

# Friendship Times

## Friendship Friends Meeting

(336) 854-5155

[www.friendshipmeeting.org](http://www.friendshipmeeting.org)

### Calendar

- Sun, Sept 25     9 am Deeping the Life of the Meeting  
10:30 am Meeting for Worship  
3 pm Memorial Service for Pat Loring at the Meetinghouse
- Sun, Oct 2        9 am Peace and Social Concerns committee meets  
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Oct 9        10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows  
12:30 pm Corporation Meeting, then Meeting for Business
- Sun, Oct 16      10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Oct 23      9 am Deeping the Life of the Meeting  
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Tues, Oct 25     Last day to send newsletter material to Editor
- Sun, Oct 30      9 am extended Meeting for Worship begins  
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Nov 6       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.

### Weekly events

- Tuesday, 12:00–4:30 PM: Quiet Tuesday at the Meetinghouse
- Midweek Meeting for Worship, on Wednesday at 7 pm, in the Prayer Room, 7<sup>th</sup> floor Woolman Hall, Friends Homes Guilford
- Bible Study at 7 pm at the Meetinghouse every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday
- Men’s group meets at 6:30 pm at the Meetinghouse every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday

### From the Editor

My intention is to distribute the newsletter no later than the last Sunday of the month; this will be October 30. Material should be submitted, preferably by email, no later than Tuesday, October 25.

### 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

### Minutes for 9th month, 11th day, 2016

2016-16. Opening Minute. Friends gathered in silence at 12:45.

2016-27. Reading. The Clerk opened the meeting with a reading from *Quaker Process for Friends on the Benches* by Mathilda Navias

2016-18. Recording Clerk. The Meeting approved of Don Smith acting as Recording Clerk for this session.

2016-19. Care and Counsel Report. The Clerk read a report from Care and Counsel committee. Gaye Bowles is withdrawing from the clearness committee to explore the transfer of the Care of marriage of Stephen Holland and Hillary McCormick to Friendship Friends Meeting. The Clerk requested that volunteers to replace her contact Bonnie Parsons, Clerk of Care & Counsel. With minor corrections, the report was accepted. .

Care and Counsel Report - September 11,  
2016

Updates:

#### **Anne Cassebaum Clearness Committee for Membership**

Anne let her clearness committee know that she would be away most of the summer. She is now back home and her clearness committee is arranging a time to meet with her in September.

#### **New Member Welcome:**

David Parsons became a sojourning member and Judy Williams became a member of Friendship Meeting. In consultation with both members, it was felt might be best to have a welcome event in the fall.

#### **Janet and Harry Nagel**

Harry Nagel, long-time Friendship Friends member, has moved to Brighton Gardens, Room #210, on New Garden Road, where he is under hospice care. He would appreciate visits. Please call his wife Janet at 336-686-0832 (her cell #) to determine the best time for a visit. Janet herself is recovering from a bout of pneumonia.

#### **Paul Sherman**

Paul Sherman is recovering well from surgery. He can be emailed at sherpa33042@yahoo.com

#### **Pat Loring**

A memorial service celebrating the life of Patricia Loring will be held at the meetinghouse on September 25<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM. Patricia Loring died on August 21, 2016

#### **Transfer of Marriage Under the Care of the Meeting Clearness Committee**

At the August Monthly Meeting Friends appointed clearness committee to explore next steps with regards to a request made to the meeting by Stephen Holland and Hilary McCormick. Judy Purvis, Dave MacInnes and Gay Bowles agreed to serve on this committee. Gay Bowles has since requested to step down from this committee and a new member for the committee is being sought to serve on this committee.

#### 2016-20. Handbook Committee Report.

This year, Miriam Biber-Peterson has stepped forward to relieve me of updating the handbook and is working to do this in the form of a Google document, so that the committee can review it and make any corrections as they are approved by monthly meeting,

This has taken a bit longer than anticipated, but will give all committees a chance to look at their particular write-up in the current handbook and see if there are any substantial changes that the monthly meeting needs to approve.

Our committee will forward a final annual report when our task has been completed.

#### 2016-21. Ad Hoc Committee for Refugee Family.

The Alhafyan family arrived July 29, 2016 with a warm reception at the airport. African Services Coalition (ASC) placed the family in an apartment in Legacy Crossing where they encountered bugs in the rug the first night. ASC honored their request to live with Samir's uncle until they could find an apartment in GlenHaven apartment complex. Our committee and other volunteers helped move all of their belongings into storage. They lived in the uncle's apartment for 4 weeks until September 1<sup>st</sup> when we moved them into their own apartment.

The family is very happy with their apartment and has made it into a lovely home. There are a few things that need fixing in the apartment and the landlord has agreed to take care of these minor problems. They have a playground right

outside their back door which is so much safer than the parking lot where they used to live.

Friendship Meeting gave them and their relatives a welcome party at the Meeting House on August 26<sup>th</sup>. There was a wonderful combination of American and Syrian food. The family commented on how grateful they were for all that Friendship is doing for them. The team found an interpreter that speaks the same dialect as the family and is readily available to us through phone calls and important conversations with the family. We are paying him \$20 an hour, but our goal is to have the family learn English so that we don't need an interpreter as often. The first few months are critical to have an interpreter that Samir respects and trusts. This interpreter has just found a job and we are very happy for him, but he won't be so available to us. Raleigh has a friend, Yousef, who is also an interpreter who was at our potluck. He has been instructed from his family back home to help Samir's family in every way he can without pay.

Samir and Tawfika are now both attending English classes at New Arrivals Institute with daycare for Waed. Bonnie has been very diligent about tutoring the family in English and Sheri is also going to help with tutoring. Bonnie is checking with the teachers at New Arrivals, so that she can reinforce what they are learning in class. The parents are so proud when they use English. Even Waed, the 2 year old, can say "How are you?" Ammar, the 11 year old, seems too shy to speak any English yet.

Ammar is attending Newcomers School and is in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. He loves school and is making many friends. His face lights up with a big grin when he is asked about school. He has received clothes and school supplies from the social worker at school. Ammar has also had his health screening that complies with the new school health laws.

The family has received their food stamps and are grocery shopping independently now. They have also learned to ride the bus to their English classes. ASC has put in applications for their Medicaid card and we are waiting for them to receive their cards. Both Samir and Tawfika have their state ID cards.

Abdul, the uncle, has a van and both Samir and Abdul have taken the driving written test, but have not passed it. They both have been provided with the questions and answers in Arabic so they can study for the test. Samir was a taxi driver in Jordan so hopefully he can pass the driving part of the exam.

Our team is very excited about the progress that the family has made. We are still very concerned about their financial situation. Their money from ASC will be running out in January 2017, so Samir needs to be looking for a job. ASC has offered him three different jobs, but Samir is determined to learn English first and then get a job in two months. In Syria he worked at a car body job painting cars and doing detail work and he really wants a job doing the same thing. We thought we had found him a job at a body shop, but it didn't work out in the end. In the near future Raleigh and Aleks are going to meet with the

director of ASC and have a serious conversation about finances. There will be an interpreter for Samir.

Our family is delightful. Tawfika makes the best coffee ever and the whole family seems delighted when any of our team comes to visit them. Samir has a great sense of humor and he so grateful for our help. He has been very concerned and anxious about getting his family settled into their own apartment, so now he is very relieved and happy with their living conditions and the surrounding community. He has expressed how he likes Greensboro.

Our refugee team appreciates all the donations given and contributions to the Contingency Fund. The family seems pretty set on things they need in the apartment. The loveseat donated looks great in their living room, but they are also requesting a sofa/sleeper that is longer than the loveseat. Please keep your eyes open for a sofa. They also have requested a small flat TV and a locked safe to keep all of their important documents safe. Any other contributions to the Contingency Fund are also welcomed.

#### 2016-22. Communications

Committee. Dave MacInnes presented a report on behalf of the Communications Committee. The FFM website will soon be linking to the Interim Discipline on the Yearly Meeting's website: <http://ncymc.org>. The committee has also recently discovered that there is a Facebook page for FF Meeting, and no one knows how it was created. Communications committee is exploring how to exercise stewardship of this page. The request

regarding audio-visual equipment will be laid over until next month.

#### 2016-23. Library Committee Annual Report

The most significant work in the library this year was accomplished not by the library committee but by Lloyd Lee Wilson who discovered [www.LibraryThing](http://www.LibraryThing), which is a website where libraries can enter their holdings. It is possible to view one's own holdings as well as those of other participating libraries. Lloyd Lee has kindly taken upon himself the task of entering what we have into LibraryThing. Brief descriptions of the titles are included for many entries. The account name is FriendshipLibrary and the password is 1103NewGarden

A number of new books and pamphlets have been added this year and a list is posted on the end of the bookshelf nearest the table where the notebook for signing books out is located.

Members of the committee are Carole Treadway, clerk, and Anne Rouse.

2016-24. Nominating Committee Nominating Committee requested approval to bring a name for Vice-President of the Corporation to the annual meeting of the corporation next month. This request was approved.

2016-25. Meeting for Business Schedule. The Clerk brought to the Meeting's attention that First Month 2016 Meeting for Business discussed the start and end time of the Meeting for Business, and the minutes indicate that discussion was expected to be carried forward at a later date. The Clerk reminded us of a

proposal that had been made at that time to set the start time of Meeting for Business at 1 pm to allow Hospitality sufficient time to clean up after potluck. The Clerk opened the floor for sharing on this question. There is a concern that the responsibility of the kitchen interferes with either socialization over lunch or silence at the start of Business Meeting. The burden tends to fall on too few people. If more people could help clean after Business Meeting, it would be less critical to finish cleanup before the Meeting for Business. It is not clear that setting a time will make the kitchen clean up any easier. Friends were in unity with the suggestion that starting no later than one o'clock would be an acceptable goal, with the intention that Meeting could begin earlier if the community felt ready and led to do so. Concerns were raised as to the duration of the Meeting – Friends were in unity that 90 minutes seems an appropriate target duration. The Clerk is empowered and encouraged to shape the agenda to match that duration, with the understanding that a hard limit is not possible.

2016-26. Ex officio Appointments. Discussion of Nominating Committee's recommendation regarding ex officio appointments is held over to a future meeting.

2016-27. Treasurer's Report. The childcare costs have exceeded the budget for the Religious Education committee, but the Finance Committee does not believe it will be difficult to continue funding childcare for the rest of the year. Finance committee will consider splitting childcare expenses into a separate line item next year, so Religious Education can have their own budget. The

property fund has gone negative, with all the costs related to energy improvements and HVAC improvements. Finance committee will encourage donations to the property fund, and will cover remaining deficits from reserves at the end of the year.

#### Treasurer's Report: Eighth Month 2016 Income and Expenses

Income in August 2016 totaled \$10,404.26 with \$1,405.00 to the General Fund; \$8,648.40 to the New Building Fund; \$250.86 to the Contingency Fund; and \$100.00 to the Property Fund.

Expenses in August 2016 totaled \$3,429.72. The operating expenses totaled \$1,126.09 including \$1,000.00 for a scholarship to the School of the Spirit plus other minor expenses. No Supporting contributions were paid. Meeting House expenses totaled \$232.50 primarily for utilities. The Contingency Fund paid \$271.13 in expenses for the refugee family. The Property Fund paid \$1,800.00 in expenses to Energy Reduction Specialists.

2016-28. Finance Committee. Stephen Holland presented a report from Finance Committee. They have developed a form and receipt for property donations that donors can use for tax purposes. Generally, it would be the treasurer who would sign such receipts. For special purposes, such as the fundraising garage sale, other members could be designated by the treasurer to sign as necessary. It was suggested that the word "property" be amended to "personal property" to avoid ambiguity between items and real estate. The report was accepted.

2016-29. Fundraising Committee. Kembra Howdeshell presented a report from the Fundraising Committee. The donor match contributions are underway, and new pledges are also being collected. The all-meeting yard sale fundraiser will be postponed to the second weekend of November. The report was accepted.

2016-30. Meetinghouse Planning Committee. Neil Swenson presented a report from the Meetinghouse Planning Committee. The committee has met with the architects to convey to them the Meeting's approval of the general concept at the 8<sup>th</sup> month Meeting for Business. The architects are developing a Master Plan. The report was accepted. The Meetinghouse Planning committee met with the architects on Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss with them the meeting's preference for the plan of a new meeting room connected from the new lots. The committee also shared with the architects additional feedback about the needs of the meeting based on comments from meeting members and attenders.

The next step is that the architects will draft several more detailed schematics with more specific pricing options. The committee hopes to receive those initial drafts within the next ten days. Once the committee has had the chance to give the architects feedback on these drafts, the architects will create a single master plan that will include schematics for the lot (including parking), the new meeting room and the renovated meetinghouse; artist renderings of the whole concept; more specific budget information; phased

renovation timetables; and regulations research.

2016-31. Closing Minute. The meeting closed in silence at 2:32 pm.

**Meeting response to Query 9** taken from the March query workshop

*Are we mindful of Friends' testimonies against alcoholic beverages, tobacco and other harmful drugs; and do we refrain from using them or dealing in them, realize that abstinence is the clearest witness against overindulgence? Do we seek to avoid all kinds of gambling and places of diversion that tend to be demoralizing? Do we keep in mind how diverse and widespread are the temptations to grow richer at the expense of others? Are we faithful to our testimony against taking oaths?*

This query is helpful for our members as it reminds each member to practice a responsible attitude toward alcohol, and other potentially harmful practices. We hope our members refrain from using harmful drugs. We believe our members uphold the Quaker Testimony of Integrity by undergoing spiritual discernment about their use of alcohol or other substances in their personal lives. Our policy is that the meeting house itself is to remain substance free. To the best of our knowledge our members avoid gambling, particularly in light of its adverse social and personal consequences. We try to keep in mind that we need to be constantly vigilant about the way we live our lives so that each of us can discern whether or not our standard of living is being achieved at the expense of others. To the best of our knowledge Friends in our meeting refrain from taking oaths.

**From the clerk:**

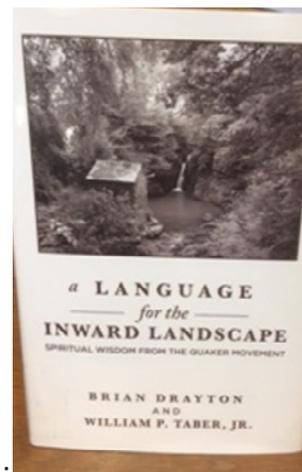
What do we need to leave behind whenever we enter the meeting room for either Meeting for Worship or Meeting for Business in the spirit of worship? Can we

leave behind the worries of today and the cares and concerns that we carry? Can we leave behind our own desires and be open to the workings of the spirit in our lives and in the life of the meeting?

The **FFM Yard Sale** has been postponed until Saturday, November 12th, beginning at 8 am. Members and attenders are requested to consider contributing items to the sale. However, please do not bring items to the meetinghouse in the month of September. More details will be provided at a later date regarding when to bring items to the meetinghouse for sale and how to sign up to assist on sale day. Please contact Maureen Burns ([336-545-4487](tel:336-545-4487)) and Kembra Howdeshell (336-323-137), if you have any questions about the yard sale.

### **All-Meeting Retreat**

We will be having a retreat on October 14-15: details to follow, but put this on your calendars. Brian Drayton from New England Yearly Meeting will facilitate. Meals and childcare offered at all events!



Suggested book for the retreat – in our library

Brian Drayton will also be giving a forum after meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>, the second part of our consideration of vocal ministry: recording ministers and recorded ministers.

- Interim Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) will meet at Friendship meeting October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10 AM to 4 PM. Friends are asked to bring dessert items for lunch.

- All-meeting work day on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Letter from Richard Miller  
Clerk Yearly Meeting Ministry and Oversight  
To Members of Yearly Meeting Ministry and Oversight,

At our sessions held last week at Guilford College we decided that the Clerk should facilitate intervisitation among our Monthly Meetings by compiling two lists: a list of Friends willing/lead to visit Monthly Meetings outside their own and a list of Monthly Meetings who request or are open to receiving visitors. I am beginning to compile these lists.

I intend to record the names of Friends willing to visit and give a brief description of

what their visit might look like (prepared talk, retreat, just fellowship, etc.) I also would like to record the monthly meetings which are open to visits and what kind of visit they would like to have.

I've talked to some Friends individually and have a sense of what form their visit might take. At this point I will just list their names and later on I hope to hear from each of them and get their own descriptions of their possible visits which I will then share.

Friends interested in Visiting

Anne Olsen (Davidson)  
Susan Wilson (Friendship)  
Richard Miller (Greenville)  
Bruce Arnold (Greenville)  
Andrew Wright (Durham)  
Susan Lees (Fayetteville)

Meetings which have expressed interest in being visited  
Greenville  
Fayetteville

I would like to add more information to both lists. As I get additional information I will update both lists. If you feel a desire for visitation or a leading to visit, please share that information with me.

Friendship Friends Meeting  
Box 8652  
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Susan Carlyle, Clerk  
Stephen Holland, Treasurer  
Claire Koster, Membership/Statistics  
Recorder  
Lloyd Lee Wilson, Recording 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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