

Friendship Times

Friendship Friends Meeting www.friendshipmeeting.org

Calendar

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| Sun, Jan 28 | 10:30 am Meeting for Worship |
| Sun, Feb 4 | 9 am Worship and Ministry Care and Counsel Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship 12 noon Peace and Social Concerns Committee meets |
| Sun, Feb 11 | 10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business |
| Sat, Feb 17 | 9 am, All Clerks Meeting |
| Sun, Feb 18 | 10:30 am Meeting for Worship |
| Sun, Feb 25 | 9 am Deepening the Life of the Meeting. 10:30 am Meeting for Worship |
| Sun, Mar 4 | 9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship 12 noon Peace and Social Concerns Committee meets |

Weekly Meeting for Worship 10:30 am each First Day, Child care 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, Feb 20.

Month's Query

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?

Reading: "Commitments once started must be funded and carried through to a proper conclusion. This too requires our regular financial support. All of us have a part to play in the processes of discernment leading to decisions on spending money on the work to be undertaken. In making decisions about spending, meetings should seek to find the right balance between current and future needs. Reserves may be needed in order to meet future obligations to maintain buildings and to complete projects. However, meetings should not hold substantial reserves if no need for them is foreseen and the money could be better put to use in the world to further Quaker concerns, including assisting meetings with fewer resources to maintain their Quaker life and witness." - excerpted from *The Book of Christian discipline of the YM of the Religion Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain*. (Sections 14.06 and 14.07)

Opening Minute. At the regular meeting for business of Friendship Friends Meeting, held on the afternoon of First Month 14, 2018, at the meeting house. The meeting opened near the appointed time with a period of waiting worship.

Friends approved the following response to Query One:

We do uphold our testimony for waiting worship, and have a living silence as well as an open vocal ministry that is shared by all and exercised by many. Encouragement is more private. We are reminded of the value of a word of affirmation, as led, to those who have spoken helpfully in worship. We feel we could all feel more free to speak in worship when led. As an

oral tradition, we need to tell our story as a people of faith in order to share it.

Letter of Thanks. Neil Swenson read a letter of thanks to the meeting for its generosity toward an immigrant family of nine during the Christmas season.

Treasurer's Report: Twelfth Month Income and Expenses 2017

Income in December 2017 totaled \$55,720.73 with \$8,028.20 to the General Fund and \$47,692.53 to the New Building Fund.

Expenses in December 2017 totaled \$8,545.02. General Fund expenses totaled \$6,857.85 which included: Operating Expenses of \$1,067.00 primarily for Peace & Social Concerns; Supporting Contributions expenses totaled \$1,700.00 transferred from NCYM-C to the New Building Fund; and Meeting House Expenses of \$4,090.85 primarily for utilities and \$3,850.00 transferred to the New Building Fund.

Meetinghouse Planning Committee Report -

Since the presentation of the completed master plan from the architects J. Hyatt Hammond to the meeting in Sixth Month, 2017, the Meetinghouse Planning Committee has been exploring next steps in the process, with an eye towards looking for ways to lower the estimated cost of the project. To that end the committee has been learning about the design-build approach to construction projects. In the traditional process the customer hires an architect to draw the designs and then bids out for contractors to complete the construction. In the design-build process the customer signs with a design-build

contractor at the outset and then works collaboratively with the architect recommended by the contractor from the beginning. The advantages are supposed to be a more team-based approach that avoids competing priorities. Also, one design-build contractor estimated that it can save 10% on the total cost.

To learn more about this approach, and to begin to identify possible partners, we have interviewed two different design-build contractors, DH Griffin and JH Batten. We have also contacted the references provided by these contractors. We also asked to meet the architects that they would suggest be part of our project, and we have had follow-up interviews with Wayne Smith, who was recommended by DH Griffin, and Neil Brown, who was recommended by JH Batten.

The next step for our committee is to discern whether either of these design-build contractors is the right match for our project or whether we need to meet with other contractors or architects. We are also beginning to discuss some of the next level considerations, such as the shape of the new meeting room, so that we are ready to answer questions from the architects once we begin the design process.

Fundraising Committee Report - January 10, 2018

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

1. Pledges and payments paid on pledges through December 31, 2017:
 - a. Payments made in December
\$ 26,311.33

- b. Pledges made (prior to MGC):
\$ 155,520.00
- c. Payments paid on pledges:
\$ 139,827.00 (90%)
- d. Outstanding pledges:
\$ 15,693.00 (10%)

2. Progress toward the \$150,000 Matching Gift Campaign (as of December 31, 2017):
 - a. Pledges made (MGC):
\$21,500.00
 - b. Total outstanding pledges (MGC)
\$ 8,725.00
 - c. Total donations for December 2017
\$15,831.20*
 - d. Transfer from General Fund in December 2017
\$ 5,550.00
 - e. Total donations (with Yard Sale)
\$71,466.23 (47%)
 - f. Outstanding pledges + total donations
\$80,191.23 (53%)
 - g. Amount needed to reach MGC goal
\$69,808.77 (46%)

*Includes interest earned in bank account.

3. Action item: The committee is requesting approval of a minute supporting our grant request to FGC's Meeting House Fund:

The Meeting Room Fundraising Committee would like to apply to FGC for a Friends Meeting House Grant. The grant request will target our goal of adapting the meetinghouse grounds to an eco-friendly, sustainable model and "green" features planned for the new worship room. We have received a positive response to our initial inquiries and hope to succeed with a request in the range of \$5,000-\$7,000 by the summer of 2018. The grant application requires a minute of approval from

Friendship Friends Meeting and the Committee is in unity in recommending approval of this minute.

Friendship Friends Meeting approves submitting an application to Friends General Conference Friends Meeting House Fund for financial help toward our new building and landscaping project.

Piedmont Friends Fellowship. Judy Williams gave an oral report on recent activities of Piedmont Friends Fellowship. Friends accepted this report with thanks for Judy's work in this area, and appointed her the official Friendship Friends Meeting representative to Piedmont Friends Fellowship.

Hospitality Committee Annual Report - 1st Month 2018

The Hospitality Committee faithfully and joyfully prepares the meetinghouse to greet and welcome all who enter our door each First day and on special occasions. We prepare a place to encourage everyone to linger, get to know one another, and sow the seeds of unity and love in our community.

Each First day a member of the committee prepares the meeting room for worship, prepares beverages and snacks, cleans up, empties the trash, and assures the meetinghouse is secure before leaving. For special occasions, the committee does these things and often a bit extra in setting the space for those attending. Two such special occasions this past year were the dessert portion of the progressive dinner

for incoming Guilford students and the annual Meeting Christmas party.

The Hospitality Committee stands ready to assist in providing support to meeting activities if a request is made to the Committee in advance, and if we are able to meet the request. Our Committee is small but dedicated. The members are Maureen Burns, Brad Chance, Christy Hopkins, Brian Poynton, Judy Reece, and Susan Wilson.

We are grateful for Judy Harvey coordinating the Greeters for each first day, and thank all those who volunteer to greet at the front door.

Report from the Internal Review Committee - First Month 2018

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 2017 financial records of Friendship Meeting. We can certify that good care was taken with keeping Friendship's financial records. We feel that the records accurately represent the 2016 financial position of the Meeting and we thank our treasurer and their assistant for keeping such accurate records.

Friends accepted this report with thanks for the work of the committee and of the Treasurer and all who assisted him this year.

Closing Minute. No further business appearing, and hearts and minds being generally clear, Friends adjourned, purposing to meet again at the appointed date and time in Second Month.

Save the date!

The Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Yearly Meeting Spring Retreat will be held on March 31st and April 1st at Carolina Friends School. The program will include activities for adults and young adults on Alternatives to Violence and Conscientious Objection, as well as a program for children. Save the date and see the flyer posted in the meetinghouse.

Notes from our White Privilege and Living Justice Forum from Anne Cassebaum

George Friday, and members and visitors who contributed did a great job of shedding light on this topic. Below are the action highlights and a few video links recommended by George.

Action Suggestions for Living Justice:

Since we all have privileges which are largely unearned and often very unequally distributed, and our culture encourages us to ignore or have negative feelings about our privilege, don't waste time on guilt or shame, but use the privileges you have for justice, and remove the barriers those who do not have that privilege. For example, find a group with "a foot on their throat"

and use your privilege to support them. Go to meetings regularly, sit in the back and don't talk for a while but listen, don't lead but support in all essential ways. And find authentic relationships, largely within your own group, to help you become aware of your implicit biases and missteps.

...And take care of yourself... every day spend at least 5 minutes on each of these...**Feed** Your Spirit...**Love** your Body...**Conjure** Joy

George Friday's recommended videos...

Understanding Unconscious Bias <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dVp9Z5k0dEE>

Mirrors of Privilege: Making White Myths Visible [not available just now, but look for it later]

The House You Live in" - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mW764dXEI_8&t=6s

Race: the Power of an Illusion [rental info]<http://newsreel.org/video/race-the-power-of-an-illusion>

Race: the Power of an Illusion [30 minutes of excerpts]

<https://vimeo.com/133506632>

Changes to the Directory

Daniel Hood is now at 112 NC Highway 54, Apartment X6, Carrboro, NC 27510

Jim Hood new phone number

336-455-2589.

Writing Retreat in France Coming
Saturday 7 April to Sunday 15
April

Maison Quaker
11, Avenue des Quakers
30111 Congenies, France

Are you writing (or thinking of writing) a novel, a script, poetry, non-fiction or a memoir? Escape to the sun for 5 to 8 days and be inspired to write! 475€ for shared occupancy (595€ private room) includes 5 nights' accommodation, all meals and guidance from Kim Hope.

Music Week

Saturday 23 June to Sunday 1 July, 2018

Lift your spirits with 5 - 8 days of musical adventure at Maison Quaker. Experience or talent not necessary--just a desire to sing, play, learn or listen.

475€ for shared occupancy (595€ private room) includes 5 nights' accommodation, all meals and musical fun with Jeff Dershin.

Artist Retreats 2018

Friday 11 May to Monday 21 May
and

Friday 21 September to Monday 1 October

We invite artists (professional or amateur) to join us for 6-10 days of creating and camaraderie in the south of France. Cost: 695€ (575€ for shared occupancy) includes 6 night's accommodation, most meals, transportation and guidance from Kate Hale.

More information available from

2kashoffs@gmail.com

Phone +33 (0)4 66 71 46 41

<http://www.maison-quaker-congenies.org>

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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

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