

Friendship Times

Friendship Friends Meeting

Calendar

Sun, Dec31	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Jan 7	9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Jan 14	10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
Sun, Jan 21	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Tues, Jan 23	Last day to send newsletter material to Editor
Sun, Jan 28	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Feb 4	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 the last Sunday of the month. Material should be submitted, preferably by email, no later than Tuesday, Jan 23.

Month’s Query

Query #1 *Do we faithfully uphold our testimony for worship which is based on silent waiting, and for a free and unprogrammed ministry that may be shared by all? Is there a living silence in which we feel drawn together by the Light of Christ, the power of God in our midst; and is this inspiration carried over into our daily lives? Do we come to meeting with hearts and minds open and ready to worship in silence or in vocal ministry or prayer as the Holy Spirit leads us? Does our Meeting encourage those who may have a gift in the spoken ministry?*

Young Friends First Month Birthdays

Jeffrey Caleb Hobson 1/25/2011

Reading: We have found that in offering programs and workshops it is helpful to have someone paying attention to the eldering function. Helping create a vessel that includes everyone and God, love and trust. This sometimes is simply sitting, worshipping and praying, holding the body in the Light, being a spiritual presence. Paying attention to the deeper stuff. Sometimes we call this the “person of Presence,” and s/he also takes care of the mundane hospitality issues of the leaders and participants. Sometimes this elder is invited to reflect formally on what s/he saw of the movement of the Spirit throughout the session. This has been called “a minute of exercise” in other times. *From Philadelphia Yearly Meeting website; Thoughts on Eldering*

Minutes December 10, 2017

2017-126. Opening Minute. At the regular meeting for business of Friendship Friends Meeting held on the afternoon of Twelfth Month 10, 2017, at the meeting house. The meeting opened with a period of waiting worship.

Query Twelve. Friends approved the following response to Query Twelve

We feel this query asks about deep hospitality. It is our sense that we’ve been blessed by Friends who have done the inner spiritual work needed to be truly open and welcoming to others. Over the years these

Friends have been an example to all of us, passing the practice of deep hospitality from one to another across the generations. Love is the first motion, and we rejoice to see love acted out among ourselves and toward newcomers and outsiders. We can always do better, and wonder about the amount of visitation being done outside our meeting community. Overall, we feel clear under the topics of this query.

Query Eleven. Friends approved the following 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.

Sherman Membership Request. A letter from Apple Seed Monthly Meeting was read, requesting sojourning membership for Paul Sherman. This request was approved. Care & Counsel Committee will meet with Paul in the near future.

Annual Report of Worship and Ministry

December, 2017

The responsibility of Worship and Ministry is to foster the spiritual life of the Meeting. In particular, the committee attends to the spiritual quality of the meeting for worship and the meeting for business. We take time in each of our meetings to consider how these two gatherings have been going and to work with the clerk of the meeting to address issues or explore ways to sustain and nurture a strong spiritual base.

Our responsibility includes encouraging those with gifts in ministry, whether spoken or otherwise. We have helped Deborah Shaw redevelop a support committee for her ministry, we receive reports from Lloyd Lee Wilson's committee, and we helped to form anchor committees for two members involved in the Deeper Roots program. We continue to look for other ways, formal and informal, to encourage well-grounded ministry in meeting.

In June, we gave Bibles to the older children of First Day School and books of Bible stories to our younger children. We led a retreat based on The Rooms of the Meetinghouse: meeting participants were invited to enter the various spaces in and around our meetinghouse and to consider how they might look to visitors and how they convey aspects of our corporate life. We sponsored a welcome tea for new members of the meeting, offering an opportunity to hear about the history of the

meeting and its context in North Carolina Yearly Meeting. We sponsored a forum featuring the music of Paulette Meier, which was well received by our children and adults. While we will not be coordinating the Christmas Eve service at Friends Homes this year (due to scheduling conflicts) we look forward to continuing this tradition in 2018.

With Care and Counsel, we provide a Designated Friend who is available after meeting for worship to answer questions about the meeting or Friends beliefs and practice, and we meet with that committee to answer the Yearly Meeting queries and share other concerns. Once a month a member of W&M closes meeting for worship, and a member reads a portion of the NCYM-C Advices in meeting for business. In preparation for NCYM-C annual sessions, we answer the queries for worship and ministry committees.

In September, Judy Purvis agreed to clerk the committee. We expressed our deep gratitude to Darlene Stanley, whose clerking over the last several years has kept the committee well grounded and responsive to the ongoing spiritual needs of the meeting. Deborah Shaw rejoined our committee after a year's sabbatical.

The spiritual health of our meeting is an ongoing concern. Since we are all ministers in our own way, we on Worship and Ministry encourage all meeting participants

to share their concerns, questions, and suggestions with us to keep our meeting strong and spiritually deep.

Members of the committee: Judy Purvis (clerk), Darlene Stanley, Carole Treadway, Neil Swenson, Susan Wilson, Deborah Shaw, Susan Carlyle (ex officio).

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Report December, 2017 Budget and Donations: Allocations of the 2017 budget: \$1250 plus \$50 income on welcome signs - 300 Ramadan dinner -100 Spanish Interpreter for AFSC Civil Rights Tour -200 Quaker Volunteer Service (QVS) supporting Walid -300 local AFSC Sanctuary work - 200 Angel Tree - 200 Student Action with Farmworkers November Actions: Angel Tree P&SC is delighted that the youth are taking over this project, and starting with a Congolese refugee family of nine. Sheri is our point person for transition questions. Survey Sheri will circulate the Friendship Meeting survey of Peace and Social Concerns priorities. Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) Quaker Collaboration. Jim Hood has agreed to meet with representatives from New Garden and First Friends Meetings to explore coordination on environmental issues. Forums November focused on Sanctuary issues presented by Hana Brown, Sociology professor researching immigration and a local activist. Forum was facilitated by Ann Cahill. Upcoming forums: January - White Privilege – presenter George Friday tentatively set for 19 or 21. February – The New Tax Laws -

David Parsons presents FCNL Perspective. P&SC Committee would welcome more participants at our small but enthusiastic committee meetings.

Treasurer's Report: Eleventh Month 2017 Income and Expenses

Income in November 2017 totaled \$4,629.15 with \$1,930.00 to the General Fund and \$2,504.68 to the New Building Fund and \$194.47 to the Property Fund from a sales tax refund.

Expenses in November 2017 totaled \$770.41. General Fund expenses totaled \$546.41 which included: Operating Expenses of \$202.00 primarily for supplies; no Supporting Contributions; and Meeting House Expenses of \$344.41 primarily for utilities and for deed work. The Young Friends Fund had expenses of \$224.00 disbursing funds raised this summer.

Stephen Holland presented the proposed monthly meeting budget for 2018: The same budget labeled "Budget 1 - 2018" in the report presented last month: Friends approved this budget after amending the Quaker House donation to \$600.

Closing Minute. No further business appearing, and hearts and minds being generally clear, Friends adjourned, purposing to meet again at the appointed time in First Month, if consistent with divine will.

Updated addresses

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First snow of the winter: sunroom view

Photo by Dave MacInnes

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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