

Friendship Times

Friendship Friends Meeting

Calendar

Sun, Mar 25	9 am Deepening the life of the Meeting 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, April 1	9 am Worship and Ministry and Care and Counsel Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship 12 noon Peace and Social Concerns Committee meets
Sun, April 8	10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
Sun, April 15	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, April 22	9 a.m. Deepening the Life of the Meeting. 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Tues, April 24	Deadline for March newsletter
Sun, April 29	9 am extended meeting for worship 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
May 6	9 am Worship and Ministry and 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 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 24. 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

2018-021. Opening Minute. At the regular meeting for business of Friendship Friends Meeting, held on the afternoon of Third Month 11, 2018, at the meeting house. The meeting opened near the appointed hour with a period of waiting worship.

Query Three. Friends united in the following response to Query Three:

We do seek the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives, as individuals and as a faith community. We are grateful for the tolerance and generosity of this meeting and feel that love and unity are maintained among us. When differences arise, as is inevitable, we look to provide a safe public space for different views to be expressed and to be heard without defensiveness. We find that openly considering our differences and ways to resolve them is part of our spiritual journey toward wholeness and a deeper unity

Friends united to appoint Susan Wilson, convener, Darlene Stanley, Maureen Burns and Judy Williams as the Nominating Committee for the next year, to begin immediately.

Treasurer's Report: Third Month Report for Second Month Income and Expenses in 2018 Income in February 2018 totaled \$18,917.52 with \$981.00 to the General Fund and \$17,936.52 to the New Building Fund. Expenses in February 2018 totaled

\$474.50. General Fund expenses totaled \$474.50 which included: Operating Expenses of \$277.26 primarily for supplies; no Supporting Contributions; and Meeting House Expenses of \$197.24 primarily for utilities.

Meetinghouse Planning Committee Report

For the last several months the Meetinghouse Planning committee has been working hard to determine which contractor and architect to recommend to the meeting that we work with when we were ready to begin the design process. The first decision we had to make was whether to follow the traditional design process and contract with an architect first and then bid out to find a contractor, or instead to go through the design-build process. In the design-build approach the client begins by hiring a contractor and then they agree on an architect that they want to work with together.

After talking with several design-build contractors and learning more about that process, we recommend that we use the design-build approach for our project. The advantages of the design-build process are a greater team approach that is both more collaborative and positive, and also typically results in cost savings since the contractor and architect are talking throughout the design process. For example, the architect can be pricing options with the contractor as he/she is designing to make sure the

design is staying within budget. Similarly, the contractor is part of the design process from the beginning so there is not an incentive for him/her to try to increase profit margins by cutting corners during construction.

Once we reached this decision, we interviewed three different design-build firms and the architect they recommended to work with us. The first company was D.H. Griffin and their suggested architect was Wayne Smith. The second firm was J. H. Batten and their recommended architect was Neil Brown. The final company we interviewed was R.P.M Partners and their recommended architect Archer Joyce.

After comparing all these interviews and the references we called for them, we are recommending to the meeting that we work with R.P.M Partners. They are a local company that describes itself as a smaller, more personal company and that has done projects of all sizes, including many for churches in the area. They described themselves as valuing communication and partnership and this was demonstrated in the interview process and their long working relationship with the architect Archer Joyce, who said he would prefer to only work with R.P.M Partners. All their references also struck this same tone. They have also been responsive throughout the interview process, including sending us their entire recent project list to call for references, not just a few selected clients.

The other two design-build firms had strengths as well, but none seemed to match up as well as R.P.M Partners. For example, our interview with Bill Sinclair of D.H Griffin was largely positive, but we were concerned that that company was much more used to working on larger projects and with bigger clients than us. We also sensed a less collaborative relationship with their recommended architect, who also seemed to have a more contentious personality. We really liked the architect we met in our conversations with J.H. Batten, but he is located in Charlotte, J. H. Batten in Walkertown, and they are used to working in a five state area. For all these reasons, we had reservations about whether they would be able to be as responsive to our more modest project.

Therefore, we are asking the meeting to approve working with R.P.M Partners in a design-build approach to our project. If this recommendation is approved, we would contact R.P.M Partners and talk with them further to confirm whether Archer Joyce is the best architect to work together with in this process. The next piece of information they will need from us is a budget number for the project. All the design builders have estimated that \$500,000 or less is a realistic estimate for our project.

The other issue we are bringing to the meeting is the question of timing. According to the estimates we have received, once we sign with a contractor, there are three steps to the process. The

first is the pre-design process in which the architect takes our master plan, talks more with the committee and works those up into initial drawings. This first step was estimated to cost about \$10-15,000 and to take 2-3 months. The next stage is the design process where the architect creates detailed drawings to bring to the city for approval. This process was estimated to take 3-6 months and cost another \$10-15,000. The final step is the construction process. Therefore, if we were to begin the process soon, it is likely we could at least have stakes in the ground by our 50th anniversary in October 2018.

Therefore, we are asking for guidance from the meeting about when it would like us to sign with a design-build contractor. What percent of fundraising needs to be completed for the meeting to feel clear to move forward with the initial steps of the process? Are there other questions or concerns that need to be addressed to discern this next step?

After considering the information in this report, the meeting approved engaging RPM Partners in a design-build approach to constructing the new meeting room.

After careful exploration of the challenges and opportunities before us, Friends united in authorizing the Meeting House Planning Committee to engage RPM Partners in the pre-design phase of the overall building project, to begin immediately at a cost of approximately \$10,000-15,000.

Holland Letter of Introduction. The clerk read a letter of introduction written for Stephen and Claire Holland, currently visiting Friends and others in Cuba.

2018-029. Letter of Transfer - Stanley. The clerk read a letter of transfer from Middleton Monthly Meeting (OYM) for Darlene Stanley and her two children, Jesse Garvin and Megan Stanley-Lewis. This transfer was received with joyful celebration.

Peace & Social Concerns Report

Identifying Lobbying Priorities for FCNL for 2018: On February 18, 2018, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Friendship Friends Meeting held a forum after meeting for worship to try to discern what its members would see as its choices for special priority among all the vital and important issues FCNL is working on, and the new Congressional sessions begin. Two primary issues emerged--building peace and immigration. Climate change was also cited as a major importance.

At the same time, concern was expressed about real likelihood of changing legislative hearts and minds, particularly with our North Carolina representatives. Persons who have written or called senatorial or house member offices have had the sense that responses are more efforts to justify entrenched positions than expressions of hearing. This sense of futility affects how Friends see, and feel inclined to contribute to, FCNL's lobbying in the current political climate. Some Friends see hope in a shift they feel is occurring toward action taken at a state level to address immigration, climate change, and other issues that seem

unlikely to have desired outcomes in Washington during this administration. There is thus a perceived greater need than ever for FCNL to communicate its message, to demonstrate that it is not just “tilting at windmills”. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input for FCNL, and gratitude for the hard work you do, in the face of massive resistance. Upcoming Ramadan Iftar Celebration Peace and Social Concerns will again support and participate in the upcoming Iftar celebration at a local mosque. Iftar is the feast that celebrates the breaking of the Ramadan fast and is a high holy day in the Islamic calendar. Greensboro mosques host hundreds of Muslim immigrant attendees, among others. Last year, Peace and Social Concerns contributed money toward Iftar food, and the Meeting contributed money toward the Iftar food. Interested people from Meeting attended the Iftar feast, showing our support of the local Muslim community. Peace and Social Concerns is again contributing \$200 toward food and invites the meeting to match our contribution as well as to join the Iftar celebration. Iftar details to follow. March for Our Lives Peace and Social Concerns heartily endorses the efforts by young people from our meeting and elsewhere to witness against the violence of guns through a planned march on March 24 in downtown Greensboro. We encourage meeting support through participation and contributions. The young people will be providing us with more information on this event.

Friends agreed to make a donation of \$200 from the Special Uses Fund toward the cost of the Iftar celebration marking the end of Ramadan.

House and Grounds 2017-2018 annual report to Friendship Meeting

Members of the committee: Jim Hood, Jim Fernandes, Carey Reece, Kim Carlyle, Hannah Passmore-Hobson, Chris Biber-Peterson, Ash-Leigh Brown, David Parsons (clerk)

With the purchase of more property, 2017 saw a substantial increase in the surface area needing to be mowed, cleaned of debris, leaves, ivy, and gumballs. Thanks to excellent participation in committee work days, as well as regular mowing and other tasks, the committee has managed to keep up with the enlarged property.

Other projects have included:

- Fencing was moved to reflect the new property lines;
 - Several incidents involved destruction of parts of the new sections of fence, only one of which had an identified doer--a local school bus that provided some reimbursement for our trouble. We removed the damaged section, and no further incidents have occurred;
- Bulbs and iris were transplanted to new areas around the meeting house and seem to be doing well;
- Raising an exterior drainage pipe seems to have addressed a runoff issue at the front of the building;
 - Thanks to Carey Reece, a new riding lawn mower was obtained to replace the one we bought that had recurrent problems;
 - The new heating/cooling system was serviced and seems to be functioning correctly;

- A corded electric push mower and an unpowered push mower were donated;
- Posts and cinder blocks between the new and old properties were removed to facilitate mowing.

As building plans become defined, H&G can begin to consider how more areas could be usefully converted to non-mowable, more ecologically friendly landscapes. We will also review some suggestions for interior improvements. While unexpected things can always arise with an older structure, our building and grounds seem to be in fairly good, stable order.

An issue the committee needs the Meeting's guidance on is this:

When a commemorative tree dies, and the meeting is no longer in contact with the relatives who contributed it, what should the meeting do? Should H&G remove a dead or badly disfigured tree in such a case? Should the marker if there is one be relocated or preserved in its original spot? Should markers be replaced if decayed? What are expectations vis. responsibility of the meeting versus the family or persons who made the original commemorative contribution in any replacements? Should the new meeting house plan foresee a plan/location for commemoratives of any kind?

The meeting appointed an Ad Hoc Committee on Memorial Markers to explore the questions raised by the House & Grounds Committee and bring specific recommendations to the meeting for business. The initial members of this committee are Judy Purvis (convenor), Janet Nagel, Mae Brown, Ray Treadway,

Carole Treadway, Kembra Howdeshell, and Dave MacInnes.

2018-032. Ad Hoc Committee for Refugee Resettlement. Friends agreed to lay down the Ad Hoc Committee for Refugee Resettlement.

Friendship Communications Committee
Annual report

Dave MacInnes, Chris Nelson, Judy Purvis

The Communications Committee's regular jobs are publishing our monthly and weekly newsletters. Monthly we add the newsletter to the Meeting website. Each week we send out the George Fox e-newsletter and if requested the political listing of the week's **Advocacy Opportunities**. There is also a seldom used email list called **Joys and Concerns** which goes out any time giving important updates relating to the Meeting community such as news of a death or birth, hoorays, urgent requests and so on. We also write and distribute the monthly **Friendship Times**.

The Friendship Times has been less lengthy this year, averaging 6-9 pages per issue. Our distribution of the newsletter continues to be mostly electronic. We print 8-10 copies, mailing two and putting the rest out for visitors. So instead of our money going to printing and mailing costs we used most of our funds last year to license our website domain (friendshipmeeting.org) and keeping the website service going. These services came up for renewal last year and

we wanted to upgrade the security on the website. We got a very good deal if we renewed for three years but unfortunately this meant we had to go over last year's budget. We adjusted this year's budget to reflect the lower cost of just printing pages of Friendship Times.

One issue the committee was able to successfully address this year was to find a replacement phone for our current very expensive telephone plan. Another issue was a problem with bulk emails and gmail which eventually we were able to solve.

Next year's primary issue for the committee is to update the website. We have received several useful suggestions from the membership which we will check on.

We would like to ask that if anyone with either computer skills or editing and writing skills serious consider becoming a member of the committee.

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.

New phone number

Friendship Meeting 336 482 1502

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

This is the essence of discernment: hearing and obeying God's voice. Quakers do this by taking individual leadings to a group for testing and discernment. The understandings of the larger group are taken to a yet large group for testing and discernment, etc. In Quakerism, it is not really true that decisions are made by consensus, that is, by everyone agreeing: rather, our decisions are formed by being bathed in the Light and assessed by a variety of Spirit-led people and groups, so that the final course of action can be honed to its core and set on a a sure path, leading to clarity and empowerment and widespread support. It is helpful when presenting an item for decision to ask for the meeting's consideration. Only when the clerks have suggested a sense of the meeting should the meeting be asked "Do Friends approve? A committee's recommendation is just that: it is recommending that the larger group do something. It is then up to the larger group to discern if that works for them and is consistent with their understandings. Someone in the larger group may bring up an issue that the committee had not thought of, or come up with an idea better than anything the committee had come up with, or simply be Spirit-led to go in a different direction than the committee had anticipated.

Page 198 *Quaker Process for Friends on the Benches* by Mathilda Navias

Announcements

From Anne Joy Swenson: The March for Our Lives Greensboro will be held on **March 24th**. It will go from Government Plaza to Lebauer Park, where there will be a rally.

We also have a GoFundMe and it would be great if people could be directed if they wanted to donate.

Thank you so much for your support!

The **Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Yearly Meeting Spring Retreat** will be held on **March 30th through 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.

From Bonnie Parsons: Quaker House has been asked to present the Quaker House Conscientious Objector workshop at PFF (Piedmont Friends Fellowship) on Saturday, **March 31st** from 11:00 - 12:15

From Elizabeth Judson-Rea and Daniel Amstutz: We have set a date for our baby shower, and we would to invite everyone in the meeting: women, men, and children. This is not a hen party!

It will be held on Saturday **April 7th** from 2-5 PM, at the meeting house, hopefully outside.

Friends are encouraged to bring a white shirt or other item to tie dye for themselves as a fun activity; we will also have some toddler clothes for tie-dyeing!

The next gathering of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)'s Interim Body is

scheduled for just over two months from now on Saturday, **April 28th**.

From Kate Hood: you are invited to a celebration of Deborah Shaw as she retires from her service at Guilford College, to be held on April 29th from 2 to 4 PM. Click on this link for more information.

<https://www.smore.com/7qf0a-save-the-date>

A Spring Poem

We take so much for granted -
 Such as each night being followed
 By daylight,
 Each breathing out, exhaling,
 followed by breathing in.
 But the most spectacular of all
 must be the splashings of beauty
 suddenly appearing with no effort on our part
 on branches and twigs and bushes and trees
 which until then seemed dead.
 Exquisite displays of delicate colors.
 Pinks and violets and varieties of blue.
 Except no-one has ever seen a blue rose.
 So my granddaughter Alisa
 In her end-of- Japanese-middle- school plan for
 her future
 Decided that she would create the first blue
 rose -
 By genetic engineering no doubt.
 What now surprises me even more
 is that we have this awareness of beauty –
 That those spring colors excite us, delight us,
 as do some combinations of sounds we call
 music,
 And certain odors – perfumes.
 WHY?
 No doubt, biologists will tell us,
 That this awareness of beauty gives us
 an evolutionary advantage.
 But it will be a while before a gene is found
 - in our DNA -
 that dictates our sensing delights
 in beautiful sounds and sights.

Ted Benfey 2 March 2018

Our memorial Star Magnolia tree is spectacular
 this year, as usual Photos by Dave M



Its spring at the Meetinghouse. Almost time to
 get our new lawnmower out.



Meeting
 for Eating

Potluck
 table

Friendship Friends Meeting
Box 8652
Greensboro, NC 27419
(336) 482 1502
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

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Box 8652
Greensboro, NC 27419

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