



September
2024

THE FRIENDLY LIGHT

Generous Lives – Generous Congregation

“Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.”(Matthew 5:48, The Message)

I can look at my life and bear witness to the fact that I have been the beneficiary of other people’s generosity. When I attended the Earlham School of Religion for seminary, I only had to pay for my books since my three years were covered by the Cooper Scholarship. Wilmer Cooper taught at the school and he and his wife Emily were strong advocates of the seminary and its mission. I have also benefited from those in my life who carry with them a generous spirit. They have offered me grace when I needed it the most as well as forgiveness when I have failed. Mostly, they have been gracious to me when I may have been in an ungracious mood. In those moments, I am the beneficiary of generosity that ends up changing me.

As a meeting, High Point Friends Meeting and High Point Friends School are the beneficiaries of generous hearts. Many friends who once were very active at High Point Friends but no longer with us left a strong and generous legacy of funds that enable us to continue the mission and Quaker witness of High Point Friends Meeting. High Point Friends School has also been the beneficiary of this generous legacy as it continues to offer a quality Quaker education for the High Point community and beyond. Generosity often extends beyond the present and reaches far into the future where lives can continue to be affected in a positive manner.

Birthdays
9/5
Carl Wright
9/10
Leigh Ann Venable
9/11
Judy Burton
9/15
Hanna Moore
9/20
Phillip Fulton
Adam Buxton
9/26
Karen Lester
9/29
Keith Anderson

Anniversaries

9/21
Greg & Vickie Sheets
9/30
Ed & Cindi Kearns



I share all this with you because I think it is important to start a conversation around what it means to be a generous congregation. Now, you might think, “Sounds like he’s angling towards talking about giving and fundraising” and you are probably not wrong. But it is also fair to mention the fact that giving and fundraising are the fruit of cultivated generosity. We can certainly talk numbers and budgets and math and “Year-To-Date” figures, but I think it is also important that we talk about what it means to live a generous life that shows forth in generous action. It is also important to ground this generosity in the generosity of Divine Presence that is active in our lives and our world. God is a generous God, and I believe we have been created for generosity. What that looks like for each of us is certainly up to us, but we have been created for generosity.

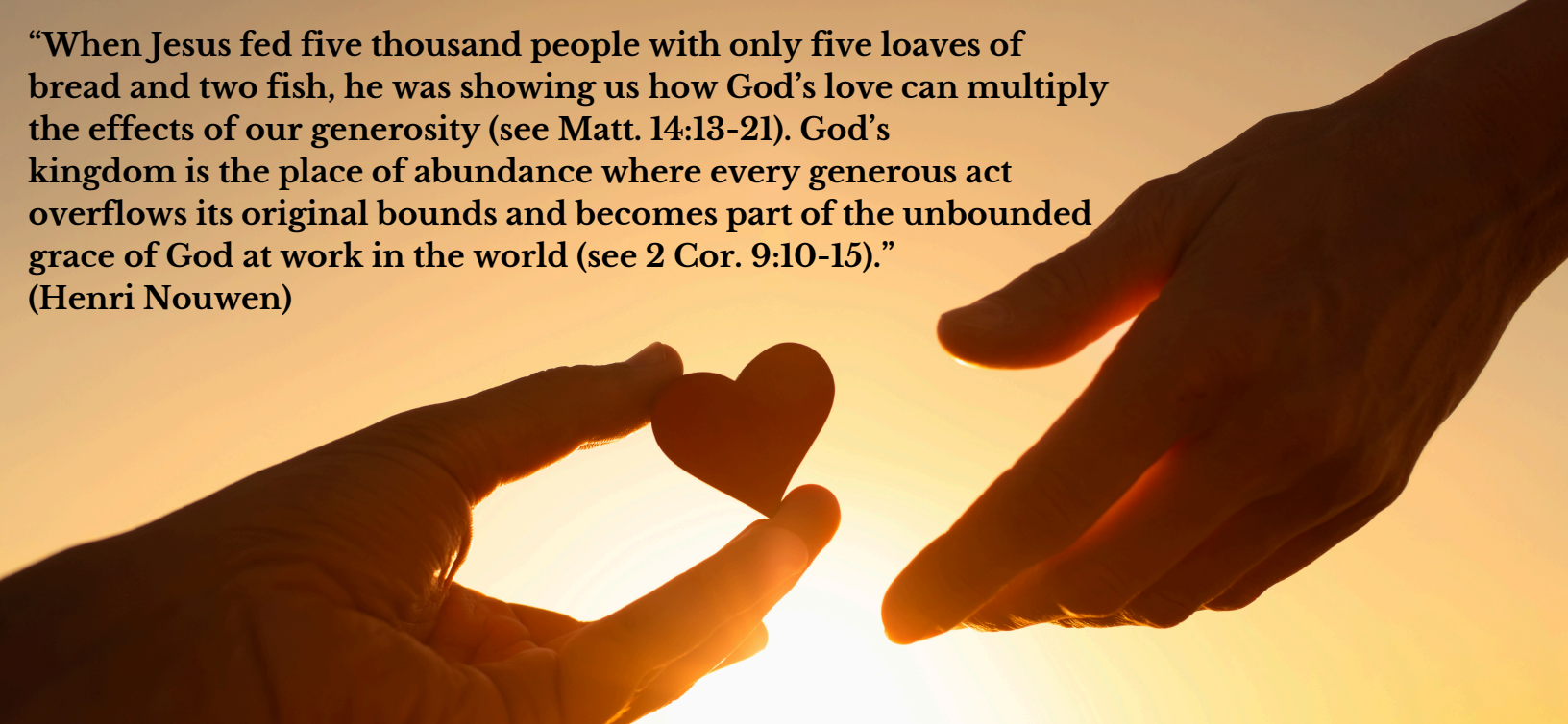
Over the next couple of months, you will be hearing and seeing me talk about generosity and what that can look like for us as High Point Friends Meeting. Certainly, there is the invitation to be generous with our resources as we consider what is ours to do individually (or as a family) when it comes to giving to High Point Friends Meeting. We will be transparent with our needs so you can have the necessary information you need to do your own discernment. But there is also the invitation to be generous of spirit with one another. In other words, dispensing very generously acts grace, patience, forgiveness, welcoming, and encouragement. This is what helps to form, shape, and strengthen community. Our community life will only be as strong as our generosity of spirit. And, finally, we will be discerning around what it looks like for us to be generous towards the community. Who do we want to partner with and offer not only our time but our financial gifts whether it be in our High Point community or our partnership with Friends United Meeting.

Jesus invites us to “...live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.” Our starting point is the divine generosity and grace of God in our lives. Even the generosity of people in our life that have helped us accomplish a goal or fulfill a dream. Either way, generosity matters. It mattered to us at one point in our life. It matters to those that will come after us. It matters to a world that often suffers from scarcity of spirit and soul. Let us explore, together, what it means to be a generous congregation.

Blessings!

Scott

“When Jesus fed five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, he was showing us how God’s love can multiply the effects of our generosity (see Matt. 14:13-21). God’s kingdom is the place of abundance where every generous act overflows its original bounds and becomes part of the unbounded grace of God at work in the world (see 2 Cor. 9:10-15).”
(Henri Nouwen)



Quaker Corner

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 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."



High Point Friends School is off and running for the new 2024-2025 school year! Here are some updates on what is happening. We continue to deeply value the partnership we have with the school and look for ways to collaborate our Quaker witness in the community.



- Rob Kelley is the new Head of School and has been active getting to know students, staff, parent community, as well as leaders within the High Point community. He and his wife, Ann, live in High Point.
- The High Point Friends School Board of Trustees are - Kaye Bonnicks (Clerk), Stephanie Strawn (Co-Clerk), Katherine Buxton (Recording Clerk), Glenn Dahlen (Treasurer), Keith Lambeth, Hanna Moore, Anita Turner, Scott Wagoner (Ex-Officio)
- One of the new parts of the schedule that Rob Kelley has instituted is that of a short convocation every morning as the students arrive. They meet for All-School Meeting for Worship every Friday in the Haworth Chapel and Scott leads this with the collaboration of students and staff.
- Scott and Rob will be making plans mid-September to meet with other Quaker leaders and pastors in the community as well as other leaders in the High Point area. If there is someone you feel it would be helpful for Rob as Head of School to meet and connect with, please let Scott know and he'll add it to their schedule.
- The school will be planning a Fall Festival in October which will look a little different from previous years. Rob Kelley welcomes and invites the meetings participation and engagement for the school events so that we can strengthen our partnership. We will let Friends know the details once they are finalized by the school.

As a reminder, this is the mission of High Point Friend School that appears on their website:

"Welcome to High Point Friend School! We are committed to think critically and solve problems, not just in school, but in our world. We cultivate a community that is welcoming and inclusive of people from all backgrounds. We develop leaders who will leave HPFS and make a positive difference in our community and the world. We practice service and grow servant leaders who are good stewards environment and loving of our neighbors." Welcome to High Point Friends School! We are committed to creating scholars who think critically and solve problems, not just at school, but in our world. We cultivate a community that is welcoming to and inclusive of people from all backgrounds. We develop leaders who will leave HPFS and make a positive difference in our community and the world. We practice service and grow servant leaders who are good stewards of our environment and loving of our neighbors. Welcome to High Point Friends School! We are committed to creating scholars who think critically and solve problems, not just at school, but in our world. We cultivate a community that is welcoming to and inclusive of people from all backgrounds. We develop leaders who will leave HPFS and make a positive difference in our community and the world. We practice service and grow servant leaders who are good stewards of our environment and loving of our neighbors.

Singing for Shepherds

Sunday, September 15

An all-day, drop-in event on Zoom

What is it?

It's a day to learn about, celebrate, and raise money for Turkana Friends Mission and Samburu Friends Mission, both located in western Kenya, both under the care of Friends United Meeting..

Who can join?

Anyone! Entire groups, such as whole meetings or churches, are especially encouraged to join. You can do this during social hour, religious education classes, or even for half an hour during a meeting for business. But families and individuals are also warmly welcome.



Why is this event happening now?

- The Turkana and Samburu people are pastoralist. They are adapting to a modern economy and, more
- pressingly, to changes in the weather patterns in the area that have caused
- many animals to die in the past few decades. The two missions are focused
- on supporting these changes through local leadership, and it's very important
- that their costs be met consistently

Do we have to come at a particular time?

- No – definitely not! When you register, you'll receive a link for a nine-hour event (9am-6pm Eastern, 6am-3pm Pacific). You do not have to come for nine whole hours. Choose for yourself when you'd like to drop in, and then just do so.

How do I register?

You can register by going to tinyurl.com/singingforshepherds

[Or Click Here!](#)



Around the Meeting

As part of the newsletter, we would love to highlight news, events, and moments of celebration that have to do with our meeting members/attenders. This will help us get to know one another and deepen our sense of community and our friendships. If you have good news, announcements, and celebrations that you want included in the newsletter, you can send them to Nichole in the office at office@highpointfriends.org

Here are some updates from "around the meeting" for this month...

- Candace Heer continues to live at Piney Grove Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Kernersville, NC. If you would like to send her a card or note, her address is: 728 Piney Grove Road, Kernersville, NC 27284.
- **Updated Address Directory** - We are presently updating our Address Directory so that we can have it out by Fall. There is a copy of the update rough draft on the table right outside Ragan Fellowship Hall where we sign cards for meeting members. You can look through it and make sure the office has your correct contact information. If something needs changing or editing, please feel free to do it on that copy. If everything is correct, simply put a checkmark beside your name.
- **Maintenance Update** - A new heat pump was installed that will service and provide AC/heat for the Music Room. This is the room that is right beside the kitchen and just off of Ragan Fellowship Hall. We will also have a few trees trimmed around the playground area as well as a dead tree taken down that has damaged the fencing due to falling branches. This will be done on Labor Day while school is out.
- Scott and Lynda will be traveling to San Francisco first part of September to visit their daughter and son-in-law (Erin and Avery) and celebrate their granddaughter's (Maisie) 3rd birthday!



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's make a joyful noise together!

Announcements

Stewardship Snapshot

Financial Report YTD January-July 2024:

Budgeted	\$ 171,967
Contributions:	\$ 126,646
Shortfall	\$ -\$ 45,321

Guest Speaker

On Sunday, September 8th, Heidi Minor will be the guest speaker in our 10AM meeting for worship. Heidi and her husband, Bruce, are active members at Deep River Friends Meeting. Heidi has been in leadership roles at Deep River Friends through serving on Ministry & Counsel and Quaker Women. Heidi values deeply the Quaker witness and often seeks direction and guidance through stillness and contemplative practice. As an avid walker, she often posts beautiful pictures of nature and God's creation. We look forward to her vocal ministry. Scott and Lynda will be in Richmond, California that Sunday visiting their daughter and son-in-law and celebrating their granddaughter's 3rd birthday.

Meeting for Business Sunday, October 20th,

We'll have our regular quarterly Meeting for Business on 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.

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 it's historical context as well as it's 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 resources, 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, Karen Lester, Colon Farlow, 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**