

Friendship Times

Friendship Friends Meeting

Calendar	
Sun, Nov 26	9 am Deepening the Life of the Meeting 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Dec 3	9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Dec 10	10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
Sun, Dec 17	10:30 am Meeting for Worship 3:30 pm Christmas Gathering
Sun, Dec 24	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Wed, Dec 27	Last day to send newsletter material to Editor
Sun, Dec 31	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Jan 7	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, 7 th floor Woolman Hall, Friends Homes Guilford
Bible Study at 7 pm at the Meetinghouse every 2 nd and 4 th and 5 th Thursday
Men’s group meets at 6:30 pm at the Meetinghouse every 1 st and 3 rd Thursday

From the Editor

My intention is to distribute the newsletter the last Sunday of the month. Material should be submitted, preferably by email, no later than Wednesday, Dec 27.

Month’s Query

Query 12 Do we welcome newcomers and non-members to our meetings? Are they encouraged to share in Meeting activities and to consider membership when they are in agreement with the principles and practices of Friends? Are our younger members appointed to committees and encouraged to share in other responsibilities of the Meeting? Do we visit one another frequently, remembering those who may be lonely? Does this visitation and caring extend beyond the members of our own Meeting?

Young Friends Twelfth Month Birthdays	
Mia Jolly	12/14/04
Rosemary Hebner	12/2/12
Demitri Herold	12/15/04

2017-111. Opening Minute. At the regular meeting for business of Friendship Friends Meeting on the afternoon of Eleventh Month 12, 2017, at the meeting house. The meeting opened with a period of waiting worship.

2017-113. Response to Query Ten. Friends approved the following response to Query Ten:

Response to Query Ten: Reversing human damage to creation is the single greatest challenge we face at the present time. It is difficult to see how we can overcome it by human means alone. We trust that, if we are faithful in the tasks God gives us to do individually and as a meeting, that the outcome will be in God's loving hands. In facing this challenge, there can be no division between ourselves and the rest of creation - we are an integral part of all that is. Therefore, considering our impact on creation cannot be an afterthought, but must be part of our initial discernment around any decision.

Living in greater harmony with nature and practicing stewardship that nurtures the health of our planet is an ongoing concern in our community. As a meeting, this concern is expressed in our commitments to reduce our energy use, purchase eco-friendly products, recycle, and compost at shared meals. In planning for our new meeting room and the development of our property, our intention is to minimize our ecological footprint to the best of our ability. In our worship and committee work we seek awareness of the Living Spirit of Christ among us, listening for ways to

respond to nature and all of God's living beings through love and caring hearts.

2017-114. Query Eleven. Friends gave preliminary approval to the following response to Query Eleven:

Draft Response to Query Eleven: We do strive to recognize that of God in every individual with care and concern for the needs of each person. This seems more challenging than ever in these times of religious, cultural, and political polarization. We pray for greater ability to live into the promise of this query: the vision of a world where all individuals and groups can recognize the divine Seed throughout creation. The work of rectifying injustice is constantly changing; we dedicate ourselves individually and corporately to these efforts.

October 12, 2017

I am writing this letter to express my deepest gratitude for the donation Friendship Friends has made in support of my fellowship year with Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS). I am extremely grateful and humbled for this very generous gift. Friendship Friends has taught me so much about community in the past year. Whether it was showing up for refugees in need, or just carrying out simple acts of kindness for each other, the F(f)riends in this community truly represent and espouse the values of radical community and hospitality. I hope to channel these values I witnessed in the intentional community I am in, right now and in the future.

As you all may know, I was able to successfully renew my visa this summer, and was granted entry back to the United States in early September. Many of you know that this was something I was fearful would not happen due to the current political climate. I truly believe that your prayers and the light you sent my way were the reasons behind why I was blessed with this opportunity. I am currently in Philadelphia, living in a historically Quaker neighborhood, Germantown. I attend Greene Street monthly meeting when I don't "accidentally" sleep in, and during the week I work in the Development Office of Friends Rehabilitation Program, an affordable housing nonprofit that develops and manages affordable housing units, guided by Quaker testimonies, in the Philadelphia area.

Friendship Friends was a home away from home for me. It was the first time in my five years in Greensboro where I felt like I belonged in a community that is not a college setting. People opened up their hearts and homes for me, and challenged me to explore my spirituality and the Divine in ways I have not before. I am thankful for all the lessons and wisdom you all shared with me. I am even more thankful for your trust in me and support for me to be a part of this life altering experience.

Thank you!

In Friendship
Walid Mosarsaa

2017-116. Travel Minute - Deborah Shaw. The meeting approved a general travel minute for Deborah Shaw, a recorded minister and member in good standing of Friendship Friends Meeting, effective from

this date through the rise of yearly meeting sessions in 2018. The clerk will draft an appropriate letter.

2017-117. Annual Report: Care & Counsel. Rachel Knight gave the annual report of the Care & Counsel Committee. The report follows:

Care and Counsel Committee Annual Report

Eleventh Month, Twelfth Day, 2017

Committee members: Gay Bowles, Maureen Burns, Rachel Knight, Janet Nagel, Betty Poynton, Judy Williams, Susan Carlyle (ex officio) and Dave MacInnes (clerk),

Responsibilities of Care and Counsel

The Care and Counsel Committee meets regularly on the first First Day of the month. It does its best to be in contact with members and attenders of the Meeting who are experiencing health problems or who are facing other difficult issues. Care and Counsel Committee members visit those who are not able to attend meeting.

The committee, in collaboration with the Clerk, Greeters, and Worship and Ministry, tries to be a welcoming presence to visitors to our meeting and tries to touch base with absent members. How to best handle inactive members is still a concern of the committee. This committee is beginning to use social media to reach out for our lost and/or inactive members.

Care and Counsel met with the Ministry and Worship Committee in February to review the work of the two committees, plan the upcoming All Meeting Retreat and to respond to Yearly Meeting Ministry and

Oversight queries. Our joint responses to the Yearly Meeting Ministry and Oversight queries were read at NCYM(C) in July. C&C members visit with members and attenders who are experiencing health or personal issues. C&C is especially grateful for the loving care offered by meeting members at Friends Homes to other resident meeting members.

Ongoing work of the Committee

Care and Counsel has overseen clearness committees for Membership and Transfer of Marriage to the Meeting. It has established support or clearness committees when requested. It also assists families as they 2017-118. Membership Application: Nancy Green. Rachel Knight reported on behalf of Care & Counsel Committee that Nancy Green has withdrawn her application for membership in our meeting. make arrangements for memorial services.

Treasurer's Report: Eleventh Month Report for Tenth Month Income and Expenses in 2017

Income in October 2017 totaled \$2,822.63 with \$921.00 to the General Fund and \$1,901.63 to the New Building Fund.

Expenses in October 2017 totaled \$2,553.94. General Fund expenses totaled \$678.94 which included: Operating Expenses of \$404.73 primarily for Religious Education and Peace & Social Concerns; no Supporting Contributions; and Meeting House Expenses of \$274.21 primarily for utilities.

2017-120. General Fund Budget. Stephen Holland distributed a draft General Fund budget for 2018. The budget follows:

Friends gave several helpful comments on these two draft budgets. The Finance Committee plans to meet again in Twelfth Month to give further consideration to these proposals.

2017-121. Peace & Social Concerns Committee.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee requests that Friendship Meeting approve placing a "Welcome Neighbor" sign in the front yard of the meeting house. It is in three languages and is identical to the signs that P&SC sold last month to raise funds for Walid Mosarsaa's Quaker Voluntary Service. The sign is available now in the meeting house for perusal.

P&SC also wants to announce that there will be a forum on November 19 at 9 AM which will serve as a follow up to the forum held this spring that focused on the AFSC sanctuary movement. This forum will include current updates and suggested advocacy actions. The presenter will be Hana Brown, a Wake Forest sociology professor who researches immigration and is active in the Greensboro immigrant advocacy movement.

Friends accepted this report. Friends approved placing a "we're glad you are our neighbor" sign in the meeting house front yard.

2017-122. Interim Body Report. Ray Treadway reported on the Tenth Month

meeting of Interim Body at Davidson Monthly Meeting.

Interim Body Report

The Interim Body met at Davidson Meeting on Tenth Month 28, 2017, in the afternoon. Eight of the nine monthly meetings were represented.

Susan Lees, the treasurer, presented three reports: 1) The fund balances including income and expenses for the period October 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 (which were not ready to be reported at the 2017 annual sessions), 2) the fund balances including income and expenses for the period July 1 to September 30, 2017 (the first three months of the current 6-month fiscal period), and 3) the detailed activity for July 1 to Sept. 30, 2017. The total assets (checking and Friends Fiduciary Fund) on Oct 1, 2016 were \$55,187.06 and the total assets on Sept. 30, 2017 were \$55,481.06. It was noted that during this 12-month time period, most of the income and the expenses for the 2017 annual sessions can be included.

David Perry reported for the Finance Committee, which made two recommendations. Currently more than \$50,000 is in a Wells Fargo checking account, earning no interest. There are \$5000 in the Friends Fiduciary Fund for the Travel in the Ministry Trust Fund. The Finance Committee has received reports that FFF manages its funds well. It is good stewardship to earn money not used for current expenses. The FC recommends that a second FFF account be set up and \$35000 be invested. The treasurer and clerk are authorized to sign for this account. Dividends should be reinvested and recorded as "other income" in the

operating fund. Some felt that we were reserving an excessive amount of money (for our own benefit) and we should spend down some of our reserves to benefit Quaker organizations which need the money now and are doing charitable work.

The Finance Committee also considered a special request from Virginia Beach Friends School to increase our giving to them from \$300 to \$1500. Some Friends were concerned that in doing so, we would be giving special treatment to VBS. Others noted that the other Friends Schools had not made special requests. We agreed to make an extra donation of \$900 for 2018 only, as well as to maintain the currently budgeted \$300 for VBS. Friends expressed concern over the lack of connection and communication with New Garden Friends School, Carolina Friends School, and Friends School of Wilmington.

The Planning Committee continues to work on the program for 2018, to be held at Guilford College July 12-15, 2018. They are considering the words of Whittier: "Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire, O still small voice of calm" as a theme. Bible study will most likely be inter-generational.

The Nominating Committee reported the addition of Miriam Biber-Peterson to the Hospitality Committee.

Greenville Meeting renewed its request for continued consideration of its letter on Racial Justice, with a hope that the yearly meeting could take some sort of collective action. It was approved that Monthly Meetings continue to consider the issue and that one or persons from each monthly

meeting should be appointed to attend a conversation / planning session prior to Interim Body Meeting in Fourth Month, 2018.

Fundraising Committee Report - November 10, 2017

Members: Jim Hood, Kembra Howdeshell (convener), David Brown, Mel Zuck, Cyril Harvey, and Jim Fernandes

1. Pledges and payments paid on pledges through October 31, 2017:

- a. Pledges made:
\$155,520.00
- b. Payments paid on pledges:
\$ 99,552.00 (64%)
- c. Outstanding pledges:
\$ 55,968.00 (36%)

2. Progress toward the \$150,000 Matching Gift Campaign (as of October 31, 2017):

- a. Pledges made (MGC):
\$16,500.00
- b. Total donations (with Yard Sale)
\$49,730.03 (33%)
 - a. Total pledges + donations
\$66,230.03
(44%)
 - b. Gifts/new pledges needed to reach:
\$83,769.97
(56%)

2. The Fundraising Committee hosted a light lunch and forum at the rise of meeting on November 5, 2017 to update the meeting on Fundraising Committee activities. Charlie and Mary Routh, the sponsors of the Matching Gift Challenge, were in attendance and were introduced to

the meeting by David Brown. Jim Hood presented a pamphlet designed by the Fundraising Committee. The pamphlet provides background on our meeting room building project with schematics from the architects and information regarding the Matching Gift Campaign. As of 30 September 2017, the meeting had raised \$65,475.03 (44%) of the \$150,000 goal. The deadline for the Matching Gift Campaign is October 2018, which will mark the 50th anniversary of Friendship Friends Meeting. The building committee also presented a short report at the forum. They have been interviewing contractors for the building project and looking at ways that we can reduce the building costs where possible. Both committees appreciated the high level of interest in our meetinghouse building project!

3. The committee is identifying ways that members and attenders can help out with the fundraising campaign with short time commitments. We will need assistance with the following tasks in the next two months: addressing and filling envelopes to past and future donors, submitting names of additional F(f)riends and organizations that might be interested in donating toward our project, and additional ideas for fundraising activities. Please contact a member of the committee if you are willing to help out in one of these capacities.

2017-124. Christmas Gathering. The meeting approved hosting a Christmas Gathering for Friends and families beginning at 3:30 PM on Twelfth Month 17, 2017. Friends are encouraged to bring light refreshments to share. Susan Wilson volunteered to coordinate hospitality

arrangements; Stephen Holland and Kembra Howdeshell will coordinate activities.

2017-125. Closing Minute. No further business appearing, and hearts and minds being generally clear, Friends adjourned with a period of waiting worship, purposing to meet again at the appointed time in Twelfth Month, if consistent with divine will.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee
update

On November 19, Peace and Social Concerns Committee hosted a forum on immigration issues with presenter, Hana Brown. Hana is a sociology professor at Wake Forest University researching immigration issues and is also active in local immigrant advocacy initiatives, including AFSC activities.

Hana notes that federal ICE actions incarcerating and deporting undocumented immigrants has increased dramatically in the last few months, leaving immigrant communities in fear and leaving some families without parents and family breadwinners. She proposes three actions that can easily be done on the local level: 1) Donate to the NC Triad Immigrant Crisis Fund <http://www.afsc.org/story/nc-triad-immigrant-crisis-response> Those funds go directly to families in financial crisis due to deportation of family members. 2) Sign up

for AFSC rapid response texts- *Send a text message to 81010that says @afscTriad. You will get messages about urgent local immigrant crises where a presence of concerned US citizens will deter actions of ICE officers threatening local immigrants. 3) Sign up to spend the night with Juana Tobar Ortega at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church- <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094fa4ae2eabf85-staying1> St. Barnabas has been providing sanctuary to this grandmother since last May and can use some back up volunteers. (Peace and Social Concerns will explore and report on additional ways Friendship can assist this church in their witness.)

From Bonnie and David Parsons

Please note that our new phone number is [336 763 8775](tel:3367638775)

New address for Grace Sullivan and Howard Taylor

195 Bayberry Circle
Unit 112
Burlington, VT 05401

Same phone # and email

New email for Sheri Grace

sherihgrace@gmail.com

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Box 8652
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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

First Class Mail

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Address Correction Requested