

# The Friendly Light

March 2024



## Birthdays

3/3

Tom Hayworth  
Quinn Strawn  
Kevin Strawn

3/12

William Carr

3/18

Robert Malpass

3/24

Linda Embler

## Anniversaries

3/25

Keith & Joella  
Anderson



## Let Us Then Try What Love Will Do

*"A good end cannot sanctify evil means; nor must we ever do evil, that good may come of it... It is as great presumption to send our passions upon God's errands, as it is to palliate them with God's name... We are too ready to retaliate, rather than forgive, or gain by love and information. And yet we could hurt no man that we believe loves us. Let us then try what Love will do..."*

(William Penn, 1693)

What often feels like the most uncomplicated part of life -and the spiritual journey - can often end up being the most challenging part. I'm talking about love and loving one another. We hear phrases like "love makes the world go round" and "all you need is love", but when it comes right down to it, it can feel like the most challenging part of life. I know that I need to love others. Often, I know that I'm supposed to love others. What I find difficult, though, is...well...loving others.

If I'm honest, it often starts with loving myself. That might seem counterintuitive, especially when it feels as if there is enough self-interest in our world go to around. But loving oneself is less about self-interest and more about cherishing ourselves in the same way that God cherishes us. It's accepting that I'm accepted. It's welcoming the reality that I am welcomed by God. It's loving myself unconditionally because God, well, loves me (and you) unconditionally. This is where love becomes more reality than theory. In theory, I know I am loved. In reality, though, I often try to measure up to people's expectations, or I keep ruminating over past mistakes and failures, or I get caught up in that unhealthy cycle of trying to please people, or I spend too much time wondering what others thinks about me, or...or... or...well, you get the idea.

The reality, the gospel reality, is that I am loved. The reality is that you are loved. The reality is that we are all loved, and there is nothing we can do (or have done) that can separate us from that love. In fact, to put it another way, God delights in us and is pleased with us. God smiles when God thinks of us. The best example I can come up with is the way I love our granddaughter, Maisie. We were just out in San Francisco spending a week with her and her parents, and I am still dwelling in that feeling of pure love. That pure love is her total acceptance of Lynda and I and our total acceptance of her. We love her just because she is. Maisie doesn't have to do anything, be anything, perform in any way, or prove anything. We simply love, and that is the purest kind of love that exists.

And it's that kind of love that we receive from God – a love that simply is, a love that we are immersed in daily. But this kind of love, when experienced, is not meant to be kept to ourselves. In his book, *The Spirituality of Transformation, Joy, and Justice*, author Patrick Saint-Jean writes, "Salvation comes from the gift of Divine love as it interweaves with the call to love, putting us on the path by which we grow into the people we were always intended to be, the healthiest and truest version of ourselves. We are each broken in some way – but at the same time we are unconditionally loved, accepted, and affirmed by the Source of all life. Love is the energy of the universe. When we open ourselves to love, it flows into each one of us, and then out into the world around us." And then he adds a few sentences later, "Love by its very nature cannot be hoarded; it has to be shared."

Maybe this is what the early Quaker, William Penn, meant when he wrote, "Let us then what Love will do..." Love is ultimately intended to be shared and offered to one another. It isn't meant to be hoarded or withheld. And maybe love ends up being more of a habit than we are willing to admit. In other words, the more we practice loving, the more we end up becoming loving people. The more we practice loving, the more it becomes a "holy habit" in which we love first rather than retaliate. As William Penn wrote, we are often too ready to retaliate than to forgive. Maybe, though, by daily practicing love and intentionally loving others, we will be more ready to forgive than to retaliate. And wouldn't that be the best kind of world to live in? A world in which love, forgiveness, reconciliation, acceptance, empathy, understanding, and compassion are our "go to" rather than everything that is the opposite of all of that.

I think Richard Rohr states it best when he wrote, "*Why have we made things so complicated? Most of us were taught that God would love us if and when we change...In fact, God loves you so that you can change. What empowers change, what makes you desirous of change is the inner experience of love. This alone becomes the engine of positive change.*"

I agree, and I want to be part of that change. Let us then try what love will do.

With Gratitude and Hope,

*Scott*

## World Relief of the Triad

On Sunday, February 18, Jon Musser (Mission Services Director of World Relief of the Triad) shared in our 10AM meeting for worship and in our 11AM hour about the work of World Relief in High Point and beyond. They are an organization that does excellent work in refugee resettlement and partner with faith groups, non-profits, and other organizations to fulfill their mission. Below are ways that Jon says individuals and congregations can partner with World Relief. Read over it and see where you might feel led to get involved? Where might High Point Friends be led to get involved?

### **Partnership Opportunities:**

#### **1. Donation Drive:**

Here are a couple of our most needed items right now for refugee families' homes: pillows, twin sheet set, twin comforters, bath towel set, laundry detergent, dish soap. Here is the [LINK](#) to claim a date sometime this year to assist us with a donation drive.

#### **2. Home Set-up:**

Almost every Saturday we need a group of 10-15 people to assist us in setting up/cleaning/decorating a refugee's home. Here is the [LINK](#) to sign-up or I could reserve a date for your group (beyond the dates listed) if you just let me know when you want to help out.

#### **3. Volunteer:**

There are many other opportunities to support or connect with refugee families. Check out our [volunteer page](#) to learn more and begin the onboarding process. (No onboarding needed to set-up a home).

#### **4. Monetary Gift:**

We are in a season of increased need and staff/program expansion and would appreciate any one-time or reoccurring funding your church could provide as we serve local refugee families. You could make a donation [online](#) or mail a check to our High Point office: 155 Northpoint Ave. Suite 102 High Point, NC 27262.

#### **5. Contacts:**

- Do you know any other ministers in the Friends community who would be open to meeting with me?
- Do you know any business owners or property owners in your church who could provide employment or temporary/permanent housing to the families we serve? Please feel free to connect me with them or share my contact information with them. Thanks

#### **6. Videos:**

[Finally, I'm Home | Raphael's Story - YouTube](#)  
[Welcome on Vimeo](#)

You could also check out our content on FB and Instagram – just search World Relief Triad

## Scott to Attend Friends United Meeting Board Meetings

Scott will be attending the Friends United Meeting (FUM) Board Meetings from March 8-10 in Richmond, Indiana. Scott serves as the Assistant Clerk of Friends United Meeting and High Point Friends Meeting is also a full and active independent member of Friends United Meeting ([www.friendsunitedmeeting.org](http://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org)) He will be back Saturday evening, March 10, and in meeting for worship on Sunday, March 11. If you would like to know more about Friends United Meeting or how you can be involved, let Scott know and he will get you plugged in.

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## Palm Sunday / Easter Sunday

This month, Palm Sunday will be **March 24** and Easter Sunday will follow on **March 31st**. If you are in town, we hope you will be able to make plans to join us on those Sundays. *For Easter Sunday, we are planning to have a simple Easter Breakfast in Ragan Fellowship Hall beginning at **9AM**. We'll have breakfast items prepared as well as invite folks to bring items. We will not have our 11AM hour on that Sunday.*

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## "Under Construction" at High Point Friends

Over the past few weeks, you may have seen some significant work being done in the grassy area surrounding the Columbarium. Over the past few years, we have had significant issues of water getting into the downstairs preschool area. A company out of Greensboro, Enduric, came out and helped us determine that drain line pipes underground had begun to deteriorate along with significant root balls from the trees invading the pipes. This was causing water to spill out from the drain lines, into the ground, and down into the downstairs area. The work that has been completed created a new drain line away from the building (Columbarium area) and routed it towards a storm drain near where the school buses are parked. They (Enduric) also installed a new drain below the external fire escape where rain water would always collect and pool against the building foundation. Our hope and intent is this will help to route water away from the meetinghouse and create better drainage. We are very appreciative to our High Point Friends Meeting Trustees for investing funds to help cover the costs of this major project.

## Sharing Space With New Church Plant - Beginning March 3rd

Beginning March, 3rd a new church plant (Immanuel High Point - [www.immanuelhighpoint.org](http://www.immanuelhighpoint.org)) will be sharing space with us on Sunday mornings. This is a church plant connected with the Presbyterian Church USA and they have been meeting in the YWCA. They have been looking for a new space and approached High Point Friends about the possibility of renting the chapel space on Sunday mornings. In our January Meeting for Business, it was approved to enter into an agreement with them in the amount of \$750 per month. They will be meeting at 11AM on Sunday mornings. We will continue to meet at 10AM for our meeting for worship. We feel this is a win/win for both congregations and we look forward to working with them as a partnering faith community in High Point.

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## Serve Dinner - Open Door Shelter -3/5/24

High Point Friends will continue to provide the ingredients for dinner at Open Door Shelter on the first Tuesday of each month. Friends are invited and welcome to help serve the dinner in the dining room on that night. Dinner begins at 5:30PM and Friends may simply show up and help serve. If you have

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## Baby Dedication - Sunday, March 17

We are excited to have a Baby Dedication planned for Sunday, March 17th. On that Sunday, Kyle and Hanna Moore will have their son, William Leon Moore, dedicated. Also on that Sunday, we will be welcoming Kyle Moore into membership at High Point Friends Meeting. Hanna serves as the Clerk of High Point Friends Meeting. Congrats to this young family!

# March 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
~ Birthdays ~ ~ Anniversaries ~ ~ Church Events ~ ~ Other Events ~					1	2
3 Un-programmed 9:00 Meeting Tom Hayworth Quinn Strawn Kevin Strawn Faith & Learning	4	5 Bible Study  Shelter Meal	6 DAY Choir Practice	7	8	9
10 Un-programmed 9:00 Meeting  Faith & Learning	11	12 Bible Study William Carr	13 OF Choir Practice	14	15	16
17 Un-programmed 9:00 Meeting  Faith & Learning	18	19 Bible Study	20 PRAY Choir Practice	21	22	23
24 Un-programmed 9:00 Meeting  Faith & Learning	25 Keith L Joella Anderson	26 Bible Study	27 YE Choir Practice	28	29 	30
31 Un-programmed 9:00 Meeting  Faith & Learning			R			

**The Fathers Table @ The Open Door Shelter**

The **NEXT** Meal We Serve Is On **Tuesday March 5th @ 5:15pm**

400 N. Centennial Street, High Point

*Our Support of Fathers Table Frees Resources for Their Many Other Ministries.*

**WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY**

**Tuesday Bible Study at 10AM in Ragan Hall.**

**We will be focusing on**

**The Psalms**

**This study is always open to new folks**

***Join us at 10AM on Tuesdays!***

**Everyone is Welcome !**

**& Coffee is always on.**

**Intentional Prayer Wednesdays**

We are *Opening* Haworth Chapel from 10AM-5PM  
for anyone that would like to avail themselves  
of the space to simply be present and pray.

We are offering a Traditional Quaker

Un-programmed Worship

With a focus on silence and openness to vocal ministry  
shared out of the silence. If this is something you would like to  
experience or you hunger, this season in your spiritual journey,

Join Us  
at 9AM in the  
Meeting Library.

Come See Us:



800 Quaker Lane

High Point NC 27262



Web

[www.highpointfriends.org](http://www.highpointfriends.org)

Email

[office@highpointfriends.org](mailto:office@highpointfriends.org)

Phone

336-884-1359

Minister: *Scott Wagoner*

Meeting Clerk: *Hanna Moore*

Organist: *Carmen Farlow* ~ Piano, Voice & Bells: *Wanda Simmons*

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## **WAYS TO SUPPORT**



**ATTEND SPIRIT NIGHTS** (1st Wed of the Month) in Selected Restaurants

**LINK YOUR DISCOUNT CARDS AT:** Lowes Foods, Staples, Publix  
(Harris Teeter VIC Card HPFS #4844)

**HPFS AmazonSmile Profile:** Can be added to your Amazon Account.

Prayer Request / Concerns Our Absent Friends

Our Grieving Friends

The Families of Martha Hayworth, Lewis Heavener & Richard Kemp

Our Ill & Recovering Friends:

Charles Riehs, Nancy Blair, Linda Embler, Theron & Eloise Farlow,  
Beverly Kemp, Richard Marx, Lowen Dare Clausel (a newborn) & Judy Burton

For Our World

The homeless, sick, those who are Caregivers and Healthcare workers, and  
prayers for peace for the citizens of Ukraine, the Middle East and the World.

Child Care is Available Each Sunday  
at 10:00AM  
During Meeting for Worship