

# THE FRIENDLY LIGHT

April 2026



## Birthdays

4/10

Rosa Albertson

4/12

Betty Jo Hayes

4/19

Stephanie Blair

Toby Sugden

4/23

Eddie Solomon

4/29

Nancy Murr

## Anniversaries

4/28

Joseph & Dianne Neal

## Resurrection Stories

*“The Gospels describe several incidents where the resurrected Jesus appears to his friends and followers. Each time, he meets them in the midst of their sorrow and fear – and then leads them from despair and fear into dawning wonder and exuberant joy. This sense of possibility does not ignore or minimize the world’s suffering.*

*Instead, it reaches out to embrace it with hope and love...the resurrection can be understood as a narrative about Divine power to revive the parts of our hearts and our world that have been wounded to the point of death.”*

**(Patrick Saint-Jean, SJ, The Spirituality of Transformation, Joy, and Justice)**

The resurrection stories didn’t enter a world absent of pain, sorrow, fear, grief, and uncertainty. On the contrary, the resurrection stories show up in a world in which there was great pain, sorrow, grief, fear, and uncertainty, along with oppression and persecution. It could be said that there was a palatable sense of death in the air among those who lived at that time. How could there not be? The crucifixions were actually pretty common and tradition has it that crosses with crucified folks hanging from them were often placed alongside well-traveled roads to remind the populace that it wasn’t a good idea to get too out of hand. There would be consequences, and those consequences were not good. It felt more like a culture of death than a culture of life.

There are some days we may feel as if we are living in the midst of deadness. We turn on the news and there are stories and updates of the most recent war or conflict or bombing. It feels almost so commonplace that we may sip our coffee and shrug our shoulders and turn the channel hoping to catch a story of a squirrel water skiing (*I think it actually exists...Google it*)



If it's not the national and international stuff, it's the very local stuff and by that I mean our own lives – the medical diagnosis, the uncertainty with our job, the struggles in our marriage, the deep sense of meaninglessness or purpose, the lingering grief, the anxiousness about the future, the ongoing recovery from an illness or injury, the financial stresses. *These are the realities we often live with, and they can eat away at our hope and faith and joy to the point that we feel, well, dead inside.* And maybe it's not as much as deadness as it is a sense of fatalism. The late Henri Nouwen describes it this way, "*Fatalism is the attitude that makes us live as passive victims of exterior circumstances beyond our control*". In a sense, we just give up and cease living intentionally. The resurrection, though, invites us to live a different story because it locates itself in the midst of living stories in the Gospels.

The resurrection happens in the midst of folks who are experiencing grief, doubt, fear, uncertainty, and even skepticism. These folks may not get it right away, but the sense is, over time, they begin to experience it inwardly. The outward resurrection event becomes an inward experience that raises to life new hope, faith, trust, and possibility. It becomes an inward experience that raises within us new dreams for our life and our world. As author Patrick Saint Jean puts it, "*...the story of the resurrection is a call to imagine – to see past the limitations of our world to new vistas, to broaden our perspectives, to open our hearts and minds to the fullness of the Divine Dream...The seeds of possibility may grow slowly – but they are alive and real and present.*"

**My prayer this Easter is that we will all have a resurrection story to experience and share, and that High Point Friends will continue to be a resurrection story that plants seeds of possibility.**

Grace and Peace,

Scott

# 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. Especially during this busy time of year and season, how are you being invited to pay more attention to the world around you and your own “inner landscape”?

“Come regularly to meeting for worship even when you are angry, depressed, tired or spiritually cold. In the silence ask for and accept the prayerful support of others joined with you in worship. Try to find a spiritual wholeness which encompasses suffering as well as thankfulness and joy. Prayer, springing from a deep place in the heart, may bring healing and unity as nothing else can. Let meeting for worship nourish your whole life.”

(Britain Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice)

O Spirit of that early day,  
So pure and strong and true,  
Be with us in the narrow way  
Our faithful fathers knew.  
Give strength the evil to forsake,  
The cross of Truth to bear,  
And love and reverent fear to make  
Our daily lives a prayer!

~ John Greenleaf Whittier, 1807-1892



## A note from Karin.....

Dear Friends,

What a beautiful and exciting time of year it is. On days off, I have enjoyed long, warmer days in the garden. I know it's a bit early for some planting, but I can hardly resist spreading a few cooler weather seeds and hoping for the best.

That sentiment and experience holds for me here in my work at High Point Friends Meeting too. It has been such a joyful and welcoming thing joining and familiarizing myself with this community. I am so excited and eager to begin sowing more seeds in the form of events and/or programs. But I've also realized that it is still early. And so I am practicing patience and discernment, and "slowing my roll" so to speak. I appreciate your grace as I develop my sense of the needs of this specific community.

In contrast to my slow intentional listening in the meeting community, things continue to buzz along at High Point Friends School. That is life and work with children generally, I think.

I continue to teach Quaker Studies classes and lead all school worship each week. I've also had the pleasure of helping to organize and participate in a couple programs.

On March 2nd, HPFS hosted our first annual Peace Walk in partnership with High Point Public library. Over 50 friends of all ages joined us for a short story walk around the perimeter of the library, and fellowship in the sensory garden near the library peace pole.

And on March 27th, we celebrated Grand Friends Day. We sang and worshiped together, and grandfriends had the opportunity to visit their students' classrooms too. It was a lovely way for us to share and continue to build community.

In April, we will spend our time in Quaker Studies discussing the community testimony. The school is hosting an event for "The Little Giving Closet" on April 10th and 11th. You can learn more about that event, and "The Little Giving Closet" here,

<https://greensboro.macaronikid.com/events/699382883f8b9fcb0d0d873a/little-giving-closet-exchange>

High Point Friends School will also celebrate Earth Day together on Thursday April 23rd. I'll share updates as they become available.

Friends, whether this season is bringing you slow intentionality, busy buzzing, or both, I hope you are all enjoying these warmer spring days.

Warmly,  
Karin Heller





On Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, students, Friends, and families came together to serve as witnesses of peace in our community. This was our first annual Peace Walk and we look forward to spreading this joy in the years to come!

---

**GODLY PLAY**  
WITH FRIENDS  
**HIGH POINT FRIENDS MEETING**  
**800 Quaker Ln. High Point, NC 27262**

Please join us on *Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. in Ragan Fellowship Hall* for fellowship, refreshments, and Godly Play. This month we will share, 'Parable of the Sower'  
Please join us, and bring a friend!  
This is an intergenerational offering. We welcome and encourage Friends of all ages to attend.  
You can learn more about Godly Play on their website,  
<https://www.godlyplayfoundation.org>

**For more information, email Karin Heller at**  
**[kheller@hpfs.org](mailto:kheller@hpfs.org)**



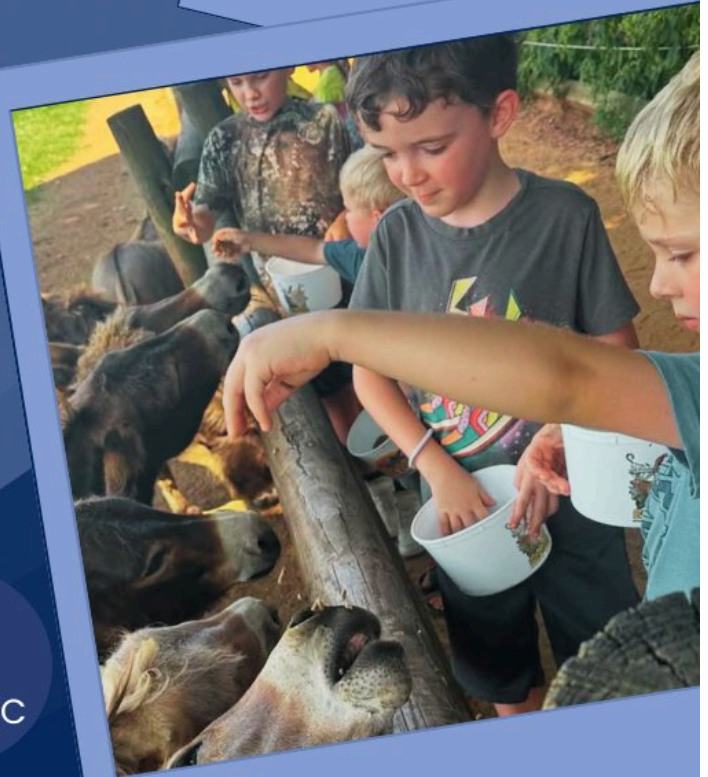
# HIGH POINT FRIENDS SCHOOL KIDS SUMMER DAY CAMPS



6 weeks of fun, educational experiences for children ages 2.5-10 years old. Rooted in Friends school values, our faculty and staff provide an inclusive and joyful environment.

Themed weeks include:

- Arts around the world
  - Dinosaurs
  - Wizarding world
- & more!



**Weekly: June, July 2026**  
**\$265 per week**

800-A Quaker Lane, High Point, NC

More information:

**[bit.ly/summerHPFS](https://bit.ly/summerHPFS)**

Contact Emily Martin with questions:

**[emartin@hpfs.org](mailto:emartin@hpfs.org)**

*Payment plans and half-day options are available to current HPFS families.*

**Enroll now!**

Space is Limited



*The Meeting House grounds recently had a much needed tree trimming. Our trees are healthier and safer after cutting all of the dead limbs. Our grounds are open to the neighborhood with many neighbors enjoying the peaceful setting while walking their dogs. We invite friends to spend some time in reflection under the beautiful canopy. We welcome our neighbors in the surrounding neighborhood to avail themselves of this green space that we are so fortunate to have as part of our meeting.*

---

*One of the blessings we experience as a Quaker faith community is a very functional facility and Meetinghouse. It's our hope and intention that we steward it in such a way that it provides a space a place for the spiritual nourishment of our faith community as well as a place of hospitality and welcome for the surrounding neighborhood and community. To that end, here are some ongoing projects to help maintain it's functionality...*

- Presently finishing up the repair of the air handler between the Kitchen and the Music Room. This will enable us to run the AC and heat efficiently.
- Installation of outdoor lights around the Columbarium area that will help illumine it at night as we provide a place of solace and peace for family members.
- Repair of the air handler that services our chapel (Haworth Chapel)

We hope to have a "Light Work Day" on a Saturday in late April or early May to spruce up the outside and help make it look welcoming (i.e., plant flowers in our flower boxes, clean up the flower beds, clear out cobwebs, etc.)

*At our Quarterly Meeting for Business in February, I (Scott) offered this proverbial “30,000 foot view” of our journey as a Quaker faith community over approximately the last five years. I tried to identify as best as possible our Celebrations, Challenges, and our Concerns.*

### **Celebrations - What can we celebrate?**

- ~ welcomed 30-35 new folks since 2021 / approximately 20 new households
- ~ refurbished the building so that its much more functional and available for use by our own faith community, the local community, and renters
- ~ grateful for resources that have been “bequeathed” to us - facility, funds, and Friends heritage
- ~ continued positive traditions such as the Candlelight Service
- ~ active weekly bible study
- ~ active virtual online community / livestream outreach
- ~ more connected with High Point Friends School
- ~ inviting Karin Heller to serve on staff at High Point Friends Meeting

### **Challenges - What are some of the challenges moving forward?**

- ~ shaping and forming a new culture with new folks joining our faith community
- ~ redesigning effective processes and systems that help us as a faith community manage our resources well as well as the gifts and talents each person brings
- ~ inviting all of us into deeper engagement with the Meeting based on availability, gifts, personal abilities, and personal calling
- ~ Living out fully the areas of Formation, Community, Service and our Vision Statement
- ~ managing change and being open to who we are becoming and not getting stuck on who we have been (*celebrating our history without getting stuck in the nostalgia of it*)
- ~ Engaging in outreach that fits our culture and doesn't tax us energy wise

### **Concerns - What concerns do we need to keep our eyes on?**

- ~ Stewardship concerns - Becoming a Generous Church / increased and consistent giving from our Meeting members/attenders
- ~ Deepening our spiritual life in very shallow world / paying attention to what is forming us - growing inwardly as well as outwardly - *how are we being formed in the way of Jesus and in the way of our own Quaker spirituality? What does it look like for us to intentionally live the testimonies of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and service?*
- ~ Burnout - making sure that 20% aren't always doing 80% of the work - *How can we invite more people to active engagement in the Meeting and welcome their involvement?*
- ~ pastoral care coverage and connecting with folks - *How can we make sure that we are offering adequate care, concern, and presence to those in our Meeting who need it?*

**My hope is that this will help initiate and prompt conversations within our Meeting so that we are able to discern wisely what our actions need to be and we can keep moving towards positive growth in our Meeting. The Quaker witness is a much needed presence in our world right now and High Point Friends Meeting can be a significant part of the witness! ~ Scott**



## Choir Rehearsal Schedule

The choir rehearses every Wednesday beginning at 5:15PM and meet in the Worship Room (Sanctuary). 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.

---

Thank you to all who have donated items for the West End Ministries Food Pantry. Don't forget that you can place non-perishables, canned food and personal care items in the donation box under the main bulletin board any time as we continue our support for the local community.



## 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>

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

**Thank you!**



# 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 meets every Tuesday morning in Ragan Fellowship Hall. This study is open to anyone and study guides are provided. We use the *Illuminate* study guide published by Barclay Press (Quaker publisher) **Our study for this quarter is focusing on the Gospel of Matthew.** There is always a lively discussion and conversation and plenty of space for each person to explore their own spiritual journey as well as support one another in their spiritual journey.

**Join us at 10AM on Tuesdays**

**Everyone is Welcome**

**& Coffee is always on!**

---

### 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.

---

### Please keep these Friends in prayer

**Betty Briles** is presently at Pennybyrn in High Point recovering from a recent car wreck. She is doing much better and the plans are to send her home soon where she can continue her recovery.

**Lynda Wagoner** continues to rest at home after her recent CAR-T Cell Therapy infusion. She continues to have weekly labs at the Duke Cancer Center and is scheduled for a PET Scan in May.

**Sam Gibson** has been home for the last few weeks recovering from a recent extended stay at the hospital in High Point. He has not been able to be with us in meeting for worship and his presence is missed.

**Joyce Wolford** – Joyce welcomes prayers from Friends as she anticipates a bone marrow transplant at the National Institutes of Health in the spring in her ongoing battle with a rare disease.

If there are other folks we have missed or need to add to our prayer list, please let us know at the office at [office@highpointfriends.org](mailto:office@highpointfriends.org)



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

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

---

**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**

---

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