



September 2025

# THE FRIENDLY LIGHT

## A note from Karin.....

Dear Friends,

It has been a whirlwind of activity since the week before school started on August 18th! During staff work days, Emily Martin (Assistant Head of School) and I co-facilitated a Peaceful Schools/Restorative Practices session, and I shared a slideshow about the Quaker testimonies during our staff training.

It was exciting to see everyone back on campus for the Family Picnic and getting to know all the staff, students, and families. And, of course, the first two weeks of school have been busy and joyous. I am adjusting to my new schedule and a significant uptick in activity on the days when I am at the school! It is a blessing and a privilege to spend time teaching children ages 2 years old, all the way up through 8th grade all about Quakerism.

September 21st is International Day of Peace and we plan to spend the entire month of September learning more about the peace testimony. September 22nd will be an especially exciting day at school as the High Point Rotary will install a Peace Pole! We will spend part of the day doing fun activities, singing songs of peace, and signing our peace pledges.

Things are picking up at the meetinghouse too. Next Sunday, September 7th, I will bring the prepared message. However, I've decided to reschedule Hugs & Cookies with GrandFriends.

## Birthdays

09/03

Carl Wright

09/10

Leigh Ann Venable

09/11

Judy Burton

09/15

Hannah Moore

9/18

Stephanie Weimer

9/19

Karin Heller

9/20

Adam Buxton

Phillip Fulton

9/26

Karen Fulton

9/29

Keith Anderson

## Anniversaries

9/21

Greg & Vickie Sheets

9/30

Ed & Cindi Kearns



Rather than hosting this event at the meetinghouse at the rise of meeting for worship on the 7th, I thought it might be more meaningful to meet families and students where they are on the evening of September 4th, at 5:30 p.m. in the Athletic Center at High Point Friends School. That evening the school is hosting a “Meet the Teacher” event. We are already planning to enjoy some cookies, so all we need are a few GrandFriends to offer hugs and support.

This will also prevent High Point Friends Meeting from having two weeks of special events in a row, and will ensure that there are, in fact, families to hug! If you are available to join us, see some adorable families and children, and offer a hug or two, please let me know. [kheller@hpfs.org](mailto:kheller@hpfs.org) or (336)337-9836

Thank you to everyone who volunteered for the event when it was scheduled for the 7th. I apologize for the inconvenience, and understand if you are no longer able to attend. A new, revised flyer is included in the newsletter.

Last but not least, please mark your calendars and plan to join us in Ragan Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 28th at the rise of 10 a.m. Meeting for Worship where I will share the first of many monthly installments of Godly Play stories. vGodly Play is a creative, imaginative approach to Christian formation and spiritual guidance. It has a Montessori foundation with 40+ years of research and practice that values process, openness, discovery, community and relationships. Godly Play models the worship life, stories, symbols and rituals of Christian congregation and nurtures participants to larger dimensions of belief and faith through wondering and play. To learn more, you can visit the website:

<https://www.godlyplayfoundation.org/> Be sure to join us on September 28th, and mark your calendar for the second Sunday of each month beginning in October.

For the remainder of 2025, those dates are: **October 12, November 9, and December 14.**

I look forward to seeing you all then!

Warmly,

Karin Heller




# Quaker Corner

## Quaker Query/Advice of the Month

Take time to reflect on this query throughout the month and pay attention to how it speaks to your condition and how it challenges us as a Quaker community.

"We are called to live 'in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars'. Do you faithfully maintain our testimony that war and the preparation for war are inconsistent with the spirit of Christ? Search out whatever in your own way of life may contain the seeds of war. Stand firm in our testimony, even when others commit or prepare to commit acts of violence, yet always remember that they too are children of God."

(Britain Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice)



**War has no cause except the  
intention of governments  
to resort to it.  
~ Ira De Augustine Reid**

## Update from Scott

Dear Friends,


As most of you are all aware, the world for Lynda and I changed very dramatically on Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. That's the day Lynda received a CT Scan report indicating concerning masses in her pancreas and spleen. Since that day, it's been a whirlwind of doctor visits, medical tests, and consults. Where it has ended is Duke University Hospital. In Monday, September 1, we came to Duke Hospital where Lynda was admitted so that she could have a stent placed in her bile duct which was being obstructed by the pancreatic mass. Since that procedure, Lynda has felt much better and is able to eat solid food.

What we are waiting for now is the conclusive pathology reports that will determine what kind of cancer we are dealing with and then the appropriate treatment for that cancer. As I write this, all of that is still unknown. It has been an emotional roller coaster since we've arrived at Duke. There have been at least four different specialists involved and a daily regimen of labs and Dr. visits that start around 6AM in the morning. Through it all, we have felt your prayers and your love. You have sent us texts, email, cards, and messages on social media reminding us of your love, care, and support, and it means so much to us. We can't thank you enough!

I have been staying with Lynda at the hospital so I can be available to help her as well as hear what the Doctor's are saying as well as ask my own questions. I've been able to make a couple of trips home to collect some items, fresh clothes, and check mail. As this journey progresses, we have no idea at this point what our schedule will entail. It's my intention to keep you as our faith community updated as much as possible. Our daughter, Erin, has set up a Caring Bridge site for folks to also check on updates that we have provided, and Erin also provides.

I also want to thank many of you for your willingness to "step in" as Lynda and I navigate the next few weeks. Karin Heller just came on staff in June and already she has been willing to take on extra roles such as offering the prepared message on Sunday morning. Nichole Looney, our Office Administrator, has been tremendous in managing the office and working with me long distance as we communicate via phone and computer. Also grateful for Willie and Carlene Davis as they manage the meetinghouse. And there are so many of you that are also offering your presence and willingness to assume a role or cover an area and step in to help. You are all tremendous and amazing!

We continue to welcome your prayers and your Loving Light. We miss being part of the regular rhythm of High Point Friends meeting life right now, and we look forward to when that can happen again.

With Hope 





## Choir Rehearsal Schedule

The choir is back to its regular rehearsal schedule. They rehearse every Wednesday beginning at 5:15PM and meet in the Worship Room (Sanctuary). They are all ready working on pieces for Thanksgiving and Christmas. If you can give a little time (and your voice), the choir welcomes new singers! We appreciate what they and Wanda bring to our time of worship.

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## Volunteer Opportunities

In our recent Meeting for Business held on July 27, we discussed ways to invite folks at High Point Friends to offer their gifts and abilities back to the meeting through acts of volunteering. Here are some opportunities and ways that could happen. As you look at this list, if there is anything that you might feel led to do or offer, just contact Nichole at the office ([office@highpointfriends.org](mailto:office@highpointfriends.org) / 336-884-1359) or reach out to Scott.

~ *Planting flowers in the Flower Boxes and as well as around the main Meetinghouse area*

~ *Pressure washing / cleaning out the Picnic Shelter*

~ *Trimming the hedges around the Columbarium area*

And for worship, we welcome folks who would be interested in reading the Scripture or serving as an Usher or greeting folks as they arrive. We are also exploring the possibility of upgrading our camera system for our livestream and this would need at least 2-3 folks willing to be trained to operate it on a Sunday. It would take just one person but we would want to make sure that each Sunday is covered as best as possible.

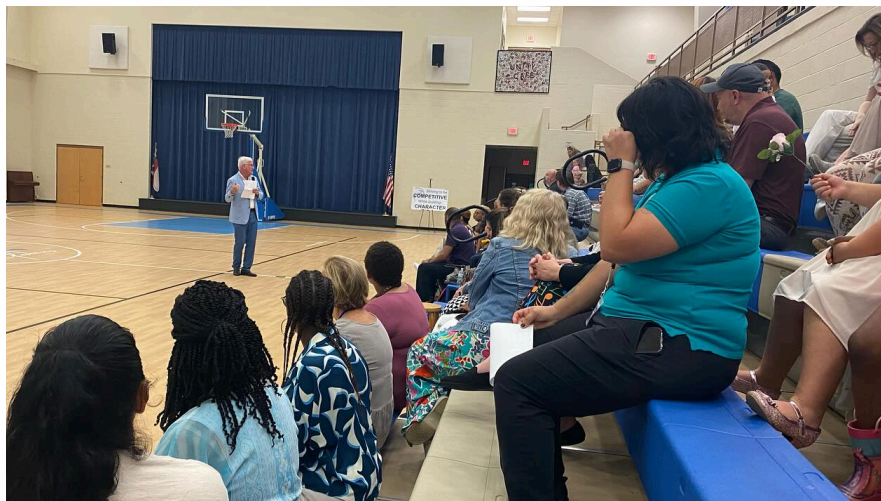






# School Snapshot

Meet the Teacher Night—an opportunity for families to visit their student's classroom and hear more about curriculum and routines. Our teachers feel so supported by our wonderful families and we hope our families feel the same!

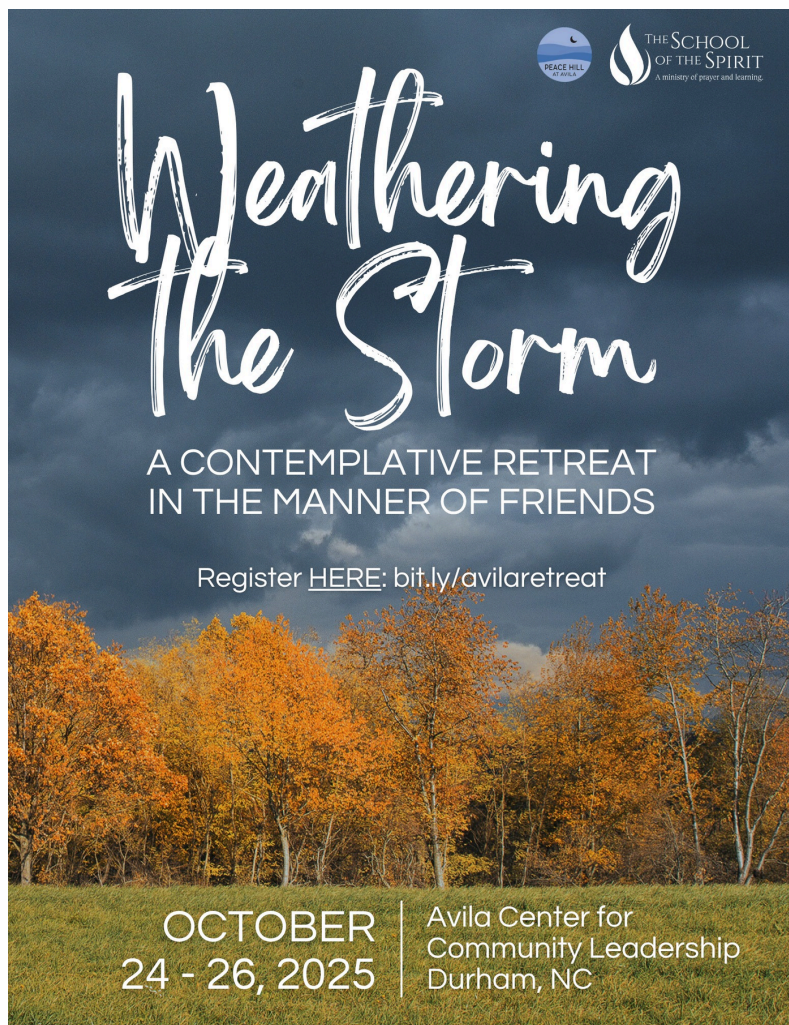


Fridays at High Point Friends start off in the Meeting House chapel. Students experience their own Meeting and have a centering moment before classes begin.

It only takes a moment in Ms. Dana's 3s classroom to recognize her expertise in creating a peaceful space where learning is happening all the time. Even snack can become a moment of mindfulness for our little ones! Learn more about her work by following her YouTube channel: [@DanaFuller-e4e / Miss. Dana's Classroom](#)







## Save the Date

### October 24-26 2025

Join us for “*Weathering the Storm*,” Oct. 24-26, 2025, at the Avila Center in Durham, North Carolina. Together we will reflect upon the storms that we are now encountering, whether in our nation, community, or as individuals.

**Learn more and register for this retreat which will be led by April Allison, Maryann Concannon, and Scott Wagoner. *If you have question, see Scott!***

**Just copy [bit.ly/avilaretreat](https://bit.ly/avilaretreat) into your browser.**

## High Point Friends Online Giving Portal

Scan the QR CODE   
or go to the website below to donate  
securely from your phone or other  
smart device.



**<https://giving.servantkeeper.com/highpointfriends/1902>**

**\*Please let Nichole know if you have any questions or if you need help logging in!**

**Your support helps High Point Friends Meeting continue to fulfill  
its mission and ministry effectively.**

**Thank you!**

**Dear Friends of Good Will,**

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, the Israeli army carried out an incursion just outside the Ramallah Friends School gates. Explosions and gunfire were severe. For the safety of our students, staff immediately secured each building, moving children to the lower floors. Parents were notified by SMS that their children were safe.

The situation around the school was extremely dangerous. Tear gas canisters were fired into the area, making it very difficult for children and staff—especially those with allergies—to breathe. Snipers were positioned around the buildings, and alarmingly, a parent was fired upon when attempting to reach the school gates. Thankfully, she was able to reach safety inside. A gas canister also landed on the balcony of the main administration building, though by grace no one was injured.

As of now, the military has withdrawn from the immediate area around the school. However, this remains a fluid and ongoing situation. The children are still shaken, families are anxious, and staff continue to exercise great caution in caring for those entrusted to them.

We ask Friends everywhere to continue to hold the students, families, and staff of Ramallah

Friends School in prayer. Your ongoing attention, advocacy, and intercession are vital in these troubling times. We will continue to provide updates as we are able.

In faith and hope,

**Kelly Kellum**  
**General Secretary**  
**Friends United Meeting**



Students taking cover in a Ramallah Friends School hallway during an Israeli army incursion into Ramallah



## Heeding God's Call: Restoring Foundations



### Keynote Speaker:

Reverend Jennifer Copeland, PhD.  
Executive Director,  
North Carolina Council of Churches.

Topic: Immigration Concerns  
Message: "*For the Bible Tells Me So.*"

**Saturday, September 27, 3:30 pm – 6 pm**  
Jamestown Friends Meeting,  
509 Guilford Road, Jamestown, NC 27282

Representatives will be on hand from FaithAction International, Greensboro; Veterans for Peace, Raleigh; Friends Committee on NC Legislation. For more information or if your organization would like to be represented send an email to [jamestownfriendsmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:jamestownfriendsmeeting@gmail.com)

Please join us for an inspiring message followed by  
Music, Fellowship, and Hors d'oeuvres

Sponsored by: The North Carolina Peace Resource Center

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### High Point Friends Meeting Giving Update

As our part to offer awareness and transparency regarding the giving patterns and financial needs of the meeting, our Finance Committee offers this overview of the breakdown of Per Household Giving at High Point Friends Meeting

**\$1 - \$500 - 16 Households**  
**\$500 - \$1,000 - 10 Households**  
**\$1,001 - \$3,000 - 4 Households**  
**\$3,001 - \$10,000 - 8 Households**

This is from January 1 of this year through July 20. A total of 38 Households contribute on a regular basis.

### Stewardship Snapshot

Six Month Financial Update  
January 2025 -June 2025

Approved Budget	<b>\$ 150,124</b>
Contributions	<b>\$ 113,598</b>

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Shortfall To Date	<b>-\$ 36,526</b>
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# Center for Spiritual Deepening and Development

## *High Point Friends Meeting*

“To live contemplatively means simply to approach life with openness, availability, and growing responsiveness to the God who speaks in everything, to the God who speaks from the depths of our very selves, to the God who spoke us into existence.”

(Roger Owens, *Everyday Contemplative*)

Dear Friends,

It is my dream and hope to begin to offer experiences and gatherings (half-day retreats, book studies, Zoom gatherings, etc.) that offer opportunities for folks to explore the spiritual life in a deeper way if one feels led to do so. The Quaker author, Richard Foster, wrote many years ago, “*The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people.*” I believe that to still be true today. Over the next few weeks and months, I’ll slowly introduce opportunities for Friends to participate in offerings that invite us into that deeper experience as well as the abundant life Jesus offers us.

With Gratitude

Scott

**Still Waters Contemplative Call** - Every Wednesday and Sunday evenings from 8:00PM - 8:30PM, I offer a simple contemplative prayer call via Zoom for anyone that would like to participate. I’ll include the links in our regular emails. Please feel free to join the call any time.

**Intentional “Pause & Pray” Wednesdays** - This is simply a day I invite each of us to give intention to pray for one another and the concerns for our world. We often open our Haworth Chapel from 10AM - 4PM for anyone that would like to use the space to sit and pray in the silence.





## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

### **Tuesday Bible Study at 10AM in Ragan Hall.**

Our weekly Bible Study has started a new focus of *Christ in the Stranger and the Outcast*. This study focuses on how Christ is present in our weaknesses and our pain and how we can experience Christ even in the wounded places of our lives. 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!**

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### **Intentional “Pause & Pray” Wednesdays**

We are opening our Haworth Chapel and Meeting Library from 10AM-4PM for anyone that would like to avail themselves of the space to simply be present and pray. We invite Friends to take time on these Wednesdays to pray for our world, one another, and our own personal needs and concerns.

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### **Please keep these Friends in prayer**

**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!

**Jerry White** – Jerry continues to recover from his recent radiation treatments. Pray for his continued recovery and good health.

**Judy Burton** – Judy’s brother, Gary Dobbins, passed away in August. We offer prayers for her comfort and peace.

**Mike Brown** – Mike is the brother of Myra Clodfelter and recently had major surgery to amputate his right leg below the knee due to severe infection. We offer prayers for Mike’s healing and recovery and for Myra as she provides presence and care.

**Lynda Wagoner** – As she recovers from her stent procedure, awaits biopsy results and begins her healing journey.



**HIGH  
POINT** *friends*  
**MEETING**

**800 Quaker Lane  
High Point NC 27262  
Phone: 336-884-1359  
[www.highpointfriends.org](http://www.highpointfriends.org)**

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**Meeting Clerk-- Hanna Moore**

**Pastoral Minister-- Scott Wagoner**

**Piano & Choir Director-- Wanda Simmons**

**Office Administrator-- Nichole Looney**

**Dir. of Intergenerational Ministries & Community Life -- Karin Heller**

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**Established in 1892  
133 Years of Service in the High Point Community**