

Friendship Times

Friendship Friends Meeting

(336) 854-5155

www.friendshipmeeting.org

Calendar

Sun, Sept 27	9 am Deeping the Life of the Meeting 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sat, Oct 3	3 pm Memorial Service for Alexander Burns
Sun, Oct 4	9 am Peace and Social Concerns committee meets 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Fri, Oct 9	7 pm Game night
Sun, Oct 11	10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows 12:30 pm Corporation Meeting, then Meeting for Business
Mon, Oct 12	6 pm Pathways dinner
Sun, Oct 18	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Tues, Oct 20	Last day to send newsletter material to Editor
Sun, Oct 25	9 am Deeping the Life of the Meeting 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Nov 1	9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, and Peace and Social Concerns committees 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.

Meetinghouse is open on Tuesdays from 11:30-4 pm for brown bag lunch, worship and quiet time.

This issue mostly consists of the lengthy minutes for Ninth Month's meeting for business and some announcements. The minutes contain a number of important reports.

From the Editor

My intention is to distribute the newsletter no later than the last Sunday of the month; this will be October 25. Material should be submitted, preferably by email, no later than Tuesday, October 20.

Month's Query

Month's Query

Query #10: *Do we endeavor to live in harmony with nature? Are we careful in our stewardship of the world's irreplaceable resources?*

Young Friends Tenth Month Birthday

Aiden Getties 10/2/2004

Minutes

9th Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

September 13, 2015

Meeting began with a brief period of silent worship, followed by five minutes of Quaker Continuing Education led by Susan Carlyle.

Readings: “Meeting for business is about looking for Truth as a body, rather than about our individual senses of truth. We need to enter worshipfully into our meeting for Business. We need to wrestle with the issues, to share our glimpses of the Truth as we see it, and then we need to let go and listen deeply until all those glimpses give us a sense of the Truth as a whole. This takes time, patience and surrender.”

Michael Wajda, *Expectant Listening: Finding God’s Thread of Guidance*, p.22

“We value process over product, action or outcome. We respect each other’s thoughts, feelings and insights more than expedient action. The process of reaching a decision yields more ‘results’ than the decisions themselves.... Through that experience on finding unity of the meeting, we are prepared for faithful discipleship in the church and world. A decision which is made without that experience is of little value.”

Eden Grace, “An Introduction to Quaker Business Practice”

Query: What are the distinctive characteristics of Friends’ decision making?

Responses: We desire to know and do the will of God. We seek to discern the will of God in making a decision, rather than follow a specific process. Everyone has an equal voice, and we respect the input of others. We listen to the spirit and to one another, and strive for a sense

of the meeting. We seek to let go of our individual will for that of the body. Sometimes making decisions is slow. Decisions are made in a spirit of worship, as we trust that “way will open” as we listen patiently.

1. Ad hoc Committee for 307 Woodlawn Report

- Judy Purvis gave a report from the ad hoc property sale committee.
- The offer made on the 307 Woodlawn property was approved. The ad hoc committee will go forward with the sale of the house.
- The Meeting expressed great appreciation to David Brown for his expertise and help with the sale of these properties, and feels grateful for God’s blessings throughout this process.

This has been a busy summer. We are happy to report that the sale of the property at 305 Woodlawn is complete. The final amount deposited in the Meeting’s account is \$153,234.09, which reflects purchase price minus the usual closing costs.

The Estate Sale at 307 Woodlawn was very successful. We received \$6,157.83, which is 65% of the total sales. We are grateful to the many people who worked hard on multiple days to help sort through the contents of the house, remove unwanted items, and begin the process of consolidating items for the estate sale. The house is now empty and ready to be sold.

We have had some expenses for this property, such as utilities, insurance, and dumpsters for the clean-out process. Once we have sold the property, I will give a final report of all the expenses.

We have received an offer to buy the 307 property, but here is a little context for evaluating the offer. We already know that the property has suffered significant water damage to ceilings and bathrooms. The house is old and almost no repairs or updating have taken place

in a while. David Brown asked an experienced realtor to examine the property and to suggest an asking price, given its good location and needs for update and repair. He suggested listing the house at \$145,000 and expecting to get \$135,000 after negotiating with a potential buyer.

We have received an offer to buy the property AS IS for \$145,500 (minus the usual closing costs). The committee is in unity to ask the Meeting to approve this offer and to carry out the necessary paperwork to complete the sale. We would receive more than we expected to get and could complete the sale promptly without additional time and energy from the Meeting.

2. Meetinghouse Renovations—Concern

- The meeting recognizes that we need to address the issue of impermeable surfaces on our current property, and will continue to include this in conversations about meetinghouse renovations in the future.

3. House and Grounds Report and Request

1. New Lawn Mower. The Meeting's 11-year-old lawn mower has been quite repair-prone lately and several times inoperative until repairs could be made. The H&G Committee considered hiring a service to do the job or buying a new mower. Given the comparative costs, a new mower would pay for itself in less than two years.

In 2004, FFM paid \$1,262.98 for a new mower. While it has served us well, we'd like to get a better mower this time — one that will be easier to operate (since many Friends will use it) and one that will be less prone to repairs.

Committee members have been researching the market. This time of year, we can get a good deal. ***We request funding of not more than \$2000 to purchase a new mower.*** We expect it

will cost much less.

2. Workday. We've set November 14 as a Meeting workday, with November 21 as a rain date. We'll have both indoor and outdoor tasks for Friends of all skill and energy levels. Details will be announced.

3. Pruning. Committee members will be pruning trees in September. We're especially concerned about the overgrown crape myrtles that encroach on the meetinghouse and parking area. The pruning will improve safety and visibility, reduce mold and algae formation on the building's siding, and rejuvenate the trees.

- The House and Grounds committee's request for a new mower was approved. The money will come from the Property Fund, and any excess expense will come from the General Fund for the line item "Equipment and Maintenance."

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report: Ninth Month Report for Eighth Month Income and Expenses in 2015

Income in August 2015 totaled \$19,775.83 with \$885.00 to the General Fund and \$18,890.83 to the New Building Fund.

Expenses in August 2015 totaled \$947.72. The operating expenses totaled \$109.64 primarily for Peace & Social Concerns. No supporting contributions were paid in August. Meeting House expenses totaled \$267.83 including \$78.32 from the New Building Corporate Contribution and the remainder primarily for utilities.

Summary for August 2015

	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
General Fund	\$885	\$377	\$7,033
New Building Fund	\$18,890	\$570	\$35,907
All Operating Funds	\$19,775	\$947	\$51,006

New Building Fund Report for August 2015:

August starting balance	\$17,587
<u>Income</u>	
Rent on 305 Woodlawn	\$600
Contributions from members/attenders (pledges)	\$11,750
Other contributions	\$383
Estate sale	\$6,157
Total Income	\$18,890
<u>Expenses</u>	
Bain Oil repair at 307 Woodlawn (\$114)	\$35
Electricity at 307 Woodlawn	\$96
Insurance for Estate Sale	\$312
Dumpster overweight	\$115
Water at 307 Woodlawn	\$10
Total Expenses	\$570
August ending balance	\$35,907

5. Friendship Meeting Donations to Outside Organizations:

- The following reports were made on outside organizations that Friendship Friends Meeting supported financially this year:

A) People of Faith against the Death Penalty:

The mission of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty is to educate and mobilize faith communities to act to abolish the death penalty in the United States. The organization was founded in 1994 in North Carolina and has its headquarters in Carrboro. It also has a Guilford County chapter. Our members Mel and Priscilla Zuck were actively engaged in the local chapter and updated Friendship on its work regularly.

Stephen Dear recently resigned as executive director after serving in that capacity since 1997. His farewell party was held on July 31, 2015. I did not find any information on his successor.

I feel that it a crucial time for working to abolish the death penalty. Many groups from across the political spectrum are seriously considering ending the death penalty. This may be one issue where our polarized political system can actually do the right thing. Major impetus can and has come from interfaith groups to unite people of different backgrounds and lead to action. Moreover, working for abolishing the death penalty is a key part of Quaker witness. For these reasons, I feel it is important that Friendship continue to support People of Faith Against the Death Penalty, even if at a token level.

B) Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas:

Report on the work of Friends World Committee – Section of the Americas – 2015 Amount from Friendship Friends Meeting budget for 2015 - \$300

The purpose of the Friends World Committee for Consultation is to encourage fellowship among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends. In the Americas, the Quaker community extends from the Arctic to the

Andes, spanning a rich diversity of regional cultures, beliefs and styles of worship. FWCC offers programs that unite Friends across the hemisphere through Spirit-led fellowship. Its office is located at Friends Center in Philadelphia. Its staff consists of an executive secretary, Robin Mohr, and an administrative secretary, Evan Draper.

The Section Meeting took place March 12 through March 15, 2015, in Quinta Saulo, Mexico, bringing together representatives from all yearly meetings in the Americas, except a few of the yearly meetings belonging to Evangelical Friends International. North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative (NCYM-C) was represented by three delegates. Reports about activities over the previous two years were given. The 2014 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage was hosted by Andean Friends in Peru and Bolivia, the first QYP experience to be held entirely in evangelical yearly meetings as well as the first Quaker Youth Pilgrimage in South America. The 26 pilgrims were from Bolivia, Cuba, Guatemala, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Mexico, Peru, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Our bilingual leaders were from Bolivia, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Four regional consultations based on the theme "Let the Living Water Flow – Friends Serving God's Purposes" were held in Sacramento, High Point, El Salvador, and Bolivia with 400 Friends participating. The ongoing work of the Wider Quaker Fellowship includes maintaining the on-line presence "Voices of Friends," distributing pamphlets, and providing an introduction to Quakerism for those who inquire. The work of the Quaker United Nations Office in New York and Geneva continues with great effectiveness. The Committee of Latin America has become an integral part of the work of the Section.

The treasurer's report noted the expenses have dropped from \$523,000 in FY 2013 to \$442,000 in FY2014, a reduction which brings the

organization closer to living within its means, but increases the demands on the small staff. Much of the work formerly done by five staff persons is now done by two, resulting in greater dependence on volunteers than before. Although there was one major gift of \$250,000, of which a large portion will be put in reserves, most of the funding comes from contributions from Quaker organizations and individuals.

The Executive Committee presented a new strategic plan for the Section's work for the next five years. A new vision was developed: "We envision a thriving and integrated network of Friends from the Arctic to the Andes woven together in transformative faith, learning to love, listen, and witness." The Executive, Finance, Nominating, and Naming Committees will remain. Five new program groups were approved as part of the new strategic plan: the Traveling Ministry Program Group, the Convocation Program Group, the Representative Engagement Program Group, the Communications Program Group, and the Correspondence Program Group. Of particular interest is the Traveling Ministry Program, which will facilitate intervisitation among yearly meetings and will be headed by Kristin Olson-Kennedy of NCYM-C. The next International Representatives Meeting of the World Office of FWCC will take place in Bolivia, January 19-27, 2016.

C) American Friends Service Committee North Carolina:

The American Friends Service Committee Area Office of the Carolinas continues to maintain two programs, the NC Immigrant Rights Program (NCIRP, coordinated by Lori Fernald Khamala, attendee of Friendship Meeting) and the NC Peace & Economic Justice Program (NCPEJ, coordinated by Toni Etheridge). The NCIRP is working on: immigration policy issues including supporting tuition equity for undocumented students at the state level and

opposing the federal Detention Bed Mandate; initiating an African American – Latino bridge building project; documenting the stories of immigrants; and being a founding member of a coalition that is creating a Worker Center in Greensboro. The NCPEJ is: working to support the Black Lives Matter and Moral Monday movements, especially around voting rights; implementing social justice curricula with local youth groups; partnering with other organizations on police accountability issues and supporting the state Rodney Moore bill about racial profiling, and exhibiting a poster project on resistance to militarism. We would welcome any contributions to our local work if it fits in with FFM's budget.

I would also like to suggest that future donations to AFSC (which we appreciate very much!) come to the local office instead (address below) of Atlanta or Philadelphia. But either way, we are grateful.

American Friends Service Committee
Area Office of the Carolinas
529-D College Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27410

D) Quaker House:

Lynn and Steve Newsom, Co-Directors, Quaker House, 223 Hillside Ave., Fayetteville, NC, 28301, gpr@quaker.org, www.quakerhouse.org

Quaker House is based in Fayetteville, NC, home of Fort Bragg, one of the largest United States military bases. Founded in 1969 to support draftees who opposed the Vietnam War, Quaker House has for over 46 years provided counseling and support to service members who are questioning their role in the military; worked to educate them, their families and the public about military issues; and advocate for a more peaceful world.

Quaker House Programs

Counseling Soldiers and Veterans: Work with soldiers, veterans and their families in need of help by free and confidential counseling and information. The GI Rights Hotline Counselors, Steve Woolford and Lenore Yarger, respond to thousands of calls each year.

Alternatives to Violence Project Training: Provide training to military, VA, civilian social workers, counselors, military chaplains, Quakers, and teachers.

Connecting with the Military and the Community: QH belongs to five organizations that bring together military mental health professionals and civilians to provide programs on domestic violence, traumatic brain injury, sexual assault, moral injury and chaplains' meetings. The weekly Mindfulness classes which are helpful for victims of PTSD and moral injury. They host house concerts, music jams, and educational forums regularly to raise our profile in the community and attract service members to Quaker House.

Quaker House Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in the Military Program: Their Domestic Violence coordinator provides domestic violence and sexual assault therapy to over 30 victims, family of victims, and perpetrators and gives presentations on domestic violence to several organizations.

Moral Injury: A service member can suffer moral injury if he or she must participate in, or witness, a morally unconscionable situation, i.e. war. It is a wound to the soul, leading to shame and grief. The recognition of moral injury opens conversations with the military and chaplains about the morality of war and the need for Conscientious Objection. The directors have given presentations in North Carolina and elsewhere. Military and VA chaplains and mental health professionals attended these programs.

Torture: QH works with North Carolina Stop Torture Now to educate the public about the United States' and North Carolina's role in the use of torture.

The Drone Quilt Project: QH displayed the Drone Quilt Project at various locations and provided information and materials for making blocks to create new quilts. Each block is a memorial to an innocent victim of a drone strike.

Conscientious Objection Education: QH is focusing on workshops and presentations on Conscientious Objection to provide information for our youth to help them discern whether or not they are pacifists and, if so, how to document it in case the draft is reinstated. QH can help our Meeting understand how to help our young people develop and document their beliefs.

Fiscal need: Friendship Meeting has a long history of supporting the work of Quaker House. For the 2014-15 fiscal year, expenses were \$192,397.19. Friends Meetings donated \$42,668.67 during this time period. The other major source of income was individual donations. Previous Friendship Meeting budgets allocated \$100 each month to this work. Last year's budget allocated half of that amount: \$600. Given that the meeting is in a somewhat better financial situation this year, I would request that the Finance Committee consider increasing our yearly allocation to Quaker House to \$700 this year and to try to increase the amount by \$100 each year until the budget returns to its former allocation of \$100 a month for the work of Quaker House. Note: Information for this report came from the report given to Yearly Meetings this summer and Quaker House's online financial report.

6. Representative Reports from Yearly Meeting

- Ray Treadway and Claire Koster both gave reports from North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

7. Requests for Membership

- The clerk read a letter from Bear Creek Monthly Meeting in Earlham, Iowa requesting a transfer of membership for Rachel Hoover Knight. The request for transfer of membership was approved with joy. A welcome committee will be appointed by Care and Counsel.
- The co-clerk read a letter from Lori Fernald Khamala requesting transfer of her membership and Imani's membership from Charlotte Friends Meeting. We await a letter from Charlotte Friends Meeting.
- The co-clerk read a letter from David Parsons requesting sojourning membership at Friendship Friends Meeting. We await a letter from New Garden Friends Meeting.

The meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

Meeting response to Query 9

Query 9: The underlying concern of the first part of this query is stated in *Query 8: Do we choose those activities which will strengthen our physical, mental, and spiritual life; and do we avoid those harmful to ourselves and others?*

Response: The meeting assumes that our way of life is in the spirit of this query, although individual members may carry it out in different ways. Inasmuch as we have several new members and attenders, it may be that not all are aware of the testimony to abstain from all addictive substances. Some members do not agree with the assumption of this query that abstinence is the best and most faithful practice. As far as is known, no one abuses alcoholic beverages and no one indulges in illegal drugs, gambles, or frequents places of diversion that tend to be demoralizing. The meeting does not allow the use of alcohol,

drugs, or tobacco in the meetinghouse or at meeting functions.

There is concern to avoid the exploitation of others to our advantage and to stand against it wherever it occurs. As far as we know friends adhere to a single standard of truth in all their dealings.

Memorial Service for Alexander Burns

Saturday October 3 at 3 pm at the Meetinghouse

If led to make a donation: please support Alex's passion for education and the opportunity he provided for his children. Donation should be designated for the Scholarship Fund for future students at Brooklyn Friends School, 375 Pearl St, Brooklyn NY 11201

Dinner at Pathways

FFM will be providing dinner at 6 PM at the Pathways Center of the Greensboro Urban Ministry again on October 12th. This date, Monday, was chosen because it is the day immediately following our Meeting's pot luck. So, perhaps some Friends can think about preparing twice as much for the pot luck and designating one half for use at the Pathways dinner the following evening. This can provide an opportunity for Friends to participate in this

outreach project of our meeting even if they cannot come on Monday.

Coming up: **PFF Fall Retreat** at Winston-Salem Friends Meeting beginning at 9 am. Lunch will be provided with time to get to know Friends from across the Piedmont. A \$10 donation is asked for program expense and lunch. A Children's program will be available for children grades 3-6.

Change of address

Gay Bowles

925 New Garden Rd. #713 Greensboro, NC 27410

Game Night

On October 9th, from 7 to 10 pm, Friendship will host an intergenerational board and card game night. Bring your favorite game to share, or simply partake of the stack of games we'll bring. You're welcome to bring snacks, but it's not expected. Friends and family are welcome! Come get to know other members of the community better while searching for eight-letter-words, exploring a haunted house, building castles, or selling goods at the Grand Bazaar. Please contact Don Smith or Kembra Howdeshell at [336-323-1537](tel:336-323-1537) if you have any questions

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

Susan Carlyle, Co-clerk
Ray Treadway, Assistant Treasurer
Miriam Biber-Peterson, Assistant
Membership Recorder
Dave MacInnes, Newsletter Editor

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Address Correction Requested

First Class Mail