

Friendship Times

Friendship Friends Meeting

(336) 854-5155

www.friendshipmeeting.org

Calendar

Sun, Aug 25	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Sept 1	9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns committees meet
	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Sept 8	10 am Group Singing
	10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
Sun, Sept 15	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Fri, Sept 20	7 pm Guilford College progressive dinner at the Meetinghouse
Sun, Sept 22	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Tues, Sept 24	Last day to send newsletter material to Editor
Sun, Sept 29	9 am Extended Meeting begins* 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Oct 6	10:30 am Meeting for Worship

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

* 9 am fifth First Day (when there is one), Extended Meeting for worship.

In this Issue

The minutes for Eighth Month's meeting for worship with a concern for business are in this issue. You will also find last year's state of the society report and a lesser known Quaker quotation to reflect upon.

From the Editor

My intention is to distribute the newsletter no later than the last Sunday of the month; this will be September 29th. Material should be submitted, preferably by email, no later than Tuesday, Sept 24.

Month's Query

Are we mindful of Friends testimonies against alcoholic beverages, tobacco and other harmful drugs; and do we refrain from using them or dealing in them, realize that abstinence is the clearest witness against overindulgence? Do we seek to avoid all kinds of gambling and places of diversion that tend to be demoralizing? Do we keep in mind how diverse and widespread are the temptations to grow richer at the expense of others? Are we faithful to our testimony against taking oaths?

Young Friends Ninth Month Birthdays

Artan Hebner,	9/2/07
Laurel Holland	9/6/03
Kerry Liam Hobson	9/12/08

Minutes

Eighth Month Meeting for Worship with
Attention to Business, 8/11/2013

Meeting began with a brief period of silent worship.

1. Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer’s Report for Sixth and Seventh Month, 2013.

Sixth Month

Fund	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
General	\$ 2,075.00	\$ 844.82	\$ 11,218.15
All Funds	\$ 2,275.00	\$ 844.42	\$ 18,544.01

Expenses of note during the month include registrations for yearly meeting (NCYMC) – \$105.00, sandwiches for Urban Ministry – \$48.30; social concerns (migrant literacy) donation – \$150.00; donation to Quaker House of Fayetteville for operating expenses –\$100; electricity – \$102.92; gas – \$10.00; telephone – \$61.76; water and sewer – \$14.57; and maintenance of the meetinghouse – \$233.37 (including deck materials). Contributions to the emergency assistance fund totaled \$100.00 and \$100.00 was contributed to help a member defray some crucial expenses.

Seventh Month

Fund	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
General	\$ 595.00	\$ 668.13	\$ 11,145.02
All Funds	\$ 2,020.00	\$ 2,468.13	\$ 18,095.88

Expenses of note during the month include books for the library – \$9.00; newsletter – \$49.21; sandwiches for Urban Ministry (3 months) – \$109.64; regular donation to Quaker House of Fayetteville for operating expenses –\$100;

electricity – \$102.92; gas – \$10.00; telephone – \$66.57; water and sewer -- 14.57; and maintenance – \$96.77. The Meeting received contributions to the emergency assistance fund – \$975.00 and \$400.00 earmarked donations.

Our investment in Pax World decreased in market value a total of \$776.03 over the period between April 1 and June 30, but it earned \$454.78 in dividends.

For the year (seven months) we have received \$10,408.28 to the general fund in donations, while we should have nearly \$14,000 in order to maintain our budget for seven months. Checks can be made out to Friendship Friends Meeting and left in the collection basket in the Meetinghouse or sent to POB 8652, Greensboro NC 27419.

2. Care and Counsel Report

- Ray Treadway presented a report from Care and Counsel.
- The hard work of the committee is much appreciated.
- Ray Treadway will forward the report to the Membership Recorder.
- The report follows.

Report from the Care and Counsel Committee

The Care and Counsel Committee met on Seventh Month 28. We approved that the Meeting will provide \$1800 from the Emergency Assistance fund to assist two members of the meeting. We agreed to inform those who attend the next meeting for business directly of this particular need for special contributions to the emergency assistance fund, with the expectation of eventually reimbursing the fund.

We met on Eighth Month 4, 2013. Members who have not attended for a significant amount of time were sent a letter in Fifth Month asking about their interest in active membership and whether it might be appropriate to move their status to inactive membership to better reflect their status. Two responded while the others did not. We approved

moving the following members to inactive membership.

Angela Bailey
 Jessica Bailey
 Kristina Bailey
 Rob Bailey
 Sue Brutto *
 Craig Fox
 Holly Green**
 Judy Harvey
 Adia Harvey-Bailey
 Judy Heitfield*
 Beyond Joy
 Megan Keiser
 Gustav Magrinat
 Tommy Magrinat
 Bridget Owen
 Marshall Owen
 Mareike Owen
 Rodney Owen
 Aaron Phillips
 Stephen Phillips
 JoJane Pitt
 Sarah C Sebastian
 Theresa Sebastian **
 Anne Marie Taber
 Daniel Washburn
 Jeremy Washburn
 Timothy Washburn

* Response received – “do not expect to be active”

** No address - no letter sent

Raleigh Bailey will serve as clerk until First Month, 2014.

3. Request for Transfer of Membership

- Breanyn MacInnes has submitted a request for transfer of membership to University Friends Meeting in Seattle, WA.
- Neil Swenson read the letter, and will forward it to Care and Counsel as well as the Membership Recorder.
- The Certificate of Transfer will be sent to University Friends Meeting by the clerk of the meeting.

4. Report from Clearness Committees for Membership

- Darlene Stanley presented reports from Walt Denny’s Clearness Committee for Membership, and Stephen Holland’s Clearness Committee for Membership.
- Both memberships were approved.
- Ray Treadway, Carole Treadway, Kembra Howdeshell, and Darlene Stanley were appointed to the Welcoming Committee.

Membership Clearness Committee for Walton Denny

Walton Denny sent a letter requesting membership in Friendship Friends Meeting in June of 2012. He is a recent graduate of St. Mary’s Medical Center chaplain’s residency program, seeking a position in the Greensboro area. He has worshiped with Friends in a variety of locations, including Friendship Meeting when he was a student at Greensboro College in the early 1970’s, Durham (NC) when he was a student in the School of Divinity at Duke, New York, and Tokyo. He has read widely in the Quaker literature.

Sid Kitchens, Marilyn White, and Ray Treadway met with Walt on June 16 and July 7, and Ray and Sid met with him on July 28 for in-depth conversation and exploration of the meaning of membership in the Society of Friends in general and in Friendship Meeting in particular. We explored his considerable experience with Quakers in the past, his background in Methodism, and his academic work in chaplaincy. We noted his desire and expectation to become actively involved in the life and work of Friendship Meeting. He feels that his abilities as a musician would be helpful to the Meeting in leading singing when appropriate.

We feel clear that Walt would be a valued member of the meeting and we recommend him for membership.

Ray Treadway, Sid Kitchens. (Due to health issues, Marilyn White was not available for consultation on this recommendation.)

Membership Clearness Committee for Stephen Holland

The C&C Clearness Committee for Stephen Holland's membership application met with Stephen this evening. Deborah Shaw, Christy Hopkins, and Raleigh Bailey are clear that Stephen would be a welcome addition to Friendship's membership. We also noted that Stephen and his family have been actively involved with Friendship for years and his membership will be a formalizing of an existing relationship.

5. Request from Clerk for change in the Handbook

- After consulting with Handbook Committee, Ministry and Worship Committee, Convener of Care and Counsel and the Treasurer, the clerk recommends a change to the handbook, Item 5 under Process for New Members: "The clearness committee reports to Care and Counsel on its meetings with the applicant. When it is determined that the applicant is ready to become a member, Care and Counsel recommends that the monthly meeting accept the applicant."
- The change was approved.

6. Annual Report from the Handbook Committee.

The Handbook Committee, which consists of Claire Koster, David MacInnes and Ted Benfey, has met and updated the Handbook.

There were a number of changes/additions to this document this past year. Approved was a change to the way the Nominating Committee works, in that this committee now suggests conveners for all committees, leaving it up to the committees to appoint clerks. This change is reflected in the latest edition of the handbook. Also, descriptions of Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Membership Recorder were added, as well as new procedures for Inactive Membership.

Over 70 copies were sent out electronically Twenty three copies were printed and distributed to officers, clerks and other Friends by special request, and five copies to have on hand for distribution to attenders.

The cost of printing was \$34.03. Our budget for the year is \$100.00

7. Addendum to the Membership Report from 6th Month

Over 70 updated directories were finally distributed electronically on July 27th, 2013 and 19 hard copies of the directory were made at a cost of \$18.74.

8. House and Grounds Report

The committee has determined that we need to hire someone to remove the damaged tree. We have located a person who has scheduled to complete the work by September 5th. Our major focus for the coming year will be improvements to the outside. We welcome any thoughts or suggestions.

9. Planning Committee Report

Mae Brown, Richard Phillips and Carey Reece met briefly on August 3, 2013 to discuss direction of the committee. We have asked Mae to contact Jim Newlin about meeting with us to discuss the adjoining property belonging to Friends Homes and how best to proceed with our vision. This has now been scheduled for Tuesday, August 13th to be attended by Mae, Jim Hood, Carey Reece and Jim Newlin. In addition prior to our September committee meeting Richard will bring us a drawing of his vision of what the new meeting house might look like including in-put to date from the membership.

10. Report from Ad-hoc Committee to Strengthen the Connection between New Garden Friends School and Friendship Friends Meeting

- Neil Swenson shared that the ad-hoc committee visited Ari Betof, the new Head of School at New Garden Friends School.

They extended an invitation to him and his family to join us in worship, as well as inviting the New Garden Friends School community to an open house at Friendship Friends this fall. A date has not been set.

11. Endorsements of Deborah Shaw's traveling minute

- Neil Swenson read endorsements of Deborah Shaw's travels this past spring to Britain Yearly Meeting, Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, and Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

The meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

Letter of transfer from Breanyn MacInnes

I am writing to request a transfer of my membership to University Friends Meeting in Seattle, WA of North Pacific Yearly Meeting. I was born into Friendship Meeting and attended during my childhood. As a young adult at Westtown, then later in college in Minnesota and graduate school in Seattle, I considered Friendship Meeting my spiritual home and always attended whenever I visited my parents. In the last few months, after living in Japan for a year without a Quaker community, I have realized that my connection to Friendship has faded with time, and I am ready to fully become a part of the Quaker community where I live now rather than just an attender.

I hope I will remain connected to Friendship Meeting, and I always look forward to attending whenever I am able to visit Greensboro. It is time for me to celebrate the community I have found in University Friends Meeting, and to align my membership with my present life.

With joy and gratitude, Breanyn MacInnes

Directory Changes, new email addresses

Mike Scott mscottcvtech07@gmail.com

David Brown davidbrown@gmx.com.

Our member Patricia Loring's condition has greatly improved. Recently she moved to Greensboro Manor, an assisted living facility. Her new address is Apt. 20, 5809 Old Oak Ridge Road, Greensboro NC 27410.

2013 State of the Society Report to Yearly Meeting

First and above all we are grateful to be able to continue to gather in that Light in which we seek corporately and individually to find our way. This past year two of our committees, Ministry and Worship and Care and Counsel, composed and conducted a survey in which meeting members and attenders were asked what was important to them about Friendship Meeting and on how we might improve. One of the most common responses indicated the most important part of Friendship Meeting is the meeting for worship. There have been more entirely silent meetings of late but not so many that we are troubled and feel a lack of vocal ministry. Those messages that were shared aloud have felt inspired, heartfelt and we have been, for the most part, appreciative of them. At the rise of meeting our ongoing routine is to go around the room, introduce ourselves, allow folks to make announcements and folks are invited to share, if it seems appropriate to them, messages/afterthoughts that may have been considered during the gathered time but did not rise to the level of vocal ministry. We are large enough in numbers--25 to 40 or so on a First Day--for this

process to take some time but still small enough that it does not take so long as to become tedious.

This past year some dedicated folks who recently moved into Friends Homes West and who were attending Friendship Meeting started a 3rd day meeting for worship from 7-7:30pm. A fabulous idea! Unfortunately the meeting had to be laid down after a few months, at least temporarily, due to all the traveling and time away over the summer of the 2 host couples. We are hoping it might begin again as way opens. Another mid-week meeting for worship, originally sponsored by Friendship at Friends Homes Guilford, continues to meet, as it has for years, on 4th day evening in the Woolman Building's 7th floor prayer room from 7:30 until 8pm. These meetings provide a golden opportunity to gather with folks who may not be physically able to attend at Friendship on 1st day morning but who definitely have very strong spiritual capabilities. Practice makes perfect as the old saying goes and sitting and worshipping with folks who have been practicing centering down for many decades is a precious resource and experience.

This year we experimented with considering the Queries in two separate workshops rather than in business meeting, resulting in less lengthy business meetings. We have certainly attempted to continue to conduct the business of the meeting in that manner peculiar to Friends in which common sense, a pinch of humor and primacy of the Spirit prevail. There are usually a dozen to fifteen or more persons attending meeting for business. Opinions vary on whether this is a fitting number of folks considering the size of the meeting.

Some of the big internal questions we have been attempting to deal with in the past year are common and ongoing within many small unprogrammed Quaker meetings: As we are blessed to have several families with children we sit with the perennial query - What are we going to do about our children's religious education? How are we serving or even just keeping in touch with our elder members who may not be able to easily attend or attend at all? How are we reaching out to those who may visit among us so as to let them know what we are doing as we sit here in silence together? Is the way we are organized in our committee structure effectively meeting the needs of our own community and thereby the larger community in which we live?

We recognize an overwhelming debt of gratitude to all our members and attenders who have taken it upon themselves individually or within a committee to grapple with and try to help the meeting community address these questions. So often it is a few people who seem to carry so much of the load.

The biggest external issue, perhaps even larger than our perennial shortage of hardy souls available to rake up gum balls, has been what to do about our physical space. This has been an ongoing issue for several years that has intrigued and frustrated a goodly number of those who have dedicated countless hours coming up with various suggestions. In our annual all-meeting (and well attended) retreat, we participated in a facilitated series of sessions of envisioning, drawing and talking about our meeting space and its function. The basic question that, of course, begs so many other questions afterwards is: shall we somehow enlarge and adapt the structure to our

perceived needs or attempt to raise money to build a new meeting house? We have seen unusual changes in those who attend our meetings for worship this past year. Nearly ten of our members are in long-term assisted care and are unable to attend on First Day morning. We have been going through a careful process to determine what is meant by an "inactive member" and have contacted nearly thirty persons who might be considered for a change in status, to better reflect their relationships with the Meeting. On the other hand, six Friends, who have been active in Quaker Meetings elsewhere, have moved to Greensboro and are attending regularly. In addition, in the past two months four attenders have asked to be considered for membership and have begun to meet with separate clearness committees. We look forward to increased vitality with these additional persons in our community.

Overall the state of our society is good. We have prospered since our days of meeting in one room (The Moon Room) granted us by Guilford College. We have grown into the house we purchased intentionally close in proximity and in spirit with Guilford College, Friends Homes and New Garden Friends School. Currently we are blessed to be able to consider how we might enlarge our physical space towards increasing and enhancing our spiritual relationship with those communities as well as with the larger community in which we live. Our fervent prayer is that we remain under Divine Guidance and that our journey forward will be in unity with that Spirit which we seek in expectant waiting worship. If so, then surely we

shall be in unity one with another in the way forward.

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.

Walking through the woods at night, I put out my flashlight and sat down upon a big flat rock, determined to become acquainted with the dark. ... Crickets chirped and a faint drone of insect airlines passed my ear. My eyes caught the steady light of a few bright stars as I peered up past the treetops to the infinity beyond...

My heart swelled in gratitude as I knew that whatever this life continuum was, I lived it with a love I had never known before. I felt it to be beneficence incarnate. As the silence deepened and the peace grew more profound, I seemed to be surrounded and nourished by infinite love. The leaves of the trees were whispering that they loved me. The air caressed me as it touched my skin. The frog sonata became a tender love song; and I felt that right here, on this rock, I belonged -- yesterday, today and forever. Here was home. Here I was safe in the boundless care of a father and mother whom I could not see, but could only feel -- a father and mother whose presence I could never escape, whose love would enfold me always, everywhere.

Laurent A. Parks Daloz, 2004

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

Neil Swenson, Co-Clerk
Stephen Holland, Assistant Treasurer
Hannah Morris, Asst Membership Recorder
Dave MacInnes, Newsletter Editor

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Address Correction Requested

First Class Mail