

## Friendship Times

### Friendship Friends Meeting

#### Calendar

- Sun, Dec 27      10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Jan 3        9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns Committees meet  
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Jan 10      10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sun, Jan 17      10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Jan 24      10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Tues, Jan 26     Last day to send newsletter material to Editor
- Sun, Jan 31      9 am – extended Meeting for Worship (5<sup>th</sup> First Day)  
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sat, Feb 6        4-6 pm New Member welcome at the Meetinghouse
- Sun, Feb 7        10:30 am Meeting for Worship

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

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 contain a number of committee yearly reports, 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, Jan 26.

#### *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?*

#### Young Friends Twelfth Month Birthdays

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

## Abbreviated Minutes

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

**December 13, 2015**

Meeting began with a reading by Susan Carlyle, followed by a brief period of silent worship.

**Reading:** from PH pamphlet #10: Community and Worship by Douglas Steere p.14

“When members of a meeting know one another, care for one another, visit one another in their homes, consult one another, hold one another up in the silence, feel responsibility before God for one another, then, when they meet together for worship they are truly open as a corporate group for the deepest working of the Spirit.”

#### **1. Request for Membership**

- The clerk read a letter from Lianne Jackson McCray expressing her desire to seek membership at Friendship Friends.

#### **2. Religious Education Committee Annual Report**

- Kembra Howdeshell gave the annual report from the Religious Education Committee.
- The report follows and was accepted with appreciation.
- Additionally, the meeting was asked to approve the use of the basement by the older youth for First Day School activities.
- The request was approved.

Annual Report of the Religious Education Committee

Committee members: Kembra Howdeshell (clerk), Sheri Grace, Hanna Passmore-Hobson (ending in August 2015), Anne Morris, and Rachel Knight (beginning in August 2015).  
Honorary member: Juliet Smith.

The Religious Education Committee has focused its efforts on coordinating childcare for meeting activities and organizing First Day School Activities for the children. The meeting has experienced an increase in the number of children attending meeting for worship and First Day School Activities in the last year. While we were sad that several families moved away from Greensboro (namely, Aiden and Yvar Gettie (children of Lissa Carter), Artan and Rosemary Hebner (children of Benji and SueBear Hebner), and Katia Efremoff (daughter of Claudia Dinep and Ted Efremoff)), we welcomed several new children to our community including Arthur and Brianna Marlin (children of Steph and Ben Marlin), as well as Lily, Elizabeth and Clemmett Daniels (children of Wes and Emily Daniels), and babies Milo Unger (son of Juliet Smith and Isaiah Unger) and James Biber-Peterson (son of Chris and Miriam Biber-Peterson).

The committee developed goals for three separate age groups to help in the planning of themes and activities for First Day School. An abbreviated description of the aims of the 3 age groups follows below:

- For children 5 years old and younger, we want them to build community by learning to share, quiet themselves, and pay attention in a group activity for 10 minutes.
- For children 6 to 9 years old, the goal is for them to become familiar with famous Quakers, and common Old and New Testament scriptures. Become familiar with Quakers in our Meeting and understand how they are living their faith.
- For children 10 years old through middle school, the goal is for them to develop an understanding of their own views on issues; develop the ability to engage in and share their self reflection on areas of: social justice, other faith perspectives, and experiences, as well as larger moral issues; and ponder Quaker queries.
- For all ages of children, we want them to develop the ability to meditate and participate in silent worship as well as participate in intergenerational activities with the wider Meeting community.

The theme of the First Day School beginning in September focused on refugees with special emphasis on the plight of Syrian refugees. The children have discussed newspaper, online news articles, and looked at maps of the world. The committee has coordinated guest speakers for First Day School who have shared their experience as refugees coming to America (e.g., Pyu Pyu Aung and Tuza Khine, originally from Burma) and what life is like in a refugee camp (e.g., Kristie and Leah Bailey shared about her work with refugees in refugee camps in Africa). We look forward to hearing about the experiences of more meeting members and

attenders in future First Day School activities. The older elementary and middle school youth prepared a presentation on the Syrian refugee crisis. They presented their project to the meeting at a forum following meeting for worship on November 30th. They are raising monies to donate to a charitable organization that aids Syrian refugees.

The children held one fundraiser in the past year to collect monies for items to use in their proposed meeting space in the basement of the meetinghouse; they requested donations for a simple meal they prepared and served before the forum about the meetinghouse project in August 2015. The oldest group of children presented a report in November business meeting requesting use of the basement for First Day Activities. House and Grounds responded that the space was available, and have offered to have the carpet steam-cleaned prior to use of the basement.

Last December, the children (all ages) worked together to assemble and sell soup mixes and hot cocoa mixes to raise money for a donation to Heifer International, which provides livestock to families in need. The children have also assisted Peace and Social Concerns committee by making ornaments for the Angel Tree, which provides a family in food and needed items as Christmas gifts.

Finally, we have been very fortunate to have great childcare support from Juliet Smith and Ash-Leigh Brown in Fall 2014 through July 2015, and from Emma Moreno, Hayley Lowry and Libby Stillwell beginning in September 2015. We wish to remind the meeting that childcare is available during meeting for business, but that

the childcare providers need to know at rise of meeting if their services will be needed.

### **3. Care and Counsel Committee Report**

- Bonnie Parsons gave a report from the Care and Counsel Committee.
- A welcome event for the newest members will be Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, from 4-6pm here at the meetinghouse.
- Dave MacInnes, Judy Harvey, Kembra Howdeshell and Bonnie Parsons will serve on the Welcome Committee to plan this event.

### **4. Meetinghouse Planning Committee Report**

- Don Smith gave a report and presentation from the Meetinghouse Planning Committee.
- The committee is recommending that the meeting purchase the two adjacent properties from Friends Homes. The committee will host two forums/threshing sessions for discussion in January, dates to be announced.

### **5. Meetinghouse Fundraising Committee Annual Report**

- Kembra Howdeshell gave the annual report from the Meetinghouse Fundraising Committee.

Friendship Friends Meeting (FFM) Fundraising Committee Annual Report

Committee members: Jim Hood and Kembra Howdeshell (convener)

The FFM Fundraising Committee initiated its campaign to collect pledges toward a new building project in January 2015. The initial fundraising goal was \$380,000, which was a rough estimate of the cost of constructing a new meeting room and addressing our impervious surface environmental issues. The committee has taken a tiered approach of contacting the meeting membership and attenders, such that not everyone has been contacted yet. As of November 2015, the committee had collected \$155,520 in pledges after contacting 31 family units of the meeting; pledges are requested to be paid within 3 to 5 years. The Fundraising Committee is also investigating additional sources of funding, such as the Friends General Conference Green Building Fund and Everence, a faith-based financial services organization established by the Mennonites.

On May 26, 2015, the meeting received a generous donation toward the New Building Fund from FFM member Celia Brown of two houses, the remaining contents of one of the houses, and a vehicle. The net profit from the sale of the two houses, the estate sale for one of the houses, and the sale of the vehicle was \$302,223.29. As per the Treasurer's Report, the total of donations received in the New Building Fund by the end of November equaled \$336,385.87.

The committee is currently waiting for a revised fundraising goal from the New Building Committee before contacting the remaining members, attenders and others associated with FFM. The fundraising committee would prefer to have a more concrete estimate of funds needed prior to continuing its fundraising efforts.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report: Twelfth Month Report for Eleventh Month Income and Expenses in 2015

Income in November 2015 totaled \$145,104.97 with \$1,944.60 to the General Fund and \$143,160.37 to the New Building Fund.

Expenses in November 2015 totaled \$1,244.27. The operating expenses totaled \$978.56 including \$400 for Pathways; \$298.56 for Supplies and Misc.; and other expenses. No supporting contributions were paid. Meeting House expenses totaled \$265.71 primarily for utilities.

## 7. Finance Committee Report

- Stephen Holland presented the proposed 2016 budget for Friendship Friends Meeting.
- One change in the 2016 budget is that our New Building Corporate Contribution (\$4,000) will be transferred at one point in the year into the New Building Fund. Expenditures will come out of the New Building Fund, and *not* the New Building Corporate Contribution line item. The Finance Committee will discuss with the Meetinghouse Planning Committee and the Meetinghouse Fundraising Committee how expenditures will be approved.
- The budget for 2016 was approved.

## 8. Ad Hoc Committee on Disposition of Properties Report

- Judy Purvis gave a report from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Disposition of Properties.

- The final report on income and expenses will come in January at Meeting for Business. The recommendation is that the committee be laid down after their final report in January.
- A thank-you event will be planned to thank all donors to the New Building Fund, to be held at Friends Homes. The event will be planned by Jim Hood, Kembra Howdeshell, and Maureen Burns.

The meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

The Meeting's response to Query 12 is taken from query session on third month:

Query #12      *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?

Query 12.      Friendship Meeting has benefitted by having a committee devoted entirely to the care and counsel of our members and attenders. We are encouraged to undertake visitation, to welcome newcomers, to follow up with new members and sojourners. Care and Council has developed a process for approaching long time attenders to encourage them to consider membership when appropriate. Each First Day a member of the meeting is designated to meet with those who might want to ask questions about the meeting

and Quakerism in general. At the close of but still within the spirit of each meeting for worship, those present are encouraged to tell of joys and concerns so that the entire meeting community can share in both the burdens which individuals carry and the good news. Two of our members in assisted living facilities are visited regularly. Those who live at the nearby Friends Homes Retirement facility are visited and assisted by other members who live there. On most fifth First Days the children are responsible for the meeting for worship, staying for the entire time and breaking the meeting. The recent nomination process has resulted in both the appointment of a number of younger members and those who have been attending for a short period of time to committees and appointments. Although we try to involve more of our newest attenders with the work of the meeting as well as to meet the needs of those who need assistance, we know we can always do more.

We trust that this visitation and caring extends beyond the members of our monthly meeting.

#### **New addresses**

**McCRA Y**, Lianne (287-3987) 1921 New Garden Rd., Apt. 305C, Greensboro, NC 47410; [ljmccray11@gmail.com](mailto:ljmccray11@gmail.com)

The Poyntons have a new apartment number, 3301

Phayth Meyer

820 Edinburgh Dr. Jamestown NC 27282

[336 847 8890](tel:3368478890)

[pharmacyphayth@yahoo.com](mailto:pharmacyphayth@yahoo.com)

#### **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 do 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.



This year's Giving Tree (photo by Dave M)

**From Gay Bowles:** there will be an opportunity to worship with John Bowles on Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**From Raleigh Bailey:** New Garden Friends Meeting is hosting a "Refugee Information Meeting" on the morning of Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM at their Meeting House. They are inviting faith communities and refugee resettlement professionals to work together to develop a strategic plan for refugee resettlement in the Greensboro area. While the meeting is precipitated by the Syrian refugee crisis and political backlash, the proposed plan will not be limited to Syrian refugee issues. Organizers are hoping for a strong turnout from Friends Meetings and Guilford College. Attached to this newsletter is a flyer that may be helpful in publicizing the event.

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