



# ***THE FRIENDLY LIGHT***

## October 2024

### Birthdays

10/03

Scott Wagoner

10/04

Karla Townsend

10/07

Jennifer Sugden

10/09

Gary Turner

10/10

Elon Kerns

10/12

Ava Gray McMillian

10/17

Lynda Wagoner

10/20

Jeff Albert

10/30

Joella Anderson

**Greetings Friends!**

**As we move into the month of October, here are some events and experiences I would like to highlight and bring to our attention...**

### October Highlights

#### World Quaker Day – Sunday, October 6

The first Sunday in October has become, over the last few years, World Quaker Day. This was started by the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), a Quaker organization that seeks to build bridges of understanding and community between Quaker groups all over the world. As part of this worldwide community of Quakers, we'll have our own "World Quaker Day" on that Sunday as we take time in our worship to connect and reconnect with our own Quaker spiritual journey as a community and individuals.

#### Simple Carry-In Meal – Sunday, October 20

You'll see in this newsletter our announcement about our Simple Carry-In on Sunday, October 20. This will be prior to our quarterly Meeting for Business. Our hope is two-fold: to encourage the deepening of our connection and community with one another and inviting participation in our ongoing Meeting Business. I hope you will be able to join us for the meal and, if possible, the Business Meeting. Both are very much a part of our life together as a Quaker faith community.



## Stewardship Education and Outreach Engagement

Two areas that will be focusing on this Fall and inviting input from the congregation are stewardship and outreach. In the area of stewardship, we will be helping everyone become aware both of the financial needs of the meeting as well as ways you can partner with the meeting financially. We realize that folks are in different places financially, so our intention is simply to help you be aware of the meeting's needs as well as our stewardship goals, and let you make your own personal decision. In the area of outreach, we will be discerning what groups locally and globally we want to partner with long-term both financially and in presence. Outreach and generosity are an important part of our own values as High Point Friends Meeting, and we want to be strategic and intentional in our outreach partnership with other groups.

## Participation in Worship

It's one of my intentions to invite more folks to be part of the worship leadership team on Sunday morning. This could include reading Scripture, offering a prayer, sharing about your own spiritual journey, and even offering your gift of music in song or through instrument. *If this is something you would be willing to do, let me (Scott) know and I'll welcome your presence and sharing the Facing Bench with me! We want our meeting for worship to be a participatory experience and not a performance.*



Finally, one of the areas I would like to give focus on over the next few weeks is that of community. What does it mean to be part of a faith community and how can we deepen our connection and relationships with one another. I believe everyone is seeking a place to belong and experience connection. This belonging and connection helps us to discover a sense of purpose as well as experience the power of relationships. We live in a very disconnected and isolated world where we are often only known for mailing address and maybe our political position. **But do we know each other's story? Do we carry one another's burdens? Do we encourage one another? Are we intentional in caring for one another and checking on one another?**

I appreciate how the Quaker, Mary Walton, puts it: *"At some point in each of our spiritual journeys, a longing to find a faith and community that could speak to our condition brought us to a Quaker Meeting. Many Friends describe the experience of their first visit to Meeting as 'coming home.' It is only with God's Spirit that such a diverse group of individuals can realize and embody the kind of unity, belonging, and community that answers to that of God within us."*

Lynda and I are grateful to call High Point Friends our spiritual home.

With Gratitude,  
*Scott*

# Quaker Corner

On a recent Facebook post, Scott made a simple list to describe High Point Friends Meeting to someone who is thinking of attending. Here is what he came up with.  
What would you add?

- *We're a thinking congregation with a tender heart. We are thoughtful about our faith and open to God's love in our heart.*
- *We remove all the religious red tape and invite every person into a direct connection and relationship with God.*
- *We keep it simple as well as keep our worship simple with not a lot of complicated liturgy. Our worship is participatory and not a performance.*
- *We offer space for silence and quiet reflection so You can hear God speak directly to you as well as listen to Your own life.*
- *We value community and creating a place of belonging for all who seek relational connection and a place of belonging.*
- *We focus simply on making God's love real - real in our hearts and real towards those we serve in the community.*
- *We are intergenerational and welcome participation of all ages and the gifts of all ages.*

## Quaker Query/Advice of the Month

The Religious Society of Friends is rooted in Christianity and has always found inspiration in the life and teachings of Jesus. How do you interpret your faith in the light of this heritage? How does Jesus speak to you today? Are you following Jesus' example of love in action? Are you learning from his life the reality and cost of obedience to God? How does his relationship with God challenge and inspire you?

**High Point Friends School** has been very active since the start of the school year and our new Head of School, Rob Kelley, has brought great energy and creativity to his new role. *Some of the ways you can support High Point Friends School is to tell others about it and encourage them to check it out as a possibility for their child. You can also donate financially to the school and partner with them in that way for long term sustainability.*





**This article on what it means to be a Friend (Quaker) in this election cycle is offered by Friends United Meeting. We (High Point Friends) are active members of Friends United Meeting and they have been offering in their weekly email and updates, these short essays on how Friends can respond to the polarization that is often very real during election cycles. We invite you to read it with an open mind and open heart.**

.....

### **To Be A Friend**

To be a true Friend of Jesus in this election cycle is to be mindful of the temptation that we all have to retreat into our comfortable and defensive rhetorical silos.

To be a Friend this election cycle is to spend time with those who see things differently and to really listen for the concerns, hopes, fears and wounds beneath the words.

To be a Friend in this election cycle is to commit to being mindful of the “four horsemen of polarization” that dwell within each of us: stereotyping, ridiculing, dismissing and harboring contempt. For a free online class on “depolarizing within” go to Braver Angels. ([braverangels.org](http://braverangels.org))

To be a Friend in this election cycle is to really honor Micah’s call to seek justice, love compassion and walk humbly with the Lord. Holding together justice, compassion and intellectual humility reminds us that several things can be true at once.

There is a lot at stake right now and at least half the country will be grieving on November 6th. How can we honor and respond with deep compassion to both realities? Whatever that is, that’s what it means to be a Friend in this election cycle.

~ Travis Etling

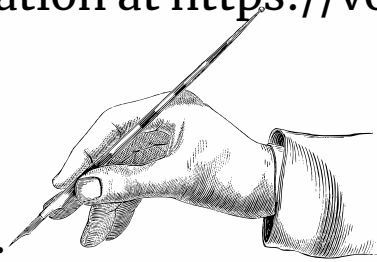
First Friends, Richmond, Indiana



## Announcements

The NC Peace Resource Center is sponsoring letter writing to registered voters to encourage people to vote in the November 5, 2024 election. Join us at Jamestown Friends Meeting (509 Guilford Road, Jamestown, NC 27282) for pizza and letter writing at 12:00 noon on October 13, 2024. We will provide copies of letters, envelopes, and postage. You will only need to write a few lines about why you think voting is important. See more information at <https://votefwd.org>

This is a non-partisan effort.



## Join us Sunday October 20th

We'll have our regular quarterly Meeting for Business on Sunday, October 20th, following our 10AM meeting for worship.

We will continue our renewed tradition of having a Simple Carry-In at 11AM with our Business Meeting to follow. Everyone is invited to stay for the carry-in even if you can't stay for the Business Meeting. We want to continue deepening community life and building relationships.

# Stewardship Snapshot

## Financial Report YTD January-August 2024:

Approved Budget \$ 199,677.91

Contributions \$ 142,515.50

Shortfall - \$ 57,162.41

### October 17, 2-3 PM

Rausie Hobson will be sharing highlights from her recent attendance at the FWCC (Friends World Committee for Consultation) World Plenary meeting in South Africa during the monthly USFW gathering at Friends Homes.

Rausie is a longtime Quaker who attends Rocky River Friends Meeting where her husband, David, serves as pastor. All are welcome!

Friends Homes West, Gateway Lounge in the new Wellness Center (2nd floor), 6100 W. Friendly Ave, Greensboro. Learn more: <https://fwcc.world/>  
Questions: [joyreavis@gmail.com](mailto:joyreavis@gmail.com) or 336.337.4550

### High Point Friends Choir

Our choir is already preparing Christmas music for December and our annual Christmas Candlelight Worship (December 22). Our Music/Choir Director, Wanda Simmons, extends a welcome to any new singers in the meeting that would like to join us! The choir meets every Wednesday at 5:15PM for rehearsal and is always promptly done by 6:15PM. Even if you can't make all the rehearsals, we welcome your voice and presence in the choir! Let' make a joyful noise together!



## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Bible Study at 10AM in Ragan Hall.

Using the Quaker study guide, Illuminate, our Tuesday Bible Study (10AM / Ragan Fellowship Hall) will be exploring the book of Revelation. This is a very unique and often confusing book of the Bible, so we will take time to explore both its historical context as well as its present day application. As I (Scott) often like to say, *it's less a book about future speculation and more about present spiritual formation*. I'll also be drawing on an excellent resource, Revelation for the Rest of Us as a supplement to our study together. If you have questions, just reach out to Scott.

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, Colon Farlow, Nancy Blair, Beverly Kemp, Mary Jarrell, Gene and Nancy Murr, Charles Riehs, Joy Reavis, 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](http://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