

# Friendship Times

May 2011

## Calendar

- Sun, Apr 17 9:00 am Friendly Bible Study  
10:30 Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Apr 24 9:00 am Deepening the Life of the Meeting  
10:30 Meeting for Worship
- Sun, May 1 9:00 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel  
Peace and Social Concerns meet  
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, May 8 10:00 am Group singing, Meetinghouse  
10:30 am Meeting for Worship. A potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sun, May 15 9:00 am Friendly Bible Study  
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, May 22 9:00 am Deepening the Life of the Meeting  
10:30 Meeting for Worship
- Sun, May 29 9:00 am Extended Meeting for Worship  
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Jun 5 9:00 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel  
Peace and Social Concerns meet  
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Tue, Jun 14 Last day to send newsletter material to Editor

Weekly 10:30 am each First Day, Meeting for Worship.  
Child care available for Worship and Business Meetings.  
7:30 pm Fourth Day, Midweek Meeting for Worship, in Prayer Room, 7<sup>th</sup> floor Woolman Hall, Friends Homes, occasionally followed by discussion at 8 pm.  
9:00 am fifth First Day (when there is one), Extended Meeting for Worship.

**Salem Friends Meeting.** Meeting for Worship, 10:00 am First Day, 3151 Reynolda Road, Winston-Salem NC 27106, at the intersection of Reynolda Road and Midkiff Road.  
Contact: Meg Zulick, 336-725-2377, or [zulickm@gmail.com](mailto:zulickm@gmail.com)

Fifth Month Birthdays  
of our Young Friends  
Sierra Herold, 5/3/98

## In this Issue

The Minutes from Fourth Month's meeting for worship with a concern for business are in this issue. In addition you will find a quotation from Jocelyn Burnell on religion and pain, an issue for action as well as ecological and conservation notes from the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, and announcements of an extension of the AFSC exhibit on Afghanistan at Guilford College and a dramatic production at Bennett College about the Warnersville community; there are no updates this month for the *Handbook Directory*.

## From the Editor

### Please note important schedule changes for upcoming issues of *Friendship Times*

Current travel plans will prevent my following the normal schedule for publishing the June newsletter.

I will be in town briefly in early May, with no time to produce a newsletter. Instead, I plan to publish a joint issue for June and July during June.

Material for the dual June-July issue should include **the schedule and any other documents related to Yearly Meeting**.

Submission, preferably by email, should be **no later** than **Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**. This is the first Tuesday following the June business meeting.

Thanks to everyone in advance for your help.

Cyril Harvey, [cyrilhh@triad.rr.com](mailto:cyrilhh@triad.rr.com)

## Fifth Month's Query Meeting for Business

*Do we regularly attend our meetings for business, and are they held in a spirit of love, understanding, and forbearance? Do we seek the right course of action in humble submission to the Authority of Truth and in the patient search for a sense of unity under Divine guidance?*

# Minutes

## FRIENDSHIP FRIENDS MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS GATHERED ON THE 10<sup>TH</sup> OF FOURTH MONTH 2011

Friends gathered in waiting worship after a period of food and fellowship. Friends in attendance included: Carole and Ray Treadway, Judy Reese, Judy Harvey, Claire Koster, Darryl Weisner, George White, Marilyn White, Neil Swenson, Kembra Howdeshell, Sidney Lee Kitchens (clerk).

Kembra Howdeshell was approved as recording clerk for the day as Benji Hebner was not able to attend due to illness in his family.

Ray Treadway presented the **Treasurer's Report** for Third Month, which was accepted with gratitude. The complete report is attached; a summary follows.

<u>Third Month</u>	Income	Expenses	Balance
General Fund:	\$850.00	\$2,516.93	\$9,459.77
All Funds:	\$1,050.00	\$2,516.93	\$16,285.63

Expenses of note during the month: child care for two months – \$122.50, sandwiches for Urban Ministry – \$58.59, renewal of meeting announcement in *Friends Journal* for one year – \$66, travel for a member to a FWCC committee meeting – \$50, assistance for an African refugee through Our Lady of Grace Church (Social Concerns request) – \$40, donation to American Friends Service Committee – \$500, donation to Friends Committee on National Legislation – \$500, donation to Friends World Committee – \$500, donation to Quaker House of Fayetteville for operating expenses – \$100, electricity – \$100.80, gas – \$106.90, telephone – \$68.47, water and sewer – \$14.25, and heating and cooling contract – \$188.82. There was a contribution to the contingency fund of \$50 and a contribution to the property fund of \$150.

Contributions to the Meeting for the first three months (\$3,972) can be compared to the amount needed (\$5,793) to maintain the Meeting's budget. The Property Fund has a balance of only \$483.05 and needs to be increased. Contributions to the general fund and to our special funds would be appreciated. Checks can be made out to Friendship Friends Meeting and sent to POB 8652, Greensboro NC 27419.

Treasurer Ray Treadway provided an update from the Finance Committee regarding the feasibility of transferring funds from our checking account to another account that would earn more interest. The Finance committee recommends not moving funds from the checking account at this time.

There was a request to inquire whether there might be another banking option besides Wachovia/Wells Fargo, since they are laying off employees in the Carolinas. Historically, the meeting has used Wachovia as a local and state wide institution and because they offered a non-profit account without fees. It is unclear whether Wells Fargo will charge fees or not. Ray is planning to look at other banking possibilities.

### Membership Committee

Claire Koster provided a report from the Membership Committee regarding names of persons to be removed from the Membership List. The meeting approved the removal of the following names from the Membership List: Kitty Allen and Peter Seiler, David Martin's children, Nicole and Gabriel. A letter was received from the Keegans (Frank, Josephine, Patrick and Kelly) requesting that their names be removed from our membership role. Removal of their names from membership was approved.

### House and Grounds Committee Annual Report

The meeting approved and accepted with gratitude the following report submitted by Dave MacInnes and read by Neil Swenson:

The House and Grounds Committee continues with its charge of keeping the exterior and interior of the meetinghouse in good shape. We have held workdays primarily to rake leaves and gumballs, trim bushes, remove dead plantings, pull ivy, spread mulch, and clean windows. Bonnie Parsons continues to organize the weekly volunteer cleaning of the meetinghouse interior. Volunteers have mowed the lawn regularly through the spring/summer/fall growing season.

The major maintenance expense this year was replacing the roof. The committee received bids and chose a contractor who removed the old shingles and installed new ones. The furnace, though quite old, continues to function well. Regular annual maintenance on the furnace has kept it functioning, though it is clear it will need to be replaced fairly soon.

The meetinghouse roadside sign, replaced last year, was struck by a car this year, breaking one of the supporting posts. Dave MacInnes was able to repair the post; the sign itself was not damaged.

After some discussion and research into various options, the committee replaced memorial signs at the bases of various trees on the north side of the meetinghouse grounds. Earlier signs had deteriorated or, due to their placement, created problems for mowing. The new signs are closer to the tree

trunks and can be easily removed temporarily if need be.

The committee is currently considering some larger maintenance projects, including replacing and extending the deck on the back corner of the meetinghouse.

The House and Grounds Committee has been ably clerked this year by Carey Reese and Daniel Hood, who have shared this responsibility. We are a small group, and we continue to rely heavily on other volunteers, especially for weekly cleaning and mowing and on work days when the outdoor tasks are substantial. We are deeply grateful to members and attenders, as well as QLSP students, for their assistance.

### **Piedmont Friends Fellowship**

Sue Hebner, our representative to Piedmont Friends Fellowship (PFF), submitted a report from the PFF discernment meeting about whether to become a Yearly Meeting (YM). The report was accepted and approved for inclusion in the Minutes. Judy Harvey also attended the meeting and added clarifying comments on the group's discussion.

As the representative from Friendship Monthly Meeting, I (Sue Hebner) attended on the 27<sup>th</sup> day, 2<sup>nd</sup> month the discernment meeting of Piedmont Friends Fellowship (PFF) for the concern of becoming a Yearly Meeting. There were read at the outset queries asking what a PFF-YM (and Association) would look like. Some of the questions, comments and concerns that were raised are listed below:

Would monthly meetings use more than one or have to choose a particular *Faith and Practice*?

How many queries can one monthly meeting answer?

How many yearly meeting sessions can a monthly meeting reasonably commit to attend, or send representatives to?

How would dual membership in different yearly meetings work?

What would this mean for a Youth program? Right now our PFF teens have to leave North Carolina to get to a lively Youth program.

PFF currently has member meetings from two different yearly meetings and some are independent meetings that think of PFF as the "Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) of NC."

How would that change? Would we risk alienating some of our currently affiliated meetings? Is there a perception of Friends General Conference (FGC) "raiding" Friends United Meetings (FUM)?

What about the idea of Equality of Marriage.

Would we record ministers?

What is God calling us to do?

It was considered that within PFF-YM (and Association) any monthly meetings desiring to take on PFF as their YM could do that and be part of that YM body that runs the YM. Those meetings that wish to continue as associate members could keep their membership in their "Home" YM with NO CHANGE to the way they interact with PFF. It was mentioned that a strong youth program is what will bring wandering adult young friends (AYF's) back to their monthly meetings later. An open discussion continues as to what would be the relationship of such a YM (PFF-YM and Association) to North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative and to Friends United Meetings.

Some Friends suggested we look to Canadian YM, as it has a unified yearly meeting with membership in both FGC and FUM.

### **Query Responses**

The clerk read the Fourth Query:

*Do we assume our rightful share of the expenses of our 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?*

The following thoughts were offered in response to this query:

This is a very personal query. The recent meeting retreat had some of these same questions in mind. Our responsibilities to the meeting are for more than the meeting for business. One friend noted the willingness of people in the meeting to volunteer to be on multiple committees. The Meeting can also recognize and respect when individuals ask to be relieved of responsibilities for a period of time. It is true that many people use their talents well to help the meeting. We cannot tell whether people are giving their all, but it is recognized that many people give a lot in many ways. The fact that we come close to making our budget demonstrates that we assume our rightful share in expenses of the meeting. We must remember there is a lot of outreach from our meeting, including financial, physical support, and personal interaction (sandwich making, supplies to African, Angel Tree at Christmas time). Friends expressed appreciation for the beautiful view of the spring-blooming dogwood during our contemplation of the query.

Ray Treadway agreed to edit the responses gathered.

The clerk read the revised response to the Third Query. This was approved.

*Query 3: Do we follow the teachings of Jesus and seek the inspiration of His Holy Spirit in our daily lives? Are love and unity maintained among us? Do we cultivate a forgiving spirit, and do we avoid and discourage needless and destructive criticism of others? When differences arise, do we endeavor promptly to resolve them in a spirit of love, honesty, and humility?*

In the Bible when Jesus is asked, "What is the most important commandment?" he responds (Matthew 22: 37-40 RSV) ... *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.* From our discussion came at least one simple guideline: If a volunteer is doing the best she/he can don't fuss (criticize/scold) at that person unless you are willing to take that volunteer's place. We noted that fussing or criticism in a positive and productive form can be a means of motivating and supporting someone without being destructive. We feel confident in our ability within the Friendship Meeting community to meet conflict with love as we understand the teachings of Jesus. We are aware that historically when issues have arisen that would affect our entire community we have endeavored to seek information, to talk with one another in formal and informal settings, and to seek unity with the Spirit, as well as with each other, in our deliberations, before formulating and following a course of action.

Darryl Waisner reported on behalf of Worship and Ministry Committee that Pat Loring has asked to be allowed to step aside from the committee due to concerns about her health. A discussion followed about how to inform the meeting about people's concerns. Care and Counsel will continue this discussion.

Judy Harvey reported that the May newsletter would be published at the end of the coming week; this is earlier than usual. There will be a combined June and July newsletter to be published near the end of June, which will be her and Cyril's last newsletter.

The meeting closed with a brief period of silent waiting.

Sid Kitchens (clerk)  
Kembra Howdeshell (recording clerk for the day)

### Jocelyn Burnell on Religion and Pain

Sometimes religion appears to be presented as offering easy cures for pain: have faith and God will mend your hurts; reach out to God and your woundedness will be healed. The Beatitude 'Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted' can be interpreted this way too, but the Latin root of the word 'comfort' means 'with strength' rather than 'at ease'. The Beatitude is not promising to take away our pain; indeed the inference is that the pain will remain with us. It does promise that God will cherish us and our wound, and help us draw a blessing from our distressed state.

*Quaker Faith and Practice* (Britain Book of Discipline), 1995, section 21.66

Jocelyn Burnell, while a graduate student, was the first to discover a pulsar (pulsating star). Her doctoral supervisor received a Nobel Prize for the discovery. She has been Clerk of Britain Yearly Meeting, author of a Swarthmore Lecture, and head of the Executive Committee of the Friends World Committee. She has been a Quaker visitor at Guilford College.

## Windows and Mirrors:

### Reflections on the War in Afghanistan



*Forty muralists from around the world (including a team of Greensboro, NC students) and dozens of Afghan school children have contributed their work to create this memorial to the human cost of the war in Afghanistan. The collection is a powerful testimony to the violence of war. It is also a story of resistance and the human spirit. We invite you to think of these works both as windows to war and a mirror to ourselves.*

### The NC exhibition of AFSC's national travelling mural project has been

**extended to May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Guilford College Library Atrium  
5800 West Friendly Ave. Greensboro, NC 27410**

#### **Exhibit hours:**

M-Th 7:30a – Midnight | F 7:30a - 6p | Sa 10a - 9p |  
Su Noon – Midnight

**Ecological and Conservation Notes**  
**THE EARTH CHARTER**

A continuation from the April newsletter.

**The Earth Charter Principles**

**III: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

**9. Eradicate poverty as an ethical, social, and environmental imperative.**

- a. Guarantee the right to potable water, clean air, food security, uncontaminated soil, shelter, and safe sanitation, allocating the national and international resources required.
- b. Empower every human being with the education and resources to secure a sustainable livelihood, and provide social security and safety nets for those who are unable to support themselves.
- c. Recognize the ignored, protect the vulnerable, serve those who suffer, and enable them to develop their capacities and to pursue their aspirations.

**10. Ensure that economic activities and institutions at all levels promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner.**

- a. Promote the equitable distribution of wealth within nations and among nations.
- b. Enhance the intellectual, financial, technical, and social resources of developing nations, and relieve them of onerous international debt.
- c. Ensure that all trade supports sustainable resource use, environmental protection, and progressive labor standards.
- d. Require multinational corporations and international financial organizations to act transparently in the public good, and hold them accountable for the consequences of their activities.

Submitted by Bonnie Parsons  
 Peace and Social Concerns Committee

**Current Issue for Action**

The **Peace and Social Concerns Committee** will often highlight issues of current importance that we would like to bring to the attention of the Meeting. FCNL is requesting that Friends contact their Congressional legislators concerning proposed budget cuts. Peaceful prevention of deadly conflict is one of the major goals of FCNL. Research demonstrates that every one dollar invested in preventing conflicts from turning deadly would cost sixty dollars in crisis response once violence erupts. There are three specific pieces of the foreign affairs budget that help accomplish this goal:

1. The Complex Crises Fund, a critical source of flexible funding that allows civilian agencies to act quickly when conflicts escalate.
2. The Civilian Response Corps, a cadre of civilian experts who can be deployed to conflict situations to help prevent, mitigate and rebuild after wars.
3. Annual dues to the United Nations. U.N. Peacekeeping is eight times cheaper than fielding a comparable U.S. force to stabilize international crises.

Urge members of Congress to preserve and strengthen contributions to these three funds.

**Handbook Changes**

Please call Claire Koster (766-9769), clerk of the Handbook Committee, if you have questions about the *Directory*. Give corrections, additions, or deletions for the *Directory* to Claire, or email them to the editor, [cyrilhh@triad.rr.com](mailto:cyrilhh@triad.rr.com).

**There are no changes this month**

**WARNERSVILLE COMMUNITY**  
 "Celebrating the Oldest African American Community in the City"  
 "Celebrating the School That Taught Children to Excel"

**ARE WE FREE AT LAST?**  
 "The Warnersville Story"  
 BY PLAYWRIGHT FELECIA FOX

**APRIL 29 - 30, 2011**  
 Bennett College Little Theater  
 Friday & Saturday at 7:00 P.M.  
 Proceeds will benefit the Brenda Hodge Scholarship for Warnersville Youth.

**2011 WARNERSVILLE / J. C. PRICE REUNION**  
 Sponsored by the Warnersville Community Coalition, Inc.

**Reunion Picnic and Festival**  
 on the front lawn of J. C. Price School  
 Entertainment • Great Food • Games • Vendors • Exhibits

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2011**  
 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**FRIENDSHIP FRIENDS MEETING (336) 854-5155**

Friendship Friends Meeting  
Box 8652  
Greensboro, NC 29419  
Phone: (336) 854-5155

Sidney Kitchens, Clerk  
Ray Treadway, Treasurer  
Claire Koster, Recorder  
Benji Hebner, Recording Clerk

Neil Swenson Co-Clerk/Reading Clerk  
George White, Assistant Treasurer  
Gwen Erickson, Assistant Membership Recorder  
Cyril Harvey, Newsletter

Friendship Friends Meeting  
P. O. Box 8652  
Greensboro, NC 27419

Address Correction Requested

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**