

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



June 2015

Summary of 2014 Ministry for Ashley M. Wilcox

This is the second of three reports from individuals whose ministries are under the care of the meeting. The final ministry report will be included in a subsequent newsletter.

A lot of my ministry this year has been connected to Candler School of Theology, where I am halfway through the three-year M.Div. program. I completed my second semester of contextual education working as a chaplain intern at Lee Arrendale State Prison in the spring semester. It was good and challenging work. A highlight for me was leading music at a Good Friday service with two of the women in prison.

I am doing my second year of contextual education in Atlanta Friends Meeting. I spend eight hours a week focusing on five areas of ministry: administration, liturgy (worship and preaching), mission and outreach, pastoral calling and congregational care, and teaching. These categories do not always fit exactly in the context of an unprogrammed Friends meeting, but I have been able to find ways to engage with the meeting in each area. For example, I am on the Ministry and Worship committee, I started a monthly meeting for worship at Candler, and I facilitated a panel on sexuality and Quaker identity. I have also enjoyed providing pastoral care for some of the youngest Friends in the meeting. My anchoring committee is currently serving as my site supervisors for contextual education.

At school, I am serving as the chaplain of Sacred Worth (Candler's student group for LGBTQ students and allies). As chaplain, I am on the executive board and I hold office hours and have a confidential email. I enjoy meeting with people and helping to build this community within Candler. In the fall semester, I was a discussion leader for Early Church History, which felt like another opportunity to provide pastoral care for seminary students. As the only Quaker at Candler I find myself representing Friends often. In my Preaching in a Secular Age class, I was able to give a message out of open worship in the manner of Friends, working with an elder.

Atlanta Meeting of the Religious
Society of Friends (Quakers)
All are welcome

Meeting for Worship
Each First Day (Sunday)
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
701 W. Howard Ave.
Decatur, GA 30030

QUERY

Do our lives reflect Quaker testimonies? Are we open and responsive to continuing revelation, and do we incorporate it in our spiritual life? Is our Quaker witness characterized by humility and a willingness to learn from others? Do we recognize that the Spirit works in the world through us?

- Tampa Monthly Meeting

I also had the opportunity to travel quite a bit this year. In February, I spent a long weekend in Philadelphia observing a Friends Journal board meeting. While I was there, I got to spend time with several Friends and Jon Watts interviewed me for the QuakerSpeak project (I was featured in the QuakerSpeak video “Quakers and Women in Ministry” and a *Friends Journal* video on my recording process). In April, I gave the Friday night message for Friends World Committee for Consultation’s Living Waters Consultation in High Point, NC. In June, I led a workshop on prayer at the Pacific Northwest Quaker Women’s Theology Conference. I also visited Chena Ridge Monthly Meeting, Anchorage Friends Meeting, and North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Interim Body.

I published an article in the March issue of *Friends Journal* called “Sending Forth: The Importance of Financial Support in Ministry.” I have also continued posting on my blog, www.questforadequacy.blogspot.com. One of my favorite things this year has been monthly gatherings for Atlanta Beer and Hymns (recently featured on Fox News!).

Looking ahead, I am planning to lead the Atlanta Friends Meeting Gathered Meeting Retreat in March. I also hope to spend the summer in Greensboro, NC, as an intern with First Friends Meeting. I am grateful to Atlanta Friends Meeting for your support for my ministry.

Meetinghouse Library News Part II, Submitted by Library Clerk Cal Gough

Several items – some purchased, some donated by attendees - have been added recently to the library’s collections. Shown below in alphabetical order are the titles, followed by the “shelf address” and brief descriptions excerpted from the Quaker Books catalog or Amazon.com. Purchases of replacements for borrowed-but-never-returned classics are indicated by (*).

- ***Quaker Writings: An Anthology, 1650 -1920*** (2010)* 289.609 / .Q21 – Spanning the globe and covering nearly three centuries of religious development, this balanced overview of Quaker history explores its origins to missionary work, daily life, beliefs, perspectives, movements within the community, and activism throughout the world.
- ***Quakernomics: An Ethical Capitalism*** (2014) 261.8 / .K9 - Author Mike King offers Quakernomics as a model for corporate social responsibility in the modern world. Exploring Quaker businesses which combine commercial success with philanthropy and social activism, Quakernomics presents a historical account of the Quakers’ practice of a ‘total capitalism’, which King argues is an immediately relevant guide for today’s global economy.
- ***Quakers*** (2014)* 289.6 / .P21 - In this illustrated introduction, Peter Furtado traces the history of Quakerism through the tumultuous period of the Civil War and Restoration, its zealous and unrelenting opposition to the slave trade, and its continued work at the forefront of peacemaking, poverty relief, conflict resolution and charity.
- ***Quakers Are Funny: A New Collection of Quaker Humor*** (2001) 808.7 / F.1
- ***Rachel Carson and Her Book that Changed the World (2014) J 570.92*** / .L2 - Pioneering environmentalist Rachel Carson wrote *Silent Spring*, pointing out the dangerous effects of chemicals on the living world. Published despite powerful attempts to stop its publication, *Silent Spring* became the book that first woke people up to the harmful impact humans are having on our planet.
- ***The Simple Living Guide: An Essential Sourcebook for Less Stressful, More Joyful Living*** (1997)* 179.1 / .L20 - Janet Luhrs, the nationally recognized founder and editor of the *Simple Living Journal*, brings together strategies, inspiration, resources, and real-life profiles of people who have slowed down, overcome obstacles, and created richer lives.

- ***A Sustainable Life: Quaker Faith and Practice in the Renewal of*** Creation (2014) 248.4 / .G23 - Well-known Quaker historian Douglas Gwyn explores such paradoxes as equality and community, unity and differentiation, integrity and personal discernment, and other aspects of life that Quakers have worked to bring into balance through their 350-year history.
- ***Understanding Islam: A Primer*** (2009) 297 / .T1 - Author Idris Tawfiq explores the Islamic faith from his unique perspective of a Roman Catholic priest turned Muslim scholar. Drawing widely on recent cultural phenomena in the West to examine the wider role of religion in an increasingly secular region of the world, he illustrates various and unexpected prisms through which Islam can be observed.

Note: Please Return Library Items!

The Library Committee is in the midst of a huge inventory project that will improve and narrow the collection, streamline regular usage, and digitize the catalog. According to our records, there are 442 items missing. We know the number is actually higher as some people have borrowed items without leaving the card behind. If you are one of these people (you probably are) please save us a phone call and go ahead and return any AFM library items to the green basket on the desk in the library. Don't forget- this includes books, videos, AND pamphlets. Questions? Contact erica.schoon@gmail.com.

June Adult Religious Education Reading *Awaken Your Senses*

The adult religious education will read and discuss *Awaken Your Senses*, during the month of June. In *Awaken Your Senses*, longtime ministers Beth Booram and Brent Bill invite you to engage your right brain in your faith through sensory spiritual practices that position your heart for divine encounter. Readings and a variety of exercises that utilize your whole body lead you to experience God in new ways.

June Parenting Classes

A 4-session class is being sponsored by Religious Education and taught by 4 parents using the classic book, "Parent Effectiveness Training" by Thomas Gordon. Space is limited, so register NOW.

Dates/Time: Sundays, June 7, 14, 21, & 28, 2015, 2-4 pm
 Location: Atlanta Friends Meetinghouse
 Cost: \$30 per family plus purchase of a P.E.T. book
 Limited to: 10 families who attend AFM
 Based on: Parent Effectiveness Training by Thomas Gordon (book)
 Conveners: Sally Ferguson & Jim Tolmach, Betsy Eggers & Jack Honderd
 Sponsored by: AFM Religious Education Committee

Child Care provided if reserved 2 weeks prior to 1st class. Note: All children MUST have up-to-date forms on-file in the nursery to be considered for childcare. Please contact Camille Jackson if your child's information is not on-file and complete the forms she requires prior to coming to class.

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED. Submit your registration form and \$30 fee (check to "Atlanta Friends Meeting, memo P.E.T. class) to the AFM Office to register.

Alternatives to Violence Project-ATL Basic/Advanced Workshop June 6-7

Our workshops use the shared experience of participants, interactive exercises, games and role-plays to examine the ways in which we respond to situations where injustice, prejudice, frustration and anger can lead to aggressive behavior and violence. (see avpusa.org)

June 6-7 9:30am-5:30pm, 153 Stovall Street SE, Atlanta, GA 30316. Suggested donation \$20. Register by emailing Heather at heather.pincock@gmail.com. For more information call Heather at [315-263-1502](tel:315-263-1502).
Certificates: For those attending their first AVP workshop, you will receive a Basic Certificate. For those attending their second AVP workshop, you will receive an Advanced Certificate.

[The AVP Workshop series includes a Basic, Advanced and Training 4 Facilitators Workshop. Those who complete all three workshops are eligible to apprentice on workshop facilitation teams and become AVP facilitators.]

Help us spread the word! Please circulate this announcement to any groups or individuals who may be interested in attending. Stay tuned for upcoming workshop dates in July, August, and September, to be announced soon...

Green Friends Film Series – June 14

Our next film will be screened on Sunday, June 14, at 11:45 in the Meeting Room. It is another episode of the well-received Showtime series “Years of Living Dangerously.” Snacks will be served!

Deidre McCalla Concert – June 27

Singer/songwriter (and Meeting attendee) Deidre McCalla will be performing in-the-round with fellow musicians Dianne Davidson and Jamie Anderson on Saturday, June 27th at the First Existentialist Congregation. This is a rare Atlanta appearance for all three artists and promises to be an evening of heart-warming harmony and humor. Showtime is 8pm. Tickets \$25 adv/\$30 door. Purchase in advance at wady.brownpapertickets.com.

Forum June 28 – Housing and Care Options As We Age

There may come a time when you or a loved one need help with some of the tasks of everyday living – or perhaps a time when you would just prefer to have some help. What options may be available to you? What are the pros and cons of each? What types of financial costs may be involved? Please join us to receive specific information regarding both at-home and group care options. The program will include speakers as well as group discussion. Presented by Care and Counsel Committee. Please contact Georgia Lord for further information, or to make suggestions.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – May 17, 2015

Recorded pending approval

Attendance: Mike Aland, Muireann Brennan, Rebecca Burley, Kelly Callaway-Singer, Steve Collins, Jennifer Dickie, Mary Ann Downey, Betsy Eggers, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, Jenny Foster, Carol Gray, Judith Greenberg, Roland Heath, Bill Holland, Jack Honderd, Lynn Leuszler, Susan May, Kelsey McNicholas, Karen terHorst Morris, Ronald Nuse, Erica Schoon, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Rebecca Sullivan, Brittney Thornbury, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Sarah Walton, Nan O’Connor (Clerk), Elizabeth Lamb (Recording Clerk) (32 Friends).

Query: Bill Holland presented the query: “Do we live in harmony with nature? Do we seek to minimize our consumption of the Earth’s resources? Do we walk gently over the earth, seeing that of God in all of Nature?”

Discernment Items

Ministry and Worship Committee: On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee Bill Holland brought forward the recommendation to take the marriage of Becca Burley and Brittany Thornbury under the care of the meeting. A clearness committee has met with them and found them clear. In consultation with the clearness committee, Becca and Brittany have selected the following promise: "Friends, I take this my friend [name] to be my wife, promising, through divine assistance, to be unto her a loving and faithful wife, so long as we both on earth shall live."

- **Minute 05-17-2015-01:** *On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, we joyfully take the marriage of Becca Burley and Brittany Thornbury under our tender care. We look forward to growing with them in spirit.*

The marriage committee will be named at a later date.

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee Carol Gray brought forward Rebecca Sullivan to serve on the Ministry and Worship Committee.

- **Minute 05-17-2015-02:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Rebecca Sullivan as a member of the Ministry and Worship Committee.*

Carol Gray also brought forward the revised description for the Hospitality Committee.

- **Minute 05-17-2015-03:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following revised description for the Hospitality Committee:*

Purpose: This committee assures that items are available in the Meetinghouse kitchen for the weekly coffee time at the rise of Meeting for Worship and other events. It also arranges hospitality for out-of-town guests of the Meeting including accommodations, meals and transportation.

Membership: Members and attenders of the Atlanta Friends Meeting. The committee usually has 4-6 members.

Term: Three year, non-consecutive terms.

Duties:

1. Provides oversight for volunteers who set up and cleanup for coffee each First Day.
2. Provides oversight for volunteers who are responsible for potluck set up and cleanup.
3. Maintains a list of friends who are willing to host visitors from out of town. This list is in addition to any Atlanta Friends who are listed in the Traveling Directory. Hospitality arranges contact between host and visitor.
4. Arranges refreshments for special events sponsored by the Meeting.
5. Buys and stocks supplies for the Meetinghouse kitchen including coffee, teabags, honey, apple juice, boxed milk, sugar, dry creamer and artificial sweetener.

Reports:

Ministry and Worship Committee: On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee Bill Holland reported that Ministry and Worship has awarded eight scholarships for friends to attend the Friends General Conference Gathering in July and nine scholarships for friends to attend Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association sessions in early June. We will be asking for Friends attending these two gatherings to share their experiences with Meeting.

Administration Committee: On behalf of the Administration Committee Steve Collins brought forward a revised description for the Friend in Residence (FiR) position. Please see Steve if you would like a copy for review. The new description will be brought forward for approval next month. He reported that an ad hoc Search Committee has been formed, comprised of Karen Morris and himself as co-clerks and Georgia Lord, Sue May and Nan O'Connor as members.

Steve also reported that the ad hoc Library Redesign Committee is asking the Finance Committee to approved \$11,500 to buy new furnishings including a loveseat, chairs, carpet, lighting, and a laptop to maintain the catalogue. An auction of the current furnishings would partially offset these expenses. Steve then reported that the committee is asking the Finance Committee to approve \$4000 to purchase a new sign for the Meetinghouse, which would allow four additional hanging signs for our tenants should they so desire. More details on this proposal will be brought forward later.

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee Carol Gray brought forward the following names:

Teachers for 3-year old through 1st grade First Day School: Elizabeth Valera and Liz Nicholson
Assistant Treasurer: Dee deBra

These will be brought forward next month for approval.

Treasurer: The treasurer Lynn Leuszler reported that donations are down 26% from where we would like to be at this time of year. He further stated that expenses such as the library redesign and the new sign have not been budgeted, so we will need to revise the budget to better reflect our needs. He asked that everyone please contribute now. On behalf of the Finance Committee Perry Treadwell brought forward the idea of having "sustaining members" who contribute monthly rather than relying on our traditional year-end push. This would enable us to have a clearer picture of our finances when needs arise, such as the library. It was also pointed out that more members and attenders contributing regularly, even if each contributes but a small amount, would allow the meeting to feel more connected.

Clerk's Item: The clerk reported that she has received a very positive response to the letter sent to the Evangelical Friends Church – Eastern Region regarding the proposal made by the Burundi Friends to start a church. They have also received a similar letter from Burundi friends in Louisville, KY. The ad hoc committee will meet again soon to move forward with this proposal.

Minutes of April 2015:

- **Minute 05-17-2015-04:** *The Minutes of the April 2015 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved with a typographical correction.*

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

Respectfully submitted by: Elizabeth Lamb, Recording Clerk; and Nan O'Connor Clerk.



Please Hold in The Light:

The country of Burundi and Burundians everywhere

John Rogers Thurber,
Brother of Shelly Thurber

Those wishing to have requests for Holding included in this monthly newsletter may give the names to a member of Care & Counsel. Georgia Lord is point person for June.



Atlanta Friends Meeting Contacts

Clerk of the Meeting: Nan O'Connor, afmclerk1@gmail.com
Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald, atlantaquakers@gmail.com
Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com
Ministry & Worship: Bill Holland, 404-892-2358
Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280
Social Concerns: Michael Allison, 770-832-3539
Administration Clerk: Steve Collins, shcollins75@gmail.com
Care & Counsel: Clive Gordon, afm.care.counsel@gmail.com
Religious Education: Jennifer Dickie, michaeljen@bellsouth.net
Library Clerk: Cal Gough, calgough@bellsouth.net
Newsletter Editor: Kate Swett, atlquakerltr@gmail.com
Webmaster: Aaron Ruscetta, arxaaron@gmail.com

Calendar for Sixth Month (June) 2015

Area Meetings for Worship

Every First Day (Sunday)	10:00 a.m. – Meetinghouse, with a smaller group in the Library.
Every Third First Day	12:30 p.m. – Carrollton Friends Worship Group. St. Andrew's UMC Youth Center, 1106 Maple St.; contact Jean Hudson, judson30116@yahoo.com or 678-378-3368; carrolltonfriends.org .
Every Second First Day	10:30 a.m. – Macon Friends Worship Group. Contact Diana Day, 478-227-8892; maconquakers.org
Every Fifth Day (Thursday)	12:10 p.m. – East Lake Commons, Decatur. Contact Bert Skellie at bertskellie@gmail.com or 404-680-4799.
Sixth Day (Friday)	(Mid-August through May), 9:00 a.m. – Friends School of Atlanta. Community Meeting Room, 862 Columbia Dr., Decatur, 404-373-8746.
<i>Currently on hiatus</i>	Canton Friends Worship Group. Contact Roy Taylor at 770-720-4669 or wrlldpeas@mindspring.com .

Weekly Events at the Meetinghouse

Every First Day (Sunday)	9:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education, Library 9:30 a.m. Singing, Classroom A/B 10:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship
Every Second-Fifth Day (Monday-Thursday)	8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Smart Toddlers, Nursery playground
Every Third Day (Tuesday)	7:00 p.m. Silent Meditation, Library
Every Fourth Day (Wednesday)	7:00 p.m. Mid-Week Worship, Library
Every Fifth Day (Thursday)	7:30 p.m. Bible Study, Library

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING
701 W. Howard Ave.
Decatur, GA 30030-2902

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Office: MWF 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; 404-377-2474

Web: atlanta.quaker.org atlantaquakers@gmail.com

Clerk: Nan O'Connor, afmclerk1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com

If you would like to have a permanent nametag made, leave a request in one of the baskets on the front table. Indicate whether you prefer one that hangs around the neck or that pins. When Carol Gray has made one for you, it will be placed in the black file box on the greeting table.

If you would like to be included in the AFM database and receive the Newsletter by mail and/or appear in future AFM Directories, please send your name and contact information to Emily Lawson at elawson7@gmail.com or 404-200-8479. Please indicate if you want to be in the directory, receive the newsletter by mail, or both.

Contributions to the Atlanta Friends Meeting may be placed in the slot marked "Contributions" in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse or mailed to the Treasurer at the above address. Thank you!

This newsletter is a publication of the Atlanta Friends Meeting. Views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Meeting.

Readers are encouraged to submit letters, articles, notices and anything else of interest to Friends. Items should be sent directly to atlquakerltr@gmail.com in plain text (Word, not PDF). Pictures should be in .jpg format. Submissions may be edited for length and format.

THE DEADLINE FOR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS IS THE 20TH DAY OF EACH PRECEDING MONTH.

To receive the Newsletter via e-mail, send a blank e-mail to afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com from the address where you want to receive the newsletter. You will receive a note back from Yahoo asking you to confirm your subscription; hit reply and you will be added to the list at no charge. To receive general announcements and to participate in discussion, follow the same instructions, but address the note to afmdiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. To receive announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting, send the same note to afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.