

Friendship Times

Friendship Friends Meeting

Calendar

Sun, Nov 25	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Dec 2	9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Dec 9	10 am Group Singing 10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
Sun, Dec 16	10:30 am Meeting for Worship, 3-5 pm Christmas Party - Meetinghouse
Sun, Dec 23	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Mon, Dec 24	7 pm, Christmas Eve, Friends Home Guilford living room
Thurs, Dec 27	Last day to send newsletter material to Editor
Dec 30	9 am Extended Meeting for worship. 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Jan 6	10:30 am Meeting for Worship

Weekly Meeting for Worship 10:30 am each First Day. Child care available for Worship and Business Meetings.

There are two opportunities for Midweek Meeting for Worship, Tuesday 7 pm in the second floor lounge of the 5000 building at Friends Homes West and Wednesday, in the Prayer Room, 7th floor Woolman Hall, Friends Homes Guilford, occasionally followed by discussion at 8 pm.

In this Issue

In this issue, besides the usual business meeting minutes you will find our monthly lesser known Quaker quotation, a link to a blog by an Israeli peace activist, and a poem on Absence. There is also the announcement of the upcoming Meeting Christmas party,

From the Editor

My intention is to distribute the newsletter no later than the last Sunday of the month. Material should be submitted, preferably by email, no later than Thursday, Dec 27.

Month's Query

Query 12 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?

Young Friends Twelfth Month Birthdays

Jolly, Mia Jolly	12/14/04
Demitri Herold	12/15/04

Minutes

Friendship Monthly Meeting for Business
 11th month 11, 2012
 Meeting opened with a time of waiting worship.

Carole Treadway was approved to record the minutes in the absent of the recording clerk.

Ray Treadway presented the treasurer’s report, which was approved with gratitude. The report is attached. A summary follows:

Fund	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
General	\$ 1,390	\$ 2,193	\$ 6,503
All Funds	\$ 1,540	\$ 2,168	\$ 15,029

Expenses of note during the month were the following: newsletter – \$16.01, sandwiches for Urban Ministry – \$49.50; library supplies – \$18.53, child care \$90.00, supplies \$83.68; regular donation to Quaker House of Fayetteville for operating expenses –\$100; contribution to Friends General Conference – \$350.00; support of New Garden Friends School – \$600.00, electricity – \$78.87; gas – \$10.00, phone – \$69.57, and water – \$15.57. The Social Concerns Committee authorized donations to Faith Action International (\$200), Interactive Resource Center (\$150), the North Carolina Immigrants Right Program of the AFSC (\$200), and the Friends Emergency Assistance Program (\$150). The Meeting received one contribution to the property fund of \$50, a contribution to the emergency assistance fund of \$100, and a loan repayment of \$25.00. The Pax World Fund reported an increase in the market value of \$2,694.69 for the third quarter of the year.

For the year (ten months) we have received about \$11,500 to the general fund in donations, which is about 52% 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 of the Care and Counsel Committee, which was accepted with gratitude. The report is as follows:

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

Care & Counsel has continued to meet regularly and also had combined meetings with Worship & Ministry several times during the year. During 9th month our two committees held a retreat.

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

Our committee members have done their best to keep contact with absent Friends with health concerns, 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. This past year Friends had a follow-up conversation with Don Smith one year after his transfer of membership.

We continue to have discussions on how to contact absent Friends.

The annual Christmas Eve service (sponsored by Friendship Meeting) will be held Second day the 24th at Friends Homes-Guilford in the living room at 7 p.m.

A Friendship Meeting Christmas Party will be held on 12th month 16th, 3 - 5 p.m. Claire Koster will work on a planning committee with others who will be asked later.

Friends General Conference Gathering Committee requested permission to use the meetinghouse on 2nd month 8th and 9th, 2013. The meeting approved.

Sidney Lee Kitchens reported that the Clerking Workshop was held as planned and was well-attended with four members and five persons from Guilford College. One member who attended reported that it was a worthwhile effort.

Ray Treadway reported on the yearly meeting Representative Body, held 10th mo. 27, at Virginia Beach Friends Meeting. The report follows:

The Representative Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting met at Virginia Beach Friends Meeting on Tenth Month 27, 2012. Deborah Shaw, Carole Treadway, and Ray Treadway represented Friendship Friends Meeting.

Considerable time was spent in discussing the proposal that the yearly meeting begin to consider the process for revising the *Faith and Practice*. The following is an excerpt from the minute concerning this matter.

Barbara Gosney reported that Rich Square Friends feel that it is time for a *revision of the Book of Discipline* process to begin, and to select a portion to consider for revision rather than to undertake considering revising the entire explanation of our faith and practice. Lloyd Lee Wilson reported that West Grove Friends also had a similar sense, and that the process should extend over as much time as necessary. Richard Miller reported that Greenville Friends had a similar sense, and gave examples of points of concern. One was that references to quarterly meetings no longer apply as quarterly meetings have been laid down, and another was that [some] queries could be worded differently.

The body approved approaching the revision of the Discipline in a way that has us consider revising a small portion at a time. Approval was given for a committee whose primary charge at this time is just to establish the process of revision. This committee is to be limited to actual members of the yearly meeting, and to be kept small for the duration of the current charge. Lloyd Lee Wilson, Andrew Wright, Susan Lees, and David French were proposed and approved. The committee will name its own convener.

The yearly meeting has been contacted by Friends in the Worship Group Conservative Heredia in Costa Rica and a worship group in Beckett MA in regard to closer ties with our yearly meeting. We discerned that we were not ready for any formal relationships but continued informal correspondence and visitation are felt to be desirable.

Patty Levering reported for the *Planning Committee*, which selected a theme for 2013 annual sessions: "Maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace." It was noted that this is the last sentence of our advices as well as drawn from Ephesians 4.

Meeting concluded with a few moments of silence, intending to reconvene on 12th month 9, 2012.

Carole Treadway, recorder for the day
Sidney Lee Kitchens, clerk

Raleigh Bailey wants to call your attention to a recent article by Uri Avnery, a former MK in Israel and founder of Gush Shalom, a peace group in Israel. Titled "Another Superfluous War," the article can be accessed on the web at <http://www.avnery-news.co.il/english/index.html>

A very thoughtful article which clarifies and explains the recent violence in Gaza, I would commend it to your attention

FRIENDSHIP MEETING'S CHRISTMAS PARTY, DECEMBER 16, 3 TO 5 P.M.

THERE WILL BE REFRESHMENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

The committee is still looking for folks to take part in the program, so please sign up on the sheet posted on the easel in the "gathering room" or email Claire Koster at HJKOSTER@AOL.COM, or let Sid Kitchens know.

Come with some holiday goodies to share.

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.

I have never lost the joy of sitting in silence at the beginning of Meeting, knowing that everything can happen, knowing the joy of the utmost surprise; feeling that nothing is preordained, nothing is set, all is open. The Light can come from all sides. The joy of experiencing the Light in a completely different way than one has thought it would come is one of the greatest gifts that Friends' Meeting for Worship has brought me.

I believe that Meeting for Worship has brought the same awareness to all who have seen and understood the message that everyone is equal in the sight of God, that everybody has the capacity to be a vessel of God's word. There is nothing that age, experience and status can do to pre-judge where and how the Light will appear. This awareness -- the religious equality of each and every one -- is central to Friends.

Early Friends understood this and at the same time they fully accepted the inseparable unity of life, and spoke against the setting apart of the secular and the sacred. It was thus inevitable that religious equality would be translated into the equality of everyday social behaviour. Friends' testimony to plain speech and plain dress was both a testimony of religious equality and a testimony of the unacceptability of all other forms of inequality.

Ursula M. Franklin: "Perspectives on Friends' Testimonies in Today's World," 1979

Additions to the Meeting Directory

CARTER, Lissa (Aiden Getties, 10/2/2004, Yvar Getties, 11/23/2008)(310-254-8417)

905 King George Dr., Greensboro, NC 27410; lissarlie@yahoo.com

From our Worship and Ministry Committee

The annual Christmas Eve service will be held at 7 pm on Monday, Dec. 24th in the living room at Friends Home Guilford. Light refreshments will be serviced at the conclusion of the service.

Absence¹

I was taken aback by this assignment. All I could think of was the old adage 'Absence Makes the Heart Grow Fonder.'

I'm not at all sure it's true. Forced separation? Voluntary separation? Being sent off to school? To college? Being sent off by your parents "for your own good or safety"?

Those thoughts didn't lead me anywhere. And then I thought of John Cage.

The composer John Cage composed a composition "Four minutes and thirty-three seconds" in three movements - of total silence.

Nothing much was touched and there was nothing much in the concert hall to hear.

Its première was in our state! At Black Mountain College.

Artists in the last century put less and less subject matter on canvass:

Just one colored square on another colored square on another.

Kazimir Malevich in 1918 painted *White on White*, a white square on a white background, which now hangs in MOMA, the Museum of Modern Art.

Less and less offered for the sense of sight.

Beginning in the seventeenth century The Society of Friends, derisively called Quakers,

Met in total silence

Until someone was so moved that she or he stood up

And the voice quavered and quaked with the message needing to be said.

There is depth in the absence of words

There is meditative reality in canvasses absent of topic

There is inner music in the absence of played notes.

The paintings of squares on squares have been called icons for the twentieth century.

What about absence of stimuli for our other two senses, taste and smell?

After Jesus fasted forty days and nights we are told that he was hungry. He was tempted (the devil tempted him) Now that you realize you have all those powers, Why not turn a few stones into bread?

But Jesus refused. "Man does not live on bread alone."

And the Quaker founder George Fox during a period of intense worship "was come up in Spirit through the flaming sword into the Paradise of God. All things were new: and all the creation gave another smell unto me than before, beyond what words can utter."

¹ poem submitted by Ted Benfey

Friendship Friends Meeting
Box 8652
Greensboro, NC 27419
(336) 854-5155
www.friendshipmeeting.org

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

Darryl Waisner, Co-Clerk
Stephen Holland, Assistant Treasurer
Gay Bowles, Asst Membership Recorder
Dave MacInnes, Newsletter Editor

First Class Mail

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Address Correction Requested