

THE FRIENDLY LIGHT

June 2024

Birthdays

6/04

Candy Heer

6/05

Linda Selleck

6/25

Carol Nichols

Anniversaries

6/10

Gary & Anita Turner

6/14

Jeff & Debbie Albert

6/16

Tom & Jo Hayworth

6/18

Ron & Linda Selleck

Adam & Katherine Buxton

6/22

Terry & Leigh Ann Venable

Being An Intentional Quaker Community

Often when folks find out that I'm a Quaker pastor, the conversation begins to drift towards "Quaker Oats" and the guy on the Quaker Oats box. That's impressive branding on the part of the Quaker Mill Company. The story goes that the logo was chosen because the Quaker faith represents values such as honesty, integrity, purity, and strength, which the company wanted customers to associate with its product. Henry Seymour, a partner in the Quaker Mill Company, is said to have come up with the brand name after reading an encyclopedia article about Quakers. There are many variations on the origin of the logo, but suffice it to say, the logo was chosen for a reason, and they were all good.

It seems that, at present, Quakers could use a good marketing firm. We've not been at our best in the last few years given our divisions and schisms. But maybe our best "marketing" is not what shows up on a billboard or a Facebook ad. Maybe our best "marketing" ends up being the kinds of lives we live as well as the kind of example we offer as a Quaker faith community.



In her talk on becoming a Quaker faith community, Mary Walton describes it this way:

“The Quaker Meeting is meant to be a Blessed Community – a living testimony to a social order that embodies God’s peace, justice, love compassion, and joy, an example and invitation to a better way of life. Like our other testimonies Community can be a prophetic call to the rest of society...Early Quakers identified their experience of God’s presence among them with the Biblical message about living as a ‘People of God’ – a community living under God’s guidance embodying peace, justice, joy, wisdom, and all the fruits of the Spirit.”

To be a Quaker community doesn’t mean we go back to old fashioned methodology or perpetuate stereotypes around old fashioned dress or even Quaker oats. To be a Quaker community is more about living as faithfully as we can in alignment with God’s intentions and purposes for our world. We do this as individuals and as a community, and when lived out as a community, we become a prophetic witness to the kind of world we understand God is trying to create. My hope and vision is that High Point Friends Meeting will continue to grow as a vital Quaker community that is a living example of God’s love and purposes and that we welcome all who seek this kind of community for their own life and spiritual journey. This is the best “marketing” and “branding” we can employ to get the message out about the Quaker faith.

As Quakers have struggled over the years, I’ve heard (and seen) some Quaker meetings minimize their Quaker witness for fear that it feels outdated and not attractive to seekers. I would suggest just the opposite – that our society is desperately seeking a kind of faith community that is willing to courageously offer wisdom, guidance, and values that offer life, hope, and a way forward in a world that often seems as if it’s moving backwards.

There has never been a more important time than now to be a Quaker and a Quaker community. I look forward to this continued journey with you as we seek to be faithful together.

With Hope and Gratitude, *Scott*

Quaker Schools in Friends United Meeting

Did you know that there are two Quaker Schools that are part of Friends United Meeting (FUM), of which High Point Friends Meeting is an active member? There is Belize Friends School located in the Belize City, Belize. Belize Friends School gives young people in Belize a second chance to succeed at entering High school or Trade school and to be successful in life! It is also connected with Belize Friends Ministries and Belize Friends Meeting. There is also Ramallah Friends School, a Pre-Kindergarten through 12, co-educational Quaker school with two beautiful campuses in the neighboring towns of Ramallah and El-Bireh (West Bank).

RFS offers all students a wide range of academic and extracurricular activities that encourage students to become global thinkers and lifelong learners. Quaker Friends' work in Ramallah began in 1869 with a number of small schools for girls in the surrounding villages. In 1889 the Friends Girls School opened as "The Girls Training Home of Ramallah". The Lower School was founded in 1895 as the Friends Girls School. The Upper School was founded in 1901 as the Friends Boys School.





Quaker Corner

"Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand."

(Quaker, Isaac Pennington, 1667)



Quaker Query of the Month

Do you try to set aside times of quiet for openness to the Holy Spirit? All of us need to find a way into silence which allows us to deepen our awareness of the divine and to find the inward source of our strength. Seek to know an inward stillness, even amid the activities of daily life. Do you encourage in yourself and in others a habit of dependence on God's guidance for each day? Hold yourself and others in the Light, knowing that all are cherished by God.

New Head of School

The High Point Friends School Board of Trustees welcomes Rob Kelley as the new Head of School beginning on July 1. Here is a portion of an email sent out by the Clerk of the Board of Trustees:

Kaye Bonnick:

The Board of Trustees is excited to announce that Robert Kelley will be joining us as the new Head of School on July 1st. Rob's career in education spans over 30 years. Prior to his current position as Interim Head of St. Mary's Episcopal School in Oklahoma, Rob spent 18 years as Head of School for The Pennfield School in Rhode Island. During his tenure as Head of School, Rob has successfully created programs that build community and sustainable enrollment, and he helped Pennfield raise significant funds to support their strategic mission. Rob met with a variety of constituents while on campus last week, and he demonstrated a philosophy that is aligned with our HPFS ethos. With the depth and breadth of Rob's experience and his knowledge of independent schools, the Board of Trustees unanimously supported his appointment as our next head of school.

We are grateful to you - our families, our faculty, and staff, for your support for HPFS over the years. You are integral to our school, as the strength of the school depends on the strength of our community. We look forward to your continued support. A special note of thanks to Tom Franz who stepped in, on short notice, to lead us through this transitional year.

Please join us in welcoming Rob to our community as we look forward to new opportunities and growth.

With gratitude and hope,
Kaye Bonnick, Clerk, Board of Trustees



Announcements

New Members

Over the last few months, we have been blessed to receive and welcome new members to High Point Friends Meeting. We welcome the following new Friends (and friends) to our faith community:

Kyle Moore, Stephanie Weimer, Megan Ward and her daughter, Ella, Katherine and Adam Buxton and their daughters, Rachael and Elayna, and Camille Sheron Turner.

Ministry & Oversight / Meeting for Business - July

- Our next Ministry & Oversight meeting will be Tuesday, July 16th, at 5PM in the meeting library.
- Our next Meeting for Business will be on Sunday, July 21st. We will be doing it differently for our regular Meeting for Business. On that Sunday (July 21), we'll gather for a simply carry-in lunch in Ragan Fellowship Hall at 11AM (following meeting for worship) and then have our Business Meeting in Ragan Fellowship Hall following the meal (approximately 12 Noon).

Our intention is to gather for fellowship around a meal as well as the Business of the Meeting. Mark your calendars for this date and join us!

Max Carter to Speak at High Point Friends

On July 7th, Max Carter will be the guest speaker in our 10AM meeting for worship. Max is well known in Quaker circles and particularly in the High Point/Greensboro area. He is retired from Guilford College where he served for years as the Director of the Friends Center.

Max recently gave an excellent presentation at High Point Friends Meeting on the ongoing Israeli/Palestinian conflict. You will enjoy both Max's insightful sharing of the Quaker faith as well as his humor. Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 7th.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Bible Study at 10AM in Ragan Hall.

We will be focusing on
The Books of Ezekiel and Daniel
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 The Meeting Library 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 Sunday at 9AM in the Meeting Library.

Prayer Request / Concerns Our Absent Friends Our Grieving Friends, Our Ill & Recovering Friends:

Charles Riehs, Nancy Blair, Linda Embler, Theron & Eloise
Farlow, Beverly Kemp, Colon Farlow & Candy Heer

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.





HIGH
POINT

friends

MEETING

800 Quaker Lane
High Point NC 27262

Phone: 336-884-1359
www.highpointfriends.org

Monthly Meeting Clerk-- Hanna Moore

Pastor-- Scott Wagoner

Organist-- Carmen Farlow

Piano & Choir Director-- Wanda Simmons

Established in 1892
132 Years of Service in the High Point Community