

Friendship Times

Friendship Friends Meeting

Calendar

Sun, Feb 26	9 am Deepening the Life of the Meeting. 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sat, Mar 4	9 – 3 All Meeting Retreat
Sun, Mar 5	9 am Worship and Ministry, Peace and Social Concerns, Care and Counsel and House and Grounds Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Mar 12	10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
March 13 – 15	PFF annual retreat
Sun, Mar 19	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Tues, Mar 21	Deadline for March newsletter
Sun, Mar 26	9 am Deepening the Life of the Meeting 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, April 2	9 am Worship and Ministry, Peace and Social Concerns, Care and Counsel and House and Grounds Committees meet 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.

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, 7th floor Woolman Hall, Friends Homes Guilford

Bible Study at 7 pm at the Meetinghouse every 2nd and 4th and 5th Thursday

Men's group meets at 6:30 pm at the Meetinghouse every 1st and 3rd Thursday

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, Mar 21.

Month's Query

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?

Minutes

First Month

There was no meeting for business held at Friendship Friends Meeting in First Month 2017, due to a heavy snowfall the day before the scheduled meeting time.

-- Lloyd Lee Wilson, recording clerk

Second Month

Abstract of Minutes

2017-1. Opening Minute. At the regular meeting for business of Friendship Friends Meeting held at the meetinghouse on the afternoon of Second Month 12, 2017. The meeting began near the appointed hour with a period of waiting worship

2017-2. The Advices. Darlene Stanley read a portion of the *Advices*.

2017-3. Query Responses. The clerk invited interested Friends to participate in a workshop at the meeting house on 2/18/2017 to begin preparing our responses for this year to the yearly meeting's *Queries for Monthly Meetings*.

2017-4. All Meeting Retreat. Worship and Ministry is sponsoring the annual all-meeting retreat on 3/4/2017. The theme will be announced later. All Friends and attenders are invited to attend.

2017-5. Broken Vessels Quaker Ministries. The clerk read letters from Judy Williams and Darlene Stanley concerning their participation in the *Deeper Roots* program of Broken Vessels Quaker Ministries. Friends united in supporting these Friends in this endeavor.

2017-6. 2016 End-Of-Year Treasurer's Report.

Report for Twelfth Month Income and Expenses in 2016 Income in December 2016 totaled \$16,329.90 with \$7,019.00 to the General Fund and \$8,410.90 to the New Building Fund. Expenses in December 2016 totaled \$1,395.16. The operating expenses totaled \$318.55 including \$112.17 for Communications plus other expenses. No supporting contributions were paid. Meeting House expenses totaled \$256.61 primarily for utilities. Contingency Fund expenses were \$200.00; and Emergency Assistance Fund expenses were \$620.00.

2017-7. Finance Committee Report. Ray Treadway reported for the Finance Committee. The report follows.

The Finance Committee met to discuss the current policy of making adjustments at the beginning of each fiscal year and to consider whether changes in the policy should be made at this time.

Background – Current policy

Adjustments are to be made to fund balances at the beginning of the fiscal year.

1) Any funds remaining in the New Building Corporate Contribution line-item are transferred out of the general fund to the new building fund. 2) The beginning balance of the general (operating) fund will be one-half of the (new) annual budget and the beginning balance of the general reserve will equal the annual budget. 3) The beginning balance of the contingency fund

will be adjusted to at least \$3000, if necessary, and the beginning balance of the emergency assistance fund will be adjusted to at least \$2000, if necessary. 4) Funds will be transferred to or from the building reserve as needed.

This policy will prevent the balance in the general (operating) fund of “creeping up” if the income from the previous fiscal year exceeds the expenses and it will always assure that we have funds in the general reserve to allow us to meet our budget if we receive no income at all in one year.

Note: Provisions 2, 3, and 4 were adopted in 2004. Provision 1 was added in 2015.

The Finance Committee notes that the balance in the property fund at the end of 2016 was a very large deficit (of \$17,496.94) due to the extensive work done during 2016 on the heating and air-conditioning system. We agree that the policy needs to be revised to allow for greater flexibility. We propose that the policy be amended by substituting the following statement for provision 3: *3)The Finance Committee will review the balances in the remaining funds and will adjust as needed, but not reduce, the balances to satisfy any anticipated needs. Because individuals make contributions to these funds for specific purposes, transfers should not be made out of the funds except as is consistent with the purpose of the fund.*

If this change in the policy is approved, the Finance Committee recommends that no change be made to the contingency fund and emergency assistance fund while the

beginning balance in the property fund should be adjusted to \$2000 at the beginning of 2017. Individuals are always free to contribute specifically to each of these funds as money is needed for special circumstances.

On a separate matter, the Finance Committee recommends that the name of the “Contingency Fund” be changed to “Special Uses Fund” to better reflect how the money in this fund has been used in the past and will be used in the future.

Friends approved the recommended change in policy on adjusting funds at year-end. Friends also approved renaming the “Contingency Fund” the “Special Uses Fund.”

2017-8. Treasurer’s Report for First Month 2017.

Income in January 2017 totaled \$4,230.03 with \$1,379.90 to the General Fund and \$2,850.13 to the New Building Fund.

Expenses in January 2017 totaled \$1,037.75. General Fund expenses totaled \$937.75 which included: Operating Expenses of \$170.35 primarily for supplies; no Supporting Contributions; and Meeting House Expenses of \$767.40 primarily for utilities and insurance. Special Uses Fund expenses totaled \$100 for the refugee family.

Friends accepted this report with appreciation.

2017-9. Report from the Internal Review Committee - Second Month 2017

The responsibility of the Internal Review Committee is to express an opinion on the financial statements of the Treasurer. The purpose is to obtain a reasonable assurance that the Meeting's financial statements are free of material misstatements.

We have checked over the 2016 financial records of Friendship Meeting. We can certify that great care was taken with maintenance of Friendship's financial records. We feel that the records accurately present the 2016 financial position of the Meeting and we thank our treasurer for keeping such accurate records.

Friends accepted this report with appreciation for the work of the committee and of the treasurer.

2017-10. Hospitality Committee. Claire Koster reported for the Hospitality Committee. The report appears in the February newsletter.

Friends accepted this report with appreciation and gratitude for the work of the committee.

2017-11. Meeting House Fundraising Committee. Kembra Howdeshell reported for the Meeting House Fundraising Committee. The report appears in the February newsletter.

Friends accepted this report with gratitude.

2017-12. Nominating Committee. David MacInnes reported for the Nominating Committee. The committee recommends

the appointment of David MacInnes to the Care and Counsel Committee effective immediately. Friends approved this appointment.

2017-13. FGC Committee for Nurturing Ministries. Judy Purvis reported that the Committee for Nurturing Ministries of Friends General Conference has requested that Friendship Meeting host their meeting on the first weekend of Fourth Month, 2017. About 25 Friends could be expected to participate. New Garden Friends have agreed to help with hospitality.

Friends agreed to provide hospitality to CNM members and to pitch in to provide what is needed.

2017-14. Refugee Committee. Kembra Howdeshell reported that the refugee family has encountered an interruption in their food stamps. The refugee committee requests authorization to spend up to \$600 from the Special Uses Fund to provide for the family's food needs until their food stamps are restored. The refugee committee will also advise the family of resources such as local food pantries that can help them with this need.

The meeting authorized this expenditure.

2017-15. Closing Minute. No further business appearing and hearts being generally clear, Friends adjourned, purposing to meet again at the appointed time in Third Month, if consistent with Divine Will.

March Birthday

Imani Khamala 3/5/08

Clerks' Corner

A newsletter feature from our Clerk where what is submitted is for the benefit of our members' continuing education on Quaker history, thoughts and practices.

From: Where Should I Stand? A Field Guide for Monthly Meeting Clerks by Elizabeth Boardman, page 21.

"The people present at meetings for business constitute the core of the meeting, and as such they become beloved by one another in a unique way. To be deeply integrated into the meeting, to be a full-fledged Quaker, you have to participate in that slow and caring process over and over again. You have to suffer thru the struggles of that gathering repeatedly. You'll get scarred by hurtful misunderstandings, and healed by the care of Friends who labor with you in love.

As in a mature marriage, when you have affirmed and reaffirmed your commitment, not just once but repeatedly, after episodes when you seriously considered leaving, you end up with a personal strength and a mutual bond that is deeply gratifying. Hey, these are my people! I belong here!"

From Pendle Hill Pamphlet 305 *SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT the context and goal of clearness committees* by Patricia Loring. p.24

The Quaker way of trying to invite and be open to divine guidance is to begin with a time of

silence. This is neither the "moment of silence" which is a mere nod in passing to the divine, nor is it a time for organizing one's thoughts. This is a time for what has been called recollection: for an intentional return to the Center, to give over one's own firm views, to place the outcome in the hands of God, to ask for a mind and heart as truly sensitive to and accepting of nuanced intimations of God's will as of overwhelming evidences of it. Spoken or not, it is understood that each person present will be holding the undertaking in the Light, in his own way.

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?

Answer from query session spring 2016

Most Friends are faithful in attending meetings for worship and other activities intended to strengthen the spiritual life of our meeting community. The meeting room is often filled to very near capacity on First Day morning. Many Friends arrive early in order to share in a short time of fellowship before settling into worship. Those who arrive after meeting has settled are careful not to disturb the worship. The tenor of worship is that of open submission to God in silent communion, enriched by the vocal ministry of those Friends who are so led.

New address

Juliet Smith

Starting March 16

3508 Coolidge Ave, Baltimore, MD 21229.

Preferred email [julietunger3@gmail](mailto:julietunger3@gmail.com)

SZABO, Amanda 102 S. Dale St., Apt. 5, Shelby, NC 28150

The Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Yearly Meeting Annual Retreat will be March 10-12 at the Carolina Friends School campus. Registration form at PiedmontFriendsFellowship.org

Save the date for the All Meeting Retreat

Saturday, March 4th: Reflecting on Our Meetinghouse Space in Movement and Art. This retreat will help us reflect on our meetinghouse but also on how we function together as a community—a way to consider the State of the Meeting. We will offer a simple breakfast and a simple lunch. Child care will be available. We particularly hope that our junior high young Friends can join us in the activities. A tentative schedule follows:

8:30 Breakfast

9:00 Meeting for worship

9:30 AM, Program: Rooms of the meetinghouse: guided experience: what does our physical space and the ways we use it say about who we are, particularly to visitors and new attenders? How do you participate in our meeting community—where are you drawn, where might you explore?

11:15 AM, Small group sharing about the experience

12:00 Simple lunch provided by Worship & Ministry

1:00 PM, Program: embodying what we've learned: using various arts and crafts materials and/or walking meditation outside (weather permitting), to move/create responses to their experience in the morning

2:00 PM, Gather for whole group sharing

2:30 Meeting for worship

3:00 End



The Meeting's Star Magnolia is in full bloom photo by D. MacInnes

Meetings for Eating? From your editor:

There are a number of gatherings with a religious focus found among Friends, such as Meeting for Worship, Meeting for worship with attention to business, Memorial Meetings and Meeting for marriage. But Meeting for eating? Sometimes called a potluck or a brown bag lunch, Friends like to eat together and talk; often right before a business meeting. If you travel and arrive at the right day you will be invited to join to share in a Meeting's food. I've seen this in other states and countries. While Edinburgh Meeting had a delectable high tea and Auckland's food was nothing to brag about it was great visiting with their members and finding more about them and their Meeting.

Friendship's potlucks are special with large variety, good vegan food and excellent desserts. It can be crowded but no one seems to mind. If I were rating it I would give it four stars for the quality of food (sometimes) and five stars for

the conversations you can hear there. I particularly enjoy sitting at one of the long tables where I can hear several conversations at once and even join in if appropriate. While I would hesitate to claim we are having a Meeting for Worship with attention to eating I will say that much of the community building essential for a healthy meeting comes from sharing times spent eating together. It is multigenerational, multicultural and a fun way to get to know about each other.

So if you haven't been able to come, please consider it. There always is enough food and if you are lucky you will be able to get a serving of something particularly well prepared. For those who have not participated, here are some photos I took at this month's potluck.

The serving tables partly set with food. More is coming as well as cold drinks. Some bring the same thing every month, others like variety. All are appreciated.



Pictures from Second Month potluck lunch

Children are encouraged to go first. We sit inside the big room, in the sunroom or outside when the weather is nice. I took no pictures of people actually eating. You'll have to come to see how enthusiastically folks can eat and talk at the same time.

Friendship Friends Meeting
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www.friendshipmeeting.org

Susan Carlyle, Clerk
Stephen Holland, Treasurer
Claire Koster,
Membership/Statistics Recorder

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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