



THE FRIENDLY LIGHT **December 2024**

Tradition and New Opportunities

Not all traditions are bad, particularly those that seem to connect us to important memories as well as deepen within us the meaning of the season. To that end, I want to personally invite you to a favorite tradition at High Point Friends – the **Annual Christmas Candlelight Worship** that will be held on **Sunday, December 22nd, beginning at 5PM**. The evening offers a worship filled with the singing of Christmas carols, readings, and music offered by our choir and guest musicians. It's a special time for deepening ourselves into the Christmas season and a perfect way to begin your Christmas week. After the worship, there will be a time of refreshments and fellowship in Ragan Fellowship Hall. Invite your family and friends and join us for this wonderful tradition.

Along with new traditions are new opportunities, and one that I would like to share with you is the new **Center for Spiritual Deepening and Development** offered through High Point Friends Meeting. Now, to be honest, this is a dream I've had for the last couple of years but never felt it was the right moment to launch it. I shared it with Ministry & Oversight a couple of years ago but along the way, other projects and responsibilities came up. *But now feels like the right time since it's my belief that spiritual formation is a very important part of our spiritual development and learning spiritual practices to nurture spiritual formation and development are integral.*

Birthdays

12/4

Camille Turner

12/5

Greg Sheets

12/11

Carol Albright

12/20

Ed Kearns

Anniversaries

December 21

Willie & Carlene Davis

December 27

Johnny & Anne Compton



The Center for Spiritual Deepening and Development will be an extension of the ministry of High Point Friends Meeting as we seek to offer to our community experiences, retreats, gatherings, workshop around such themes as prayer, contemplative practice, discernment, silence/solitude, and connecting our spiritual lives with nature, to name just a few. *If this is something you feel you would want to have a part in developing with me, get in touch with me and let's dream together!* I hope to begin launching this in the new year.

And between the traditional experiences and the new opportunities, it's my hope and prayer that we will continue to grow as a community in relationship with one another. In other words, deepening our friendships, extending our care, looking out for one another, and caring for one another in a way that helps others to feel seen, heard, valued, and accepted. If there is one thing folks are seeking now in their life, it's a sense of belonging. They want to feel as if they belong somewhere and for a greater purpose. They want to experience a community that receives and accepts them. They want to belong to a great mission and vision. Most of all, we want to help others find relational connections, so they don't feel as if they are doing life all alone.

During this season of giving and joy, Lynda and I are very grateful for what you have given back to us in your friendship, support, encouragement, and affirmation. You bring us great joy and for that, we are grateful. To all of you we offer you and joyful "Merry Christmas!"

With Joy and Gratitude

Scott



Quaker Corner

Welcome

We want to welcome our newest member to the High Point Friends Meeting family, Michael Cushwa. Michael has been worshipping with us now for the past couple of months and finds that the Quaker journey and faith speaks to his condition. We're grateful for Michael's gifts and presence at High Point Friends Meeting.



The Lord showed me, so that I did see clearly, that he did not dwell in these temples which men had commanded and set up, but in people's hearts... his people were his temple, and he dwelt in them.

George Fox



Quaker Query/Advice of the Month

How can we make the meeting a community in which each person is accepted and nurtured, and strangers are welcome? Seek to know one another in the things which are eternal, bear the burden of each other's failings and pray for one another. As we enter with tender sympathy into the joys and sorrows of each other's lives, ready to give help and to receive it, our meeting can be a channel for God's love and forgiveness.

(from Britain Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice)



We had a great time of fellowship and food on Sunday, November 24th, for our Thanksgiving Carry-In. Following meeting for worship, folks gathered in Ragan Fellowship Hall for a feast of food and gratitude. It was good to feel the positive and hopeful energy as High Point Friends Meeting continues to grow and welcome in new folks. If you were not able to make it, we missed you!

We hope to schedule more simple carry-ins in the future as we work to deepen our relationships and sense of community.





High Point Friends School invites you to join students as they sing carols on Tuesday, December 17, beginning promptly at 6:00 p.m. Following caroling, we'll have cocoa and watch the 1966 animated version of Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, which runs for 26 minutes!



High Point Friends School has had a busy fall! They have been putting the Quaker values of service and community into action with trips to West End Ministries to help move items from storage to the thrift store, and to Providence Place where they sang "Peace Like A River" and helped residents create door hangers for their rooms.



Upcoming Events



Christmas Candle Light Worship December 22nd at 5pm

This is always a special evening of Christmas and sacred music offered by our choir, guest musicians, and our own musicians. Afterwards, there is a time of fellowship and refreshments in Ragan Fellowship Hall.

Start your Christmas week with family and friends and join us on December 22nd!

Friends World Committee for Consultation Prayer

This past year, the Friends Committee for Consultation (FWCC) met in South Africa for their World Gathering. This was a time for Quakers/Friends all over the world to gather and worship together as well as dream together about the good work Friends can do in the world. Out of that gathering came this prayer:

God of love and grace, we are a beautiful and broken people living in a beautiful and broken world.

We confess that we have fallen short in caring for each other and for creation. As a faith community we ask you to forgive us for neglecting creation, and for inflicting grace injustices upon one another.

Give us the courage and wisdom to move forward boldly. Grant us the strength to seek each other's forgiveness, and the love and courage to hold both pain and possibility in our hearts.

We ask you to send us on a new journey with our fellow humans and all your creates in the spirit of ubuntu. Amen.

If you would like to find out more about FWCC, you can visit their website at www.fwccamericas.org.





Announcements

Since early Spring, a new church plant in High Point, Immanuel Church of High Point (PCUSA) has been meeting in our Haworth Chapel every Sunday at 11AM. Beginning January 1, they will be moving over to the Girardi Room at High Point Friends School. This offers them a bit more space for their worship and programming purposes. We feel this will be a benefit both to their growing congregation as well as High Point Friends School.

Stewardship Snapshot

Financial Report YTD January–October 2024:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| January 2024 - October 2024 | |
| Approved Budget | \$ 245,667 |
| Contributions | \$ 180,293 |
| Shortfall | \$ 65,374 |



Send some
Love



Candace Heer continues to reside at Piney Grove Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. If you would like to send her a card, their address is 728 Piney Grove Road, Kernersville, NC 27284. She would welcome and appreciate your cards!

Charles Reihls has been at home at dealing with some recent health issues and he also continues to be on the wait list for a kidney transplant. Cards can be sent to 4982 Brown Street, Trinity, NC 27370.

Colon Farlow has not been able to come to meeting for worship recently due to health issues. He is at home and has family assisting him. He welcomes cards and phone calls. His address is 3764 Edgar Road, P.O. Box 127, Sophia, NC 27350.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Bible Study at 10AM in Ragan Hall.

Beginning in December, the Tuesday morning 10AM weekly Bible Study will begin a new exploration around the theme of *Christ in Creation*. This study will focus on creation and how it reflects the goodness, love, and wisdom of God. This study is open to anyone and study guides are provided. We use the *Illuminate* study guide published by Barclay Press (Quaker publisher)

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

Please keep these friends in prayer

Nancy Murr and Family- Continued prayers for Nancy and the Murr family as they grieve the passing of Nancy's husband, Gene.

Charlies Riehs- For a new kidney and a suitable donor will be found for him as well as other health issues Charles has struggled with in the past few weeks.

Candace Heer - As she continues to settle in at Piney Grove as well as recover from her stroke back in April and attend to personal matters in the future.

Theron and Eloise Farlow - For their continued health and wellbeing and for Carmen Farlow as he attends to them as their main caregiver.

If you have a prayer need or request you would like to have shared with the meeting, you can send it to office@highpointfriends.org or call the office at 336-884-1359.



HIGH
POINT

friends

MEETING

800 Quaker Lane
High Point NC 27262
Phone: 336-884-1359
www.highpointfriends.org

Meeting Clerk-- Hanna Moore

Pastoral Ministers-- Scott Wagoner

Organist-- Carmen Farlow

Piano & Choir Director-- Wanda Simmons

Office Administrator-- Nichole Looney

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

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

The text "MERRY CHRISTMAS" is rendered in a classic, red, serif font. The word "MERRY" is on the top line, and "CHRISTMAS" is on the bottom line. The letters are highly decorative, with the 'M' and 'S' having large, elegant flourishes. The text is flanked by two clusters of holly leaves and berries. Each cluster consists of three dark green leaves and three red berries. A decorative green flourish, resembling a stylized leaf or scroll, is positioned below the word "CHRISTMAS".