

Friendship Times

Friendship Friends Meeting

Calendar

Sat, Dec 20	4-6 pm Christmas Party - Meetinghouse
Tues, Dec 23	6:30 pm meeting to discuss revisions to Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice
Sun, Dec 21	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Wed, Dec 24	7 pm, Christmas Eve, Friends Home Guilford living room
Sun, Dec 28	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Wed, Dec 31	9 pm – 12 New Year's Eve gathering at the Meetinghouse
Sun, Jan 4	9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Jan 11	10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
Sun, Jan 18	10:30 am Meeting for Worship Forum on Vocal Ministry, sponsored by Worship & Ministry
Sun, Jan 25	9 a.m Deepening the Life of the Meeting. 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Feb 1	9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship

Weekly Meeting for Worship 10:30 am each First Day,. Child care available for Worship and Business Meetings., Midweek Meetings for Worship are held at 7 pm on Wednesday, in the Prayer Room, 7th floor Woolman Hall, Friends Homes Guilford

In this Issue

This issue was published a week earlier. In it you will find the usual business meeting minutes and our monthly lesser known Quaker quotation.

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 Tuesday, Jan 20.

Month's Query

Query #1 *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

12th Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

December 14, 2014

1. From our treasurer

- The Finance Committee has begun writing the budget for 2015. It will be presented at the January Meeting for Business.

Treasurer's Report: Operating expenses in November totaled \$694, with the main expenses of \$144 for childcare and \$550 for Social Concerns (FEMAP, FaithAction and Mosaic). No supporting contributions were paid in November. The year's remaining supporting contributions, totaling \$800 were paid on December 6 and will appear in next month's report. Meeting house expenses totaled \$300.71 for November.

Income in November was \$795 to the General Fund and \$165 to the New Building Fund.

Summary for November 2014

	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
General Fund	\$795	\$994.71	\$3860.00
New Building Fund	\$165	0	\$9,544.79
All Operating Funds	\$960	\$994.71	\$20,665.15

2. Peace and Social Concerns Request

- Peace and Social Concerns is requesting that the meeting research audio-visual equipment.

At our last forum we borrowed a projector to make a PowerPoint presentation. At our December 7th meeting we discussed purchasing a projector for future forums. In our discussion, we identified potential uses for audio-visual equipment and realized that other committees also have audio-visual equipment needs.

We request that the meeting research the needs for audio-visual equipment and alternatives for meeting those needs.

Audio-visual needs include computer based presentations (like PowerPoint), streaming videos, DVD projection, webcasts, and participation in webinars. The audio-visual equipment has rapidly changed and is still changing. The various internet connected devices may also need to be supported. We need expertise involved with the equipment selection. Our meeting needs will also evolve to our new meetinghouse.

This is a fairly complicated concern that involves the whole meeting needs and would be better researched by the meeting rather than the Peace and Social Concerns committee.

- The Communications Committee will take on this concern and bring a proposal to the meeting.
- In the meantime, Don Smith and Kembra Howdeshell have offered to donate a projector they no longer need.

- An additional need to be looked into is an amplification system.

3. Worship and Ministry Annual Report

- Worship and Ministry is requesting approval for two travel minutes for Deborah Shaw (to lead a workshop at Albuquerque Meeting) and Lloyd Lee Wilson (to be keynote speaker at Pacific Yearly Meeting).
- The request was approved.

Worship and Ministry Annual Report Twelfth Month 2014

The basic responsibility of the Worship and Ministry committee is "to foster the spiritual life of the Meeting." (Page 27 of Faith and Practice, NCYM-C) We strive to be accountable and report to this Monthly Meeting body, our progress towards this ministry as a committee. Our committee meets each first First Day of the month on or around 9am, we enter our time together in expectant waiting, with the intention of moving aside so as to seek and hear the will of God in our midst. We treasure the view out the sunroom windows as we convene and worship. The beauty around us in the birds and trees nurtures us; it is common for one of us to be drawn to a creature out the window that beckons our attention.

Annually, we sit with and answer three queries from our Faith and Practice for Meeting of Ministry and Oversight, and answer three jointly with Care and Counsel. This practice continues to keep us mindful, accountable and in awareness of our duties.

The current members are: Neil Swenson, recorder; Carole Treadway, Deborah Shaw, Sid Kitchens, and Darlene Stanley, clerk; this past year two members left our committee,

Darryl Wisner stepped off the committee and Anne Rouse has moved to Care and Counsel.

We sponsored the annual Christmas Eve. Worship service held at Friends Homes Guilford last Twelfth Month (2013). Again it was appreciated and well attended.

Our committee assists with the Meeting workshops for answering the Queries. Our members have all taken turns at volunteering to participate at these workshops and have attended them faithfully.

We sponsored Quakerism 101 forums from First Month thru Fourth month (2014) on the topics of: Vocal Ministry facilitated by Deborah Shaw and Carole Treadway; Information about the Quaker Leadership Scholars Program at Guilford College, facilitated by Evelyn Jaden & student members of QLSP; a forum on the Faith and Practice revisions led by Deborah Shaw and Sidney Kitchens; and Facing Death and Dying: Practical Considerations led by Marcia Vanard of Hospice and Palliative Care.

In Second month we sponsored the All Meeting Retreat entitled: The Spiritual Path to a New Meetinghouse: Believing in God's Vision for Us. Friday night a presentation on the history of Friendship Meeting was given and Saturday visitors Patty Levering, Margi Dingman, Kent Wicker and Bob Passmore presented their experiences from Davidson and Durham Meetings on building new meeting spaces. The afternoon session presented queries on Naming, Listening and decision-making and conflict that arise within groups. The retreat was videotaped and copies are in the Meeting library.

Our committee was asked at Sixth month Monthly Meeting for Business to sponsor an

informational forum on Yearly Meetings this fall. Marian Beane representing Piedmont Friends Fellowship Yearly Meeting and Lloyd Lee Wilson representing North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) were presenters.

Yearly Care and Counsel and Worship and Ministry gather for a fall retreat which we did in Eleventh month utilizing the time as a threshing session to address current needs or tasks brought to us from the Meeting community.

In early fall we presented to Monthly Meeting the proposal to have a time prior to the end of Meeting for Worship where members are invited to share Joys and Concerns. It has been well received and has been implemented each First Day prior to the conclusion of Meeting for Worship.

We began facilitating an outreach for Worship times with John Bowles at the facility where he resides, which has been well attended and is now facilitated by Care and Counsel.

We receive requests for traveling minutes and have forwarded such on to Monthly Meeting for Deborah Shaw over the past year and most recently Lloyd Lee Wilson. We wish to offer support for our ministers and their leadings and witness the work God the Creator is doing among Friends.

We strive to conclude each of our committee meetings holding in prayer our members and attenders here at Friendship, as well as Guilford College, and New Garden Friends School communities.

4. Care and Counsel Proposed Handbook Changes

- The Care and Counsel Committee is proposing changes to the Marriage Process in the Friendship Friends Meeting handbook.
- The changes will help bring consistency in the different sections of the handbook.
- The changes were approved.

5. Nurturing Visitors and Attenders

- Care and Counsel and Worship and Ministry have considered how better to welcome and follow up with visitors and seekers.

6. Szabo-Huff Marriage Arrangement Committee

- Dave MacInnes, Stephen Holland, Hilary McCormick, Hannah Logan Morris, and Anne Morris will serve on Amanda Szabo's and David Huff's arrangement committee for marriage.
- The committee will meet with Amanda and David on January 1st.

7. Proposed Handbook Changes Concerning Transfer and Sojourning Members

- The Care and Counsel Committee is proposing changes to the handbook concerning transfer and sojourning members, to allow for an orientation for transfer and sojourning members, to appoint a Welcome Committee, and to give them a copy of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Faith and Practice.
- Care and Counsel will write a description of what the Welcome Committee's responsibilities are and bring it back to Meeting for Business for approval.

8. Letter from Mark Chijioke

- The clerk read a letter from Mark Chijioke requesting our support to enroll as a member of the Religious Society of Friends in Nigeria through the International Membership Office of FWCC.
- The clerk will write a letter in support of this pursuit.

9. Letter from Rebecca Sullivan

- The clerk read a letter from Rebecca Sullivan requesting a transfer of her membership to Atlanta Friends Meeting.
- Her request was approved.
- The clerk will write a letter of transfer of membership.

10. Transfer of Care of a Marriage

- Stephen Holland and Hilary McCormick are requesting a transfer of the care of their marriage from Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting to Friendship Friends Meeting.
- They have written a letter to Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting requesting a transfer, in hopes that

Friendship Friends and other meetings will begin to develop a process for such a transfer of care of a marriage.

- Although we have no formal procedure regarding the transfer of the care of a marriage, the clerk will write a letter to Strawberry Creek in support of undertaking the care of Stephen's and Hilary's marriage at Friendship Friends Meeting.

11. Clarence Parker's Memorial

- A memorial service for Clarence Parker will be held on March 7, 2015 at 2pm at Friends Homes Living Room.

The meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

Contributions to the general fund and to our new Meetinghouse funds 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 on the table just outside of the meeting room.

Peace and Social Concerns ACTION BOX

Please bring in the following food item to go to First Friends Food Pantry during the month of January

Canned meat and fish

New email address for Naomi Galbraith
gnaomiruth@gmail.com.



Margot Morris at December's pot luck lunch

Photo by Bonnie Parsons

Meeting for worship with John in January

Join John Bowles and others for a time of worship at 7:30 pm on Tuesday January 13 at Camden Place (1 Marithe Ct, Greensboro). If interested call Ann Rouse for more information at 336 676 6626.

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.

We do not regard those who have the gift of "ministry" as infallible, or even as necessarily closer to God than many of the silent worshippers who form the great majority in every congregation. We feel that the gift is from above, and that on all of us lies the responsibility of being open to it, willing to receive it, should it be bestowed, and to use it faithfully while entrusted with it.

But we fully recognize that to do this perfectly requires a continual submission of the will and an unceasing watchfulness. We know that to "keep close to the gift" is not an easy thing. We know that the singleness of eye which alone can enable anyone always to discern between the immediate guidance of the Divine Spirit and the mere prompting of our own hearts, is not attained without much patience, and a diligent and persevering use of all the means of instruction provided for us.

Caroline E. Stephen. *Quaker Strongholds*.
1891, p 58

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Sidney Kitchens, Clerk
Stephen Holland, Treasurer
Claire Koster, Membership Recorder
Hannah Logan Morris, Recording Clerk

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

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