suggests that we "*Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.*" Romans 12: v15.

There has been a growing concern rising among us as to what is our identity and purpose as a faith community. What is it that we are doing together in the world? What is it that we have to offer? What, if anything, are we doing personally with the organizations we materially support? What are we doing personally with the persons we support? As a monthly meeting we financially support several Quaker organizations with which we feel ideologically linked. We have connected with other faith communities to support an immigrant family from Burma (Friends have enjoyed the opportunities to engage with the immigrant Burmese family through activities such as bowling, going to the movies or eating out), have donated food to the local homeless shelter, have collected material goods and food for various organizations, and have gathered up clothes, toys and household items to support a family at Christmas. We are aware of and grateful for the individuals and/or committees of the meeting that suggested these projects and brought them to fruition. At times it has seemed like there are more good deeds for us to do than we have people or time available to accomplish them. Despite the knowledge of all that folk at Friendship do accomplish, both individually and as a community, a persistent nagging question occurs to some of us: "Is there something more that we, as a community, could or should be doing?" It is currently being considered whether these topics of identity and purpose might be appropriate themes for our next annual all meeting spiritual retreat.

Related to the above concern is an issue recently brought to the meeting for business. In the words of one Friend, "...there are fewer people doing more of the work since a number of our older Friends have had to cut back on their involvement, and there are few younger people able to take their places." This is a perennial issue in many Quaker meetings and not one to be taken lightly. We have been blessed for years with some younger people coming from Guilford college, students and

professors, and don't feel that we are in immediate danger of dwindling down and disappearing but the demographics of the meeting and what it means to us as a community are not to be ignored.

The current and former clerk took time after this meeting to analyze our committee structure and look at the number of persons on each committee, calculate how long each person had served, and how many committees each person served on. We have a number of individuals who are on 2 or more committees. Some of these folks have been on these committees for years. There are some folks in the meeting who are not serving on a committee. In talking with different people in the meeting about this some feel the division of labor issues we are facing are perennial ones frequently faced by small meetings and that overall we are doing pretty well, others feel there is not a fair distribution of labor and that we need to either pare down committees or possibly lay some of them down altogether. We have a lot of work to do to come to a consensual agreement as to what, if anything, should be done. We have an opportunity as we further investigate this issue to prayerfully seek Divine guidance that can lead us from what appears to be a difficult situation to finding creative currently unknown possibilities.

We are aware that the corporate answering of our Queries gives us a glimpse of how our faith and morals are manifested in our actions and how the answers are part of the definition of whom we say we are. For many years we have answered the Queries during our meetings for worship with attention to business, having heard each query read twice, first at the end of meeting for worship and again in the opening worship of the business meeting. We have questioned the 'form' and 'structure' around our answering of the queries – pondering whether it has become an empty form and a meaningless structure – whether the time has come for us to seek a new way in which to work with the queries so that we engage with them in a vital and useful spirit.

Near the end of 2011 our meeting looked forward with joy to the birth of Benji and Sue Hebner's second child, Artan's sister. Joy turned to grief in the unexpected death of Sage and the meeting rallied to support the Hebners, their extended families, and friends in a time of sorrow, anger, transition and transcendence. A memorial service in the manner of Friends took place in the meetinghouse, bringing together a diverse group of folk who came in support of Benji, Sue, and Artan. Many of those diverse folk, sharing vocal ministry for the first time at the memorial service, spoke of being ministered to by Sue and Benji in a variety of ways, in their various communities, and spoke of their gratitude of being in a place where they were able to give voice to what they were feeling, of being moved by Spirit present in the worship. Many members and attenders of Friendship were also able to attend and the memorial service felt very gathered and grounded. Benji's and Sue's families were both represented and the simple food shared after the service was part of the radical hospitality practiced and offered by Friendship Friends.

Another loss that has had an impact on the meeting community came through the passing of Ernest Miller at 102 years old. A remarkable man of deep joy with amazing memories that included being forced into labor for the Nazis during World War II, of fleeing through Europe and eventually coming to the United States. He had a passionate interest in meaningful conversation, music and literature. He refused to allow the macular degeneration that robbed him of his sight take away his zest for life. He was fond of saying on First Day morning to folks he greeted, "It's good to hear you!" A great number of us will always remember a simple vocal ministry of his in the annual Christmas Eve Service that Friends Homes has allowed us to facilitate for many years. In the last couple of years Ernest rose and spoke out of the silence in that German accented voice of quiet gravity that was uniquely his, "If Christ in Bethlehem a thousand times were born but not in me, I still would be forlorn."

We are grateful to Friends Homes at Guilford for allowing us this opportunity to share a Christmas Eve service with so many different people, many of whom have never experienced a time of open expectant waiting worship before. Over the years we have witnessed many a tender moment within the meeting for worship, singing of carols, reading of scripture, and afterwards during refreshments and socializing.

A decision to have our younger Friends (who are all under 12 years old) be responsible for the meeting for worship on fifth First Days has been a great joy for all. On these precious days many, if not all of them, which can number eight or more, stay through the entire hour of worship. These young Friends close the meeting with the handshake, welcome Friends, and make all the usual announcements. Their presence enhances the hour of worship for us all.

Another enhancement to our meeting's sense of community has come through our Game Nights! Intergenerational gatherings to play board games of all varieties, put together jigsaw puzzles, engage in word games, and enjoy delicious snacks have brought folk together for fun, relaxation, and laughter.

We are a resting place where folks can come to worship in spirit and in truth seeking to know that Divine strength that has given Life and Light to all that is. Sometimes it is a student who has to come because he or she has to write a reflection paper for a Quakerism class at Guilford about what it is like to worship at an hour long unprogrammed Quaker meeting. Sometimes it is a parent, longtime Friend, visiting a son or daughter at Guilford, or sometimes it is a child, visiting a parent at Friends Homes. Sometimes it is someone moving to Friends Homes seeking a new Quaker meeting at which to worship. Sometimes it is someone new to Greensboro, new to Quakerism, giving it a try. It is the rest of us who love Friendship, who have committed ourselves to the life of the meeting, to the members that make up the body, holding the center.

We are like unto the hub of a wheel – the individuals that gather each week at Friendship are parts of other diverse communities throughout the week – as we support each individual at Friendship – we support the communities through each individual.

We hope to be a gathering where God's spirit and refreshment are felt by those who join with us. We have a sense that this Spirit and Refreshment are carried out of the meetinghouse with us when we leave, with trace elements clinging to us throughout the week. We also sense that the service, ministry, and study that we engage in throughout the week bring depth to our experience of worship and other times of gathering in community. In this ebb and flow our lives are enriched, in and through the Spirit.

### **Meeting Handbook updated**

The Handbook Committee has met and updated the Handbook. Since there are only a few changes there will not be a new printing of the Handbook. An electronic copy will be sent to all on the email distribution list and the latest version will be on the Meeting website. The Annual Report from the Handbook Committee will be given at eighth month Meeting for Business.

While the Committee does not anticipate many will actually read the Handbook, it would like to point out a very useful feature which comes at the very end—the Meeting Calendar. This will be found helpful to anyone serving on a committee as it gives the months in which that committee is to give its yearly report.

Bonnie and David Parsons send their greetings from France where they are living and working. They would love to hear from their Friends.



## Handbook Changes

### **New address**

Neil Swenson and family

2809 Sherwood Street, Greensboro, NC  
27403. Tel and email stays the same.

### **New email address**

Harry and Janet Nagel

[2nagels@gmail.com](mailto:2nagels@gmail.com)

## LESSER KNOWN QUOTATIONS

*Each month you will see a lesser known quotation or two 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.*

*Selected by our member Patricia Loring, they are to stir your own reflection, meditation and discussion of what we are about at this time in our history.*

The life of a religious society consists in something more than the body of principles it professes and the outer garments of organization which it wears. These things have their own importance: they embody the society to the world, and protect it from the chance and change of circumstance; but the springs of life lie deeper, and often escape recognition. They are to be found in the vital union of the members of the society with God and with one another, a union which allows the free flowing through the society of the spiritual life which is its strength. Such words as 'discipline,' 'fellowship,' 'brotherhood,' describe these central springs of religious life.

...Organization is a good servant but a bad master; the living fellowship within the Church must remain free to mould organization into fresh forms demanded by its own growth and the changing needs of the time. Where there is not this freedom the Church has its life cramped by ill-assorted clothes, and its service for the world becomes dwarfed or paralyzed.

William Charles Braithwaite, 1905

## News from the Library

The following titles are new in the meeting library: See them in the new book display.

*The Experience of War: Residents of Friends Homes Tell Their Stories. Volume 3: From Tolstoy's War and Peace (early 1800s) to Our Own Time.* Edited by Theodor (Ted) Benfey. May, 2012.

The third volume in this series has a broader range of experiences and includes poetry as well as narrative. George and Marilyn White each contributed memories, as did Ted Benfey and Joan Tillotson. It will be located in the **Biography** section.

The latest Pendle Hill Pamphlet, is titled *John Yungblut: Passing the Mystical Torch*, by Charles C. Finn, a member of Roanoke, Virginia, Friends Meeting. It is also in the Biography section.

A new edition of *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward and Undivided Life; Welcoming the Soul and Weaving Community in a Wounded World*, by Parker J. Palmer includes a study guide and a DVD with interviews with the author and footage from retreats he has facilitated. It will be shelved with books on the **Spiritual Life**.

*The Spiritual Care Committee* is a guide for groups that are formed to support one who is called to a particular witness, or ministry. They are often called Support or Anchor committees and are being used increasingly among Friends who find them invaluable, not only for the care and accountability for the persons for whom they were formed, but also for the spiritual growth of the committees and the meeting communities to which they belong. The Spiritual Care committee is a part of the program "On Being A Spiritual Nurturer," of the School of the Spirit Ministry. Find it under **Quaker Faith and Practice**

## Newly published

The sixth issue of the *Journal of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)* has just been published. The theme of this issue is *Discernment: Living Under Divine Guidance*. The entries explore, through exposition and experience, what it means to live under Divine guidance. Authors include Lloyd Lee Wilson, Carole Treadway, Janis Ansell (a member of West Grove Meeting), Scott Holmes, (member of Durham Friends Meeting), and Deborah Shaw, with Evelyn Jadin. Copies are available on the table in the fellowship room along with yearly meeting minutes, and our Faith and Practice. The Journal is an outreach project of the yearly meeting and there is no charge for them, although small contributions to replenish the fund that supports the Journal are gladly received. (Give to Carole Treadway). Take as many as you like and distribute them to your friends and family.

This issue and past issues are also posted on the yearly meeting website. ([www.NCYMC.org](http://www.NCYMC.org))

## A request for assistance

Members of the Wider Quaker Fellowship Resource Group, part of Friends World Committee, will be meeting at Friendship Friends Meetinghouse August 11 and 12. Friends will be traveling from various parts of the United States to attend this meeting. The Wider Quaker Fellowship supports a program called Voices of Friends, which "aims to feed the soul of those who feel an affinity to the beliefs and practices of Quakers and to provide an entry point to understanding Quakerism today in all its diversity." Five to seven persons will be attending and overnight hospitality for Friday night and Saturday night may be needed. If you can help out, please contact Ray Treadway at [rtreadway@earthlink.net](mailto:rtreadway@earthlink.net).



**FRIENDSHIP FRIENDS MEETING (336) 854-5155**

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

Sid Kitchens, Clerk  
Ray Treadway, Treasurer  
Claire Koster, Recorder  
Hannah Logan Morris, Recording Clerk

Daryl Waisner, Co-Clerk/Reading Clerk  
Stephen Holland, Assistant Treasurer  
Gay Bowles, Assistant Membership Recorder  
Dave MacInnes, Newsletter

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

Address Correction Requested

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**