

August 2024

THE FRIENDLY LIGHT

Birthdays

8/05

Beverly Kemp

8/10

Allen Albertson

8/12

Carol Pierce

8/29

Alayna Buxton

8/31

Eloise Farlow

Anniversaries

8/6

Todd & Christen Duke

8/19

Theron & Eloise Farlow

Gerry & Angeline White

8/21

Randolph & Cynthia Stanley

“Thank You” and “Let’s Keep Moving Forward!”

August 1st marks the end of my first three years serving High Point Friends Meeting as Pastoral Minister. My first Sunday and message at High Point Friends Meeting was on Sunday, August 1, 2021. I am deeply grateful for the ways you have accepted Lynda and I and grateful for the ways you have received the ministry I have offered over these past three years. In our July 21 Meeting for Business, the meeting approved the recommendation from Ministry & Oversight to extend to me an open-ended call for the future. I welcomed and accepted this call! I look forward to continuing this journey with you and partnering in ministry with you.

Much has happened at High Point Friends over the last three years. We’ve spent a good amount of time and financial investment refurbishing key areas of the meetinghouse and giving other areas a fresh and updated look. We’ve added a few programs to provide spiritual enrichment and growth (i.e., weekly bible study, an occasional Saturday retreat, Wednesday Prayer Day). We’ve adjusted our Meeting for Business schedule and meet quarterly instead of monthly. And we’ve taken steps to include a Simple Carry-In Meal in conjunction with our Meeting for Business. We’ve taken steps to offer space in our meetinghouse to other groups, such as the church that meets in our chapel from 11AM-12 Noon on Sundays, while also welcoming others that might need a space get their own dreams off the ground, such as the educational tutor that uses one of the classrooms in the former downstairs preschool area.




In the last three years, we've welcomed fourteen new members, and our Sunday worship attendance can be anywhere from 35-45 depending on the Sunday. And we continue to offer our 9AM Unprogrammed (silent) meeting for worship on Sunday morning as an alternative. Our Christmas Candlelight Worship continues to be a significant event both for our own members/attenders as well as the larger community.

I'm sure there is much that I have missed in that simple three-year review and my hope is that we can continue building on this momentum. In the next few weeks, I hope to offer to the meeting my own vision of areas that I would invite intentional focus around. For now, these areas are Formation, Community, and Service. What does it look like for us to be spiritually formed and how does our own Quaker spirituality nurture our formation? What do we need to do to deepen our community with one another and build relationships with one another? Many are looking for a place of belonging and community. How can we offer that to others? And what does it look like for us to offer acts of service to the High Point community and beyond? How can we be personally engaged and how can we partner financially with other groups?

For now, I am simply grateful for the opportunity to be part of the High Point Friends community during this season of my life and ministry. I'm grateful for the ways the meeting has been open to change and willing to adapt. I'm grateful for your friendship and how you have welcomed our extended family and children even though you don't see them very often. And Lynda and I are grateful for the time you allow us to be away to visit our children. Your partnership in the gospel has breathed life into my own soul. I look forward to the coming years and how we can continue to partner together.

With Hope and Gratitude,

Scott



“Be patterns, be examples
in all countries, places,
islands, nations, wherever
you come.”

George Fox

Quaker Corner

Quaker Query of the Month

Do you respect that of God in everyone though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or be difficult to discern? Each of us has a particular experience of God and each must find the way to be true to it. When words are strange or disturbing to you, try to sense where they come from and what has nourished the lives of others. Listen patiently and seek the truth which other people's opinions may contain for you. Avoid hurtful criticism and provocative language. Do not allow the strength of your convictions to betray you into making statements or allegations that are unfair or untrue. Think it possible that you may be mistaken.

Britain Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice



HIGH POINT FRIENDS SCHOOL

Update from High Point Friends School

The first day of classes for High Point Friends School will be Wednesday, August 21 st . Head of School, Rob Kelley, sent out this recent update regarding faculty:

All faculty positions have been filled for the 2024-2025 school year.

- Kindergarten will be taught by Stephanie Thornton. Stephanie holds a M.Ed. and a BS from UNC at Greensboro and has taught and mentored faculty in elementary schools for twenty years. She also is a founding partner of a local Pre-School. Stephanie brings a wealth of experience and boundless enthusiasm to her classes.
- Our grade 1 & 2 teacher is Maria Isabel Bernardez Lecuna. Maria just moved from New Mexico to be closer to family. Maria has a BS in Education from Tufts University and a Master's in Education from Columbia University. Maria has extensive teaching experience (kindergarten, elementary and middle school). She also led teacher training programs in the Sante Fe Public Schools for teachers in K-6. Her passion for teaching is palpable. She will also bring a little Spanish language and culture into class.
- Daniel De La Rosa is our Middle and Elementary School science teacher. He has a BA in Biology from Guilford College and has taught Middle School science for two years. Additionally, Daniel has worked as a biology teaching assistant at Guilford for five years. He is an environmentalist and understands the importance of hands-on science education.



Meeting for Business Decisions and Updates

We held our quarterly Meeting for Business on Sunday, July 21st, after meeting for worship. Here are some highlights of decisions made and actions taken...

- It was approved to do a review of our Missions/Service partnerships that we fund on a regular basis. The intention is to strategically identify the ones we want to support financially both locally and globally, and to create long-term partnerships that we engage both financially and personally. This includes both local entities and those connected with Friends United Meeting.
- It was approved to make the congregation aware through our worship bulletin announcements and the newsletter of our continued financial responsibilities and needs. High Point Friends Meeting is very fortunate to be beneficiaries in the present of very generous past members and their sustaining gifts. We want to continue that generosity through our present membership and be transparent about our needs so that folks can choose to give as they feel led. For our October Meeting for Business, a Long Term Financial Sustainability Working Group will be named and approved to study and make recommendations to the meeting as to how we continue to steward our Trust Funds towards the operating costs of the meeting as well as encouraging the meeting in their regular giving.
- August 1st completes Scott's first three years at High Point Friends Meeting and his three-year agreement. It was recommended by Ministry & Oversight and approved by the meeting to extend to Scott a continued call for an indefinite amount of time. Scott has accepted. This is an indication of the positive working relationship between Scott and the meeting and the hope for the future generated through the recent growth of the meeting. Ministry & Oversight and Scott will continue to conduct annual reviews to assure that Scott's work aligns with the meetings priorities.
- Scott will be away on Sunday, August 18th, as he and Lynda travel to Knoxville that weekend to visit their son and daughter-in-law. He will also be away on Sunday, September 8th, as they will be in San Francisco from September 4-11 to visit their daughter and son-in-law and celebrate their granddaughter's third birthday.

Stewardship Update from Ministry & Oversight

As a way to keep Friends at High Point Friends informed and aware of the meeting's financial needs, we will be offering a "Stewardship Snapshot" in our worship bulletin as well as our monthly newsletter. This "snapshot" will give a quick picture of our ongoing giving in relationship to our budgetary needs.

The ministry and operations of High Point Friends Meeting are funded in two ways: Member/Attender giving and Trust Fund dividends. Member/Attender giving comes from the generosity of our present congregation. Trust Fund dividends come from the generosity of Friends that have come before us.

Between the two, the ministry and operations of High Point Friends are funded and sustained. As you consider your giving towards High Point Friends Meeting, we will leave that up to you to do as you feel led. For our part, we will make you fully aware of our financial needs as well as our expenditure. We are grateful for your generosity, and we are grateful for the generosity of those that came before us.

Between both areas of support, High Point Friends Meeting is able to continue offering a Quaker witness and presence to the High Point community and beyond.

Stewardship Snapshot

6 Month Financial Position

January 2024 - June 2024

Approved Budget: \$ 147,400

Contributions: \$ 110,022

Shortfall - \$ 37,378

Announcements

Ministry & Oversight Committee will have a meeting on Tuesday, August 27 th , beginning at 5PM in the meeting library.

Life in the West Bank Today

A First Hand Report

Jane and Max Carter

Thursday, August 1, 2024

7 PM

New Garden Friends Meeting (801 New Garden Road, Greensboro)

Greensboro educators Max and Jane Carter have recently returned from the city of Ramallah where they have been leading service-learning trips since 1997. For decades they have been meeting with people working for justice in both Israel and Palestine. Their presentation, sponsored by Triad Veterans for Peace Coalition, will include photos and stories comparing the life of a West Bank Palestinian and an Israeli settler in the West Bank.

Guest Speaker

August 18 th

– On Sunday, August 18 th David Smith will be the guest speaker for our 10AM meeting for worship. Dave is a member of Deep River Friends Meeting and presently serves as Assistant Monthly Meeting Clerk. He has previously served as Clerk of their Ministry & Counsel. He is active in Friends work in the area and offers leadership to the North Carolina of Friends Fellowship (NCFE). On that weekend (and Sunday), Scott and Lynda will be in Knoxville, Tennessee visiting their son and daughter-in-law (Chad and Katie) who recently moved there from Calgary, Canada.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Bible Study at 10AM in Ragan Hall.

We will be focusing on
The Books of 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



Prayer Concerns:

Betty Jo Hayes, Candace Heer, Karen Lester, Colon Farlow, Nancy Blair,
Beverly Kemp, Mary Jarrell, Gene and Nancy Murr, High Point Friends
School Board and Staff, Charles Riehs, and those we know who are actively
caring for friends and family members.



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