

Friendship Times

friendshipmeeting.org

February 2012

Calendar

- Sun, Feb 5 9:00 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel
Peace and Social Concerns meet
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Feb 12 10:00 am Group singing, Meetinghouse
10:30 am Meeting for Worship. A potluck meal
follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sat, Feb 18 Game night 7-9 pm
- Sun, Feb 19 9:00 am Friendly Bible Study
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
At rise of Meeting: **Introduction to Quakerism**,
Bob Gosney from Rich Square Meeting
- Tue, Feb 21 Last day to send newsletter material to Editor
- Fri-Sat, Feb 24-25 All Meeting Retreat
- Sun, Feb 26 9:00 am Deepening the Life of the Meeting
10:30 Meeting for Worship

Weekly 10:30 am each First Day, Meeting for Worship.
Child care available for Worship and Business Mtgs.
7:30 pm Fourth Day, Midweek Mtg. for Worship, in
Prayer Room, 7th 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.

Second Month's Query Meeting for Worship

Are we faithful in our attendance at meetings for worship and are we careful not to disturb the spirit of the meeting by our late arrival? Is our behavior therein that of open submission to God in silent communion?

In this Issue

The Minutes from First Month's meeting for worship with a concern for business are in this issue. These Minutes include several annual reports. In addition you will find an announcement for our upcoming All meeting retreat, the second installment of Pat's Corner on lesser known Friends quotations, several concerns from the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and an update on the Aung family.

From the Editor

My intention is to distribute the newsletter no later than the last Sunday of the month; this will be January 29 for the February issue. Material for the February issue should be submitted, preferably by email, ***no later*** than **Tuesday, February 21st**. Thanks to everyone in advance for your help.

Dave MacInnes, davmacinnes@gmail.com

Game Night coming on Second Month, 18

Friendship Friends Meeting will host a Game Night on Saturday, February 18th from 7-10 pm at the meetinghouse. Bring your favorite card or board game or puzzle to share! Friends and family are welcome to attend - the more, the merrier! Any questions, call Don Smith and Kembra Howdeshell (323-1537).

Minutes

Friendship Friends Meeting 1/8/2012

Meeting for worship with attention to business.

The meeting opened with a time of expectant waiting worship.

The meeting **approved** that Deborah L. Shaw would serve as recording clerk for the day.

George White gave the treasurers report for Ray Treadway, who is recuperating well from heart surgery. George's meticulous care of Friendship's finances while Ray was in hospital and still recovering is much appreciated. George read the following reports prepared by Ray, and presented the financial records from Eleventh and Twelfth Months. The reports were received with gratitude to both Ray Treadway and George White. The full reports are attached.

Treasurer's Report for Eleventh Month, 2011.

Reported on First Month 8, 2012

Fund	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
General	\$ 4,125	\$2,068	\$ 10,614
All Funds	\$ 4,325	\$2,368	\$ 19,239

Expenses of note during the month were the following: conference and committee travel for FCNL – \$200.00, child care-- \$117.50, regular donation to Quaker House of Fayetteville for operating expenses –\$100; contribution to New Garden Friends School – \$600.00, electricity – \$101.11; gas – \$48.98; and phone – \$63.24. Funds were expended on behalf of the Social Concerns Committee for Friends Emergency Materials (AFSC) –\$150, the Interactive Resource Center – \$150, The Center for Development in Central America – \$150, and the UN World Food Program. An emergency loan was given for a total of \$300. The Meeting received contributions to the property fund of \$200.00.

Treasurer's Report for Twelfth Month, 2011.

Reported on First Month 8, 2012

Fund	Income	Expenses	Ending
General	\$ 6,265	\$1,744	\$ 15,334
All Funds	\$ 6,315	\$1,744	\$ 23,810

Expenses of note during the month were the following: newsletter and postage – \$48.56, sandwiches for Urban Ministry – \$33.42, child care – \$100.00, supplies and miscellaneous – \$83.63, regular donation to Quaker House of Fayetteville for operating expenses –\$100; contribution to

Friends Home – \$150.00, contribution to People of Faith Against the Death Penalty – \$150.00, contribution to Urban Ministry – \$600.00, contribution to the Friends Disaster Service – \$400, gas – \$94.01; phone – \$63.24, and water and sewer – \$14.25. Duke Power refunded \$265.88 because of an overpayment during the year on the equal payment plan. The Meeting received one contribution to the property fund of \$50.00.

For the entire year (2011), our total income to the general fund was \$23,450.00 which exceeded the budget for the year by \$275.00. The total expenses for the General Fund were \$19,702.70 because several of the line-items were underspent. The Meeting is grateful for the contributions of many members and attenders, so that we were able to have a balanced budget for the year.

Submitted by Ray Treadway, Treasurer

George White gave the Finance Committee report:

January 7, 2012: The Finance Committee is working on a proposed budget for 2012, but we have not yet received some necessary information needed to complete our deliberations. We ask the Meeting authorize payment of routine expenses such as those for operating expenses and the Meeting House in January. We will bring a proposed budget to the Monthly Meeting during its business sessions in February.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Ray Treadway, Treasurer

The meeting **approved** that the treasurer could pay bills and conduct any necessary financial transactions in the interim until the 2012 budget has been presented and approved.

Query #1 was read and Friends shared responses. Dave MacInnes volunteered to draft a response which will then be sent to Worship and Ministry to season.

The following was **approved**:

We often experience a deep and living silence which ministers to us as well as vocal ministry that feels truly Spirit led. We wonder if all know what to do with and in the silence. Our 'going to worship' pamphlet and the specific pamphlet about Friendship Meeting are sometimes shared with newcomers as an assist to understanding Friends' worship. Our upcoming 'Introduction to Quakerism' series is an attempt to help newcomers know who we are and what we are about as we gather. Vocal ministry is encouraged and Friends feel the burden of speaking to those led in vocal ministry, particularly when the ministry speaks to their condition.

The Annual Report of Worship and Ministry was shared by Darryl Waisner, clerk of the committee. The report was accepted and follows.

In its seventh year as a separate committee of Friendship Friends Meeting, Worship and Ministry is in a continual mode of refining its understanding of its mandate and its

relationship to its counterpart, the Care and Counsel Committee

Membership dropped off by one-half for the 2011-2012 year. The committee currently consists of Carole Treadway, Deborah Shaw, Darryl Waisner, and Neil Swenson. Sidney Lee Kitchens serves in an ex-officio capacity as Clerk of the Meeting.

Worship and Ministry held its annual retreat with Care & Counsel on 15th Tenth Month 2011. These have been very fruitful meetings for the two committees. Concerns are addressed and clearness is sought to move forward in the midst. Worship and Ministry is thankful for the support and working together with Care & Counsel in care of the meeting.

As has been the custom for several years, Friendship Friends Meeting's Worship and Ministry Committee sponsors a Christmas Eve Worship (Twelfth Month 24th, 2010) at Friends Homes Guilford. Included in the program were readings, instrumental music, singing of "Silent Night," and "O Little Town of Bethlehem," and worship based on silence. Attendance in 2010 was approximately 50-60. There were a moderate number of Friendship Meeting members/attenders present.

The All-Meeting Retreat was held 25th-26th Third Month 2011. The theme dealt with Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, with regards to commitment, responsibility and the spiritual aspect involved when one makes a commitment. Attendance was low again. Worship and Ministry has worked on evaluation efforts to address low attendance.

In cooperation with Care & Counsel, a "Prayer Box" has been placed in the gathering room on the lectern. Those with any concern are asked to write out and place the concern in the "Prayer Box." Thanks are owed to Hannah Logan-Morris of Care & Counsel for preparing and placing the "Prayer Box."

In all of its work, the committee seeks to maintain a clear focus on its core mandate to nurture the spiritual life of the Meeting and of each of its members and attendees. Friendship Meeting is blessed by the wealth of spiritual gifts within our community and welcomes all ideas as to how to allow them to serve fully in the Spirit of Truth and Love.

Submitted by, Darryl Waisner, Clerk

A letter from Evelyn Smith was read, in which she requested being removed from Friendship's membership list. She noted no hard feelings, rather warm and deep regard for Friendship's presence in her life. She shared that changes in her interests and other obligations have instigated this request. In her letter Evelyn offered to continue tuning the meetinghouse piano on a yearly basis. Gratitude for this gift was expressed and will be shared in the written response to Evelyn that the clerk is directed by the meeting to write. Both Evelyn's letter and the clerk's response will be kept in the meeting records.

Special appreciation was shared with Mae Brown for her ongoing work on Friendship's Christmas Party over the years.

Christy Hopkins gave a report on the meeting Christmas Party, held on the eighteenth of Twelfth Month, and attended by approximately twenty. Music and readings were provided. Many friends shared their vocal and musical talents, including: readings by Don Smith, Judy Reese, Judy Harvey, and David Parsons; instrumental music by Anne Joy Cahill-Swenson and Marilyn White; and vocal music by Joan Tilletson and Christy Hopkins.

Sid Kitchens reported that the memorial service for Sage Hebner was held on Sixth Day, Twelfth Month 30th, 2011, after the manner of Friends, and was very well attended. Family members from across the country, friends from the Hebner's local community, and members of Friendship made up the gathering. Expressions of love, support, consolation, and profound grief were shared in vocal ministry, including poetry and song.

Claire Koster shared a statistical report on members' and attenders' involvement in committees. The report is attached. Friends **approved** that Claire share this report with the 2012-2013 Nominating Committee to assist them in their work, as the information provided will be of great value.

The revised answer to Query #12 was read, considered, and **approved**: Newcomers often mention that our system of having a greeter is a way in which they were made to feel welcome. The role of greeter is one that all ages of persons within our meeting have found enriching and rewarding. The visitors' cards have become almost too popular; some visitors have filled them out requesting to be sent the newsletter, only to never attend Friendship Meeting again. This form of outreach is a work in progress. Visitation and caring extends beyond our meeting; many of our members are socially outgoing and active in a variety of capacities. An ongoing concern is how to care for those who do not feel able to let us know of their needs, or of ways that we could be of service. We recognize that regular visitation with attenders leading up to and during the application for membership can be formative and very helpful to the experience of persons seeking membership. Participation in committees is an important way of getting involved in the life and work of the meeting for both members and attenders. Friends were encouraged to be mindful of how we might reach out to the college students who attend our meeting, inviting them to participate in meeting activities as much as their schedules allow.

Before our closing worship the following members' names were lifted up: Ruth Bailey, Helen and Clarence Parker, Dorothy Nielsen, Betty Austin, and Becky Barnett. These Friends, while no longer able to be with us physically on First Days, have contributed significantly to the life of our meeting in the past, and we are grateful.

The meeting closed with a few moments of worship.

From Worship and Ministry Committee

- 1) The All-Meeting Retreat is scheduled for February 24-25, 2012. The back-up date is March 23-24.
- 2) The Introduction to Quakerism Series continues in February on the 19th. The topic for February is Quaker Worship facilitated by Bob Gosney of Rich Square MM.

Pat's Corner

Pat Loring will share with you each month some lesser known quotations from early and more recent Friends that remind us of the Quaker message as it came to Friends in the seventeenth century and as it has lasted to today. They are to stir your own reflection, meditation and discussion of what we are about at this time in our history.

The problem comes when we meet the unlovable; how is that to be loved?

Whether or not a person was "unlovable" was beside the point, they were made to be loved, and only being loved makes a person lovable.

Harold Loukes, 1996

What matters is living our lives in the power of love and not worrying too much about the results. In doing this, the means become part of the end. Hence we lose the sense of helplessness and futility in the face of the world's crushing problems. We also lose the craving for success, always focusing on the goal to the exclusion of the way of getting there. We must literally not take too much thought for the morrow but throw ourselves wholeheartedly into the present. That is the beauty of the way of love. It cannot be planned and its end cannot be foretold.

Wolf Mendl: *Prophets and Reconcilers: Reflections on the Quaker Peace Testimony*, 1975

We begin to feel energized and expansive: joy flows in us and through us. It touches others and some may join us in the witness. We no longer feel isolated or overwhelmed for the witness to peace is the experience of Christian love. It is that love made visible. Christ told us we must love God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our mind, and we must live our lives in that love. This is why the Peace Testimony is at the very center of our faith.

Alan Eccleston: "Witnessing to Peace -- for ourselves and for Each Other." FJ 10/80

If any of us feel daunted, let us take heart. Remember that the Kingdom of God is within us -- and seek to reveal it. Remember that Jesus also said, according to Thomas, "The Kingdom of God is spread upon the earth but ye see it not" -- let us seek to see it. We must realize, that is, make real, these things in our lives and we shall have no fear and no doubts. No need to worry what to do. ... No need to feel that unless we are demobilising the armies or stopping the arms races or dismantling the multinationals, we are doing nothing. We never know what ripples spread from what seems the smallest action. Only let us be led by the spirit and we will vanquish the philosophy of death. This is the only preparation for peace.

Adam Curie: "Preparation for Peace," 1980

Many experiences in the post-war period gave me ever increasing certainty that hostility can at least be modified, even if not dissolved, in spite of the greatest conflicts in men's ideas, interests, even moral principles. There is an approachability in people, even in individuals in power, which in our weaker moments fear often prevents us from believing in.

I repeatedly found confirmation of this during the Occupation, and often also still later, in transactions between East and West. The Soviet officers were of an age to have grown up in the thought-world of communism, so that there were no points of contact in Christian terms. But it was my experience again and again that when one approached them honestly, naturally, without aggression or fear, they reacted no differently than people brought up as Christians. It confirmed my faith that God is at work in every human being, as Quakerism teaches, even in a person who outwardly shows no hesitation in being hard or doing evil.

Margarethe Lachmund: "With Thine Adversary in the Way" PH pamphlet#228, 1979

Fostering Opportunities for Spiritual Growth:

Are you interested in developing and leading a book discussion group, women's group or other adult spiritual growth opportunities at Friendship Friends Meeting? The current Adult First Day School programs, *Deepening the Life of the Meeting* and *Friendly Bible Study*, have increased the sense of community and spiritual enrichment within the Meeting for those members/attenders participating in them. The Religious Education Committee wants to help to support other activities that fill similar needs for the Meeting community. If you have suggestions for programs or are interested in leading one, please speak to any member of the Religious Education committee (Kembra Howdeshell, Anne Morris, Benji Hebner, John Bowles), or send an email to Kembra Howdeshell (kembra@bellsouth.net).

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. Our hope is that Friends can use this information to educate themselves and take action where they feel led.

The Friends Committee on National Legislation is asking Friends to write letters to their Congressional representative urging him to stand up for EPA's efforts to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. The first EPA regulations of carbon dioxide went into effect on January 2nd, and the new chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee has made stopping these regulations a top priority. These regulations will protect human health, reduce health care costs, stimulate a green economy and help to mitigate global warming. It is important that they remain in effect.

FCNL defeated attempts to stop the regulations last year and plans to do so again this year, but they need help from us as Congressional constituents to let our Representatives know that we oppose any attempt to stop the EPA from regulating greenhouse emissions or other pollutants.

For more details, see:

www.fcnl.org/energy/

Peace and Social Concerns Action Box

End U.S. war in Afghanistan NOW.

In December, the Senate passed legislation supporting an expedited end to the war in Afghanistan, showing significant dissatisfaction with the war both in Congress and around the country. It is time to push for an end to the war in Afghanistan and to develop foreign policy tools that do not rely on military force. The Friends Committee on Legislation is suggesting that we urge our member of the U. S. House of Representatives to heed the call for peace in the Senate and around the nation, and end the U.S. war in Afghanistan before 2014 and continue to develop foreign policy alternatives to military force.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Please welcome our new child care givers

Isabel Elliot,
17240 Founders Hall
Greensboro, NC 27410
(414)510-4404
elliottid@guilford.edu

Juliet Smith
5800 West Friendly Avenue, Box 339
Greensboro, NC 27410
(518)944-3885
smithjt@guilford.edu

The Aung family, refugees from Burma co-sponsored by Friendship and New Garden, are becoming acculturated to America.

The mother, Tu Za, continues working as a chambermaid at Proximity Hotel where she has received the highest number of stars - five - for her work at the hotel. The father, Zaw Zaw Aung, is working once or twice a week at Goodwill industries at a site about 30 minutes from their residence. He attaches prices and folds clothing and is available for manual labor. Both have been attending English classes at Reading Connections for the last three months and are making good progress. Tu Za has more opportunities to use English at work. They both hope to apply for better jobs when their English has reached a more conversational level.

The daughters - Pyu Pyu, known at school as Haley, and Win Mim - attend school. Haley, the elder daughter, an 11th grader, is thriving in school and is hoping she can attend college and eventually university. She has made campus tours to Guilford and UNCG. Members of the original care committee would like to establish a college fund for the girls as the parents do not make enough money for college fees. Haley will apply for scholarship funds but more money will be needed. Should any Friendship Meeting members feel moved to make a donation, set up a fund, have a fundraiser etc. , please contact Judy Reece. As neither child had been given an opportunity to attend school before they came to the United States, the progress the girls have made is truly commendable. Both girls and the mother would welcome opportunities to be taken for drives, to movies or other entertainments as when they are not at school, at the Buddhist temple or at work they have few opportunities to interact with the wider community. The entire family would welcome being invited to dinner at someone's home or to other occasions. The phone number for the family is 617-3633; the address is 208B Yester Oak Way E.



Please speak up and out when giving a message

Your editor has heard from a number of folks who have a hard time hearing the messages during recent meetings for worship. Please be aware that there are a number of us who don't hear as well as we once did. Besides speaking too softly sometimes you may find yourself looking down while giving your message. In addition to speaking louder you might try looking up and projecting your voice better. If you can faintly hear your voice echoing a little from the back wall you are projecting well and everyone should be able to hear you.

Pat Loring with some of her many books



Last month we printed another question for our monthly quiz on our Meeting Handbook. The question was

Which Meeting committees are scheduled to report at the first month Meeting for Business?

The answer is the Finance and Hospitality Committees are scheduled to give their reports in First Month.

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. Our hope is that Friends can use this information to educate themselves and take action where they feel led.

The Friends Committee on National Legislation is asking Friends to write letters to their Congressional representative urging him to stand up for EPA's efforts to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. The first EPA regulations of carbon dioxide went into effect on January 2nd, and the new chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee has made stopping these regulations a top priority. These regulations will protect human health, reduce health care costs, stimulate a green economy and help to mitigate global warming. It is important that they remain in effect.

FCNL defeated attempts to stop the regulations last year and plans to do so again this year, but they need help from us as Congressional constituents to let our Representatives know that we oppose any attempt to stop the EPA from regulating greenhouse emissions or other pollutants.

For more details, see:

www.fcnl.org/energy/

Update on Nan Bowles

Nan Bowles has been admitted to Duke University Hospital and is preparing for colon surgery. Nan and Tom are coping well, feeling relieved that this surgery may allow her to feel better than she has for many years. Tom is back at the marsh near Beaufort, NC where their home is located. He will come back to the hospital in a day or two. The surgery will be sometime later on next week. We all expect a great recovery. Please hold Nan and Tom in the light during this time. Her room at Duke University Hospital is #2321.

Fresh farm eggs from Wings of Dawn Farm

Charlie and Jan Ansell, members of West Grove Meeting, want you to know that "We are selling the eggs at our cost for feed and packaging. A 12-count carton is \$4.00 and an 18-count carton is \$6.00. Orders may be emailed to wingsof-dawn.farm@gmail.com with "egg order" in the subject line. Jan will confirm receipt of the order and let you know the delivery date. We look forward to hearing from you and sharing some of the bounty with which we are blessed.

The eggs would be delivered to Friendship Meeting House and available for pick-up by subscribers on the 2nd and 4th First Days of each month.

Our chickens:

Live on pasture, Eat organic, locally grown grain from Reedy Fork Farm, Eat grass, seeds and bugs of their choosing, Receive no medications or growth hormones, Fly, cluck, crow, and squabble

The chickens' eggs will be:

Clean, but not washed (washing removes nature's protective coating from the egg), Available in either 12-count or 18-count cartons, Ungraded and mixed size, Potentially fertile (see "few roosters" above) and thus needing refrigeration, Delicious and healthy for you

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
Sid Kitchens, Assistant Membership Recorder
Dave MacInnes, Newsletter

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

Address Correction Requested

FIRST CLASS MAIL