

Friendship Times

Friendship Friends Meeting

(336) 854-5155

www.friendshipmeeting.org

Calendar

- Sun, Sept 24 9 am Deeping the Life of the Meeting
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Oct 1 9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, and Peace and Social Concerns committees
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Oct 8 10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows
- Sun, Oct 15 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 24 Last day to send newsletter material to Editor
- Sun, Oct 29 9 am extended Meeting for Worship begins
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Nov 5 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, 7th floor Woolman Hall, Friends Homes Guilford
- Bible Study at 7 pm at the Meetinghouse every 2nd, 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; this will be October 29. Material should be submitted, preferably by email, no later than Tuesday, October 24.

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

2017-87. Opening Minute. At the regular meeting for business of Friendship Friends Meeting held on the afternoon of Ninth Month 10, 2017, at the meeting house. The meeting opened near the appointed hour with a period of silent worship.

2017-90. Membership Application. Nancy Elizabeth Green has applied for membership in our meeting. Her application was referred to Care & Counsel Committee for consideration. Judy Reece volunteered to serve on her clearness committee.

2017-91. Care & Counsel Committee.

Care & Counsel Committee Report 9/10

1. Minute of appreciation for Bonnie Parson's diligent work with the committee has been approved as follows:

The committee would like to thank Bonnie Parsons for her many years of service to the committee and her leadership as Clerk of the Committee. Bonnie was an important member of the committee and was dedicated to supporting the Meeting's members whenever the need arose.

2. The committee considered the situation of birthright Quakers "coming of age" in the meeting and,

after much seasoning, approved the following proposal:

Birthright Quaker: what does it mean? Historically it meant that as a very young child you were enrolled as a member of a meeting by your parents and you stayed a member unless you resigned or were read out meeting. These birthright Quakers were often treated as adults when a child, serving on committees and speaking out during worship.

Today there are two possible meanings, either you were born to a Quaker family or you became a member as part of that Quaker family. The practice of having your children recognized as members of a meeting is well established. The practice of having them stay members of a particular meeting for their life is not followed by all meetings. In some meetings after a certain age every child born to the meeting is asked whether or not they want to become members.

This committee would like to propose that the Meeting follow the practice of asking each young adult after a certain age if they want to continue as a member. It would not involve a clearness committee but they should meet with some members of Care and Counsel to talk about their choice and write a letter to the Meeting. If adopted this process would be shared with young people in their First Day School.

Friends approved the minute of appreciation for Bonnie Parsons enthusiastically.

Friends asked the Care & Counsel Committee to give the proposal on membership of children further seasoning.

2017-92. Treasurer's Report.

Income in August 2017 totaled \$ 20,112.89 with \$ 1,214.50 to the General Fund and \$ 18,898.39 to the New Building Fund.

Expenses in August 2017 totaled \$838.85. General Fund expenses totaled \$474.96 which included: Operating Expenses of \$217.71 primarily for Religious education and supplies; no Supporting Contributions; and Meeting House Expenses of \$257.25 primarily for utilities.

2017-93. Recommendations from the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee considered a request from Walid Mosarsaa for financial support as he begins his service with Quaker Voluntary Service. Walid has been a valuable assistance to the Meeting in our work with the refugee family. . . . We are recommending to the monthly meeting for business that a payment of \$500 from the Special Uses Fund be sent to QVS on his behalf. Members of the meeting are encouraged to replenish the Special Uses Fund as well as to send money directly to Quaker Voluntary Service in his name.

The 2017 Meeting budget specifies that \$1700 is to be sent to North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative (NCYMC). However, the yearly meeting has changed its budget year from July through June to January through December. At its sessions in July this year, it approved that the six-month period (July through December 2017) would not have a budget and that minimal expenses, such as printing the Minutes and travel reimbursements, would be covered from reserves. The Finance Committee approves recommending to the monthly meeting for business that the Friendship Meeting 2017 budget be adjusted by removing \$1700 from NCYMC line-item and adding \$1700 to the New Building Corporate Contribution line-item, thus maintaining a total budget of \$22,760.

Friends were in unity to approve the grant on behalf of Walid Mosarsaa.

Friends approved the change in budget moving \$1700 from a contribution to North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) to a New Building Corporate Contribution.

2017-95. Meeting House Planning Committee. Neil Swenson and Don Smith presented the Phase One Master Plan for the new meeting room. The master plan is posted at <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0Bz6swvsAvLFbmYzemZIOEpNT2xGa3VOcHdZRMUxaUI1MI9R> and can be viewed at any time. Friends expressed their appreciation for this report, which is being distributed electronically. Much has been

accomplished, but much work remains for us to do going forward.

2017-96. Handbook Committee.

The Handbook Committee did not meet during the year, but communicated electronically. We are grateful that Miriam Biber-Peterson did much of the google.doc work.

There were many changes made to the handbook this past year, which included description of some committees, and a revamping of the membership information section. The Calendar has been updated.

Our Meeting Clerk distributed the handbook to active members and attenders electronically, and 21 copies were printed, 16 to distribute and 5 to have on hand for distribution to attenders. The cost of printing was \$36.08. Our budget for the year is \$50.00.

2017-97. Library Committee Annual Report,

There were more materials checked out this year than at any time since I have been involved with the library. This was due in part because some meeting members were in programs that had required reading, but even without that usage there was still a significant increase in library use.,

Twenty-three titles were added to the collection, including among others, *The Oxford Handbook of Quaker Studies* and *The Works of Isaac Penington* in four volumes, both gifts of Lloyd Lee Wilson. *The Apocryphal Jesus*, a program of study published by The Great Books Courses, was given by Jim Fernandes. It comprises two

books and a DVD. A very timely addition is *The Third Reconstruction* by William Barber. A large gift of books from the library of DeWitt Barnett was given by his widow, Becky Barnett and several titles were selected to add to the library collection. A complete list of titles of books and other materials added this year is posted in the library.

The two chairs in the library were replaced with four comfortable office chairs by the House and Grounds Committee. They take up less space while providing more seating, and are more flexible in their arrangement.

Lloyd Lee Wilson joined the committee officially although he has been very active for some time in entering the library collection into The Library Thing data base of meeting libraries. He continues this work and brings our attention to books that are particularly relevant to some current meeting interest. Others are invited to do likewise for any book in the library that has been useful or inspiring.

2017-98. The Fundraising Committee report was accepted with appreciation for the work of the committee. Friends were reminded of the importance of 100% participation in the fundraising process, both in individual giving and in suggesting other potential donors.

2017-99. Closing Minute. No further business appearing, and hearts and minds being generally clear, the meeting was adjourned.

Draft of the Meeting's answer to Query nine.

Query #9. 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, realizing 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?

As a meeting we practice abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, and other harmful substances in all meeting activities. Each of us wrestles to discern which personal behaviors compromise our moral and spiritual health and to avoid them. We strive to be mindful of the temptations to grow richer at the expense of others and avoid doing so. We know of no departure from our testimony regarding oaths.

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.

9th month 2017 Reading before meeting for business in the Spirit of Worship
Beyond Consensus; Salvaging the Sense of the Meeting by Barry Moreley (PH pamphlet #307)

We sometimes overlook that meetings for business are also meetings for worship....

Thus meetings for business are subject to the same kinds of abuse and require the same kind of nurture and discipline as meetings for worship. Roberts Rules of Order apply neither to meeting for worship no to meeting for business. Faithfulness to the worship process does. The Quaker business meeting is as dependent on the sensitivity, good will, and spiritual readings of its participants as is meeting for worship. If the process by which we discover the sense of the meeting is to work, we must be willing to lay aside personal needs and grievances; we must be willing to reach beyond what you or I want. When I am able to set my ideas aside, and you are able to set your ideas aside, doors are opened which allow solutions to enter on a shaft of Light.

News from Quaker House

Re Clare Koster's report on Conscientious Objection at the August monthly meeting. Quaker House has information on their website under resources related to Conscientious Objection. Quaker House's resources on this topic have been added to the Web site of the Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft (COMD). <http://www.comdsd.org/> Also listed on their website is COMD's rebuttal to, a letter in support of draft registration for women, sent in July 2017, signed by 16 organizations, that was sent to the chairs and ranking members of the House and Senate Armed Services committees. Another resource on the COMD site is the recently updated **High School Students' Rights Information pamphlet that can be downloaded**

Quaker House's new director gets front page coverage in Fayetteville

<http://gm5-ncwebvarnish.newscyclecloud.com/news/20170819/bradley-brings-lifetime-of-experience-into-role-at-quaker-house>

From Durham Monthly Meeting

Durham Friends Meeting has recently adopted the following “minute” on immigration and refugee issues.

The Durham Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) calls upon our representatives in government to keep the United States open to all refugees and asylum seekers, and to treat with kindness and compassion all immigrants seeking a life among us.

Quakers believe that there is that of God in everyone, and that each person is equal in moral and spiritual stature. Quakers have long testified to the equality of all people. We reject divisions among us based on nation of birth, language, culture, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or race as a violence to the Spirit.

For over 300 years Quakers have welcomed strangers to our homes and communities when they have been known to be under great personal threat or economic deprivation. These included prisoners of war in the Irish War of 1690, Finns who suffered from the British fleets during the Crimean War, enslaved Americans fleeing to freedom from the antebellum South, and victims of war on all sides in World Wars I and II, the Spanish Civil War, and the Vietnam War.

At this moment in history when millions of refugees and asylum seekers flee violent conflict, and migrants flee economic deprivation and rampant violent crime in their home countries, they look to the

United States for refuge and asylum and find us turning our backs.

We are deeply troubled by the recent actions and words that have come from our representative government rejecting and vilifying immigrants to our country--refugee, asylum seeker, documented and undocumented. We are saddened by the seeming cruelty and indifference of some of the policies and actions towards people born elsewhere who have come or desire to come to the United States seeking a better life.

We have witnessed agents of our government, acting in our name, using physical violence and deception to separate people from their homes, families and communities based on distinctions in immigration status that exist in law, but that have no moral significance. We have seen hundreds of thousands of people in the most desperate of circumstances, fleeing war and violence and poverty, only to be cruelly told they are not welcome here and turned away. These actions taken by a government that acts in our name shame us deeply.

Our faith teaches us that it is our moral and spiritual responsibility to open our hearts, homes and communities to others. Failure to do so only alienates us further from one another and from the Spirit. As stated before, we call upon our representatives in government to keep the United States open to all refugees and asylum seekers, and to treat with kindness and compassion all immigrants seeking a life among us.

Sincerely,

Toby Berla, Clerk
Durham Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

From Stephen Holland: Walid Mosarsaa, who attends Friendship and was very helpful with our Syrian family, has been accepted as a Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) Fellow. He will be working for Friends Rehabilitation Program in Philadelphia, a Quaker organization which helps provide housing and social services for vulnerable communities.

From Peace and Social Concerns Committee: Friendship members and attenders:

Peace and Social Concerns Committee would like your input as we work on P&SC priorities for this year. Below is a link to a quick survey which we hope all interested people will complete: <https://goo.gl/forms/JUUekc6La2gWvj553>

This will shape our upcoming priorities and activities. We ask you to complete the survey by September 30th. Note: you

receive extra credit for any typos you can identify on the survey.

Peace,

Raleigh Bailey for the Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Temporary telephone change

After September 19, please use [336 483 7561](tel:3364837561) for any messages for Bonnie and [\(336\) 944-7772](tel:3369447772) for any messages for David. Our usual phone number [336 852 4257](tel:3368524257) will not be operational for the next little while

Ted Benfey just returned from Philadelphia where he spoke at the Commemoration of the life of Eugene Garfield who was preeminent in science publishing, founding *The Science Citation Index*, *Current Contents* and *The Scientist*. Ted was close friends with Eugene while your editor was friends with Eugene when he was on his first study leave at the University of Pennsylvania. If you want to learn what Ted said, just ask him.

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Susan Carlyle, Clerk
Stephen Holland, Treasurer
Claire Koster, Membership/Statistics
Recorder
Lloyd Lee Wilson, Recording Clerk

Ray Treadway, Assistant Treasurer
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Membership Recorder:
Dave MacInnes, Newsletter Editor

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