

Friendship Times
Friendship Friends Meeting

Calendar

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, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns and House and Grounds Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, April 9	10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
Sat, April 15	10-4 Meeting workday
Sun, April 16	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, April 23	9 a.m. Deepening the Life of the Meeting. 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Tues, April 25	Deadline for March newsletter
Sun, April 30	9 am extended meeting for worship 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
May 7	9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, 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 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, April 25. 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

2017-16. Opening Minute. At the regular meeting for business of Friendship Friends Meeting held on the afternoon of Third Month 12, 2017, at the meetinghouse. The meeting opened near the appointed hour with a period of waiting worship.

2017-18. Transfer of Membership. The clerk read a letter from Worcester Monthly Meeting (NEYM) approving the transfer of membership of Elizabeth Poynton and Brian Poynton to Friendship Friends Meeting. Friends accepted this transfer with joy. The clerk will respond to Worcester Friends.

2017-19. Worship & Ministry. Judy Purvis reported for Worship & Ministry. Darlene Stanley will be participating in the *Deeper Roots* program of Broken Vessels Quaker Ministries over the next 18 months; her anchor committee will be Neil Swenson, Susan Wilson, and Carole Treadway. Judy Williams will also be participating in the *Deeper Roots* program; her anchor committee will be Judy Purvis, Betty Poynton, and possibly a third Friend to be named later.

2017-20. Nominating Committee. Those Friends responsible for proposing the Nominating Committee recommended Susan Wilson (convenor), Elizabeth Judson-Rea, and Darlene Stanley for this service. Friends approved these appointments.

2017-21. Care & Counsel Report.

1. Request for membership for Joshua Brown.

Action: Meeting approval for Carole Treadway to be a member of this clearness committee. Note that Howard Taylor withdrew from the committee.

2. Inactive Membership Report

Action:

- i. Revision of process of contacting members we have not seen for a year and members we have not had contact with for two years.
- ii. Putting in place a process for the termination of membership.

New Process: As outlined in the Report:

3. Care and Counsel has heard from Lori Khamala, Amanda Szabo, Juliet Unger and Lissa Carter See that they still very much value being members of Friendship Meeting.

Friends accepted this report and approved the appointment of Carole Treadway to replace Howard Taylor on the committee on clearness for membership of Joshua Brown.

2017-22. Ad Hoc Committee on Inactive Membership report from the Ad Hoc Committee Concerning Inactive Membership Second Month 17, 2017

Recently clerk Susan Carlyle asked our ad hoc committee to reconsider the issue of

the status of inactive membership and the possibility of termination of membership. Several have expressed a concern about the list in the current Directory of thirty inactive (or lost) members and question whether the classification of inactive members makes any sense. It seems appropriate at this time to consider whether the Meeting wishes to put into place a process for *removal* or *termination* of membership. The current *Handbook* has no statement about termination of membership, but references the Faith and Practice of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative. A member can resign or can ask that membership be transferred to another monthly meeting. However, on the issue of inactive members, the process is placed back in the hands of the monthly meeting, as follows: “[3) Membership may be terminated] at the discretion of a monthly meeting when no communication has been received from the member for a period of years.”

Brief History

Some twenty years ago, a Membership Committee of Friendship Friends Meeting undertook to keep in contact with absent and inactive members, but when the persons involved did not respond, a formal decision was made to remove their membership. Letters were sent by certified mail, indicating that if no response was received, they would be removed from membership. Early in the 2000's two members of the Meeting indicated their objection to any process resulting in termination of membership, stating that membership in a Quaker meeting was a permanent contract and should never be ended. This, it was argued, was particularly true for adult children of members, who have moved away but still have strong

emotional ties to the Meeting. One member commented, in supporting continued membership, as recorded in the Minutes, that “Quakers have a long history of kicking out our members which may explain why there are so few Quakers worldwide.” As a consequence, the Meeting no longer removed anyone from membership, and the names of absent and lost members remained in the directory and on the membership lists.

At the March 2006 business meeting, the membership recorder, Claire Koster [according to the minutes] “. . . brought a concern that a number of members have not participated for some time and have not responded to a letter regarding continuance of membership. Claire requested that a new category of membership be created, [that of] inactive members. The request was referred to Care and Counsel for consideration and to work out a plan of implementation if the proposal is recommended.” In January 2007, the treasurer, Ray Treadway, observed that because there are so many members who have no contact with the meeting, the year-end treasurer’s report showed that well less than 50% of the members gave to the meeting, but that his was a distorted figure. Meeting Minutes from February 2007, September 2007, and November 2007 indicated continued work on the issue of setting up a process for identifying inactive members. A detailed proposal was presented by the Care and Counsel Committee in December 2007, but the C&C Committee was asked to continue working on the proposal. Another proposal was rejected in June 2008. The search for an acceptable proposal continued throughout 2008 and 2009, and while the

Minutes note continued efforts to reach out to absent members, it was not until June 2010 that a new category of membership, namely "Lost/Inactive Members" was approved. While a few names were moved this new category, it was not until May 2013 that a formal "Process for determining inactive members" was finally approved at the Business Meeting.

This process involves trying to contact a person over a two-year period through several letters and other methods (mostly electronic). Specifically the formal process is as follows.

Process for determining inactive members:

1. The Care and Counsel Committee will send to persons, who (a) are distant or who are local but whom we have not seen at Meeting for a year and (b) have not contributed over a period of a year, a letter of greetings once a year in December. The letter will ask the correspondent to let us know how she or he is doing, as a way of keeping in touch.
2. Contact with the Meeting will include coming to Meeting for Worship or communicating with the clerk, recorder, treasurer, or clerk of the Care and Counsel Committee. If contact is made, then the recorder should be informed. If we don't hear back for two successive years, then the person should be sent a formal letter, asking specifically about the option of being classified as "inactive."
- . If we get a response agreeing to being changed to inactive membership or if we don't get any response in two months, then the person could be put on the inactive list. Contributing to

the Meeting is encouraged in the annual treasurer's letter, but some are simply not able to send money. It should not be necessary to contribute money in order to be considered as an active member. Having some sort of contact with the Meeting is the key issue. Some flexibility on how we determine the status of inactive membership will be allowed.

The process has worked fairly well, and as a result, some thirty names have been considered and moved to the inactive list. The listing of (regular) members is now accurate and reflects the true condition of the Meeting. However, as has been noted, the list of inactive members keeps growing and the difficulty of maintaining accurate addresses continues to be a chore for the Care and Counsel Committee and the Membership Recorder.

The ad hoc committee feels that it is now time to reconsider our current policy of *never terminating membership*. The current situation is no longer satisfactory. We propose consideration of a revised procedure. Step 1 would remain. Step 2 would be changed by allowing only one year until moving the name of the person to the inactive list. Specifically, if there is no response to the December letter and no other contact, then a formal letter will be sent by the Care and Counsel Committee in April or May of the next year, suggesting that the membership be moved to inactive status, as a true indication of the relation of the person and the meeting. We will continue the process for a second year, and if we still have not had any contact with the person, then we will terminate the membership and remove the person's name from the directory.

The formal suggested policy follows.

1. The Care and Counsel Committee will send to members, who (a) are distant or who are local but whom we have not seen at Meeting for a year and (b) have not contributed over a period of a year, a letter of greetings once a year in December. The letter will ask the correspondent to let us know how she or he is doing, as a way of keeping in touch.
2. Contact with the Meeting will include coming to Meeting for Worship or communicating with the clerk, recorder, treasurer, or clerk of the Care and Counsel Committee. If contact is made, then the recorder should be informed. If we don't hear back, then a follow-up letter will be sent in April or May, suggesting that the membership be moved to inactive status, as a true indication of the relation of the member and the meeting.
3. If we get a response agreeing to being changed to inactive membership or if we don't get any response in two months, then the person could be put on the inactive list. Contributing to the Meeting is encouraged in the annual treasurer's letter, but some are simply not able to send money. It should not be necessary to contribute money in order to be considered as an active member. Having some sort of contact with the Meeting is the key issue. Some flexibility on how we determine the status of inactive membership will be allowed. Names of those placed on the inactive list will be brought to the June Monthly Meeting for Business.

4. The process will be repeated for a second year for inactive members, except that if there is still no response, termination of membership will be suggested in the April letter. Finally if there is still no response by the June Monthly Meeting, a recommendation that the person's membership be terminated will be brought for approval. If the address is known, a formal letter will be sent by certified mail informing the person of the termination of membership and the name will be removed from the list of inactive members.
5. An inactive member, who wishes to resume regular membership, can do so by sending a letter to the clerk requesting such a change in status.

Friends accepted this report with appreciation for the comprehensive presentation. The meeting approved the proposed policy concerning inactive members and those to be removed from membership.

2017-23. Friends Homes - Guilford. The clerk reported on the relationship between the meeting and Friends Homes - Guilford concerning the Arcadia drive parking area.

Report on a meeting between Tim Jackson (administrator of Friends Homes Guilford), Rick Hatch (director of environmental services at Friends Homes Guilford) and Ray Treadway (for the Friends Homes Buildings Committee and Friendship Meeting)

Ray began the meeting by noting that the sign announcing "Friends Homes Auxiliary

Parking,” formerly attached to the fence on Friendship Meeting’s newly acquired property off of Arcadia Drive, was missing early in November 2016. This visible invitation to persons connected with Friends Homes to use the parking lot was no longer to be seen. In addition, administrators of Friends Homes were no longer sending out messages encouraging staff, visitors, and residents (with two cars) to park in this adjacent parking lot, as they had been doing prior to November 2016. Currently no cars are parked there on a regular basis or overnight, and this has been essentially the case since the vandalism on the morning of November 1, 2016. Ray asked if Friends Homes intended to put the sign back up and once again make announcements, encouraging visitors to park in the overflow parking lot. Tim responded by observing that “We don’t seem to have the need for overflow parking.” There are (most often) sufficient empty places for everyone – residents, visitors, and staff – to park in the parking areas on the campus. Staff of Friends Homes removed and took the sign away. In special cases, such for events on campus with many visitors, newly available spaces on adjacent properties belonging to Friends Homes can be used. **Friends Homes has relinquished any claim for the use of the Arcadia parking area back to Friendship Friends Meeting.** As a result of this decision, Friends Homes no longer will be responsible for mowing or for other upkeep.

Concerning the light and the pole on Friendship Meeting’s new property, the electric line comes from a utility pole across Arcadia Road on the south side of the road. The bill for the electricity comes to Friends Homes with an account separate

from other Friends Homes accounts with Duke Energy. The current bill is listed for 5902 Arcadia Drive. Rick will provide a copy of the bill with the account number so Friendship Friends Meeting can call Duke Power to switch the bill to Friendship Meeting.

Ray raised the issue of liability for cars parked on the lot. Tim and Rick acknowledged that “liability” was one of the considerations in “relinquishing” the agreement for the use of the Arcadia parking lot. They encouraged Friendship to be sure that our property insurance will cover any claims for damage to cars on either of the parking lots used by Friendship Friends Meeting.

Friends accepted this report and approved taking financial responsibility for the street light.

2017-24. House & Grounds Annual Report

The House & Grounds Committee maintains our building and our yard. This includes performing ongoing maintenance tasks, responding to requests and emergencies, and working on special projects. We also organize meeting workdays.

Some major projects the committee accomplished this past year were evaluating bids for a new HVAC system and overseeing its installation; sealing air leaks and improving insulation in the building; removing dead or dangerous trees and limbs on the grounds; defining a new parking area; and constructing of a new walkway from that parking lot to the meetinghouse.

Much of the work we do is unseen by most Meeting members. It includes large projects such as removing a few truckloads of junk from the crawl space and installing a vapor barrier; and small chores such as crawling under the sun porch to remove the rotting carcass of an opossum.

On several occasions, we have been the beneficiaries of volunteer service days with students from Guilford College and from New Garden Friends School. We are very grateful for the good work they have done for us.

The acquisition of our new land has more than doubled our workload, especially since Friends Homes no longer maintains the new property. Before the acquisition, it was a challenge to get enough Friends to help on workdays and with the weekly mowing chore. The challenge is now much greater. Another challenge is that our problem solution options are often constrained by the uncertainty of the new building plan.

As Meeting moves forward to consider plans for the use of our property and for the construction of a new building or the renovation of the old, we urge Friends to carefully consider the means and the energy that will be required to support and maintain our property.

Friends accepted this report with deep gratitude for the ongoing work of the committee.

2017-25. Meeting House Planning.

A few months ago, the Meeting approved a site plan for the building of a new, external meeting room on our newly expanded

property. In discussions since then, the committee discovered aspects of that scheme that seemed unsatisfactory to us. We have developed a site plan that we believe solves the problems posed by the previously approved site plan, and we hope you will see the benefits this scheme brings to the Meeting.

We bring a proposal for this new scheme back to the Meeting today. If you approve, we will officially inform the architects to develop this scheme into a Master Plan, with visualizations and a cost estimate breakdown (as well as a timeline for phasing aspects of the project) that will be of help to the fundraising committee.

In brief, our new proposal places the new meeting room immediately behind the existing building connected by a welcoming room where the deck is now. The south side of the building will line up with the rapid change in elevation that marked the boundary between the old properties. This scheme is illustrated in Figure 1.

There were three main motivations that guided us to embrace this change. First of all, we felt that the flow of arrival to the meetinghouse was too awkward with the previously approved site plan. For example, people arriving for a potluck would have to walk around and past the new building, down a walkway to the old building to deliver their dish, then turn around and come back to the new building for worship. It just didn't feel comfortable. With the new design, attendees arriving from the new parking lot will enter the welcoming room, which will be large and roomy, and can easily hold a coat rack, name tag stand, and coffee/tea table. From here, they can turn right to the

old meeting room, go straight to the sun room, or turn left to the new meeting room.

Secondly, the original motivation for a separate building was that we had been told by the Southern Evergreen company that if the new building was significantly connected to the current building, that would trigger the need to bring the current building up to code, immediately, which would more than double the cost of the project. However, in the last two weeks, we have had several conversations with city officials who deny this impression. The architects also assure us this is not the case. Therefore, we would like to avoid the complication of a “breezeway” and the ensuing debate about whether and how much it should be enclosed. The welcoming room will render that issue moot and will also make moving between the new meeting room and the current meetinghouse easier regardless of the weather.

Finally, we believe that in this plan the money we will need will be more efficiently spent on aspects that are of direct use. We will need to upgrade the existing bathrooms, but we will not need two new, *additional* bathrooms (and the required floor space, which can now be used for the meeting room). Instead of potentially awkward breezeways with dead corners, we will have 100% usable and comfortable space. We believe this site plan is consistent with the Meeting’s original desire, uses the space and resources of the Meeting more efficiently and effectively, and will result in a more comfortable and welcoming space than the previous scheme. With the Meeting’s approval, we would like to

forward this site plan to the architects and begin conversations with them to develop the Master Plan.



Figure 1: Illustration of proposed new meeting room design, to be connected to the existing building via a welcoming room. This design improves the arrival sequence and uses expenses more efficiently.

Friends accepted this report. After careful consideration, the meeting approved the proposed revised siting for the new meeting room and approved development of a Master Plan for the site. The committee was asked to develop some cost estimates for possible alternate construction options. Some concerns about the visibility of the new building from New Garden Road and Arcadia drive were forwarded to the committee.

2017-27. Treasurer’s Report. Income in February 2017 totaled \$4,662.21 with \$825.00 to the General Fund and \$3,837.21 to the New Building Fund.

Expenses in February 2017 totaled \$821.66. General Fund expenses totaled \$394.86 which included: Operating Expenses of \$96.19; no Supporting Contributions; and Meeting House Expenses of \$298.67 primarily for utilities. New Building Fund expenses totaled \$326.80. Special Uses Fund expenses totaled \$100.00 for the refugee family.

2017-28. Closing Minute. No further business appearing, and hearts being generally clear, Friends adjourned, purposing to meet again for business on the appointed day in Fourth Month, if consistent with Divine Will.

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 2017:

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 do strive to maintain unity and while we may not be aware of some instances of discord, there does seem to be generally a forgiving spirit and a lack of destructive criticism. When some disagreements have occurred, those involved have made an effort to reach out to one another, to listen to one another, and to seek to understand differences.

We have a number of new attenders, many of whom are also new to Quakerism. We seek ways to ground them in our faith and practice. Our Queries are read throughout the year, thus reminding us of the Quaker way of life that seeks to follow the teachings of Jesus. We seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and understand that one way to test that that guidance is from the true Source, and not our own ego, is its consistency with the spirit of the Queries, and

thus, the teachings of Jesus. The meeting is employing various ways to help us ground ourselves in our faith and practice.

Clerks' Corner

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

Read at 3rd Month Business Meeting

When Friends Attend to Business
by Thomas S. Brown

Friends who regularly attend meetings for worship but not those for business at the monthly, quarterly, and yearly meeting levels should weigh thoughtfully their assumption that these meetings do not concern them. And Friends who come regularly to meetings for business without the prior seasoning of the meeting for worship should examine carefully the basis for their practice. Those Friends whose concerns or affairs are to come before the meeting should feel a special responsibility to be present so that there may be no delay or mishandling of the business because of misunderstanding.

The Query whether Friends are careful to come to meetings for worship "with hearts and minds prepared" should be extended to include our meetings for business as well. It is essential that the period of worship prior to the undertaking of business be long enough to permit Friends to put aside the heat and tumult of the day's anxieties and to enter into the quietness that comes from trust in God and in God's concern for the affairs of men and women.

April work day — Saturday the 15th, 10am until 4pm

Please join us for a day of fun and fellowship.

Cordially,

FFM House & Grounds Committee



Pictures from the March Workday



Nice to see all ages engaged in cleaning up the property.



Takes more than one to push uphill.

Friendship Friends Meeting
Box 8652
Greensboro, NC 27419
(336) 854-5155
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

Friendship Friends Meeting
Box 8652
Greensboro, NC 27419

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