



The Friendly Light

April 2024

Birthdays

4/10

Rosa Albertson

4/12

Betty Jo Hayes

4/19

Stephanie Blair
Toby Sugden

4/29

Nancy Murr

Anniversaries

4/24

Joseph & Diane
Neal



Practice Resurrection

“To say yes to Jesus’s resurrection is, by that very thought and deed, to say yes to the new world of forgiveness that was won on the cross, the world that was then launched into heaven-and-earth reality on Easter morning. It is not a matter first of convincing oneself that perhaps ‘miracles’ may happen after all, then that Jesus’s resurrection might be one of them and then that the evidence really does seem to point this way. Resurrection and forgiveness are not strange things that might perhaps happen in the old creation. They are the hallmark, the telltale signs, the characteristic marks of the new creation. Believing in them is a matter of glimpsing and clinging to the reality of that new creation itself.”

(N.T. Wright, The Day the Revolution Began)

One of my favorite phrases from the poet and essayist, Wendell Berry, is that of “practice resurrection”. It’s a pointed reminder to me that the resurrection is not something one just “believes in”, or adheres to through a creed, or points to as a key marker in their theology. Rather, to “practice resurrection” is to put into practice the enlivening power of new life that is now available to us through the reality of the resurrection. The Apostle Paul, in his letter to Ephesians, writes about the “...**overwhelming greatness of God’s power that is working among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God’s powerful strength. God’s power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God’s right side in the heavens.**” (Ephesians 1:19-20, CEB) In simple terms, Paul reminds us that there is available to us all an energizing quality to life – an inward energy that enables to do what we are often unable to do on our own – the energy to love, the energy to forgive, the energy to offer compassion, the energy to offer an empathetic presence, the energy to serve.

The post-resurrection stories in the Gospels often contain two themes – *relationships and reconciliation*. In Jesus’s encounter with

Peter after his resurrection, Jesus offers Peter love and forgiveness even after Peter denied him three times. When Jesus appears to his disciples as they are behind locked doors (John 20), Jesus says to them, ***“As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.’ Then he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you don’t forgive them, they aren’t forgiven.”*** (John 20:21, CEB) For followers of Jesus, *to practice resurrection is to offer reconciliation and forgiveness. To practice resurrection is to also receive forgiveness for ourselves.* It’s often said that we can’t offer what we haven’t experienced. To practice resurrection, then, is to live into the forgiveness that is offered us and then to offer that forgiveness to one another.

Over the next few weeks, my messages on Sunday morning will explore and focus on this theme of forgiveness. I felt led to go in this direction after one of our 11AM conversations on Sunday morning in Ragan Fellowship Hall following meeting for worship. We ended up talking about forgiveness and how hard it is to forgive as well as feel forgiven. As the late C.S. Lewis put it, *“Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.”* To put it more plainly, *it’s a lot easier for me to preach about forgiveness than to offer it.* But yet forgiveness and reconciliation are central to the life and mission of Jesus. So much so, Jesus literally commissions the disciples to go out into the world – basically their relationships, neighborhoods, and communities – and be a forgiving and reconciling presence. *What would that look like for each of us in our relationships, marriages, parenting, organizations, and congregation?*

Each month, we will begin offering a Quaker Query for us to consider as a faith community. These queries invite us into a spiritual practice of personal reflection and spiritual growth. As we journey through forgiveness over the next few weeks, here is the query we will hold in our individual and collective hearts for April: ***Bring into God's light those emotions, attitudes and prejudices in yourself which lie at the root of destructive conflict, acknowledging your need for forgiveness and grace. In what ways are you involved in the work of reconciliation between individuals, groups, and nations?***(Britain Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice)

I hope we will all be able to see forgiveness as a journey of healing rather than a one-time act that we think will fix everything instantaneously. I know that are places in my life in which I need to forgive myself. I also know there are people in my life that I need to forgive and begin that journey towards making it real and actual. And I’m probably right to assume that there are folks in my life that struggle with forgiving me since I have probably hurt them in ways that I might not even be aware of. Whatever it is for us, we often recognize that marinating unforgiveness, hurt, and resentment ends up being the biggest barrier to our own emotional and spiritual growth.

We’re past Easter and into a new season. But instead of leaving Easter as a one-day event, maybe we can learn how to “practice resurrection” through how we live into forgiveness as a regular part of our lives.

With Gratitude and Hope,

Scott

You are cordially invited to
join us as we celebrate 60
years of HPFS ...



Join us as we celebrate 60
years of Friends education,
timeless friendships, and our
love for HPFS.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10:45AM-
11:30AM

Special Guest Speaker, Head of
School Emeritus-David Giradi.
Join us as we reminisce about
High Point Friends School and
enjoy a special Birthday sweet
treat !

11:30AM-
2:00PM

Join us for an afternoon 60th
celebration sponsored by our
FFC Food Trucks, Face Painting,
Balloon Artists, Dunking Booth,
Basket Raffles, Music and More!
We can't wait to celebrate with
YOU!

FRIDAY, APRIL 26TH
KINGREY CENTER

Rusty Parsons Guest Speaker—Sunday April 28th

Rusty Parson's will be the guest speaker bringing the message on Sunday, April 28th, for our 10AM meeting for worship. Rusty is a recorded Friends minister and has pastored Archdale Friends Meeting and Centre Friends Meeting.

Scott will be attending the Rotary District Conference in New Bern, NC and will be bring a message at the conference for their Sunday morning gathering.

Welcome New Member



We want to welcome Kyle Moore as a most recent and newest Member to High Point Friends Meeting. Kyle is the husband of our Monthly Meeting/Ministry & Oversight Clerk, Hanna Moore, and is the father of William Leon Moore. We recently dedicated William on Sunday, March 17th, during meeting for worship. Kyle is currently a primary counselor at Fellowship Hall, a private, not-for-profit, drug and alcohol treatment center. In his role, he is assigned guests (patients) when they arrive and he counsels them throughout their stay through lectures, leading classes, and facilitating small groups/group therapy of up to twelve people.

Refurbishing at High Point Friends Meeting

The refurbishing continues at High Point Friends Meeting as a way to provide an beautiful and functioning space for us to worship as well as serve. It also helps to provide a functioning space for groups who want to rent out space or use it for family gatherings and special events. Here is an update...

- The three trees in the Columbarium area have been removed. As much as we didn't want to remove trees, we felt it was necessary to avoid any long-term problems with root balls in the underground storm drain pipes. The work that has been done has addressed the water issue we were experiencing in the downstairs preschool area.
- We will be moving forward on having the two outdoor entrances on either side of the sanctuary scraped and repainted. We will also be having the window panes on the sanctuary windows repainted as well. This will give both areas and nice, fresh look.
- We're grateful for the High Point Friends Meeting Trustees that made it possible for us to update the kitchen with new kitchen equipment over the past two years. It made is possible for us to host wonderful Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday morning.
- The sidewalks around the front yard area and sanctuary have been pressure washed and now have a nice clean look to them.

Along with the people that make up High Point Friends Meeting, our facility/building is a valuable asset that can serve the neighborhood and wider High Point community. Thank you for your continued support as we refurbish and update our facilities. And many thanks to our Trustees who are both visionary in their outlook

Ministry & Oversight / Meeting for Business

Ministry & Oversight will meet on Tuesday, April 16th, at 5PM in the meeting library. Our next **Meeting for Business will meet on Sunday, April 21st, following our 10AM** meeting for worship. It was approved that we would be meeting once a quarter for our Business Meetings. All members/attenders are invited and welcome to stay and participate in our Sunday Meeting for Business.

Serve Dinner - Open Door Shelter -4/2/24

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 any questions, please contact the meeting office at office@highpointfriends.org

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2023

We aspire to raise \$60,000 during this campaign focused on,

- Creating an economically diverse community by providing financial assistance for families who otherwise would not be able to afford to attend.
- Supporting teachers' professional development to further their expertise, passion and dedication to enhance the educational experience of our students.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[HTTPS://WWW.HPFS.ORG/SUPPORT](https://www.hpfs.org/support)

CONTACT THE SCHOOL:

336-886-5516

TFRANZ@HPFS.ORG



Quaker Corner:

Quaker Query of the Month

Each month, we will be offering to our High Point Friends Quaker community a query to consider. For Quakers, a query is a question folks are invited to consider as a spiritual practice for personal reflection and self-examination. The intention is that reflection on this question will lead us into deeper understanding of ourselves, Truth, and a deeper relationship with God. Here is our query for the month of April:

Bring into God's light those emotions, attitudes and prejudices in yourself which lie at the root of destructive conflict, acknowledging your need for forgiveness and grace. In what ways are you involved in the work of reconciliation between individuals, groups, and nations?

(Britain Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice)

Take time during the month to reflect on this query. If possible, write down or journal what nudges, promptings, or leadings you are aware going on inside of you. How does considering this query lead you to action? Who in your life needs your forgiveness? In what areas of your life can you work for reconciliation?

April 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Bible Study	3 D A Y Choir Practice	4	5	6
7 Un-programmed 9:00 Meeting	8	9 Bible Study Shelter Meal	10 Y Rosa Albertson O P Choir Practice	11	12 Betty Jo Hayes Toby Sugden	13
Faith & Learning						
14 Un-programmed 9:00 Meeting	15	16 Bible Study	17 R A Y Choir Practice	18	19 Stephanie Blair	20 (RB)
Faith & Learning		M & D 5:00 PM				
21 Un-programmed 9:00 Meeting	22	23 Bible Study	24 E Joseph & Dianne Neal R Choir Practice	25	26 HPFS 60th Anniversary 10:45 Speaker Celebration 11:30 - 2:00 PM	27
Monthly Meeting						
28 Un-programmed 9:00 Meeting	29 Nancy Murr	30 Bible Study		~ Birthdays ~ ~ Anniversaries ~ ~ Church Events ~ ~ Other Events ~ (Rockers Baseball)		
Guest Speaker Rusty Parsons		(RB)				

The Fathers Table @ The Open Door Shelter

The **NEXT** Meal We Serve Is On **Tuesday April 2nd @ 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

Email

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

Our Ill & Recovering Friends:

Charles Riehs, Nancy Blair, Linda Embler, Theron & Eloise Farlow, Beverly Kemp
Richard Marx, Ken Venable, Johnny Compton, Colon Farlow & Anne Donaghy

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