

The December AFS Meeting

Ed Buckner - "Breaking the Chains of Slavery"

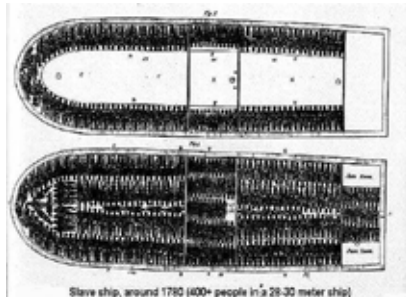


Ed Buckner

Our speaker for the December 14 AFS meeting will be **Ed Buckner**, former leader of AFS, former president of American Atheists, and long-time activist (and author of several books, including *In Freedom We Trust: An Atheist Guide to Religious Liberty* [Prometheus Books,

2012], with Michael E. Buckner). Buckner's topic, a new one for him, will be "Breaking the Chains of Slavery: Codrington Plantation (Barbados), Slavery, and 'Amazing Grace.'"

Buckner has spoken and debated all over the U.S. and in the United Kingdom. Buckner is a popular speaker—the kind who entertains and informs. Buckner said his goal is to include "Things you may know and things you probably don't about slavery, morality, social/political movements, 'Amazing Grace,' the Wilberforces (père et fils), the 'original' meaning of 'abolitionists,' the Triangle Trade, where sugar—not cotton—was king, and the egalitarian stances of the Quakers. A story with interesting historical details and not one but two morals."



Slave ship, around 1790 (400+ people in a 28-30 meter ship)

The Buckner program, free and open to the public, will be preceded by conversation and a potluck lunch starting about noon, for those interested. The program will start at about 1 p.m. at AFS Hall.

The December Potluck

Before the regular December 14th meeting, we will have a Potluck Lunch, starting at noon. Join AFS members and guests for some good food and great socializing. Please bring food according to the first letter of your last name:

- A-G: Bring main dish**
- H-P: Bring a dessert**
- Q-Z: Bring a side dish**

AFS will provide drinks, plates and silverware.

Calendar

12/14 AFS Potluck Lunch 12:00 p.m.

12/14 AFS General Meeting 1:00 p.m.

Officer and Board ballots due

All events are at AF Hall unless noted and are subject to change.

Be sure to like AFS's Facebook page for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/AtlantaFreethought>

Board/Directors Candidates

AFS members (namely, those who have paid dues for 2014), were recently sent election ballots by postal mail. The results of the election will be announced at the December meeting.

If you are a paid member and did not receive a ballot, please let us know! Email us at afs@atlantafreethought.org or ask for a ballot at the December meeting. We'll have extra ballots at the potluck lunch.

Here are the candidates for office:

President:

- Rick Pace
- Laura Ross

Vice President for Internal Communication:

- Steve Yothment

Vice President for External Communication:

- Paul Broman

Treasurer:

- Diane Buckner

Secretary:

- Laura Ross (if not elected President)

Directors: (board members) Vote for only 3.

- Mike Bucki
- Gean Taylor
- John Carter
- Judy Thompson
- Rick Pace (if not elected President)

2015 is right around the corner, so it would be good to pay your 2015 membership dues now. You can mail in your dues using the form on page 7, or renew at the December meeting, or send dues to afs@atlantafreethought.org using Paypal. Remember, all AFS dues and donations are tax deductible if you itemize your deductions.

Programs and Speakers

All programs are on the second Sunday of each month at AF Hall, 4775 N. Church Lane SE, Atlanta, GA, unless otherwise noted. Programs start at 1:00 PM, but feel free to arrive at 12:00 for socializing. Visitors are always welcome.

The views and opinions expressed by speakers at AFS do not necessarily reflect those of AFS members or its policy.



Dec 14: Ed Buckner, former president of American Atheists, will speak on “Breaking the Chains: Codrington Plantation (Barbados), Slavery, and Amazing Grace”

Jan 11: TBA

Feb 8: TBA

AFS Email List

The AFS Announcements email list provides subscribers with reminders and updates on AFS activities. Send an email to AFS-Announce-subscribe@yahoo.com to subscribe. The AFS Forum email list is a place for discussions of freethought, atheism, agnosticism, church-state separation and religion. To subscribe to this list, send an email to AFSForum-subscribe@yahoo.com. The AFS Facebook page is at <http://www.facebook.com/AtlantaFreethought>. For information on other AFS email groups, visit the AFS website at <http://www.atlantafreethought.org>.

The Atlanta Freethought Society is a member-run organization dedicated to advancing freethought and protecting the rights and reputation of freethinkers, agnostics, atheists and humanists.

We welcome anyone who is interested in learning about living a good life free from religion through attending AFS speeches, debates, and discussions. We employ protests, letters to the editor, broadcast appearances, and any other reasonable and civil means available to achieve our mission.

We define freethought as “the forming of opinions about life in general and religion in particular on the basis of reason and the evidence of our senses, independently of tradition, authority, or established belief.”

We actively support a strict separation of church and state as the best means to guarantee liberty for all, regardless of religious belief or lack of belief.

We seek to educate ourselves on many topics but especially on religion and non-religion. We do this through a series of thought-provoking speakers and programs, and by maintaining a web forum and an extensive library of freethought, religious, and related books, pamphlets, videotapes, and audiotapes.

We provide an organization where freethinkers and non-theists can develop friendships, talk freely, socialize and enjoy each other’s company. We do not discriminate against anyone on such irrelevant grounds as race, sexual orientation, age, gender, class, or physical disability. We welcome members and leaders of all political parties and preferences.

Because we are designated by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) educational organization, contributions to AFS are tax deductible.

Any who are like-minded are welcome to join us.

Atlanta Freethought News An AFS Publication

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Assistant Editor: Steve Yothment

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Atlanta Freethought News

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Membership in AFS is \$50/year per person,
\$20 for low income.
Membership includes AFNews by email or mail.
(Tell us which one you want.)
Sustaining Membership is \$100.
Life Membership is \$1000.
Subscriptions only are \$30 for 12 issues.

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Send E-mail to
afs@atlantafreethought.org.

AFS Webmaster: Paul Broman
AFS Facebook Site: Laura Ross & Rick Pace

God is Love?

by John Carver

<http://johnjustthinking.com/2014/11/23/god-is-love/>

“God is love” is a comforting idea. I rather like it. But it’s more wishful than sensible. In fact, as to the Biblical God, the notion is downright bizarre.

The idea of an all-loving God arises in part because the Jehovah of the Bible says he is a god of love. If a person has already decided there is a monotheistic god and that the Hebrews’ Jehovah is that god, then the mere God-endorsed scriptural claim is all the “evidence” needed. (Without exception, religions have a low bar as to what constitutes evidence.) An additional motivation for saying God is love is that our self-preservation compels us to pacify powerful forces. With enormous consequences riding on a Godly report card, we are prone to overkill; believers understandably want to take no chances. Hence praise figures prominently in Christian theology and practice.

There is no inherent reason that gods must be loving. As I pointed out in “Atheism in tragedy and in thought” (posted July 26, 2013), a person who becomes an atheist because of a horrid personal loss is, in effect, assuming foolishly that a god must be—or should be—a fair and loving god, otherwise the loss would have been averted. But even if a real god is a monster, he, she, or it is still a god regardless of human appraisal. Indeed, whether a god is authentic has nothing to do with whether he, she, or it is good or bad. Frankly, the God of the Bible clearly does not pass the love test given any definition of the word that hasn’t been stretched into meaninglessness.

The only meaning of adjectives like loving, heartless, good, and bad are the meanings we give them. These are words of human invention that by necessity require human judgment. So if I read in the very book many Christians say is God’s word that God committed the most vindictive of deeds and plans to commit still more, I’ve no choice but to recognize God as a horrible being, not worthy of common respect, much less worship. Of course, stating that judgment aloud, however many examples can be shown in its support, is scandalizing. That conspiracy of silence is appeasement overkill; we are, indeed, frightened supplicants.

Christians, if not completely aghast at such blasphemy, are likely to argue that I’ve neither the right nor sufficient understanding to make a judgment of God. After all, God is not subject to my lowly human assessment. Good point. However, if God is far too elevated for me to render an independent assessment that he is brutal, it is equally true that God is too elevated for me to render an independent assessment that he is good or loving.

Consider that few Christians would judge the malicious acts of God with the same vigor they’d judge human mass murderers and torturers. They are quick to quote “God’s ways are not our ways” to avoid the blasphemy reason would otherwise inspire. (Interestingly, the phrase “acts of God” always refers to calamities in which people and assets of importance are destroyed.) But if human definitions of horrendous acts cannot be applied to God, what sophistry convinces Christians they can render meaningful judgments that God is good and even the personification of love?

“God is love” is thus but a mantra. Like cheers at a sporting event (“we’re number one!; we are the best!”), there is no intrinsic meaning. Its only utility is to arouse the fans, not to describe a fact.

I have to admire Christians’ perseverance in trying to demonstrate their God to be good. As if in proof, they may point out a good harvest, Uncle Jack’s miraculous recovery, their child’s surviving a wreck, the beauty of a sunset, their flood of good feelings when engaged in praise, or any fortunate event. These “proofs,” of course, prove nothing except the lack of integrity in the language of Christian practice. This post is dated right between the

Canadian and American Thanksgiving Days, a time when Christians profusely, even obsequiously, shower their God with gratitude—the same God who will cast some or even most of them into eternal hell for offenses that wouldn’t even qualify as misdemeanors.

Citing instances of godly goodness while failing to mention instances of godly badness may be a good debating tactic or PR campaign, but in no way is it the mark of a seeker after truth. There is a studied exclusion of illness, pestilence, floods, and accidents for which God, given Christian logic, is also responsible. Where is that responsibility included in the theological calculation? A more honest approach would be for Christians to introduce the idea of balance, that is, the net good God has done when all his injurious and malicious parts are subtracted from the beneficial parts (unless that yields a net negative!). Even the thought of such an even-handed calculus, however, does not sit well with believers, given their need to ignore all the negatives of their God.

Frequently, Christians raise what I’ll call the matter of “God 1 vs. God 2”. Most scriptural instances of godly cruelty are in the Old Testament, enabling Christians to dismiss them as out-of-date and not relevant given the advent and sacrifice of Christ. God’s sending his son transformed Heaven’s nasty behavior into the gentleness of Jesus, the paragon of both love and good. (There’s a clever sacrilegious quip that the rough edges of many men are softened by fatherhood.) But Jesus—he of the acts of love and miracles of compassion—introduced a Holocaust far greater than Hitler, Pol Pot, or Stalin ever imposed. Punishment beyond imagination await otherwise good people whose crime is to find the bizarre and plagiarized Christian story less than believable.

No, Jesus is not good, not without stretching the meaning of the word beyond recognition. So excusing the horrid Jehovah because he repented and sent a gentler emissary does not compute. Was there an apology or even a recognition of the cruelty imposed by Jehovah before Jesus’s coming? Can the evil torture of everlasting fire be excused by saying it is proportioned punishment for our alleged crimes? Would we allow human parents to get away with far less abusive punishment of their child? How can a god who perpetrates even immeasurably worse cruelty be seen to be good?

Christians can talk love while persecuting, damning, killing, excluding, demeaning, and shaming in

John Carver continued pg. 4

FFRF's 'nativity' goes up in Florida rotunda for second year

<http://ffrf.org/news/news-releases/item/21905-ffrf-s-nativity-goes-up-in-florida-rotunda-for-second-year>

The Freedom From Religion Foundation will place a "Bill of Rights nativity" Monday, Dec. 8, in the Florida State Capitol in Tallahassee proclaiming the Winter Solstice as the "true reason for the season."

The prominent state/church watchdog, the nation's largest association of freethinkers (atheists and agnostics), is placing a two-sided banner in the Florida Capitol on behalf of its more than 1,000 Florida members. The banner depicts a light-hearted nativity scene parody in which Ben Franklin, the Statue of Liberty, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison on bended knee, gaze adoringly at a copy of the Bill of Rights in a crib.

The FFRF banner honors Dec. 15, the anniversary of adoption of the Bill of Rights, as well as the Winter Solstice on Dec. 21 — the shortest, darkest day of the year — a natural holiday celebrated for millennia in the Northern Hemisphere.

This is the second year for FFRF's display. The banner went up in 2013 to counter a nativity scene in the rotunda. Last year, FFRF's banner prompted others to place irreverent displays, including a Flying Spaghetti Monster and a Festivus pole constructed from Pabst Blue Ribbon beer cans. After a denial last year, capitol officials agreed this year to let the Satanic Temple put up a display of an angel falling into hell, when the group threatened a lawsuit.

"We'd vastly prefer to keep religion — and irreligion — out of the seat of state government. The Capitol ought to be above the fray of religious

divisiveness. But if public officials unwisely decide to permit religious public forums, then there must be 'room at the inn' for nonbelievers," FFRF Co-President Annie Laurie Gaylor explained.

Last year's atheist invasion caused the Capitol to revisit their rules. Displays this year will be allowed up for one week only. Last year, all displays were permitted indefinitely. The banner will be displayed Dec. 8 through Dec. 15, FFRF's second choice of dates. FFRF has submitted a records request over the scheduling to ensure the state is playing fair.

The Freedom From Religion Foundation banner reads:

At this season of the Winter Solstice, we celebrate the birth of the Unconquered Sun — the TRUE reason for the season. As Americans, let us also honor the birth of our Bill of Rights, which reminds us there can be no freedom OF religion, without having freedom FROM religion in government.

The banner is the same as the one that was just placed in Daley Plaza by FFRF and its Metropolitan Chicago Chapter to counter religious symbols there.

FFRF thanks local FFRF member and activist Gary Wittenberger, who will be placing the sign.



John Carver continued from pg. 3

the jumble of illogic, in the twists and turns of theology, and in a use of words befitting Humpty Dumpty. Few Christians, I am sure, can see themselves in that harsh characterization; they believe themselves as individuals to be very loving, fair, and charitable. Many of them are exactly that, but individual humaneness does not negate group behavior. My extended family is almost entirely Christian, yet I know them as kind, generous, and ethical. (In America Christians by and large believe atheists to be untrustworthy, uncharitable, and unloving, so perhaps my personal behavior and ethics are similarly confusing to them.)

The contradiction can be unsettling. For now, my only resolution is that they, along with many others, are good people caught up in the widespread fantasy of a cruel god whom they must see as loving and good. In short, they are far better persons than their God, ensnared by a dogma in which love does not mean love any more than good means good or truth means truth.

"Religion has actually convinced people that there's an invisible man living in the sky who watches everything you do, every minute of every day. And the invisible man has a special list of ten things he does not want you to do. And if you do any of these ten things, he has a special place, full of fire and smoke and burning and torture and anguish, where he will send you to live and suffer and burn and choke and scream and cry forever and ever 'til the end of time!

But He loves you. He loves you, and He needs money! He always needs money! He's all-powerful, all-perfect, all-knowing, and all-wise, somehow just can't handle money!"

~ George Carlin



Atheists Promote 'Skip Church' Christmas Billboards in South

<http://news.atheists.org/2014/12/01/atheists-promote-skip-church-christmas-billboards-in-south/>

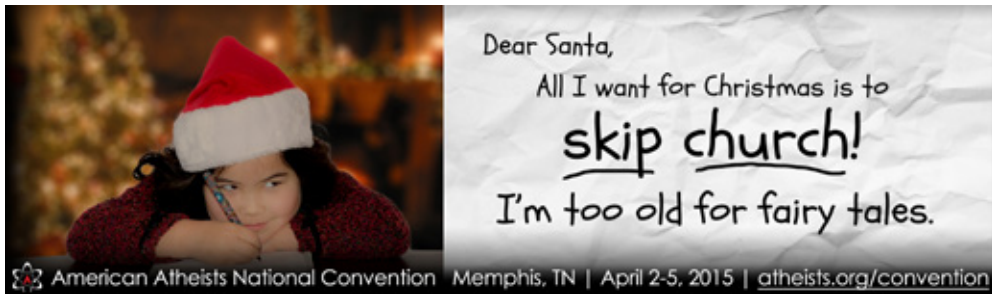
Continuing its tradition of “firebrand-style” billboards at Christmastime, American Atheists launched a new campaign in Bible Belt cities, beginning Monday. The billboards feature a young girl writing a letter to Santa; her letter reads, “Dear Santa, All I want for Christmas is to skip church! I’m too old for fairy tales.”

The billboards are located in Memphis; Nashville; St. Louis; and Fort Smith, Arkansas. A

fifth billboard in Milwaukee is co-sponsored by the Southeast Wisconsin Free-thinkers (SWIFT). While previous billboards have been located in urban settings such as Times Square, these billboards are located in more residential areas to be near schools and churches.

The billboards are aimed at in-the-closet atheists who are pressured to observe religious traditions during the holidays, and who might also want to attend the annual American Atheists National Convention in Memphis in April.

“Even children know churches spew absurdity, which is why they don’t want to attend services. Enjoy the time with your family and friends instead,” said American Atheists President David Silverman. “Today’s adults have no obligation to



pretend to believe the lies their parents believed. It’s OK to admit that your parents were wrong about God, and it’s definitely OK to tell your children the truth.”

Despite multiple attempts, American Atheists was unable to secure a billboard advertising space in Jackson, Mississippi, as area lessors rejected the design due to content. “The fact that billboard companies would turn away business because they are so concerned about the reaction by the community to a simple message that not everyone goes to church and not everyone believes in gods shows just how much education and activism on behalf of

atheists is needed in the South,” said Public Relations Director Danielle Muscato.

American Atheists is bringing the billboards and its national convention to the South, where discrimina-

tion and mistrust of atheists is especially pronounced.

The billboards will be on display from December 1 to December 24. There is additional information about the American Atheists 2015 National Convention during Easter weekend, April 2-5 at www.atheists.org/convention. The convention will take place at the Peabody Hotel, just off of Beale Street.

The convention will feature keynote speaker Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a costume party, an art show, a “Cards Against Humanity” charity tournament, workshops, and talks by more than 20 of the atheist community’s greatest speakers, including Bangladeshi atheist blogger Asif Mohiuddin, Lucien Greaves of The Satanic Temple, HowStuffWorks.com founder Marshall Brain, historian and poet Dr. Jennifer Michael Hecht, and Fade au Grau, a celebrity fashion designer (as seen on Lifetime’s Project Runway), and more.

American Atheists Offers 2015-2016 Scholarships

<http://atheists.org/scholarship>

American Atheists announced on November 7th that it is offering seven scholarships totalling \$4,000 to undergraduate and graduate atheist students. The deadline to apply is February 1, 2015, and winners will be announced at the American Atheists 2015 National Convention April 2-5, in Memphis, Tennessee.

The seven scholarships offered are the \$1,000 O’Hair Scholarship and four \$500 President’s Scholarships, which recognize student activism that advances the mission of American Atheists in fighting for separation of religion and government, raising awareness and destigmatizing atheism, fighting discrimination against atheists, and providing a place of community for atheists, and the two \$500 Chinn Scholarships that recognize outstanding activism advancing the rights of LGBTQ atheists.

“The generation of Americans in college right now is the most atheistic demographic in American history,” said American Atheists President David Silverman. “These students know that they don’t have to wait until they graduate to make real changes in the world—they can, and are, making America a better place for atheists and the free practice of religion, and that’s exactly

what we want to recognize and reward.”

Interested students can learn more about the scholarships and apply online at <https://atheists.org/scholarship>.



Other Meetings of Interest in Metro Atlanta

The SOS (Secular Organizations for Sobriety) meets on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in Roswell. For more information, send an email to donnaigore@yahoo.com.

The Fayette Freethought Society hosts lunches, dinners, book discussions, civic activities and more. (<http://www.meetup.com/Fayette-Freethought-Society/>)

The Peachtree City Humanists meet often for discussions at Starbucks, lunch, dinner at She's Bistro, and more. Several upcoming events in December. (<http://www.meetup.com/Peachtree-City-Humanists-PTCH/>)

Fellowship of Reason meets on the first Sunday of every month at 10:30 AM at AF Hall. There are meetings for book discussion, philosophy, a classic film course, and other events. (<http://www.fellowshipofreason.com>.)

Atlanta Atheists has first Sunday meetups each month: the place varies. Check Meetup for info on the December get-together. (<http://www.meetup.com/Atlanta-Atheists/>)

GUST (Gwinnett: Understanding Secular Truths) will be skipping their normal monthly meeting and will instead have a holiday celebration at Summits Wayside Tavern, Snellville, 3334 Stone Mountain Pkwy, Snellville, GA on Friday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m. (<http://www.meetup.com/brights-295/>)

Atlanta Astronomy Club will have their annual potluck in lieu of a regular meeting. It will be on Saturday Dec. 12 at 6-10 pm at the Emory University Physics, Math & Science Center, 400 Dowman Dr. Atlanta, GA 30322 (<http://www.atlantaastronomy.org>)

Recovery from Religion - Morrow Chapter is having the November meeting at Barnes & Noble Booksellers Southlake, 1939 Mount Zion Road, on Sat. Dec. 13 at 1:00 pm.

It's the monthly meetup for the Morrow chapter of Recovering from Religion! We will meet to discuss issues directly related to religious indoctrination, struggles faced, and how to better overcome them.

There is no proselytizing of any kind allowed at these meetings. For more information and resources, please visit www.recoveringfromreligion.org. (<http://www.meetup.com/Recovering-From-Religion-Morrow-Chapter/>)

There will be a **meetup for Atlanta atheists** on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 6:00 p.m. at Thinking Man Tavern, 537 W. Howard Ave, in Decatur. (<http://www.meetup.com/Atlanta-Atheists/>)

IIG Atlanta will have its monthly meetup on December 20 at 4:30 at Manuel's Tavern, 602 N Highland Avenue Northeast, in the Crows Nest. Check the meetup group or contact Shaune Beattie at shaune.beattie@gmail.com for more information: <http://www.meetup.com/IIG-Atlanta/>.

Atlanta Skeptics will have its December 20 regular meeting at Manuel's Tavern in the North Avenue room (come in the front door, turn right and head all the way back). Social and dinner starts at 6 pm. The meeting is still in the planning stages, so be sure to check with the Meetup page. (<http://www.meetup.com/AtlantaSkeptics/>)

Black Nonbelievers will have their Sunday, Dec. 21 general meeting at 2:00 pm at Atlanta Public Library - Main Downtown Branch, 1 Margaret Mitchell Square, featuring guest speaker, **Dr. Ed Buckner**. You may recognize him as one of the very familiar faces at the Atlanta Freethought Hall. Ed is the former leader of the Atlanta Freethought

Society, former president of American Atheists, and past executive director of the Council for Secular Humanism. He's written several books, including *Fundamentals of Extremism: The Christian Right in America*, and (with his son Michael) *In Freedom We Trust: An Atheist Guide to Religious Liberty*. He has degrees from Rice University and Georgia State University.

He will be speaking on "Breaking the Chains: Codrington Plantation (Barbados), Slavery, and Amazing Grace," things you may or may not know about slavery, morality, social/political movements. "Amazing Grace," the Wilberforces (père et fils), the "original" meaning of "abolitionists," the Triangle Trade, how sugar—not cotton—was king, and Quakers doffing their hats out of respect. A story with not one but two morals. Be sure to join us for this exciting talk! As always, refreshments will be provided, and we will have merchandise for sale. Donations will be suggested, and they are now tax deductible. See you there! (<http://www.meetup.com/Black-Nonbelievers/>)

Sunday Assembly Atlanta will be meeting at their new venue at First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta, 470 Candler Park, Atlanta, GA at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21. Come celebrate the one-year anniversary of Sunday Assembly Atlanta with our topic this month: Luck!

Our headline speaker this month will be **Dale McGowan**, nationally acclaimed freethought writer and editor as well as Executive Director of Foundation Beyond Belief. About our topic, Dale says, "You really shouldn't be here. None of us should. I don't mean in this room, I mean at all. And the world, for a hundred reasons, should be a smoking ruin. But it isn't. We should spend every day laughing in disbelief at our crazy good luck."

We will also have great music, a member will share "I'm doing my best" and after Assembly, we will be having our usual potluck—bring something to share!

We will have a section labeled "Kids Club" in the back. It's stocked with some children's activities, like coloring books and toys (but you can bring your own, too!). We ask that parents watch their own children for this Assembly. We would like to also keep noise levels down, so we want our members to be mindful of others if their children are making too much noise for the room. There are baby changing facilities available at First Existentialist, as well.

Please ask one of our volunteer helpers if you need assistance in any way. Our venue is wheelchair accessible. For more about the global movement, check out: <http://sundayassembly.com/about/> (<http://www.meetup.com/Sunday-Assembly/>)

Freedom From Religion Foundation will (maybe?) be meeting on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 2:00 at Atlanta Freethought Hall. Check Meetup for more info. <http://www.meetup.com/Freedom-From-Religion-Foundation-of-Georgia/>

The Atlanta Science Tavern is having their annual Newtonmas trivia contest at Manuel's Tavern, 602 N. Highland Ave NE, Atlanta, GA from 7-10 p.m. Sat. Dec. 27 meeting. The cost is \$3.00 per non-student and there are great prizes for winning teams! See the meetup page for more info. (<http://www.meetup.com/AtlantaScienceTavern>)

Another **meetup for Atlanta Atheists** is scheduled for Sun., Dec. 28 at 4:00 p.m. at Five Seasons Brewery, 5600 Roswell Rd, in Sandy Springs. (<http://www.meetup.com/Atlanta-Atheists>)



Become a Member!

(Or renew your membership with this form or online at www.AtlantaFreethought.org!)

If you've enjoyed what you've read, we enthusiastically invite you to join the Atlanta Freethought Society. Every month you will get our acclaimed monthly newsletter, the *Atlanta Freethought News*, voting rights in the organization—and enjoyment of the superb speakers we have coming up, as well as the social and activist events that we sponsor!

Individual memberships: One person can become a member for \$50 per year.

Sustaining memberships: One person can become a sustaining member for \$100 per year.

Life memberships: Avoid the hassle of renewing every year. A life membership lasts a lifetime.

Paper newsletter: We encourage members to receive the newsletter by email. This avoids the printing and mailing expenses. But if you really want the paper version of the newsletter, just let us know and we will send it to you at no additional charge. (You can also pick up a paper newsletter at any AFS meeting.)

Thank you for your support! We look forward to your being with us in the coming months!

Annual dues are:

Membership Dues# of mems Total

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Sustaining Member \$100 _____ \$ _____ Phone: H _____ W _____

Life Member \$1000 _____ \$ _____ Email: _____

Subscription only \$30 _____ \$ _____ Any other things you'd like to tell us?
Books _____ \$ _____

Shipping and handling for Books \$ _____ \$ _____

Extra donation (Thank you!) \$ _____ \$ _____

Total: \$ _____ \$ _____

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Atlanta Freethought Society

4775 N. Church Lane SE Atlanta, GA 30080-7224
www.atlantafreethought.org afs@atlantafreethought.org

"Religious bondage shackles and debilitates the mind and unfits it for every noble enterprise, every expanded prospect."

—James Madison, 1774

We still have these great books for sale:

Why I Am Not A Christian—\$8

Lucid, comprehensive, engaging answer to Christian apologists by Keith Parsons. Respectful but devastating to all Christian claims. A wonderful follow-up to Bertrand Russell's great essay with the same title.

An Uppity Old Atheist

Woman's Dictionary—\$8

By the late, great Carol Faulkenberry (illustrated by Amanda Faulken-berry); like Ambrose Bierce's *Devil's Dictionary*—but better: more biting, funnier. Guaranteed to make you laugh out loud and to challenge at least one idea you hold.

Quotations That Support the

Separation of State and Church

(2nd edition)—\$11

Compiled by Edward M. Buckner and Michael E. Buckner; ammunition against Christian-nation mythologists. Quotes from America's revolutionaries, constitution framers, Presidents, court decisions. Sources carefully documented; extensive index. Comb-bound—lies flat for easy copying.

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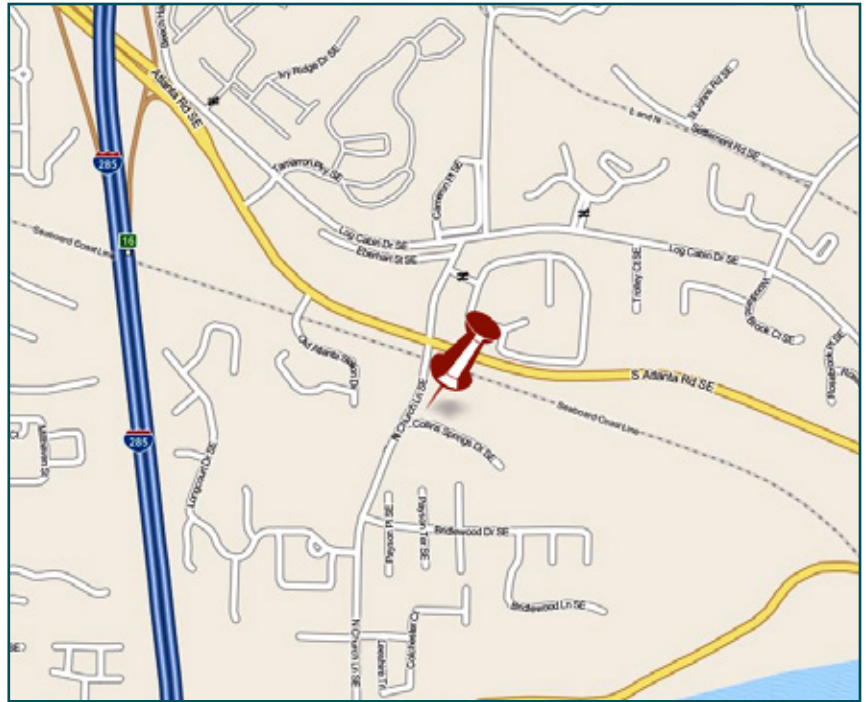
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*Dare To Think
For Yourself!*



**The December 14th
Meeting:
1:00 at AF Hall,
4775 N. Church Lane SE
Atlanta, GA**

**This Month's Speaker:
Ed Buckner**



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