

# Friendship Times

Friendship Friends Meeting [www.friendshipmeeting.org](http://www.friendshipmeeting.org)

## Calendar

- Sun, Jan 31      9 am extended Meeting for  
Worship  
10:30 am Meeting for  
Worship
- Sun, Feb 7      9 am Worship and Ministry, Care  
and Counsel, Peace and Social  
Concerns Committees meet  
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Feb 14     10:30 am Meeting for Worship,  
a potluck meal follows, then  
Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sun, Feb 21     10:30 am Meeting for  
Worship
- Tues, Feb 22    Deadline for March newsletter
- Sun, Feb 28     9 am Deepening the Life of  
the Meeting.  
10:30 am Meeting for  
Worship
- Sun, Mar 6      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 7:00 pm on Wednesday, 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 and a directory change you will find a report from our Peace and Social Concerns Committee on the Welcoming Refugees Program. There are also changes to addresses and a letter to the Meeting from one of our members.

## 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, Feb 22.

## Month's Query

*Query 2. Are we faithful in our attendance at meetings for worship and are we careful not to disturb the spirit of the meeting by our late arrival? Is our behavior therein that of open submission to God in silent communion?*

## Summary of Minutes

### **1<sup>st</sup> Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**

**January 10, 2016**

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

**Reading:** “The meeting for business, if it be Spirit-filled and properly understood, is a hands-on, laboratory-filled experience in which the whole fellowship comes face to face with the Spirit’s demands for the sacrifice of time, treasure, convenience, and prejudice. When opinions differ widely and the need for spiritual discernment becomes crucial, the best are driven, as never in a meeting for worship, to seek that Spirit which can sustain harmony while waiting for the right leading. Thus God’s work among us becomes more real and faith is both tested and strengthened in the business meeting.”

(Paul A. Lacey and Bill Taber, “The Purpose of Meeting for Worship and for Business”)

#### **1. Correspondence**

- The clerk read a thank you Christmas card from the families at Pathways.
- The clerk read a travel minute for Deborah Shaw and the endorsements from Pendle Hill where she co-led a retreat.
- The clerk read three travel minutes for Lloyd Lee Wilson and the endorsements from Pacific Yearly Meeting, Broadmead Friends Meeting, and Community Friends Meeting.

- The clerk read a letter of introduction from Camas Friends Church for C. Wess Daniels and an endorsement from Friendship Friends Meeting as he travels to Peru with FWCC.

#### **2. Care and Counsel Report**

- Bonnie Parsons gave a report from Care and Counsel.
- A clearness committee for membership for Lianne McCray was approved.
- The New Member Welcome Planning Committee was approved.
- The laying down of membership request from the Owen family was approved.
- The minute of acknowledgement of Ray Treadway’s service on Care and Counsel was approved.

Care and Counsel Report to Monthly Meeting  
January 10, 2016

1. Approval of Clearness Committee for membership for Lianne McCray: Maureen Burns (clerk), Deborah Shaw, Susan Wilson and Lori Fernald Khamala.
2. Approval of Planning Committee for New Member Welcome on February 6, 2016: Dave MacInnes, Kembra Howdeshell, Judy Harvey and Bonnie Parsons (clerk).
3. Laying Down membership request: Rodney Owen, Marshall Owen, Moe Owen and Bridget Owen requested that their membership in Friendship Meeting be laid down. This request is brought to Monthly Meeting for approval.
4. Minute of acknowledgement of Ray Treadway’s service on C&C from August 2012 to December 2015.
5. Need for additional volunteers from Friendship Meeting to help out the Oversight

Committee for John and Judy's wedding.

### 3. Worship and Ministry Annual Report

- The committee has also requested a travel minute for Lloyd Lee Wilson to travel to New England Yearly Meeting for visitation in the ministry. The request was approved and the clerk will write a travel minute.

Annual Report of Worship and Ministry to First Month (2016) Monthly Meeting for Business

Worship and Ministry committee meets the first First Day of each month from Eighth month thru Sixth month. We meet jointly with Care and Counsel Committee twice a year and more often as needed.

Our committee members are Carole Treadway, Deborah Shaw, Neil Swenson, (recorder), (Sid Kitchens, Susan Carlyle, co clerks, ex officio,) and Darlene Stanley, clerk.

We value each member and attenders of the Meeting and prayerfully hold our community in Divine Light. We continue to arrange and present learning opportunities for the Meeting community to deepen our walk, seeking to hear that still small voice and be guided through love and faithfulness as directed as individuals and as a community. We continue to sponsor forums, the All Meeting Retreat and the adult class; Deepening the Spiritual Life of the Meeting facilitated by Carole Treadway.

This past year the All Meeting retreat was entitled "Spiritual Practices" led by Carole Treadway and Susan Wilson. It was well attended. Susan Wilson presented to our committee her leading to offer to be a presence weekly at the Meetinghouse offering for individual spiritual practice opportunities. These Silent Tuesdays began this fall. Many have taken advantage of one day a week having the Meetinghouse open for lunch followed by time

for individual spiritual practice and contemplation.

In collaboration with Care and Counsel, we offer what we call a Friendly presence or designated person who at the end of Meeting for Worship announces their availability to answer questions about our Meeting and/or Quakerism.

We sponsored a forum on Emergency Procedures covering unusual situations that may occur during a Meeting for Worship or at a Meeting event establishing guidelines that members and attenders can follow. These procedures include medical as well as mental health scenarios and protocols to be followed.

This fall a Bible study group has been introduced with Lloyd Lee Wilson as facilitator, for those seeking more in depth scripture reading and education.

In Twelfth Month we organize the yearly Christmas Eve worship service held annually in the living room at Friends Homes Guilford. It continues to be well attended and very much appreciated by the residence and other local attenders.

As a committee we answer the Queries of the Meeting for Ministry and Oversight from the Faith and Practice Book of Discipline of NCYM-C and continue to see these as guides and reminders to seek humble assistance from God for direction and guidance individually and as a committee.

### 4. Ad Hoc Committee on the Dispensation of Donated Properties Final Report

- Judy Purvis gave a report from the Ac Hoc Committee on the Dispensation of Donated Properties.
- The report follows and was accepted with great appreciation.
- The meeting approved that the committee be laid down.

## Final report from Ad Hoc Property Committee

This committee was charged with overseeing the sale of two properties donated by Celia Brown to Friendship Friends Meeting: the rental property at 305 Woodlawn Avenue and the contents and property (formerly Celia's home) at 307 Woodlawn Avenue. Preparation of the 307 Woodlawn property involved removing a considerable amount of unwanted belongings, preparing and arranging for an estate sale of the remaining contents and sale of the house. Since this required some time to accomplish, the Meeting has had to pay insurance, utilities, water, and mowing to maintain the property until the sale was complete.

We would like to thank Celia Brown for her enormous generosity in donating the properties. We would also like to thank the many meeting members and attenders who helped prepare for the estate sale in the heat of summer. And finally, we would like to thank David Brown for his tireless work, without which the successful sale would not have been possible.

Final income and expenses\* are as follows:

**Income**

305 Woodlawn (rent, sale, insurance refund)	\$154,139.09
307 Estate Sale	6,157.83
307 Woodlawn sale	142,380.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$302,677.09</b>

**Expenses (mostly 307 Woodlawn)**

Insurance 305 Woodlawn	504.00
Insurance 307 Woodlawn (6 mos, vacant)	846.85
Estate sale insurance	315.50
Bain Oil maintenance	149.68
Dumpsters	790.00
Dumpster overweight	240.35
Utilities through 8/24/15	222.26
Electricity Sept to Nov 2015	262.53
Water Sept to Nov 2015	35.21
Misc. supplies	21.12
New door locks	109.27
Mowing	140.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3633.77</b>

\*Treasurer Stephen Holland may need to make minor adjustments. However, we believe that these totals are essentially correct.

Submitted by Judy Purvis (clerk), Maureen Burns, Claire Koster, Judy Reece, Elizabeth Judson-Rea, Mae Brown, and David Brown.

## 5. Meeting for Business Proposal

- The clerk read a proposal about the starting and ending time of Meeting for Business.
- The proposal follows and was discussed but will be considered further.
- An additional proposal included foregoing regular introductions and announcements after Meeting for Worship on second Sundays (except for visitors) so that potluck can get started earlier. This proposal was approved.
- Other solutions for potluck clean-up, such as biodegradable dishes, people bringing their own dishes, and sign-up for clean-up from potluck, will be considered by the Hospitality Committee.

From clerk, Sid Kitchens:

Proposal: That our Meeting for business in the spirit of worship will start at 1pm on First days after our potluck at the rise of the meeting for worship and that we consider 2:30pm as the time we will seek to end our session depending upon the discernment of the clerk and approval of the body. We will continue to seek the guidance of the spirit as to whether or not to continue beyond the appointed time if there is a need to complete a particular point of business.

Purpose of proposal: To allow all those who are cleaning up after potluck sufficient time to complete that work and to be present at the beginning of the meeting for business, and to ease the sound levels at the beginning of our meeting which make worship and speaking over difficult.

A hoped-for side effect of this proposal, as well, is for the pleasant socialization that regularly occurs during our potluck time not have to be hurried to end in a scramble to get things

cleaned up before business sessions. It is recognized that potluck is a valuable time for the community to be together whether it is to eat, socialize, help in the kitchen clean up, regardless of whether or not they may plan to stay on to participate in the business sessions.

## 6. Nominating Committee Report

Betty Poynton will serve on Care and Counsel and resign from Hospitality. Aleks Babic will join Hospitality.

## 7. Communications Committee

- The meeting would like to have the Communications Committee investigate the feasibility and cost of internet connectivity and media equipment in the meetinghouse.
- Don Smith and Kembra Howdeshell have a projector that can be hooked up to a computer that they are willing to make available.

## 8. Wedding Announcement

- Judy Purvis and John Schoonover are inviting all F/friends to their wedding on Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 2pm at New Garden Friends Meeting, with a reception at Friendship Friends Meeting. They request an RSVP to themselves and Anne Rouse by January 31, 2016.

The meeting ended with a period of silent worship

Peace and Social Concerns Report on Welcoming Refugees Program from Anne Cassebaum

What will our role be in welcoming and aiding refugees who come to Greensboro? This was the question raised by Rachel Knight just before the rise of meeting on January 10th and it is one that the P and SC committee asks all to consider before the Forum on this topic planned for March.

It is also the question raised by the program on Welcoming Refugees held at New Garden Friends meeting on Saturday, January 9th. Raleigh Bailey gave the opening talk and a sweeping history of the immigration to America that started over 10,000 years ago and continues to the present day. He highlighted 20th Century changes in immigration policy and Greensboro's often positive role in recent resettlement of refugees. The speakers who followed included representatives of World Relief, Church World Service and NC African Services Coalition and described the challenges and rewards of partnering with a refugee or refugee family.

Challenges include a twelve-step clearance process before being allowed to even enter the U.S. and begin life here with 90 days of aid that amounts to \$925 per person while adjusting to a new life and new culture. Those who had partnered said it was a rich experience, deeper than most travel could be and fulfilling. One man whose family was met at the airport by a welcome team said later that it was the first time in four years he had felt any hope.

In closing, Lori Khamala asked those in attendance to be open to the needs of all refugees whatever their official status and to speak out against the deportation raids and the SAFE Act which would block resettlement if passed.

Here are links to sources of information about security clearance

<http://www.rcusa.org/uploads/pdfs/Refugee%20Oresettlement%20-%20step%20by%20step%20USCRI.pdf>

what partnering entails

<http://ustogether.us/our-services/reception-placement/>

### **Making Non-Christian Space**

Letter to the Meeting from Kim Carlyle

While our Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice* makes a number of disclaimers about creed (e.g., "Quakerism can be described but not defined, since it is an inner vision and outward life style rather than a theological world view"), the suggested theology is apparent throughout, such as this quote from the advices: "Take heed, dear Friends, we entreat you, to the convictions of the Holy Spirit, who leads us, through unfeigned repentance and living faith in the Son of God, to reconciliation with our Heavenly Father and to the blessed hope of eternal life, brought to us in the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Our Meeting's handbook, however, claims diversity: "Friendship Meeting is a diverse meeting. Its dual affiliation with Friends General Conference (through PFF) and North Carolina Yearly Meeting-Conservative indicates its theological diversity with many Friends in both groups whose spiritual lives are centered in Christ, and others who have a more universalist outlook. This diversity creates tension at times and is also appreciated by many. It seems to be an inevitable outcome of our commitment to faith grounded in experience and subject to change and growth."

I was drawn to Friends more than two decades ago because I resonate with the values as expressed in the testimonies; because the phrase “that of God” seems to be open to an interpretation broader than “God the Father” — even to “universal consciousness” and “the Buddha within”; and because the notions of continuing revelation and experiential faith seem to invite a spirituality that can be informed by not only a critical examination of Biblical scriptures and Christian beliefs both in their historical context and their cultural evolution, but also by other spiritual traditions and by personal experience.

Lately, I have been feeling the tension described above. I am sensing an imbalance; our Meeting seems to be leaning perceptibly in one direction. I’m wondering if other Friends share this opinion and, if they do, would care to discuss how we might make a bit of space for “a more universalist outlook.” If they don’t agree, I’m still open to discussion.

**New Addresses** The Meeting’s response to Query 12 is taken from query session on third month:

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Marilyn White

925 New Garden Rd Apt 802, Greensboro, NC 2741 (336) 676-5917

Daniel Rhodes

312 Ashland Drive Apt. C Greensboro, NC 27403

Gwen Erickson

604 Courtland St, Greensboro NC 27401-1938



The Meeting’s Star Magnolia tree thinks it is Spring – taken December 27 by D MacInnes

The Meeting’s response to Query 1 is taken from query session on third month:

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?*

The meeting for worship at Friendship Friends Meeting is based on silent, expectant waiting for a glimpse of the Divine and is at the core of the life of the meeting. Vocal ministry arises from seeking what God might have us share with others, in spoken ministry or sometimes in song. Frequently only one or two messages are

given and on occasion our meetings are completely silent, although alive and enriching. When engaged with distracting thoughts, we try to return to the presence of God in our meditation. There is a focused time at the end of worship, before the meeting is formally ended, for those present to share joys and concerns, thus involving the entire community in these personal matters. The Worship and Ministry committee sponsors forums and an annual all-meeting retreat to engage members of community in enriching our spiritual lives. Once a month there is an opportunity for those who are so led to come together to consider a query or scripture and share in an effort to deepen the life of the meeting. We do feel we are encouraging of those who may have a gift in vocal ministry as well as those persons who may rarely speak. We are aware that those who speak are spoken to encouragingly by attending persons regarding their message.

Friendship Friends Meeting  
Box 8652  
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[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

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Address Correction Requested

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