

Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter

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

May 2012

Query: Do you attend Meeting for Business regularly? Do you participate in a spirit of love and understanding, recognizing that you may need to accept a decision of the Meeting with which you are not entirely in agreement?

Our Quaker Ancestors in Georgia: The Wrightsboro Settlement

According to *GeorgiaTrend's* February 2012 issue, a group of Quakers facing persecution in North Carolina settled in McDuffie County, near Augusta, in 1768, establishing what is now known as the Wrightsboro settlement. Today, all that remains is a meetinghouse, a cemetery and the remnants of a nearby fort. The meetinghouse is in typical 18th century Quaker style. The cemetery's graves are unmarked; visible stones are those set up by denominations that succeeded the Quakers at the site, including Methodists, who still hold an annual gathering there. According to this source, the Wrightsboro Quakers were driven from the site by Native Americans and "outlaws of various stripes."

We find more information at the McDuffie County website. McDuffie County's roots go back to the 1768 settlement of Wrightsboro, Georgia's only Quaker settlement and the southernmost point of Quaker migration in North America. Wrightsboro survived as a village until the 1920s, but all that remains of the settlement is the Wrightsboro church (c. 1810) and the adjoining cemetery. The Wrightsboro Methodist Church of the Thomson Circuit, on the site of the defunct town of Wrightsboro, has been an active organization for over 125 years. Several veterans of the Revolutionary War and some who died at Gettysburg, Shiloh and Fredericksburg are buried in its historic churchyard. The founders of some of the oldest and most prominent families are also buried in the churchyard. Among them are the ancestors of Bishop Warren A. Candler, Judge John S. Candler and Asa G. Candler.

And here is more from William Wade Hinshaw, *The Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*, Vol. 1 (North Carolina): "Wrightsboro Monthly Meeting was located in Columbia (now McDuffie) County, Georgia. In 1770 the General Assembly of Georgia granted a tract of 40,000 acres in St. Paul's Parish to be held in trust for the Quakers. Here they began the town of Wrightsboro, on Town Creek, 16 miles from Appling, the county seat, and named it for Sir James Wright, Governor of the colony. The records date from 1773. In that year a preparative and a monthly meeting were organized in Wrightsboro by representatives sent from New Garden." Recorded certificates show that the Quaker population was made up of settlers from South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Burlington in West New Jersey. A list of the names of the members of the new meeting, compiled "by the order of Bush River Monthly Meeting ye 4th of ye 10th Month, 1774," and attested by William Wright and David Mote as clerks, is recorded in the minutes of Wrightsboro Monthly Meeting on the 3d day of 12th Month, 1774.

The existing minutes of the monthly meeting end in 1793. "From other sources, it is known that about 1800, just as in the case of the North and South Carolina meetings, there began a great migration to the Ohio Territory." Certificates were issued from Wrightsboro to Miami (Ohio) Monthly Meeting as late as 1805. The latest birth in the meeting, that of Mary Conner, was recorded in May 1805; this same family was issued a certificate by Bush River (S.C.) Meeting to Miami Meeting in November 1805, suggesting that the Wrightsboro Monthly Meeting had been laid down by that time.

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Sally MacEwen: In Memoriam

Quakers have been identified and have identified themselves as the “peculiar people.” The origin of the phrase is attributed to Paul’s Letter to Titus 2:14. The adjective is found only in the King James version of the Bible and is rendered in later translations as “pure.” During the 17th century, “peculiar” signified the testimonies of equality, plain dress and speech, eg. simplicity. By the midst of the 19th century many of the “hedges” (constrictions) on Friends built up between those in the world and those of the world to keep Friends “pure” were lowered or missing entirely, such as marrying out of the meeting.



In remembrance of Sally MacEwen, let us look at the original word in the Greek Bible: *pēriōusios*. The word is used only once in the Bible -- in Titus. The Greek dictionary renders the English meaning as “costly, treasured = specially chosen.”

-- Perry Treadwell, from Pink Dandelion, *The A to Z of Friends*.

A message of thanks from Aaron Ruscetta



For myself, for Elaine and on behalf of Sally, I want to convey our deepest appreciation to the Atlanta Friends meeting for making our life partnership celebration and marriage a truly perfect day. The event will stand as a cherished and fitting capstone for a fruitful life guided by Quaker values and illuminated for the past 30 years by the lights of this community.

Elaine and I know in our hearts that Sally planned this sharing of joy in hopes that it might ease the sorrow of her impending passing for all of her family of Friends.

We hope that all the lights of the meeting will now join the members of Sally's immediate family in remembering and celebrating Sally's life at the memorial service being held from 1pm to 3pm on Saturday, May 5th, 2012 at the Friends School of Atlanta, 862 Columbia Drive, Decatur. We also invite you to visit Sally's memorial web site, <<http://teamSallyMac.weebly.com>>, where you can see a few more of the many beautiful photos from our wedding day that were taken by Meredith Reynolds.

More Recent Acquisitions by the Meetinghouse Library Committee

Faith in Action: Quaker Social Testimony. Eds. Elizabeth Dave and Ros Morley. This book will inspire readers to think about how we live out our testimonies in our lives, develop a culture of mutual accountability, and share the lessons from our journeys. When we say God is love, the integrity of our claim is known by the degree to which it is lived out in our lives. 289.641 .C1

This We Can Say: Australian Quaker Live, Faith and Thought. Australia Yearly Meeting. This unusual Faith and Practice consists almost entirely of quotations from modern Friends and minutes of Australia Yearly Meeting. Includes Advices and Queries and a short history of Australian Quakers. 289.6.A25

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life. Read by Barbara Kingsolver. Part memoir, part journalistic investigation, *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* is an enthralling narrative that will open your eyes in a hundred new ways to an old truth: You are what you eat. Audio 641.097.K9

Ida: A Sword Among Lions: Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching. Paula Giddings. Exhaustively investigated and brilliantly rendered biography about a country and a crusader embroiled in the struggle against lynching. B Wells

Welcome to the AFSC's New Regional Director

The Southeast Region of AFSC has been merged with part of the Mid-Atlantic Region to form a new South Region. Atlanta is the regional headquarters, and the new regional director is Bonnie Horton. Bonnie has spent the last several years working with the International Rescue Committee heading up a program in Georgia in youth and adult education programs for refugees from around the world being resettled in the area. She has extensive experience managing organizations and programs in education, youth advocacy, criminal justice, job training, and economic empowerment. Prior to moving to the Atlanta area some 8 years ago, she studied and worked in Ohio, and holds a master's degree in public administration from Cleveland State University. She lives in Lawrenceville, Georgia, near Atlanta with her husband and family, which includes a set of 15-year-old twins. Her e-mail is behorton@afsc.org and her telephone number in Atlanta will be (404) 586-0460 x12.

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Adult Education Continues

On May 6, Dave Thurman will tell us about his spiritual journey to Friends. We will continue our Quakerism 101 series using *Four Doors to Meeting for Worship* by Bill Tabor. He identified four doors, or ways to access worship so as to experience the living Presence and wrote, "Some people 'find it' almost instantly when they attend their first Friends meeting for worship; as they settle into the silence they feel themselves gathered into a living Presence and they know they have come home at last."

On June 3, Mary Jantz will offer her spiritual journey. Our focus for reading and discussion during June and July will be the life and writings of Howard Thurman, an African American minister, co-founder of Church for the Fellowship of all Peoples, student at Haverford with Rufus Jones for a semester and professor at Howard, Boston University and Earlham School of Religion. He wrote, "You must wait and listen for the sound of the genuine that is within you. When you hear it that will be your voice and the voice of God."

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NEWS FLASH: SAYMA's new *Faith and Practice* is almost here! Drop off your \$7 payment at the Meetinghouse Office by May 11. Latecomers will have to pay \$12 postpaid.

Atlanta Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
April 22, 2012
Recorded Pending Approval

Meeting opened with a period of silent worship, after which Clerk David Foster read a selection from *Live the Questions: Write into the Answers*, by Barbara Parsons and Mary Morrison (Pendle Hill Pamphlet #354, 2001).

Query: On behalf of Ministry and Worship, Ron Nuse presented the query, “Do you express in your life the love for all people, the sincerity and simplicity, which Jesus lived and taught? Do you regularly make time for inward reflection and communion with God? Are you receptive to the Divine Light within, that its power growing in you may rule your life?”

In Attendance were: Micheal Allison, Steve Collins, Susan Cozzens, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Roland Heath, Bill Holland, Jaehn Clare, Elizabeth Lamb, Beth Martinson, Rick Martinson, Karen terHorst Morris, Wesley Morris, Ronald Nuse, Christina Repoley, Aaron Ruscetta, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Ellie Soler, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Maggie Wise, Caroline Noyes (Recording Clerk), David Foster (Clerk), (24 Friends)

Matters for Discernment

Ministry and Worship: On behalf of Ministry and Worship, Bill Holland reported that Ministry and Worship has received a report from the ad hoc group formed to discern the right relationship between Atlanta Friends Meeting and the Quaker Voluntary Service-Atlanta project scheduled to begin in the fall of 2012. Ministry and Worship recommends the following minute and structure:

Minute 12-04-01: On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) - Atlanta will be taken under the spiritual care of Atlanta Friends Meeting. A local support committee for QVS-Atlanta will be formed under the direct care and oversight of the Ministry and Worship Committee, who will bring relevant updates and reports to Meeting for Business when appropriate.

The local support committee will take primary responsibility for the spiritual care of QVS-Atlanta volunteers, though it is understood that QVS and the Atlanta program are the primary responsibility of the QVS Board and Staff. The QVS Board and Staff will be responsible for the details of the QVS organization and its smooth functioning, though they may ask for input from AFM from time to time. This arrangement is brought to Meeting for Business for approval from now until the end of the initial QVS year ([July 2013](#)), at which time Ministry and Worship Committee will consider whether any important changes should be made for the second program year.

Atlanta Friend Meeting approves.

Maia and Stoph Hallward, Wesley Morris and Coryn Murphy, Aaron Ruscetta, Julia Ewen, and Jenny Foster have expressed their willingness to serve on the support committee.

Nominating: On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Steve Collins brought forth Rick Martinson as Clerk of Administration. Final approval will be sought in Fifth Month. Steve Collins brought forth for

final approval Karen Skellie as Meeting Archivist.

Minute 12-04-02: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Karen Skellie as Meeting Archivist.

Clerk's Items: Citizens Climate Lobby letter endorsement. Upon reflection, the Clerk observed that while there was unity around the need for effective national legislation to reduce carbon consumption/emissions, Friends were not united around the specific mechanisms outlined in the letter. The Clerk expressed concern that the approved minute represented a compromise, borne of a lapse in adhering faithfully to Quaker process. The Clerk asked that the Meeting withdraw Minute 12-03-06 that endorses the Citizens Climate Lobby letter and have it be an opening agenda item for Fifth Month, after Friends have a chance to further season this concern, to allow clarity to come forth. Several Friends expressed their concerns with the process as well.

Minute 12-04-03: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves withdrawing Minute 12-03-06, and encourages Green Friends to bring to the Fifth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business their recommendations for further discernment.

Reports

Ministry and Worship: On behalf of Ministry and Worship, Bill Holland reported that Ministry and Worship will hold a forum on April 29 after meeting on the Spiritual Basis of Meeting for Worship. Copies of Barry Morley's Pendle Hill pamphlet "Beyond Consensus: Salvaging Sense of the Meeting" are available from Ministry and Worship. We encourage Friends to attend as we explore together what we hope for in the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Ministry and Worship devotes a portion of its budget each year to provide scholarships for Friends interested in attending Friends General Conference Gathering or the Yearly Meeting sessions of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting. Registration deadlines for both events are quickly approaching. We particularly encourage attendance by first time attenders, and families. Friends should also know that Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Friends General Conference could match scholarships for Yearly Meetings. Caroline Noyes, Mia Hallward, and Lynn Leuszler are receiving applications.

A forum has been scheduled for July 29 on the work of Howard Thurman. More information will be forthcoming.

Finance Committee: David Foster reported that the Quarterly treasurer's report would be presented in Fifth Month

American Friends Service Committee: Susan Cozzens reported that the ASFC Board recommended consolidating the nine regions into four regions. As a result of consolidation of the Middle Atlantic and Southeastern regions, ASFC-Southeast Region will now be part of the South region, extending from Delaware to Texas. Atlanta remains the headquarters of this region and Bonnie Horton, the newly hired Regional Director, will be based in Atlanta, while an Associate Regional Director will be located in Baltimore. No programs are being eliminated. Because the two executive committees will be consolidated and six Yearly Meetings will be covered under the new structure, all Yearly Meetings are encouraged to nominate (not appoint) members for the new consolidated executive committee.

Clerk's Items: David Foster gave a brief report on the recent SAYMA representatives meeting. Jonah McDonald has been hired as the Administrative Assistant for Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF), starting in June 2012. The budget for the Yearly Meeting is about \$80K. Quaker Earth Witness (QEW) is offering \$500 grants for environmental improvements. *Faith and Practice* is

finished and will be posted on-line. Bulk orders will be printed and but it will also be available by print-on-demand. There is a committee charged with working on the Queries.

Approval of Minutes of Third Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business:

Minute 12-04-04: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the Minutes of Third Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business with corrections.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Foster, Clerk
Caroline Noyes, Recording Clerk

Silent Auction to benefit the Ferguson Cabin, June 16-17

The Ferguson Cabin Committee is trying to raise funds to finish the wonderful new cabin being built at Lake Burton. We will be holding a silent auction on June 16-17. We will be offering a "First Night in the New Cabin" to the highest bidder as our featured item! Details on how to bid will be explained prior to the auction. We are asking for donations of services -- BE CREATIVE -- to help us in making this a successful auction.

Ideas: massages, yard work, editing, restaurant gift, web site building, certificates, small repairs, movie tickets, baseball tickets, music lessons, dinners cooked for you, etc. WHAT'S YOUR SPECIAL TALENT? If you don't have anything personal to donate you could help us by soliciting your favorite store, restaurant or business to see if they might donate. Local businesses are frequently willing to give donations (tax deductible) in return for the exposure they will receive.

Can you help? Please email Melanie Fuller, efull@bellsouth.net, or call 770-321-3410 by June 1.

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The Greening of the Meetinghouse

Over the past few months, a number of not-readily-visible changes have been made to the meetinghouse, with the intention of reducing energy usage and thus shrinking our carbon footprint (and reducing our utility bills.) These changes were made to address deficiencies that were found during the energy audit of the meetinghouse in early 2011. The audit was provided at a very nominal cost by Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL). The changes were done with the help of a 50% matching grant, also provided by GIPL.

In December, 21 of our fluorescent light fixtures were upgraded from T12 bulbs with magnetic ballasts to T8 bulbs with electronic ballasts. This is expected to reduce electricity consumption in these fixtures by about 50%. These upgrades were made in classrooms A/B and C, the nursery, and the office – rooms where the lights are used 20 or more hours per week. Then, early in April, the insulation over the tiled ceilings (all classrooms, restrooms, kitchen, and office) was removed and upgraded, with spottily-placed fiberglass batts replaced by fiberglass blown in to a level of R-38 (supported by a fabric stapled to the underside of the roof trusses).

Next year we will evaluate the effect of these changes, comparing a year's worth of electricity and gas consumption after the changes with a year's worth just before. We project to shrink the meeting's carbon footprint by roughly eight metric tons of carbon dioxide per year, and reduce our utility bills by more than \$2,000 a year. An expectation of accepting the grant is that we will participate in GIPL's "pay it forward" program, contributing one-third of our actual savings on utility bills each year for the first three years. We'll keep you posted.

Calendar for Fifth Month (May) 2012

Area Meetings for Worship

- Every First Day (Sunday), 10:00 a.m. – Meetinghouse, with a smaller group in the Library.
Every First Day, 12:30 p.m. – Carrollton Friends Worship Group.
St. Andrew's UMC Youth Center, 1106 Maple St.; Margaret Bray, 770-830-8705.
Every 2d and 4th First Day, 10:00 a.m. – Canton Friends Worship Group.
360 E. Marietta St.; 779-720-4669 or wrldpeas@mindspring.com.
Every 2d First Day, 10:30 a.m. -- Macon Friends Worship Group.
Contact Diana Day, 478-227-8892; maconquakers.org.
Every 4th Morning (Wednesday) Worship, 8:30 a.m. – Library.
Contact Jonah McDonald, 404-377-2474; afmquakers@hotmail.com.
Every 4th Evening (Wednesday), 7:00 p.m. – Meeting Room.
Contact Christina Repoley, 404-840-3005; christinarepoley@gmail.com.
First 5th Morning (Thursday) – AFSC office, 60 Walton St. NW, Atlanta.
5th Day (Thursday) (except 1st of the month), 12:10 pm – East Lake Commons, Decatur.
Contact Bert Skellie, 404-378-5883, bertskellie@gmail.com.
6th Day (Friday) (2nd week of August through May), 8:45 a.m. – Friends School of Atlanta.
Community Meeting Room, 862 Columbia Dr., Decatur, 404-373-8746.

Weekly Events at the Meetinghouse

- Every First Day (Sunday)
9:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education
9:15 a.m. Singing, Classroom A/B
10:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship
Every Fourth Day (Wednesday)
8:30-9:00 a.m. Morning Silent Worship, Library
Every Second-Fifth Day (Monday-Thursday)
8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Smart Toddlers, Nursery playground
Every Third Day (Tuesday)
7:30 p.m. Silent Meditation, Meeting Room
7:30 p.m. Bible Study, Library
Every Fourth Day (Wednesday)
7:00-8:30 p.m. Semi-Programmed Worship, Meeting Room

Clerk of the Meeting: David Foster, 404-941-7337

Recording Clerk: Caroline Noyes

Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, 404-968-9309 Ministry & Worship: Bill Holland, 404-692-2358

Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280 Care & Counsel: Laura Norlin, 404-762-3540

Religious Ed.: Alison Mawle, 404-944-9142 Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald

Social Concerns: Michael Allison, 770-832-3539; Bert Skellie, 404-378-5883

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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 Nina Gooch at ninagooch@gmail.com or 404-371-9873. 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.

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**DEADLINE FOR 6TH MONTH NEWSLETTER:
MAY 19**

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 in the body of the email. Texts may be edited for length and format. Pictures should be in .jpg format.**