

## Friendship Times

### Friendship Friends Meeting

#### Calendar

- Sun, Nov 29      9 am extended Meeting for worship  
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Dec 6        9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns Committees meet  
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Dec 13      10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sun, Dec 20      10:30 am Meeting for Worship  
4-6 pm Christmas Party - Meetinghouse
- Tues, Dec 22     Last day to send newsletter material to Editor
- Sun, Dec 28      10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Jan 3        10:30 am Meeting for Worship

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

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Midweek Meeting for Worship is on Wednesday, 7 pm in the Prayer Room, 7<sup>th</sup> floor Woolman Hall, Friends Homes Guilford.

Tuesday, 12:00–4:30 PM: Quiet Tuesday at the Meetinghouse

#### In this Issue

In this issue, besides the usual business meeting minutes you will a report from our Peace and Social Concerns Committee and several announcements.

#### From the Editor

My intention is to distribute the newsletter the last Sunday of the month. Material should be submitted, preferably by email, no later than Tuesday, Dec 22.

#### *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

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

## Abbreviated Minutes

### **11<sup>th</sup> Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**

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

**Reading:** We can settle into worship in a manner described by Alexander Parker in 1660:

“Worship in meeting may thus begin with stilling the mind and body, letting go of tensions and everyday worries, feeling the encompassing presence of others, and opening oneself to the Spirit. It may include meditation, reflection on a remembered passage from the Bible or other devotional literature, silent prayer, thanksgiving, praise of God, consideration of one’s actions, remorse, request for forgiveness, or search for direction. Even in times of spiritual emptiness, Friends find it useful to be present in worship.

“Worshipping together strengthens the members of the worshipping community and deepens the act of worship itself. Such communal worship is like a living organism whose individual but interdependent members are essential to one another and to the life of the greater whole. It is like the luminous unity and individual fulfillment that arise when musicians, responding to the music before them, offer up their separate gifts in concert. Friends sometimes use Paul’s image and speak of the meeting for worship as a body whose head is Christ (I Cor. 12:27). The gifts and participation of each member are important in maintaining and enriching the spiritual life of the meeting for worship. There is a renewal of spirit when we turn away from worldly matters to rediscover inward serenity.”

**Query:** What is the clerk thinking about during Meeting for Business in the Spirit of Worship?

**Responses:** There is the hope that the clerk isn’t necessarily *thinking* very much, but more feeling and sensing in order to discern the way forward. Sometimes those assembled help the clerk decide the way forward. It is important that equal weight is given to what everyone says, and the clerk should be aware of who has spoken and who has not spoken, or what has not been said. Messiness is not necessarily a failure of good clerking. The clerk should be aware of the time.

### **1. Treasurer’s Report**

Income in October 2015 totaled \$2,980 with \$1,395 to the General Fund and \$1,585 to the New Building Fund. Expenses in October 2015 totaled \$2,730.28. The operating expenses totaled \$815.37 including \$750 for Peace & Social Concerns plus other minor expenses. No supporting contributions were paid. Meeting House expenses totaled \$189.83 primarily for utilities. Expenditures from the New Building Fund totaled \$49.14. Expenditures from the Property Fund totaled \$1,675.94 for a new lawn mower.

### **2. Care and Counsel Reports**

- The marriage of Judy Purvis and John Schoonover under the care of the meeting was approved. Anne Rouse and Joan Tillotson were approved to serve on the marriage oversight committee. The meeting approved a meeting for worship to accomplish this purpose on March 5, 2016, at 2pm.

Report of the Care and Counsel Committee to  
the November 2015 Monthly Meeting for  
Business

1. At its November 1 meeting, the Care and Counsel Committee accepted the October 8, 2015 endorsement received from the Clearness Committee for marriage under the care of Friendship Meeting for Judy Purvis and John Schoonover. The endorsement read as follows:

The clearness committee for the marriage of Judy Purvis and John Schoonover met on Tenth month 7. The committee consisted of 6 persons from Friendship Meeting—Sidney Lee Kitchens (facilitator), Grace Sullivan, Howard Taylor, Anne Rouse, Hannah Logan Morris, Jim Hood—and 2 persons from Chapel Hill Friends Meeting—Carolyn Stuart and Richard Miller. It was a blessed event. At the end of our time with the couple the committee was in joyful unity to recommend John and Judy as clear to be married under the care of Friendship Meeting.

The Care and Counsel committee recommends the approval of the Meeting that the marriage take place under the care of Friendship Meeting.

2. The Care and Counsel further asks for approval of Anne Rouse and Joan Tillotson to serve on the Oversight Committee that will assist Judy Purvis and John Schoonover with arrangements for their marriage planned to take place on March 5, 2016. Meeting members and attenders who would like to help this committee as it moves forward are asked to contact Anne Rouse (clerk of the committee) or Joan Tillotson.

3. The Care and Counsel Committee is delighted to announce that a Welcome Event for our newest members, Jane and Jim Fernandes, Lori and Imani Khamala and Rachel Knight is scheduled to take place on December 13<sup>th</sup> during the potluck following the Meeting for Worship on that day. Please let Bonnie Parsons know if you can volunteer to help plan and carry out this joyful event.

CARE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE ANNUAL  
REPORT Eleventh Month, Eighth Day, 2015

The Care and Counsel Committee meets regularly and does its best to be in contact with members and attenders of the Meeting who are experiencing health problems or who are facing other difficult issues. Care and Counsel makes arrangements for meeting for worship with one member in extended care and encourages members to attend Mid Week Meeting at Friends Homes.

This year the committee has been busy with other responsibilities in addition to outreach and appropriate committees of Clearness, Oversight or Welcome that were named as needed.

In January we reminded members who had not completed a Final Affairs form to submit their forms to the clerk of Membership. Care and Counsel set up a clearness committee and an oversight committee to oversee the marriage of Amanda Szabo on May 24. Two babies were born this year to members: Milo David Smith to Juliet Smith on May 15 with a baby shower hosted by Jane and Jim Fernandes on April 25; Kathe Rodriguez gave birth to Eric Resendez Morales on June 24. On August 13, attenders

Miriam and Chris Biber-Peterson welcomed baby James Morgan Biber Peterson.

Three people have transferred their membership to Friendship so far this year: Lori and Imani Khamala (Oct 11), and Rachel Knight (Oct 11); while two others who had been sojourning members became members: Susan Wilson (April 12) and Lloyd Lee Wilson (June 14); Jane Fernandes and Jim Fernandes were approved as Members of Friendship Meeting (Oct 11). One member lay down her sojourning status to return to her home meeting (Anne Marie Taber on April 12; two members withdrew from membership: Craig Fox (Feb18) and Steve Hayes (Feb18); and three members moved out of the Piedmont region: Benji and Sue Bear Hebner moved to Portland in August, and Lissa Carter moved to Asheville in August.

A memorial for member Clarence Parker who died in October 9, 2014 was held on March 15, 2015. Member David Martin died on August 8, 2015. His memorial took place 8/13. Alex Burns, husband of member Maureen Burns, died 9/3/15 and his memorial took place at the meetinghouse on 10/3/15.

The committee is following a more regular process to keep track of visitors. We also contact regular attenders to the meeting every six months to inquire if any are ready to consider membership in the meeting.

In December 2014, we sent a holiday letter to those who have not had contact with the meeting for several months, asking for information about what is going on in their lives. This past June Daniel Rhodes was moved to inactive status.

We continue to have occasional joint meetings with the Ministry and Worship Committee to review work of the two committees and to respond to Yearly Meeting Ministry and Oversight queries. Richard Miller representing NCYMC Meeting of Ministry and Oversight met with the Care and Counsel and Worship and Ministry committees on May 17. The role of this body within the yearly meeting community and its relationship to monthly meetings was discussed as well as its responsibility to foster the spiritual life of the yearly meeting. We noted that the NCYMC Faith and Practice indicates that each monthly meeting is to name "a suitable number of representatives". Friendship has not specifically done that in the past, assuming that some members of C&C and W&M will attend each of its meetings. Possible changes to the wording of the queries for Meeting of Ministry and Oversight were discussed as was the relative value of reading aloud the queries from all meetings at Yearly Meeting. Consensus from Friendship was that the reading of the queries as is currently done is a practice we would like to see continued.

This past year we drafted changes to the Handbook to clarify certain procedures. The following changes were approved by Care and Counsel and the Meeting for inclusion in the Handbook: In January, Care and Counsel submitted a revision of the responsibilities of Care and Counsel for the handbook. Care and Counsel also submitted wording for the handbook dealing with transferring membership to another meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. We also submitted for the transfer of membership to Friendship Meeting and also wording for the transfer of membership from a meeting to sojourning status at Friendship.

As C&C is small in numbers, while the need for outreach is often great, we encourage members and attenders to assist the committee in its work.

### **3. Friendship Meeting Donations to Outside Organizations:**

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

#### Friends General Conference

Central Committee of Friends General Conference (FGC) met this October in Reisterstown, Maryland. Earlier in the year, FGC had conducted a feasibility study for a new campaign. However, feedback from a variety of Friends, including donors, indicated that it was important that FGC demonstrate that it could conduct its programs using its current resources (including prudent drawdown from endowment) before asking for additional donations.

After seasoning by a variety of committees, including Executive Committee, a proposed budget and plan for laying down some programs was brought to Central Committee and approved. This was not an easy decision and additional cost-cutting will be necessary in fiscal year 2016-2017 to reach the final sustainable budget. However, laying down some work will allow the organization to focus more closely on programs judged to be of the highest priority. Like our sister organizations FCNL and AFSC, we expect that we will emerge from this restructuring and refocusing stronger and more effective.

Several programs, including the New Meetings Project and Quaker Quest, were laid down as having achieved much of the goals set for them when they were begun. Couple Enrichment, which had been under FGC's auspices, will continue as a separate organization in close collaboration with FGC. The hardest decision was to lay down the Traveling Ministry program, with the hope that this work will be continued and expanded by ministers in the various constituent yearly meetings.

The Bookstore will be reevaluated in January; its move to a physical location at Pendle Hill has boosted sales. Similarly, Stewardship Services, a service helping Friends plan bequests to a variety of Friends organizations (including often FGC) will also be reevaluated in January.

The exciting new program that will be a major focus of the organization is the Spiritual Deepening Project. The goal is to provide a wide variety of resources that can be used by individuals, monthly meetings, and yearly meetings to help newcomers and seasoned Friends deepen their faith. Resources will be available as downloads, with support from FGC staff on how to implement them.

I believe that our monthly meeting should continue its full support of FGC in the coming budget. This will demonstrate both financial and moral support of a Quaker organization that works with us to deepen and enrich the Religious Society of Friends.

#### Piedmont Friends Fellowship

PFF is an organization representing 17 Friends meetings and worship groups located in NC, SC and Virginia. Both PFF and Friendship Friends Meeting (FFM) were established around the

same time in the late 1960s. FFM was one of PFFs founding meetings. Since then it has worked to nurture our Quaker spiritual community in this area by sponsoring an annual weekend gathering in the spring and a one-day retreat in the fall. It is currently looking into providing more activities for our youth.

Early on in its existence, PFF affiliated with FGC and has been the formal connection between FGC and its member meetings, including FFM. PFF sponsors up to three representatives to Central Committee of FGC.

PFF is a precious source of nurture and support for our Quaker community in this region and warrants our continued involvement and support.

#### School of the Spirit

For 25 years, The School of the Spirit Ministry has offered programs for Friends seeking an opportunity for prayer, learning, spiritual deepening and growth. Programs are open to all Friends and seekers. The primary programs of the Ministry are the two-year "On Being a Spiritual Nurturer" (SN) program and Contemplative Retreats of four day lengths. The 10th SN program began in 9th month, and our own Betty Poynton is a member of the class. The class can accommodate 20 or so participants in each offering. Contemplative Retreats are offered at various locations in the Eastern and Midwestern US several times a year. In 9th month, a Contemplative Retreat led by our own Carole Treadway along with Patty Levering (Davidson Mtg, NCYM-C) was offered at Avila Retreat Center in Durham, NC. A number of Friendship Friends have participated in School of the Spirit programs, for example: Deborah Shaw, Carole Treadway, Ray

Treadway, Judy Purvis, Susan Wilson, Nan Bowles, Sandy Bowles and Susan Phillips. Several of these Friends continue to support the work of the Ministry directly: Carole continues to serve as an elder to the Board and a Contemplative Retreat leader; Judy and Susan W. currently serve on the Board, which stewards the Ministry; Ray Treadway currently serves as the Treasurer of the Ministry.

Request: Friendship Friends agreed to support the Ministry this past fiscal year with a donation of \$150. School of the Spirit is grateful for the meeting's gift. We invite the meeting to support the Ministry at that level again for the 2016 fiscal year. The Ministry relies entirely on donations from Friends who realize the importance and value of these programs, whether they have participated in a program or not.

#### **4. House and Grounds Report**

- Kim Carlyle read a report from the House and Grounds Committee concerning the use of the basement for First Day School.
- The report was accepted, and the meeting approves the use of the basement for First Day School. The House and Grounds report will be forwarded to the Religious Education Committee so the young Friends can decide how to move forward.

House & Grounds Committee Report on First Day School Use of Basement

As charged by Monthly Meeting, the H&G Committee has looked into the feasibility of using the current basement space for First Day School. Here are our findings and recommendations:

1. Because the stairway poses safety concerns, access for FDS should be limited to the outside door. The stairway should be used only in an emergency. The door at the top of the staircase will remain locked to prevent inadvertent access from the main floor, but a key will be mounted above the door for emergency use. The door can easily be opened without a key from below.

2. The heating vents and dehumidifier should provide sufficient ambient comfort.

3. FDS activity should be restricted to the carpeted room. The closets and crawl space are restricted areas. If requested, we could free up one closet for FDS use.

4. We recommend against painting the paneled walls. If painted, they would require a prime coat first, but then the paint would likely crack since the panels are a bit flexible.

5. The FDS request for chalkboard painted walls might be satisfied by mounted sheets of plywood painted with chalkboard paint and trimmed with molding (or, if chalk is not a necessity, sheets of dry erase board).

6. The carpet should be shampooed before the FDS uses the room.

#### **5. Traveling Minute for Deborah Shaw**

- Deborah Shaw is requesting a traveling minute to carry to a retreat at Pendle Hill that she is leading after Thanksgiving. It was approved the clerk will write a traveling minute.

The meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

The Meeting's response to Query 11 is taken from query session on third month:

Query #11 *Do we reverence that of God in every human being with concern for the needs of each individual? Are we seeking to rectify existing social injustice and racial discrimination in our local communities and in the world at large?*

Our friends in the meeting do reverence that of God in all human beings and model that in their individual lives and in the meeting activities. Friendship Meeting has an active Peace and Social concerns committee which provides forums and announcements to our Meeting community of events happening in both social justice and racial discrimination areas. This committee keeps us informed of events and issues in our community and the world. In addition, various members/attenders through employment or active volunteer work have opportunities to faithfully work toward change. This work is a witness to the presence of God in all people. Among the things the meeting does are: donations to First Friends Meeting's food pantry; providing meals and hospitality at Pathways Shelter for families in crisis; staying aware of immigration issues both locally and in the world thru local AFSC staff; continuing to provide support for resettled refugees; providing help to a family at Christmas time with food and gifts.

#### **New addresses**

**MARLIN**, Stephanie & Benjamin (Brianna, 7/22/2010. Arthur, 3/31/2012)(455-2773)

1105 New Garden Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410; [marlinsj@guilford.edu](mailto:marlinsj@guilford.edu) (Benjamin) [simarlin01@yahoo.com](mailto:simarlin01@yahoo.com) (Stephanie)

Darryl Waisner's new email

[wingateu94@twc.com](mailto:wingateu94@twc.com)

From Susan Carlyle

Friendship Friends Meeting will be providing gift cards to all 16 of the families at the Pathways Center this season. The cards which the center recommended are for Food Lion, the grocery store that is within walking distance of Pathways.

If you would like to write a greeting to go with any one of these cards, I will make the cards available on first day mornings in the upcoming weeks. Just letting these families know that we are thinking of them and wishing them well in their upcoming plans for safe and secure housing will mean a lot.

FRIENDSHIP MEETING'S CHRISTMAS PARTY, DECEMBER 20, 4 TO 6 P.M.

THERE WILL BE REFRESHMENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Come with some finger foods to share.

### **What is our Peace & Social Concerns Committee doing now?**

On Friday October 30, 2015 P&SC sponsored a forum with two ***Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF)*** representatives and a Guilford College student. Yazmin Garcia Rico graduated from Guilford College and John Madden, a Guilford student who participated in the presentation and is also part of SAF's Student Organizing School program.

Yazmin shared some of her history with us. She was born in Mexico. Her parents divorced when she was young, her mother moved to the US, she joined her mother in her middle teens and has been living here since as an undocumented resident. She managed to complete her education at Guilford College and intends to do graduate work. She has a work permit (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) through 2017 and is hoping to be able to continue living in the US since she has lived half of her life in the US.

### **What does SAF do?**

SAF works with farmworkers, students, and advocates in the Southeast and nationwide to create a more just agricultural system. Since 1992, we have engaged thousands of students, farmworker youth, and community members in the farmworker movement. SAF changes the lives of middle, high school, and out of school migrant youth through the Levante Leadership Institute.

SAF trains, mentors, and supports NC college students to develop organizing skills and become leaders in the farmworker movement through their

Student Organizing School. SAF mobilizes hundreds of college students through their Into the Fields internship and Sowing Seeds for Change fellowship. SAF interns & fellows provide much-needed skills, energy, and time to farmworker organizations and receive a life-changing, educational experience in return.

*The states with the highest farmworker population are California, Texas, Washington, Florida, Oregon, and North Carolina.*

Eight of our Friends shared a Mexican cuisine potluck with the two presenters and a student visitor. We then tried to show a new video on SAF work in North Carolina, and were unable to so with our meetinghouse facilities. We hope all of you will stream the video called *Bittersweet Harvest* that was broadcast in Australia on 27 OCTOBER 2015. The url is <http://www.sbs.com.au/news/dateline/story/bittersweet-harvest>. The video is very well done and includes farming, housing, SAF support work, and interviews with several farmworkers.

We regrouped as Yazmin and John spread out a 20-foot mural about the farmworker program, which had been created by students who were members of farmworker families and who were participating in one of SAF's programs.

The mural depicted history, challenges, and students' dreams. We were asked to look at the mural and answer 3 questions: What did we see? What do we think about what we saw? What do we wonder about? We had a very interesting, informative, and empathic conversation for over an hour. We left the forum feeling really grateful and appreciative for the forum experience. We intend to maintain contact with and to support the SAF organization. Their efforts are good examples of work we as a committee want to support which works to change the farmworkers' lives in a systemic way, rather than charity only.

Here is a picture of the SAF's Levante Leadership Institute Mural.



Friendship Friends Meeting  
Box 8652  
Greensboro, NC 27419  
(336) 854-5155  
[www.friendshipmeeting.org](http://www.friendshipmeeting.org)

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

## First Class Mail

Friendship Friends Meeting  
Box 8652  
Greensboro, NC 27419

Address Correction Requested