

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

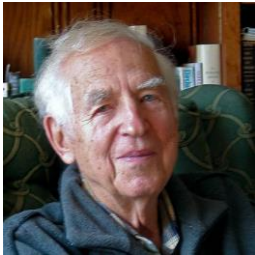


December 2016

Remembering Britt Pendergrast

Submitted by Steve Collins

John Brittain Pendergrast, Jr., passed away peacefully at the age of 99 on September 22, 2016, at his beloved Atlanta home. Known as Britt, he was born in Atlanta on February 3, 1917, the second of four sons. He was a gentle, kind, wise, principled man with boundless love, compassion, and generosity for his family and others, especially those less fortunate than he.



Britt attended Druid Hills High School, earned a B.S. degree with highest honors in textile engineering in 1938 from Georgia Tech, where he was president of the Chi Phi fraternity and became a devoted life-long Yellow Jackets fan. He earned an M.S. in organic chemistry from Emory University. After graduating, he worked briefly at DuPont Company in Philadelphia before returning to Atlanta to work at the Southern Spring Bed Company, later renamed Southern Cross Industries. After becoming president at Southern Cross, he pursued a second career with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources as program manager of the Georgia Heritage Trust Program. Britt managed a team that acquired and preserved a large array of natural and historic properties across the state, serving on the board of the Nature Conservancy in Georgia and many other non-profit organizations.

Britt sought and received help from the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in 1941 after his first request for status as a conscientious objector to World War II was denied. In the late 1940s, Noyes Collinson, of the AFSC southern office, asked Britt to serve on a committee to protect leaders of the black community in Atlanta who were being forced to move out of their homes. These programs turned out to be very effective and signaled the very beginning of the organization's civil rights work. In addition to his work for civil rights and peace, Britt also joined members of the Atlanta Friends Meeting counseling conscientious objectors to the Viet Nam War. He became a member of AFM in May 1983.

Britt worked in partnership with Nan Schwab Pendergrast, his wife of 76 years, to raise seven children and make the world a better place by advancing the causes of civil rights, peace, justice, education, and the environment. He was a founding member to the Friends School of Atlanta and served with Nan on the Board of the school for many years. Britt and Nan also worked with other Friends to produce News and Views, a monthly publication that reprinted articles and editorials from a variety of sources supporting Friends testimonies.

He was a lover of poetry, singer of songs, photographer, prolific reader, charming wit, sailor, and dedicated do-it-yourselfer. A founding member of the Atlanta Yacht Club on Lake Allatoona, he built a Y-Flyer sailboat and

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 we seek to transform the world with our loving spirit? What are we doing as individuals and as a Meeting to promote equal opportunities in social and economic life for those who experience discrimination for any reason whatsoever? Have we objectively considered the causes of discrimination and are we ready to abandon old prejudices and think anew? In our relationships, do we look for that of God in every person?

- *Miami Friends Meeting*

competed in races for many years, winning the Y-Flyer national championship regatta in 1956. His photographs graced two books written by his wife, Nan.

Sunday, September 25, the first Atlanta Friends Meeting for Worship after his passing, became a deeply gathered spontaneous memorial for him with messages from both family and Friends about his remarkable life. The family also held a well-attended memorial service for him at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta with testimonials from each of his four sons.

Britt was deeply loved and valued by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife Nan, his seven children Jill, John (Fiona), Nan (Gene), Mark (Betty), Blair, Scott (Bailey), and Craig (Terri), 20 grandchildren, 29 (and counting) great-grandchildren, his brother Dr. William J. Pendergrast and sister-in-law Helen Pendergrast, many nieces and nephews, and his beloved dog Bonnie. He was predeceased by his father John B. Pendergrast, Sr., his mother Ruth Hodnett Pendergrast, and his brothers Ambrose ("Brodie") and Robert ("Bob").

Quaker Voluntary Service's Annual Fund ***Submitted by Christina Repoley***

Quaker Voluntary Service is now in our fifth year! Atlanta Friends Meeting is the home meeting of QVS, sponsoring the pilot QVS house here in 2012 and continuing to support QVS Atlanta ever since. This year, 36 Fellows joined our four-city network--the largest and most diverse group yet, eight of whom are serving in Atlanta this year (see attached photo). Despite the varying backgrounds of these young adults, they all followed a common leading to join Quaker Voluntary Service to be part of the ongoing effort to build a more just and equitable social order, grounded in a faith community of support, accountability, and inspiration.



We have expanded our Alumni Leadership Development Program from two to seven participants serving in Quaker organizations for a second year of QVS. For the first time we are providing student loan counseling and support to all of the incoming Fellows, mitigating some of the adverse effects of the student debt that saddles many of our participants. We are finally able to offer an exit stipend and more comprehensive support for mental health and wellness. And in the summer of 2018 we will open QVS Minneapolis, our fifth QVS city!

A generous donor has put forward a \$20,000 matching gift challenge to help QVS grow our Annual Fund! Gifts from new and lapsed donors will be matched dollar for dollar (this is you if you did not give between August 1, 2015 and July 31, 2016). Additionally, if you supported our Annual Fund last year, any increase in this year's gift will be matched! Please be part of this work of transformation for the Religious Society of Friends and the wider world that was brought to life in Atlanta.

Lives and Callings: The Spiritual Journey – December 3rd

If you are new to our meeting, considering membership or a long-time member who enjoys hearing a story, you are invited to the meeting library at 9 AM the first Sunday of each month. Tara Doyle will share her story in December. Call Mary Ann Downey at 678-938-8030 if you would like to tell your town story.

Holiday Bazaar – December 11th

Join the middle school young Friends as they host our annual AFM holiday bazaar on December 11th at 11:00 AM. You can bring handmade items to sell, or you can bring your checkbook or cash to shop for locally produced goods for the holiday season. Plants, pottery, art cards, knit-goods, baked-goods, and much more! Cost for table space is a donation to the charity of the Young Friends choice.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – November 20th, 2016

Recorded pending approval

Attendance: Folami Adams, John Adams, Mike Aland, Cynthia Berg, Mark Bryans, Sallie Carpentier, Steve Collins, Jennifer Dickie, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, Susan Firestone, Gray Folger, Waman French, Clive Gordon, Nicolina Hansen-Neff, Jack Honderd, Bill Hooson, Teri Rey Hooson, Martha Hutchins, Kathy Johnson, Pam Kelly, Suzan Kenworthy, Tom Kenworthy, Detmer Kremer, Shahina Lakhani, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Laura MacNorlin, Paul Mangelsdorf, Alison Mawle, Susan May, Noelle McAfee, Jonah McDonald, Kelsey McNicholas, Caroline Morris, Liz Nicholson, Ronald Nuse, Lissa Place, Athri Ranganathan, Christina Repoley, Elise Riley, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Rebecca Sullivan, Joan Thompson, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Sarah Walton, Mark Watson, Austin Wattles, Pat Williams, Betsy Eggers (Clerk), Elizabeth Lamb (Recording Clerk) (53 Friends).

Query: Sally Ferguson presented the query: “As a Meeting, what are we doing to encourage members to embody integrity and simplicity in their everyday lives? How do I strive to maintain the integrity of my inner and outer lives – in my spiritual journey, my work, and my family responsibilities? How do I manage my commitments so that over commitment, worry, and stress do not diminish my integrity?”

Discernment

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee Ron Nuse brought forward the following names for approval:

- **Minute 11-20-2016-01:** *AFM approves Kate Shropshire Swett as Newsletter Editor for 2017.*
- **Minute 11-20-2016-02:** *AFM approves Clive Gordon as co-clerk of the Gathered Meeting Retreat Committee for 2017.*
- **Minute 11-20-2016-03:** *AFM approves Paul Mangelsdorf as clerk of the Finance Committee for 2017.*

FGC Hospitality: On behalf of FGC Rebecca Sullivan reported that the Long Range Planning Committee is seeking a host for their winter meeting. This past year the committee has conducted several extra site visits including some Historically Black Colleges and Universities in awareness to the concerns of Friends of Color and their request for safety. FGC has asked Atlanta Friends Meeting to host this event, which will include 25-30 members. Carol Gray has responded that the Hospitality Committee does not feel able to take this on due to another large meeting already scheduled to meet here in April. Rebecca Sullivan asked that an Ad Hoc Committee be formed. A sheet was then passed asking for volunteers to house visitors.

- **Minute 11-20-2016-04:** *AFM invites the FGC Long Range Planning Committee to meet here on March 3-4, 2017. An Ad Hoc Committee comprised of Rebecca Sullivan, Nicolina Hansen-Neff and Alison Mawle will facilitate hospitality on behalf of AFM.*

Ministry and Worship Committee: On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee Steve Collins requested a minute of religious service for Christina Repoley. Many F/friends spoke of the joy and enrichment arising from the Quaker Voluntary Service organization and Christina’s hard efforts in organizing and maintaining this vital work.

- **Minute 11-20-2016-05: Minute of Religious Service for Friend Christina Repoley, on behalf of the Atlanta Friends Meeting, November 2016**

Greetings to Friends far and wide,

Loving greetings from Friends at the Atlanta Friends Meeting (AFM) in the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA). We commend to your care our member Christina Repoley, who will be traveling in the ministry among with Friends. We send deep gratitude to you for welcoming her and for giving her this opportunity to visit through her ministry.

We affirm the gifts of Christina, who has dedicated her life work to the Society of Friends, growing for many years in the ministry of leadership and spiritual nurture. Christina envisions a community that enables us to endeavor toward prophetic liberation and justice in our life callings.

Christina has long carried the special concern that young adults be supported in developing and naming their gifts, engaging in work for social justice, and being supported by the Quaker community. As witnessed and supported by AFM, her ministry has led her to spend the last decade creating and birthing the nonprofit Quaker Voluntary Service (www.quakervoluntaryservice.org), of which she is founding director. Christina’s ministry calls us all, especially young adults, to delve deep into the discomforts and disharmonies of the world, while seeking transformation. She invites Friends to accompany these young adults in exploring what

our living faith asks of each of us today. Christina fosters tools of spiritual growth and empowerment in community, especially encouraging intergenerational transformation among Friends meetings.

We write this Minute of Religious Service in recognition of Christina's ongoing commitment to this ministry in its many forms, including travel, and the deep relationship that AFM has developed with this work over many years. Together with Christina's Anchor Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting finds unity to approve this minute. We hold Christina in our prayers and trust that God will richly bless your time together. Thank you for your spiritual hospitality and care of Christina while she is among you.

On behalf Atlanta Friends Meeting in the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA)

Signature, AFM clerk

**Endorsements from clerk or designated Friend- Please include here a few sentences at the bottom of the letter about Christina's gifts in the ministry. This endorsement helps hold Christina accountable and true to the right use of her gifts, and serves as a report back to our meeting.*

Reports

Ministry and Worship Committee: On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee Sally Ferguson reported that AFM will hold a Memorial Service at 2 PM on February 11, 2017 honoring the life of founding member, Elizabeth Hendricks.

Ferguson Cabin Committee: On behalf of the Committee Mark Bryans presented their annual report:

Ferguson Cabins Committee Report 11/1/2015 – 10/31/2016

The 2015 – 2016 season was a busy and productive time for the Ferguson Cabins' use, upkeep of the property and movement toward financial sustainability. More than 72 different individuals used the cabins over more than 116 days. Most visited 1-2 times and only a few people were there more than 3 times. Most were there for a 2, 3 or 4 day period. Most stays were on a weekend but during the summer, a few people stayed longer. No one used the cabins in November, December, January or February. There were several personal retreats and groups using the cabins included Atlanta Friends women's group, Atlanta Friends men's group, Athens Meeting and various family get-togethers.

Income including rental income, donations and the Meeting contribution totaled \$4215.60. Expenses for the Lake Burton Civic Association, electricity and repairs totaled \$2462.95. The difference between income and expenses was \$1752.65 for the 2016 season. [Last year AFM agreed to pay the insurance on the cabins rather than making an annual contribution.]

Four Work Weekends provided the following improvements: a drainage ditch at Dwight Cabin was dug, walkway rebuilt and gutter-downspout replaced, the dock was retrieved and refastened more securely to land, a picnic table was built and placed down by the dock, Treetops Cabin's roof was repaired and the outhouse was given a new roof, fallen timber was cleared from around Irene Cabin and Irene's downstairs bathroom received new tile. A small island just off the dock belonging to the property has been steadily eroding primarily from motorboat generated lake wash. It was saved for future generations as part of a cooperative project with 3 other affected neighbors by placing rip-rap around the island.

The committee is focusing efforts to make sure Friends know about the Cabins and feel welcome to use it. More small groups and committees in the Meeting are encouraged to use the Cabins for retreats and meetings.

Stewards included Mark Bryans, Mike Aland, John Carpentier, Sallie Mykel Carpentier, Emmett Fuller, Melanie Fuller, Kathy Johnson, Caroline Morris, Fred Stevens and Joan Thompson. Additional members were Mark Smith, Martha Hutchins, Jennifer Thompson, Ann Boyte and Marty Frank.

Social Concerns Committee: On behalf of the Social Concerns Committee Bert Skellie presented the proposed budget for 2017. The total budget is about \$1000 higher than the 2016 budget. See Bert or any member for Social Concerns for a detailed copy of the proposed budget.

Finance Committee: On behalf of the Finance Committee Paul Mangelsdorf presented the proposed 2017 budget for the Meeting. The Ferguson Cabin Committee asked that a line item be maintained in the budget, even if minimal money is placed in it. It was suggested that AFM consider raising the contribution made to FCG. For a detailed copy

of the proposed budget see a member of the Finance Committee. The budget will be brought forward next month for approval.

Religious Education Committee: On behalf of the Religious Education Committee Jennifer Dickier reported that our First Day School classes have recently balanced out between 25-35 children per week. Attendance has dropped due to the loss of our African families to the newly formed Evangelical Friends Church. In reflection the First Day School teachers have noted that the sudden loss of these regular and long-time members of our classrooms has left a hole. We don't feel that there was any closure to these important relationships in the classroom, and that many of the children don't know what happened to their friends. In response we would like to invite the African friends back for one Sunday this winter to hear about their new church, to celebrate with them and to say a formal we miss you and goodbye. Teachers have also mentioned taking a field trip with the children to the new Friends Church this year, perhaps when they have a first day program up and running.

RE is grateful for the support from the Meeting concerning our space issues. After our last report we had many options to consider. Over the course of the fall we tried two different arrangements of space in the RE wing of the building. First we attempted to fit the nursery and preschool into one of the double rooms by splitting it in half with the accordion divider. This was a troublesome arrangement because the nursery did not have enough space. After a survey of families bringing infants and toddlers to meeting, it became clear that the tight space was actually affecting the attendance of some young families with children. We want it to be very clear that the families who expressed concern had no issues with the caregivers in the room, and only felt that the small space made it too difficult to leave their children in the room when there were already many children and adult volunteers. In response to these concerns, we opened the entire double room to the nursery and we moved the preschool into the corner room with couches that used to house the middle school class. We then moved the couches and middle schoolers into the adjoining room we used to call the "middle school craft room." Feedback from the middle school youth is that the room is preferable to the previous arrangement and they have plenty of room for talking and crafting. The preschool teachers agree that the new space is also adequate for their class. Our new concern is the need to rearrange the furniture in these rooms every Sunday morning. The RE clerk will work with Jonah to see how we might make these arrangements more permanent. It will require also working with the current renters of that space and Dieudonne who arranges the rooms for each First day. As we settle into this space RE will continue to monitor the attendance and to consider ways to make the rooms most workable for our teachers, doorkeepers, and children.

The two rooms that have needed doorkeepers most regularly, the preschool and the lower elementary classrooms have had doorkeeping volunteers every First day in October and November. We would like to thank all those who have volunteered to help our classrooms run smoothly each First Day.

Finally Jennifer Dickie reminded AFM that the second Sunday in December is the Holiday Bazaar, sponsored by the middle school young friends. The charity of their choice has not been determined yet, but we want to invite members and attenders who would like to sell hand crafts to contact Jennifer Dickie, RE clerk.

Administration Committee: On behalf of the Administration Committee Steve Collins reported that new exterior Meetinghouse signs have been designed. Tentative size, type, materials and locations have been approved by the committee, but delivery and installation dates have not yet been set. Steve Collins also reported that Jim Williams is concluding a busy year as Meetinghouse clerk, overseeing a major exterior renovation which was completed on time and under budget. Jim is stepping down from the position due to other commitments. The Administration Committee and the Meeting sincerely appreciate his service. Administration is currently assessing the position to determine what changes need to be made in order to continue the work without placing an excessive burden on the Meetinghouse clerk. Finally, Steve announced that Janelle Kibler has been hired as the Nursery Caregiver Substitute and invites everyone to get to know her.

Quakers for Racial Equality and Green Friends: John Adams presented a Minute of Solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline. It was suggested that mention of curtailing violence around this

issue be included, but the committee felt the current minute should be approved now and any additions or amendments be handled later and not rushed at this time.

- **Minute 11-20-2016-06:** The Atlanta Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) supports the Standing Rock Sioux in their stand to stop the misuse of Dakota land and the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. We support, respect, and honor the land rights of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and all indigenous peoples.

The Standing Rock Sioux have historic treaty rights granted by the US government to protect the land, water, and people from harm from hazardous substances and conditions. We support the Standing Rock Sioux tribe's effort to exercise sovereign rights to call for the halt of the Dakota Access Pipeline construction in order to protect sacred sites and water resources. This cultural heritage is precious, and these water resources will be needed for generations to come and for people far beyond the Standing Rock lands. We view the peaceful presence of the Standing Rock Sioux and their allies protesting the construction of the pipeline as an example of testimonies for peace and right stewardship of earth's resources.

We ask that the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline be stopped completely, any related land easements be denied, and the request for a full environmental impact statement be granted. We stand in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe seeking full tribal consultation with the U.S. government, and we urge the President and the various federal agencies involved to act immediately to preserve the burials, lands, water, and other resources of the Standing Rock nation. We also ask the Department of Justice to uphold the rights of indigenous people and their allies to peacefully resist the Dakota Access Pipeline without threat of violence from others.

Naming Committee: Clerk Betsy Eggers appointed Kelsey McNicholas and Mina Rhee to the Naming Committee and requested suggestions for another member. The Naming Committee is responsible for suggesting members of the Nomination Committee.

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee Ron Nuse brought forward the following:

- Rebecca Fiscal, appointed member of Care and Counsel Committee, 2017-2019
- Bill Hooser, clerk of Care and Counsel Committee, 2017-2019
- Dwight Harriman, co-clerk of Gathered Meeting Retreat Committee, 2017
- Carol Gray, clerk of Hospitality Committee, 2017
- Michael Kramer, member of Ministry and Worship Committee, 2017-2019
- Bethany Nanamaker Morrison, Recording Clerk, 2017-2018

These names will be brought forward next month for final approval.

Minutes of October 2016:

- **Minute 11-20-2016-07:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes of the October, 2016 business meeting as submitted.*

Announcements

Betsy Eggers is looking at structural changes that could make the Meeting run more smoothly. One suggestion is adding to the meeting directory whether a person is a member, a junior member, a sojourning member, etc.

Rebecca Sullivan is holding State of the Meeting meetings open to all. The next meeting will be December 8th.

John Adams is acting as de facto leader of the AFM FaceBook page. He would like some guidance about what type of postings to allow.

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

Respectfully submitted by: Elizabeth Lamb, Recording Clerk; and Betsy Eggers, Clerk



Please Hold in The Light:

The family of Mormon Mitchell JR,
The Smith Family.
Both families are friends
of John and Folami Adams

The family of Elizabeth Hendrix.

*Those wishing to have requests for
Holding included in this monthly
newsletter may give the names to a
member of Care & Counsel.*



Atlanta Friends Meeting Contacts

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Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com
Ministry & Worship: Sally Ferguson, sallyferguson@earthlink.net
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Calendar for Eleventh Month (November) 2016

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.

Regular Events at the Meetinghouse

Every First Day (Sunday)	9:00 - Adult Religious Ed, Library 9:30 - Singing, Classroom A/B 10:00 - Meeting for Worship 5:00 - Atlanta Mennonite Fellowship, Meeting Room
Second Day (Monday)	Every other Monday at 6:30 - Spiritual Nurture Group, Library (contact Lewis Fuller for info on how to join)
Third Day (Tuesday)	6:00 - Alex Zinnes Yoga, Nursery Second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 - Deep Waters Center for Prayer & Exploration, Meeting Room
Fourth Day (Wednesday)	8:30 a.m. Morning Worship, Library First and third Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m. Worship at David & Freer Jarvis' home
Fifth Day (Thursday)	7:00 p.m. Bible Discussion, Library
Sixth Day (Friday)	Every third Friday, Meeting for Business, Meeting Room
18 th of Each Month	Newcomers Welcome Dinner, rotating location

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: Betsy Eggers, 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. Emily Lawson is also the contact to request mailing list removal.

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.

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