

January 2026



The Friendly News

Friends Meeting of San Antonio (Quakers)

7052 N. Vandiver (at Eisenhower)
San Antonio, Texas 78209

Message Phone: 210.945.8456

Website: www.sanantonioquakers.org

Facebook: @saquakers

Our Meeting house is built on the Payaya People's land.

First Day Nativity

A Committee

On December 21, young Friends shared a reinterpretation of the nativity. Those who were in attendance asked for a copy of the script, and those of you who were not there are in for a treat!

Once upon a time, in a galaxy far, far away, unto us a child was born. It was the best of times; it was the worst of times. It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife. If you really want to hear about it, well, it was love at first sight. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

[Pause here, staring at the script. Play it straight or ham it up.]

Who...wrote this?

[Flip the pages around, looking for the author's info.]

Written by...Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, George, and Ringo. Oh, *fantastic*, a script written by *committee*.

[Sigh really loudly. Resign yourself to this.]

[continued on page 3]

Query for January

*As we open our doors and our hearts to all who come among us,
how do we stay rooted in the spiritual grounding that makes us
Friends and speak plainly about our Quaker faith?*

January 2026 Calendar

Regular Activities

- **Sunday Meetings for Worship**, 10:00 - 11:00 AM
 - In-person in the Meetinghouse and on Zoom
- **First Day School Children's Program**, every Sunday, 10:00 - 11:00 AM
 - Childcare is available during forums and Meetings for Business
- **Potluck Lunch** - 1st Sunday, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- **Sunday Forums** - 2nd & 4th Sundays, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
 - In-person in the Meetinghouse and on Zoom
- **Meeting for Worship with Attention To Business**; 3rd Sunday, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
 - In-person in the Meetinghouse and on Zoom
- **Friday Meeting for Worship**, 8:00 - 8:30 AM, Zoom only
- **"Meeting for Weeding,"** 3rd Saturday, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- For ALL Zoom Meetings:
 - [CLICK HERE](#) to join by Zoom; ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
 - by telephone at +1 346 248 7799, then enter ID#

Special Events

- January 9-31 DreamWeek SATX 2026: <https://dreamweek.org/events/>
- January 11 Forum: Working Together: Rebecca's Spiritual Journey through Clerking
- January 18 FMSA Annual Meeting of the Trustees, following Meeting for Business
- January 25 Forum: Readings from and discussion of Rilke's Book of Hours: Love Poems to God

First Day School Schedule

- January 4 Wisdom Stories, with Gary
- January 11 Simplicity & Earth Care - What Do We Really Need?, with Roberta
- January 18 Telling the Truth Kindly, with Lisa
- January 25 TBD

Community Updates

Val's Farewell

On Sunday, December 7th, the meeting gathered for Val Liveoak's farewell. After years of membership and leadership in the Friends Meeting of San Antonio, Val has moved to Austin to be nearer to family.



First Day Nativity

[continued from p. 1]

Where was I? Word became flesh, dwelt among us, light shines in the darkness, yes, yes, yes, good.

Here we go...

[Clear your throat, adjust your stance, and get ready to really deliver a line.]

In the beginning...let me explain. No, there is too much. Let me sum up. There was a baby. The baby had parents. Those parents were...not the normal parents when you think about babies. The baby was both very, very normal and very, very unique all at once. See, this baby appeared almost out of thin air.

One day, the baby's parents were minding their own business, going about the business of business, as business parents do. They were taking care of the usual things like eating, sleeping, washing clothes, having friends...all the normal, human activities. This is when an angel stumbled onto the scene.

[Pause and look at the door to the worship room, waiting for something to happen.]

Ahem. This is when an ANGEL STUMBLED ONTO THE SCENE.

[Angel enters. Not gracefully.]

This angel was called “Gabriel”, which means hero of God. You will note that Gabriel does not mean “hero of parents.” Gabriel was on earth to do one very specific thing: announce a pregnancy! There is a baby coming!

[Gabriel pantomimes shouting a big announcement. Pause to watch this action in the middle of the room.]

Reports differ, but the general response to Gabriel’s big announcement was an awful lot of shock and awe. There were some tears. There was a very long, romantic ballad sung. People were either very excited about the baby or very confused about the baby. Some people were both of those things because the baby was not a normal baby. This baby was half human, half...not human. Did I mention this script was written by committee? I don’t know what a “half human, half not human” baby would even be. Sheesh.

Gabriel did a great job making this big announcement, then fled the scene.

[Gabriel runs away.]

In addition to this half-human, half-heavenly pregnancy, there was a lot going on in the old days. They didn’t have the internet or cell phones, but they really did get up to some prime drama. For example, there was this guy. We might call him a career politician. He was having one of his semi-annual power trips right around the time this special baby was finished cooking. This was a problem, mostly because of the “no internet, no cell phones” thing. To satisfy the law, these first-time parents had to travel back to the land of their birth just to fill out some paperwork. It was like a meeting that could have been an email which could have actually been a text message. Really pointless busywork. But off they went, almost born baby and all.

This trip was not good. It was really long and pretty scary. Imagine, for example, someone who is young and pregnant and really scared deciding to walk from San Antonio to Round Rock. That is not, as the adults say, a good idea. But these human parents with their pending baby had to make the trip. They couldn’t wait.



But don't worry. It gets worse.

[Pause for laughter.]

It turns out that babies do not understand the phrase "now is not a good time for you to make your entrance." They are going to appear, no matter what. And this baby came rushing into the world, even though there was no hospital or midwife or loving family around to help boil water and warm the blankets. In fact, thanks to a really bad travel agent, this baby appeared in someone's urban cowshed. It was just a whole lot of animals, some hay, and two really overwhelmed humans welcoming a tiny new bundle of joy into this hot mess that we call life.

[Pause for the baby in the wagon to be pulled across the room and parked in the parking spot.]

To the parents, this baby didn't seem like anything different. This baby...their baby...was perfect. He was just like every other perfect baby on the planet and was the most amazing, his parents reported.

But here is where we know a little better than these freshly sleep-driven new parents. We know that there were already visitors coming to see this baby. There were two groups of visitors: a band in the middle of a world-wide tour...

[Pause for band to enter, look cool, maybe strum a cord or two.]

...and the United Farm Workers union local 444.

[Pause for any farm workers to enter, look cool, maybe mime a protest with signs in the air and raised fists.]

I have so many questions about this story. How did they even find this random baby born in a random place on a random night?

[Pause for the star to run across the porch and smack into the window.]

...well, I guess that star answers most of my questions. The band and the union followed this very insistent star to find this baby tucked away with a vast collection of animals. In between all of the tigers and alligators and elephants and beavers and monkeys and other totally normal, absolutely local animals, there was...the baby.

I could go on and on about this, explaining every tiny detail. But I think I will tell this story instead. Do you know what unionizing farm workers and working musicians have in common? A LOT OF NOISE. Both jobs are really loud and really busy. But when these two groups followed the star to this random baby on this random night, something really unique happened. Something unexpected. It was quiet. So very, very quiet. Not the kind of quiet that makes your mom nervous, either. It was peaceful and quiet.

That peaceful, gentle quiet? 100% the baby. Yes, this new baby was already off and running, bringing a sense of true peace and gentle, loving quiet into the lives of people who rarely get either. The peace they all felt in the cowshed inspired them to sing a few bars from a Christmas carol. You might know it? It's a catchy little ditty called "Silent Night."

Surrounded by love and peace and some very gentle wild animals, this half-miracle baby named Jesus of Nazareth slept, giving the world a sense of hope. And it was good that the baby slept, because in just a few short hours, the parents will be gathering this baby up and spiriting the whole family away to Egypt. But that's another story for another day.

For now, let's end on a sweet note with Silent Night in our hearts and a smile on our faces.

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