

Friendship Times
Friendship Friends Meeting

Calendar

Sun, Mar 27	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, April 3	9 am Worship and Ministry, Peace and Social Concerns and House and Grounds Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, April 10	10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
Sat, April 16	10-4 Meeting workday
Sun, April 17	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Tues, April 19	Deadline for March newsletter
Sun, April 24	9 a.m. Deepening the Life of the Meeting. 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, May 1	9 am Worship and Ministry, Peace and Social Concerns and House and Grounds 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, 7th 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 with a report from the Meetinghouse Planning Committee, you will find something from the Clerks Corner, some pictures, and a response to query 3.

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, April 19. Besides announcements and publicity for events we welcome poems and other thoughts to go into the newsletter.

Month's Query

Query #4 Do we assume our rightful share of the expenses of the meeting? Do we regard our time, our talents, and our possessions as given us in trust, and do we use them freely for the needs of others?

April Birthday

Margot Josephine Logan
Morris, April 7th

Minutes

3rd Month Meeting for Business in the Spirit of Worship

March 13, 2016

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

Reading: from Mathilda Navias' *Quaker Process for Friends on the Benches* including some suggestions from Bill Taber on **What is the role of the participants in monthly meeting for business?**

*Go to meeting early and settle into worship as soon as possible.

*Pay attention.

*Make sure you understand each item of business sufficiently before the group moves into discernment.

*Be open to the leading of the Spirit and expect to be surprised.

*Listen attentively and lovingly to other's views. Consider what experiences inform them. If you can maintain an attitude of loving concern for all present, that will help you to hear what others say.

*Keep your heart and mind open.

*Remember that this is not your meeting; it belongs to God.

*Stay in worship, in a special state of consciousness.

*Recognize the value of spaces in the meeting. There needs to be enough space between messages and minutes to connect with a deep underlying unity beneath and beyond words.

*When there is disagreement, be prepared for the process to pause long enough for God to reveal a new, more creative perspective.

*When in doubt, return to silent worship

1. Sojourning Membership

- The clerk read a request for sojourning membership from David Parsons.
- The request was approved.

2. Care and Counsel Report

- A Clearness Committee for marriage for Juliet Smith and Isaiah Unger was approved: Bonnie Parsons, Judy Purvis, Jim and Jane Fernandes, Stephen Holland and Hilary McCormick.
- The clearness committee for membership for Lianne Mac Cray has been put on hold for right now due to events going on in Lianne's personal life. She has said she will get back with us if and when she is ready to proceed.

3. Naming Committee Report

- The Nominating Committee was approved: Dave MacInnes, Susan Wilson, and Elizabeth Judson-Rhea.
- The report follows.

From the Handbook: Each year a committee, composed of the Clerk of Monthly Meeting, Clerks of Care & Counsel and Worship & Ministry Committees, and the Treasurer, name the members of a nominating committee for approval by the monthly meeting.

This year's Naming committee comprised of Sidney Lee Kitchens, Susan Carlyle, Bonnie Parsons, Darlene Stanley and Stephen Holland. We are proposing the names of Elizabeth Judson-Rhea, Susan Wilson and Dave MacInnes to be this year's Nominating Committee.

This newly approved committee begins its work at this point and the work of the former Nominating Committee is complete.

4. House and Grounds Annual Report

To meet our charge of maintaining, repairing, and improving our Meeting's physical property, the House and Grounds Committee members work on tasks individually, as a team, and with the help of other Friends on Meeting-wide work days.

Recent activities of the committee have included, but not been limited to, basic yard maintenance; major tree pruning; preparing the basement for First Day School use; washing the building's siding; replacing HVAC system vent covers; purchasing plates, glasses, and a table for the Hospitality Committee; revising the Meetinghouse Use Form; cleaning the gutters; and repairing the porch and deck. After review and research of the market, we purchased a new lawn mower and sold the old one. We also had a solar contractor make a site visit to determine the potential for power generation, and the gas company provide an estimate for a water heater upgrade. (Action on the latter two items, along with any other significant physical improvements, are on hold pending Meeting's decisions regarding expansion of physical space.)

The House and Grounds Committee will be challenged by the planned purchase of property, which will more than double our area of responsibility. We are hopeful that the Meeting's enthusiasm for the acquisition of the land will be matched by its enthusiasm for helping us maintain it. In light of our future increased workload, we

ask the Nominating Committee to provide us with two more members.

Finally, we request that, if Friends need to store any food in the Meetinghouse, the food is secured in the refrigerator, freezer, or other rodent-proof containers. Cabinets, closets, plastic bags, and cardboard boxes are not rodent proof.

The report was accepted with thanks for the committee's work.

5. Friendship Meeting Donations to Outside Organizations:

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

Greensboro Urban Ministry

Greensboro Urban Ministry's mission is to express the love of God to people in need through practical action in the Greater Greensboro area. It has served the Greensboro community since 1967.

Rev. Myron Wilkins, the new Executive Director, began his work at GUM in the spring of 2015. GUM, under his direction, began using the "white flag" at its entrance when the temperature is or is predicted to be 25 degrees. The lobby is used as a warming station throughout the night even if the shelter beds and overflow beds are full. No one is turned away. Each cold night GUM shelters 135 men and women in either the year round shelter, the Weaver Extension, or the lobby. Shelter to 16 families is provided at Pathways Center. GUM partners with the IRC, the YMCA, and the city to give those who usually live

outside a safe place to come to warm themselves.

The emergency assistance program helps people who face either eviction or discontinuation of their heat. The food pantry gives food up to four times a year to anyone who needs it in Guilford County. Potter House Community Kitchen feeds 350-400 people lunch seven days a week, 365 days a year. This year the Board is focused on adding key case managers and shelter staff to help with plans for more stable living situations.

Pendle Hill

Friendship Meeting has a long history of connections to Pendle Hill, the Quaker Center for Study and Contemplation in Wallingford, PA. Pendle Hill supports programs for the Religious Society of Friends and other spiritual seekers through short courses and residential programs, as well as retreats and conferences.

Members of Friendship Meeting have participated in the life of Pendle Hill for many years. Judith Harvey, Deborah Shaw and Carole Treadway all have served on the General Board beginning in the early 1980's. Both Judith Harvey and Deborah Shaw served as clerks of the General Board, each serving a three-year term. Members of the Meeting have attended short courses and retreats. Some years ago the Meeting sponsored a weekend Pendle Hill on the Road workshop in Greensboro. The Meeting also has an annual subscription to the Pendle Hill pamphlets, which are in our library and are a valuable spiritual and educational resource. Deborah Shaw

continues to lead short courses and weekend retreats.

Pendle Hill's mission of spiritual and educational outreach to Friends has been and is a continuing source of spiritual nurture to our members and attenders.

FCNL

Every two years Friends Committee on National Legislation invites Friends across the country to participate in selecting legislative priorities for the next Congress. These legislative priorities offer guidance to FCNL staff and to Friends across the United States in their research and lobbying efforts.

On March 20, David Parsons will facilitate a forum to encourage Friends at Friendship to discern what we might want to propose to the FCNL Policy Committee on priorities. If you wish to do a little homework before you come, you might read about the current FCNL legislative priorities for the 14th Congress at:

<http://fcnl.org/about/govern/priorities/114>
L

To see priorities from past years Click on Priorities (just above and left of the capitol dome)—you can see about 8 years and compare/contrasting priorities statements.

Legislative priorities we propose must stay within the framework of the FCNL Policy Statement (for example no priorities on abortion because that is not now covered in the Policy Statement). You can see the policy statement if you click on:

[The World We Seek: FCNL Legislative Policy Statement](#)

6. Treasurer's Report

Third Month Report for Second Month Income and Expenses in 2016

Income in February 2016 totaled \$6,892.47 with \$1,317.81 to the General Fund (which includes \$107.89 from the discontinued Flow Thru Fund) and \$5,682.47 to the New Building Fund (which includes the \$4,000 New Building Corporate Contribution from the General Fund).

Expenses in February 2016 totaled \$4,715.86. The operating expenses totaled \$454.30 including \$243 for Religious Education plus other minor expenses. No supporting contributions were paid. Meeting House expenses totaled \$4,261.56, which includes the \$4,000 New Building Corporate Contribution to the New Building Fund plus expenses for utilities.

Summary for February 2016

The Treasurer received correspondence in February from Irene McGee & Virginia Martin (thanking Brian and Betty Poynton) and from David and Mae Brown (honoring George White and thanking Brian Poynton) and from Dina & Donald Hurdle; Mary & Michael Hare; and Ashley, Brad, & Carter Stoop (honoring George White) and from Garland & LaClaire Anderson (honoring George White).

New Building Fund Report for February 2016:

February contributions to the New Building Fund in honor of Judy Purvis & John Schoonover

totaled \$50 and in memorial of George White totaled \$550.

7. Peace and Social Concerns Annual Report

1. Friendship had a very successful forum in February with guests from the Triad Divan Center, a Turkish Muslim immigrant organization committed to the expression of Islam as a service movement with emphasis on interreligious and intercultural conversation. "Harmony within Diversity" is their motto. Friendship has now been invited to visit the Divan Center on March 20 at 6pm for a Turkish meal and conversation. The Divan Center has expressed particular interest in Friends approach to interreligious dialog.

The Triad Divan Center is located at 7021 Albert Pick Road, near the airport and I-40. We would like to be able to confirm the invitation today with an estimated number of participants from Friendship who might be going.

2. A different forum on Islam is planned for 9am on April 17 with guest speaker, Wasif Qureshi, President of the Greensboro Islamic Center. He will be speaking on Islamophobia and efforts to address the issue.
3. Rachel Knight will be bringing a proposal to Business Meeting on behalf of P&SC regarding an emerging refugee resettlement sponsorship coalition. Rachel and other Friendship members attended the organizing meeting for the coalition at New Garden Friends

Meeting a couple of weeks ago. Extensive written guideline materials are available for understanding the process and commitments. Organizers have asked Friendship to be one of the participating communities.

8. Refugee Sponsorship Proposal

- Rachel Knight, Raleigh Bailey, and Sherri Grace will help plan a forum/threshing session to help discern the sense of the meeting in the idea of co-sponsorship.

Proposal to Business Meeting on Co-sponsoring a Refugee Family

I am representing the Peace and Social Concerns Committee on the proposal of our Friendship Meeting co-sponsoring a refugee family. The committee came to a consensus to report this to the business meeting and have asked me to represent them. I have used my notes on refugee training and the handouts that were presented at the training to prepare this report.

I have attended two different workshops on refugee resettlement along with other members of this Meeting. The last workshop on Feb. 27th, entitled Co-Sponsoring Refugee Families, was at New Garden Friends Meeting and was presented by North Carolina African Services Coalition – referred to as ASC in this proposal. Refugees around the world are placed through ASC. The training focused on the resettlement process of newly arrived refugee families in Guilford Co.

I would like to explain the word co-sponsorship. If our Meeting moves ahead on this we would be working very closely

with ASC. They will have a case manager working with us. They are asking for church involvement for their individual families.

The ASC is responsible for the following:

- *all legal matters and other services such as SS application, applying for federal assistance, applying for food stamps, etc.
 - *finding safe affordable housing (Irene Agapion is remodeling eleven 3 bedroom apartments on Cone and Summit which should be completed by mid-March. These apartments are for refugee families. She is charging \$250 a month for the first 2 months and then \$500 a month thereafter.)
 - *making appointments to get children into school
 - * assisting refugees in getting medical exams by making appointments and providing an interpreter
 - * giving the Meeting training in refugee resettlement
 - * providing materials and training on the family's culture
 - * enrolling the refugees into ESL classes
 - * finding employment, but would appreciate any leads that the members of the Meeting can provide
- Friendship Meeting is responsible for the following:

MEETING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL NEEDS OF THE FAMILY

We will be giving spiritual nurture to the family by being their advocates to help them move from despair to hope and from dependency to self-sufficiency. We will be responsible for introducing the family into our culture and being their friends. It is advised that we visit the family regularly during the first 3 months. In the first 7–10 days we should visit daily and then once a

week after that. It is always good to include them in our Meeting activities. There was a sign in a video at the training that said, "They took my home, but they can't take my future." So our Meeting will be helping them realize the dreams of their future.

FUNDING

There is no financial responsibility. I am quoting from the pamphlet that ASC sent for the training: "It is not required that you, or your faith community provide funding in order to participate." I even called the presenter from ASC, Latosha Walker, to be certain. She explained that funds are only based on what our Meeting wants to supply. Congress sets the budget but the Dept. of State administers the budget. Each individual refugee is given a one-time amount of \$1,100 for resettlement. Rent, utilities, deposits, and all the other needs have to come out of this money. For example, the State says that each person gets one towel and one blanket, so if our Meeting wants to supply more than this then it would be our responsibility. Even though there is no financial responsibility it would be ideal if the Meeting had a refugee fund or else we could count on individual contributions or donated items.

HOUSING

We will be responsible for getting donated furniture and have the apartment all set up upon their arrival. ASC has storage for furniture and can hire a delivery truck. However, to save the refugee's allowance it would be great to have a volunteer with a truck.

FOOD

We will need to go shopping using the ASC grocery list for staples and provide a hot meal on the day they arrive. We will be responsible for providing food for the first 7-14 days until their food stamps arrive. ASC states it will cost \$70 per person for food. We also need to provide pocket money for up to 3 months. ASC suggests \$10 per adult per week and \$5 per child.

CLOTHING

We will need to provide clothing if it is needed. Some refugees arrive with their own clothes. We will not know the sizes or needs until the family arrives.

TRANSPORTATION

One of our big responsibilities is transportation to all of their appointments for the first 30 days or longer. Our goal is to help the family be self-sufficient, so teaching them how to ride the bus and buying bus passes is to everyone's advantage. ASC provides bus training classes. We also need to meet them at the airport and bring them to their new home. ASC staff will be there with an interpreter.

ORIENTATION TO NEW COMMUNITY

There will be so many things that they are unfamiliar with such as grocery shopping, using the laundromat, banking, and using the post office. They also need to learn about local resources like libraries, museums, and parks.

Our obligation is to work with this family for 6 to 8 months or longer depending on the family.

If this is approved by the Meeting, our next steps would be to form a team of 5 to 8

volunteers who want to be involved in making a difference to this family. ASC will provide training to the team. The New Garden Friends are going ahead in co-sponsoring a family and have too many volunteers on their team. They are willing to give us some volunteers to work on our team. At this date I have 3 specific names of people who would like to join our team. One is Vickie Dithane who has a background of experience in the area of refugee resettlement and will be a valuable team member.

The team would be responsible for the following:

- *informing and educating the Meeting about the resettlement and co-sponsorship and also about the family's culture
- *advertising for donations for furniture, beds, household items, etc.
- *visiting the family and helping them learn English
- *planning a welcome reception for the family
- *organizing all the food, clothing and transportation needs
- *helping with home orientation and safety issues (There is a detailed list on Page 19 and 23 of the manual.)

Once the team is formed then they apply to ASC for a family. We can choose a single person, a couple, or a family with children. The team will never be on its own. ASC will be working with the team through the entire process.

Co-sponsoring a refugee family will be a great opportunity for our Meeting to make a difference in our community, to unify our Meeting, and a wonderful chance for our

children to have hands-on experiences with a refugee family after they studied refugee issues all fall in their First Day classes.

9. Meetinghouse Fundraising Committee Report

1. The committee is planning an event in April to celebrate donations and pledges to the new meetinghouse fund to be held at Friends Homes. Kembra Howdeshell, Jim Hood and Maureen Burns have been designated by the meeting to organize event.

2. We are exploring options for presenting regular financial reports to the meeting detailing overall (not individual) payments on pledges.

3. We are waiting until the Planning Committee is a little further along in its work to begin the second stage of our fundraising efforts so that we will have clearer plans and visual materials to present to donors.

10. Meetinghouse Planning Committee Report

David Brown reported that the two adjacent lots now belong to Friendship Friends Meeting, and have been deeded as one lot. Our insurance company has been notified.

Update from the Meetinghouse Planning Committee

Third Month 13, 2016

At meeting for business last month, the meeting approved the purchase of the two adjacent lots owned by Friends Homes for \$300,000. Since that time, the Board of

Directors have met and begun those negotiations with Friends Homes. The Meetinghouse Planning committee also met recently, and committee member and landscape architect Claudia Dinep was able to be in attendance since her family was in town for the weekend. At that meeting, we agreed on the following next steps:

- 1) Contact the city and Friends Homes to locate the utility lines and any possible easements. We have begun this process.
- 2) Ask for the current site surveys for those two lots, determine any gaps, ask a surveyor to add any necessary information, and combine them with the recent survey of our existing property in the proper format. We have begun this process.
- 3) Schedule a meeting with the architects to request an additional four site plans that incorporate the new properties. This may entail an additional cost, but we feel that this is the necessary next step to consider in more detail the location of new construction, parking, landscaping, etc. Claudia will be in contact with the architects during this process. We will schedule this meeting shortly.
- 4) Bring these site plans to the meeting for discussion and approval of a particular plan for the development of a master plan.

We will continue to update the meeting regularly as we move through this process.

11. Request for Support in Ministry

The support committee for Lloyd Lee Wilson reported that Lloyd Lee has a leading to travel in ministry and teach in ministry with Deborah Fisch. The support committee will return next month to meeting for business to recommend that

the meeting support this leading.

The meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

Each month our responses to the query of the month will appear in the newsletter. The Meeting's response to Query 3 is taken from query session on third month 2015:

Query 3: Do we follow the teachings of Jesus and seek the inspiration of His Holy Spirit in our daily lives? Are love and unity maintained among us? Do we cultivate a forgiving spirit, and do we avoid and discourage needless and destructive criticism of others? When differences arise, do we endeavor promptly to resolve them in a spirit of love, honesty, and humility?

We see this query as a good reminder of our desired intentions. Our community is made up of members and attenders who strive to live conscientious and Spirit-led lives. Love and unity are characteristic of our corporate life. If differences arise we strive to face the challenge or the conflict honestly believing if demonstrating an effort, love and unity or a compromise with positive results, may be the final outcome. It is our hope that we can be inspired by God's leadings to reconcile and practice forgiveness arriving on the other side of conflict with humility and grace.

New for Becky Barnett
becky22barnett@gmail.com

Joshua Brown
 326 E. Lexington Avenue, High Point 27262,
[336 420 2298](tel:3364202298) cell jobrown_sgc@yahoo.com

Clerks' Corner

A new newsletter feature where every month or so something will be submitted from our clerks for the benefit of our members' continuing education on Quaker history, thoughts and practices.

From Arthur Larrabee: The Role of those present at Meeting for Business

1. Come prepared, both in mind and spirit, having given thought to the meeting in advance and being open to a meeting rooted in spiritual understandings.
2. Be present in a spirit of worship, being open to a spiritual process, listening for the promptings of the Spirit.
3. Support the expectations of the group for good order which may include, but not be limited to:
 - (a) starting and ending meetings promptly at the appointed times;
 - (b) being mindful of not speaking more than is really necessary;
 - (c) waiting to be recognized;
 - (d) giving full attention to the work of the meeting, leaving other work and distractions behind.
4. Speak and release. Speak one's own, individual truth, and then release it to the meeting.
5. Listen to others, and to yourself, with the inner ear as well as with the outer ear, listening empathetically for what "is really being said."
6. Hold in the Light those people and ideas with whom you seem to be in disagreement.
7. Challenge yourself to trust the Light that is given to others, being open to new truth, revelation and insight, being teachable.
8. Refrain from repeating what has already been said.
9. Pray for the clerk and the recording clerk.
10. Help the meeting move forward, being present with clerking consciousness.
11. Support the decisions of the meeting.

The role of those NOT present is to show up next time.

April work day — Saturday the 16th, 10am until 4pm

The House & Grounds Committee's annual report included this sentence referring to the property just purchased by our Meeting: "We are hopeful that the Meeting's enthusiasm for the acquisition of the land will be matched by its enthusiasm for helping us maintain it."

The first test will be on **April 16th from 10am to 4pm**. All are invited and encouraged to participate.

We'll concentrate on removing the fence between the new property and the old, trimming vegetation near said fence, saving some of our newly acquired trees by removing a ring of ivy from their trunks, and moving some mulch. If these tasks don't particularly appeal to you, we'll be happy to provide alternatives.

Please join us for a day of fun and fellowship.

Cordially,

FFM H&G committee

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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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