

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



November 2016

Burundians and Congolese Refugees Message to AFM *Submitted by Dieudonne Ntibayazi*

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Burundians and Congolese, who joined this meeting from Eastern Africa refugee Camps, I'm deeply grateful on how you welcomed us since October 2007. You have shown us the spirit of love and cooperation. While today's world cooperation appears particularly for those on the same level of life, you rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

Friends, we'll start the important step next Sunday, which is to put in action the joint decision between Atlanta Friends Meeting and Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern region. That decision is to jointly support the formation of a programmed Friends Meeting, which would operate under the supervision of the Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region. This group will meet at 1:30 pm on Sundays at our new location.

For the short time like this, it is impossible for me to mention all good deeds that you did for us. Please, allow me to remind you some of them: showing us the best way to live within the American community; how to apply for food Stamp and Medicaid; to accompany and defend us in different offices whenever needed; and much more.

Friends, we stay together while we're alive despite the separation during Sunday activities. Keep our souls to our heavenly father. Do not call us visitors whenever we'll come here, and we won't say that any time you'll participate in Sunday worship at Stone Mountain Evangelical Friends Church, located at: 5135 Memorial Dr., Stone Mountain GA 30083. The reason is that all of us belong to George Fox's doctrine despite our various ways of worship. We'll never forget your kindness to us. Thank you, Friends.

Stone Mountain Evangelical Friends Church, October 9th, 2016 Service *Submitted by Steve Collins*

The following is a brief history of the Atlanta Friends Meeting's journey with the Evangelical Friends from Burundi. This story was shared at the first official service of the new Stone Mountain Evangelical Friends-Eastern Region on October 9, 2016.

In October 2007, nine years ago, Dieudonne Ntibayazi, a Friend from Burundi, walked more than nine miles to the Atlanta Friends Meeting in Decatur to attend worship and introduce himself. When Betsy Eggers, now Clerk

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

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?

— *Philadelphia Yearly Meeting*

of Atlanta Meeting, found out that he walked there, she drove him home. This was the beginning of journey between Atlanta Friends Meeting members and attenders and Evangelical Friends from Burundi.

This has been a journey together in mutual harmony, respect, discovery, and with a sense of God's love blanketing and protecting our relationship. Members of the Burundian families have folded into the Friends Meeting community while maintaining their spiritual connection to their home faith of the Evangelical Friends.

They bring much to the American community of worship, fellowship, and understanding, including the incredible joy of having Burundian children in our midst. Hymn singing in Kirundi and English continue weekly before Meeting for Worship with a Kirundi-English hymnal created – with help from Susan Firestone -- specifically for such purpose and shared with other Meetings and Churches around the country. The AFM and the Burundi-American Friends have worked together to financially support three Evangelical Churches' building projects in Burundi.

At the March 15, 2015 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Atlanta Friends Meeting approved this minute: *On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Meeting authorizes the clerk and ad hoc committee to begin a dialogue with Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region on how a Friends Church might be formed to serve the spiritual needs of our Burundian Friends.*

Now, nineteen months later, thanks to the guidance and assistance of the Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region --- the Winona, Ohio Friends Church in particular -- we gather here to celebrate the new Stone Mountain Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region.

Atlanta Friends look forward to the spiritual growth of this church and will continue to hold you in the Light and welcome you to our Meeting in Decatur whenever you are able to attend. As Dieudonne said, we will not think of you as visitors when you attend our Meeting, and please do not think of us as visitors when we come here.

SAYMA is Hiring for 2017 & 2018 Yearly Meeting

The Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Committee of SAYMA is happy to announce that we have committed to expand our child care options for families at SAYMA in the coming years. To support this endeavor we are hiring for two child care positions this year and next: Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Coordinator; and Play-care Coordinator (for children ages 2-5).

- Qualifications for both positions include:
 - o Membership or regular attendance at a SAYMA monthly meeting or worship group > 6 months
 - o Compliance with the SAYMA child safety policy
 - o References from your SAYMA affiliated Quaker meeting
 - o Two year commitment
- Job descriptions with compensation information are available at SAYMA.org or the following links: <http://tinyurl.com/JYM-Job-Description> and <http://tinyurl.com/Playcare-Job-Description>
- Interested candidates may: complete the online application at SAYMA.org or use this link: <http://tinyurl.com/SAYMA-JYM>; or submit a letter of interest to: Jennifer Dickie, JYM committee clerk via email: michaeljen@bellsouth.net or via mail: 1367 Ormewood Ave., SE, Atlanta, GA 30316.
- Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Questions may be directed to: Jennifer Dickie, JYM committee clerk, michaeljen@bellsouth.net, or [404-313-8770](tel:404-313-8770).

Voices for the Earth: Free Concert and Sing Along – November 5th

Voices for the Earth is a free concert and singalong celebrating sustainability and stewardship, Saturday Nov. 5th. Doors open at 7:00, music begins at 7:30. Holy Trinity Parish, 515 E. Ponce de Leon Ave.

Lives and Callings: The Spiritual Journey – November 6th

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. Upcoming journeys are Cam McWhirter in November, and Tara Doyle in December. You are also invited to tell your story. Call Mary Ann Downey at 678-938-8030 to volunteer or get more information.

Short Survey for Families

1. Does the physical space used for child care for children under 3 at AFM have any bearing on whether you and/or your family attend(s) Meeting?

YES NO SOMETIMES

2. How does the space affect your choice to attend meeting?

3. If you have suggestions for changes to the physical space for children under 3, we welcome you to share them.

AFM has been grappling with the wonderful concern of so many children and how best to use our physical space. Recently we made changes to the nursery by switching rooms to better accommodate the large number of under-threes, ensuring the toys available are appropriate for this age group, and reducing the numbers of extra structures such as shelving and toy bins that cluttered the space. We are considering other possibilities as well, and welcome your feedback.

If you are a parent or caregiver of a child under the age of three, please take a moment to complete this survey about the **childcare space** at AFM to help us better serve you and other families of our meeting community. *Please note that this is not a survey about the care givers, only the physical space.* Please send your answers to the Clerk of Religious Education, Jennifer Dickie at: michaeljen@bellsouth.net or contact her at [404-313-8770](tel:404-313-8770). Thank you for your time.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – October 16th, 2016

Recorded pending approval

Attendance: Mike Aland, Don Bender, Mark Bryans, Steve Collins, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, David Foster, Jenny Foster, Lewis Fuller, Eric Glenn, Clive Gordon, Claire Hannapel, Nicolina Hansen-Neff, Kathy Johnson, Suzan Kenworthy, Tom Kenworthy, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Paul Mangelsdorf, Emmy Mathis, Caroline Morris, Karen terHorst Morris, Liz Nicholson, Ron Nuse, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Rebecca Sullivan, Joan Thompson, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Austin Wattles, Betsy Eggers (Clerk), Bill Holland (Acting Recording Clerk) (35 Friends). We gathered with a period of waiting worship.

Query: Sally Ferguson read the query: Do I simplify my needs, making choices that balance self-sufficiency (to avoid unnecessary dependence on others) and fair sharing of resources? Am I clear that I am a steward, not the owner, of property in my care? Do I make choices as a consumer that support the equitable distribution of income? How does our Meeting engage its members in the support of the Meeting's work, its ministry, and the upkeep of its property?

The clerk shared with meeting a conversation with Dieudonne Ntibayazi that revealed that our Western ideas of hospitality are very different from those of our African Friends. The comment highlighted how much we are "owned" by our possessions and consider them an extension of ourselves, rather than something shared with everyone.

Discernment

Ad hoc Committee on Sexual Harassment: Mary Ann Downey presented the minute offered in 9th month. In response to a question, she reported that uniting with the minute was the first step in a process of our creating a safe place for all. The minute will be part of the AFM handbook. A forum held later this month will be another step toward creating a process to address the issue:

- **10-16-2016 – 01:** On the recommendation of the ad hoc committee on Sexual Harassment, Atlanta Friends Meeting unities with the following statement:

Nurturing Trust in our Community and addressing harassment

Our Meeting is a community of people seeking to perfect their love of God and all living beings. We support each other in this quest through our silent worship together and in our relationships with each other. While we accept our human imperfections in interacting with each other, we are bound together by the trust that comes from our commitment to treat each other with love, compassion, and respect. Verbal, physical, and sexual harassment are actions which destroy this trust and require vigorous counteraction. We recognize that as a community we have responsibility to work closely with the individuals involved, to take action in a loving and prayerful spirit, and to not look away. If anyone in our Meeting feels harassed by another member or attender, the Meeting needs to be informed, usually through Care and Counsel, in order to act to support all concerned, prevent further occurrence, and avoid the isolation of any person.

Nominating Committee: Ron Nuse presented names of Friends reported on 9th month and asked the meeting's discernment:

- **10-16-2016-02:** AFM approves Lisa Kruse as Religious Education Class Teacher for 2016-17.
- **10-16-2016-03:** AFM Approves Rebecca Burley for Religious Education Nursery Liaison for 2016-17.
- **10-16-2016-04:** AFM approves Emmitt Fuller to serve as Ferguson Cabin Steward for 2017-19 term.
- **10-16-2016-05:** AFM approves Melanie Fuller to serve as Ferguson Cabin Steward 2017-19 term.
- **10-16-2016-06:** AFM approves Kathy Johnson to serve as Ferguson Cabin Steward 2017-19 term.
- **10-16-2016-07:** AFM approves Susan Firestone to serve as Clerk of the Committee on Undoing Racism at Atlanta Meeting/Quakers for Racial Equality 2017-19 term.
- **10-16-2016-08:** AFM approves Paul Baker to serve on the Ministry & Worship Committee 2017-19.
- **10-16-2016-09:** AFM approves Myrna Trapp to serve on the Ministry & Worship Committee 2017-19.
- **10-16-2016-10:** AFM approves Ashley Wilcox to serve on the Ministry & Worship Committee 2017-19.
- **10-16-2016-11:** AFM approves Aaron Ruscetta to serve as AFM Web Manager for 2017.

SAYMA Assessment Question: In 9th month, it was announced that Friends gathered at the June 2016 SAYMA sessions had approved an increase SAYMA's assessment rate for 2017 and 2018. The Finance Committee will be including these new rates in the 2017 budget. Georgia Lord offered two proposals on SAYMA's decision making and assessment process for the consideration of meeting:

Beginning no later than June 2017, the Yearly Meeting shall compile and distribute, on an annual basis, data reflecting the methods and policies each of its monthly meetings has used to calculate the number of individuals for whom it owes an assessment and the sum each has paid for its annual assessment during the preceding 12 months.

Neither the Yearly Meetings, nor any of its committees or other sub-parts shall utilize a decision making process that requires input to be submitted in the form of a minute by a monthly meeting. Such decision making process inherently favors small meetings over larger ones, and the status quo over proposed new approaches.

Several members expressed appreciation for the thought Georgia had devoted to these recommendations. Several Friends who had served in leadership roles in the yearly meeting reflected on the difficulty of making decisions and following good order when individuals brought concerns that had not been seasoned at the monthly meeting level. We need to find ways to help the meeting reflect on these concerns and insure that our representatives are able to carry concerns that have been thoughtfully considered. A small group may be useful in thinking how to hold these concerns.

Many Atlanta Friends were present when the decision to approve the assessment increase was considered. Bill Holland reported he is currently serving on a SAYMA committee to examine how monthly meetings make their assessment decisions with the goal of developing recommendations and welcomed the meetings reflections.

- **10-16-2016-13:** Atlanta meeting asks Bill Holland, Mary Jahntz, Georgia Lord, Jennifer Dickie and Aaron Ruscetta to coordinate a gathering to discuss the SAYMA budget and decision making processes. Bill Holland will serve as convener.

Reports

Finance Committee: Paul Mangledorf presented the third Quarter Income Statement [Attached]. At the end of the third quarter, contributions were 63% of budget (\$79,516), well above previous years. Rental income is 96% of budget and will exceed our projections.

Ministry and Worship: Sally Ferguson reported that Ministry and Worship is undertaking a census of active members of meeting. They will be communicating with current members and attenders about their involvement in the meeting. They are working to develop categories of members.

Membership Transfer: Sally reported that we had received a request to transfer the membership of Linda Garrettson to Sandy Springs Friends Meeting (Baltimore Yearly Meeting), Sandy Springs, Maryland. Linda joined Atlanta Meeting in 1995 by transfer.

- **10-16-2016-13:** On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, we commend the membership of Linda Garrettson to Sandy Spring Friends Meeting.

State of the Meeting Report: Jenny Foster reported that Ministry and Worship recommends a new process for developing the 2016 State of the Meeting Report. There has been a concern that the report should reflect more than a summary of committee work and should be a deeper account of how the spirit is moving in the meeting. Ministry and Worship proposes that three well-announced gatherings for members and attenders be held. Each of these will provide opportunities friends to describe how the meeting is deepening their spiritual life. An ad hoc writing group will convene these groups, listen and distill the insights shared shaping them into a draft state of the meeting report.

- **10-16-2016-14:** On the recommendation of Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Meeting approves holding three meetings to gather our community and reflect on how the spirit moves among us. We ask all members of meeting and committees to attend at least one of these gatherings and share their reflections. We ask Rebecca Sullivan, Liz Nicholson and Georgia Lord to serve as conveners and recorders for these gatherings and to develop a draft State of the Meeting Report for our consideration. We will evaluate this procedure when we have finished the process.

Evangelical Friends: Steve Collins reported that the Stone Mountain Evangelical Friends Church has held their first meetings. On October 9, a large group gathered for over three hours to worship together. Several weeks ago, Dieudonne Ntibayazi read a letter at the rise of meeting, expressing the deep appreciation of the Burundian and Congolese Friends who have worshipped with us and who we have supported in their efforts to create an Evangelical Friends Church. Steve shared the letter with meeting [included on page one of this newsletter].

Memorial for Britt Pendergrast: Mary Ann Downey presented a memorial minute celebrating the life of our beloved member. We united in the minute:

- **10-16-2016-15:** Our Friend, John Brittain Pendergrast Jr., known to us as Britt, died peacefully at home in Atlanta on September 22, 2016, at the age of 99. He was born in Atlanta February 3, 1917 and was a gentle, kind, wise and principled man with boundless love and compassion for family, and others especially those less fortunate. He became a member of Atlanta Friends Meeting in May, 1983, after being active since the 1960's in our work for civil rights and peace including counseling conscientious objectors to the Viet Nam

War. He and Nan, his life partner and wife for 76 years, were dedicated to their 7 children and working to create a better world. Britt and Nan with other Friends produced *News and Views*, a monthly publication that reprinted articles and editorials from a variety of sources supporting Friends testimonies. The Board of Friends School of Atlanta was one of many organizations that benefited from his help. On Sunday, September 25, the first 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 with testimonials from each of his four sons.

Cabin Committee Report:

Mark Bryans presented the Ferguson Cabins Report for November 2014 to October 2015:

- The Ferguson Cabins including Dwight, Treetops, Squirrel House and the newest cabin, Irene, opened May 2013, were used and enjoyed by Friends during the 11/2014-10/2015 period.
- Individuals, families and groups used the cabins over 26 weekends with many weekdays during the summer months. Groups on retreat included the Women's Weekend, Men's Weekend, Athens Worship Group and QVS (Quaker Voluntary Service) Retreats.
- There were about 75 people who visited the cabin property over about 100 days. Most were adults and there were about 12 children from babies to teens. Numbers of people the prior year rose by about 20 due a one-time gathering. Announcements of work weekends were made after Meeting and in the newsletter. Approximately 4-6 people attended each work weekend during this period.
- Atlanta Friends approved folding the Cabins budget into the Meeting budget beginning in 2007. Usage fees and procedures for payments are listed in the brochure and managed by the Cabins scheduler.
- There was a positive balance of \$1397.71 at the end of the 2015 season. Income included rental income, donations and a Meeting contribution of \$500. Expenses included insurance for the 4 cabins, Lake Burton Civic Association dues and electricity.
- Ferguson Cabin Committee Stewards were Mike Aland, John Carpentier, Sallie Mykel Carpentier, Emmet Fuller, Melanie Fuller, Kathy Johnson, Caroline Morris, Fred Stevens and Joan Thompson. Additional Cabin Committee members included Martha Hutchins, Jennifer Thompson, Mark Smith, Ann Boyte, and Marty Frank.
- In November, the Cabin Committee will present a report for November 2015 to October 2016. In future years, the Cabin Committee will present an annual report to meeting in November of each year.

Nominating: Ron Nuse presented the following nominations for consideration by meeting:

Newsletter Editor, Kate Shropshire Swett, 2017

Clerk, Gathered Meeting Retreat Committee, Clive Gordon, 2017

Clerk of Finance Committee, Paul Mangelsdorf, 2017

The Clerk challenged the meeting to consider how we are actively working to fold those new to meeting and our younger members into the life of the meeting's committees.

Minutes of September 18, 2016.

- **10-16-2016-16:** *We approve the minutes of the October Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business with changes.*

Announcements:

The clerk announced that SAYMA is hiring two positions, a Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Coordinator and Play-care Coordinator to serve our young Friends at the 2017, 2018 yearly meeting sessions. Application is online on the SAYMA website (SAYMA.org). Interested Friends are encouraged to speak with Jennifer Dickie.

Respectfully submitted by: Bill Holland, Recording Clerk; and Betsy Eggers, Clerk



Please Hold in The Light:

The family of John Cosgrove, uncle of Mary Bartlett, who died recently at the age of 98.

The family of Walter Stevens, brother of Fred Stevens, who passed away recently.

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

Clerk of the Meeting: Betsy Eggers, afmclerk1@gmail.com
Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald, atlantaquakers@gmail.com
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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