

THE FRIENDLY LIGHT

October 2026

Birthdays

10/03
Scott Wagoner
10/04
Karla Townsend
Nichole Looney
10/06
Anne English
10/08
Rachel Buxton
10/09
Gary Turner
10/10
Elon Kerns
10/12
Ava Gray McMillan
10/17
Lynda Wagoner
10/19
Katherine Buxton
10/20
Jeff Albert
10/25
Bea Bowser

"Only once in a lifetime comes the privilege of helping to build a church that will stand for generations in the community for which it is built...When we build, let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for present delight nor for present use alone. Let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for; and let us think as we lay stone upon stone that men will say as they look upon our labor, 'See, this our fathers did for us'. "

(John Ruskin)

The above quote is taken directly from the Worship Bulletin for the Groundbreaking of our present Meetinghouse. That Groundbreaking was held on February 20, 1955, and about twenty months later High Point Friends Meeting had its Dedication Worship on October 14, 1956. During the month of October, we will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Meetinghouse and its ministry and presence at 800 Quaker Lane.

Each Sunday in October there will be a special focus as we celebrate this milestone as well as look to the future of who High Point Friends Meeting is called to become as we continue on in ministry and service in the community. A short description of what to expect for each Sunday is in this newsletter. I invite us all to soak ourselves in the history and story of High Point Friends Meeting so that we feel connected to the vision and legacy of those who worked hard to provide the Meetinghouse we are fortunate to inhabit.



Now, having said that about the Meetinghouse, it's always an important and refreshing reminder that the "Church" is more than a building. The "Church" is the people. This is why Quakers refer to their places of worship as a "meetinghouse" and not a "church". The founder and visionary of the early Quaker movement, George Fox, is reported to have stated it this way: "*The Lord told me that he did not dwell in these temples built by man; he dwells in the hearts of believers.*" For Quakers, the "church" is the people, and the "meetinghouse" is simply the place we gather to meet and worship and share in ministry and community together. To put it more pointedly, our address may be 800 Quaker Lane but our place, as a faith community and people of God, is out in the community and in the neighborhoods and in the midst of those who are struggling to experience belonging, love, hope, and peace. As I often like to say to folks who ask about High Point Friends, our calling and mission is to simply *make God's love real,* and we *"make God's love real*" when we come alongside those in our community who are lonely, hurting, struggling, and wondering if hope is even possible.

In the worship bulletin for the Dedication of the new Meetinghouse on October 14, 1956, there is this quote, *"History and tradition can serve us, but they cannot save us. Our life today must be ours, not merely an inheritance."* Those words from our High Point Friends Meeting forefathers and foremothers need to be heard and reflected upon, for they remind us how easy it can be to simply soak in the warmth of a nostalgic past and remember the "good old days", but it sounds as if our forefathers and foremothers would be a bit disappointed if that's where we settled. We may have inherited a building from them but we cannot inherit a robust, courageous, visionary, and faithful spiritual life. That can only be something we experience and work out for ourselves and demonstrate in the present times in which we live. May we celebrate 70 years at 800 Quaker Lane but may we also look forward to the future with the same vision, courage, and faith that inspired folks before us to dream, develop, and build our present Meetinghouse.

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 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"?

Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life. Bring the whole of your life under the ordering of the spirit of Christ. Are you open to the healing power of God's love? Cherish that of God within you, so that this love may grow in you and guide you. Let your worship and your daily life enrich each other. Treasure your experience of God, however it comes to you. Remember that Christianity is not a notion but a way.

(Britain Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice)

Quaker Glossary

Quakers will often use terms and words that are unique to our expression of faith. These terms often have real intention around them as a way of bearing witness to our faith and the Quaker way. Here are a few...

Gospel Order - For early Friends, the term "gospel" was not a matter of accepting certain tenets of belief but, rather, was faith that one could live in the actual life, power, and reality of a relationship with God. The word "order" refers to the characteristics of daily living which flow from God's life and power which allow the comunity to maintain and deepen its relationship with Christ. The patterns of life, the "order" of one's life, were an outgrowth of that relationship with Christ.

Leadings - In Quaker spirituality, leadings are the single most important way that God is potentially present in our lives. A leading is more than a mystical sense of God's presence. It is an invitation to transformation with its inward yielding to the divine intiative. Leadings invite from us an experience of deeper spiritual growth and transformation. It is being aware of the Spirit's movement in our life and how we are being led by Spirit in our life.

A note from Karin.....

Dear Friends,
I truly do not recall a time when I have felt more relieved to welcome Fall and cooler temperatures. Happy October!
This is a special month for Friends as we celebrate World Quaker Day on October 4th. And it's particularly special for us at High Point Friends Meeting as we are also celebrating 70 years in our beautiful building and grounds at 800 Quaker Lane.
There is so much special about this place. But one of my favorite things is our breathtaking front lawn and grounds. Truth be told, I have been itching to utilize that space more since I got here. The opportunity has arrived.
On Saturday, October 17th, 1-3 p.m., High Point Friends School is hosting a Fall Family Picnic on the front lawn. There will be (vaccinated) farm animals and a bouncy house. Afterward, 3-5 p.m., High Point Friends Meeting is hosting our own Fall Fun Day. Bring a blanket or camp chair, your favorite game, and join us for a camp fire, s'mores, pumpkin decorating, and games. All are welcome at both events and we hope you will join us. You can find a flyer for the event in this newsletter.
You can also find a flyer for our next Faith & Play Story Sharing event that is taking place this coming Sunday, October 4th, at 11 a.m. in Ragan Fellowship Hall. This month I will share the story of Elizabeth Fry & The Women of Newgate Prison, an incredible story of faith and witness as we recognize World Quaker Day. I look forward to seeing you there!

Many Blessings,
Karin Heller



FAITH & PLAY

STORY SHARING AT
HIGH POINT FRIENDS MEETING

800 Quaker Ln. High Point, NC 27262

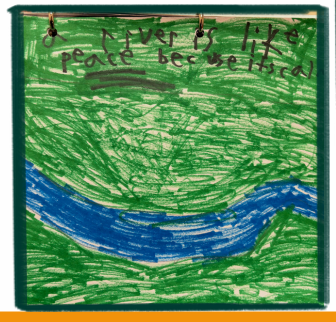
Please join us on *Sunday, October 4th at 11 a.m. in Ragan Fellowship Hall* for fellowship, refreshments, and Faith&Play. This month, in honor of World Quaker Day, we will share a story of Quaker witness, 'Elizabeth Fry & the Women of Newgate Prison"
Please join us, and bring a friend!
This is an intergenerational offering. We welcome and encourage Friends of all ages to attend.
You can learn more about Faith&Play on their website, https://quakerfaithandplay.org

For more information, email Karin Heller at kheller@hpfs.org



ELIZABETH FRY READING TO THE PRISONERS AT NEWGATE, 1823

September 21st was **International Day of Peace**, but High Point Friends School celebrated all week long. 3rd and 4th graders illustrated their own descriptions of peace—rainstorms, rivers, and peace as sweet as candy! Our k-2 students performed a song sharing peace with the rest of the school. And, our middle school students shared peaceful messages in origami creations to their younger Falcon Friends.
Aftercare didn't let a little rain ruin their fun, instead enjoyed a peaceful walk when the playground was too slippery.









HIGH POINT FRIENDS SCHOOL

"A man or woman has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when they plant shade trees under which they know full well they will never sit."
— D. Elton Trueblood

"Deepening Our Roots...Sharing the Fruits"
Deep Roots ~ Open Hearts ~ Shared Fruits

The month of October at High Point Friends Meeting is going to be a very special month. We will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of the present Meetinghouse in which we worship and offer ministry. The present Meetinghouse was completed in 1956, and the dedication of the Meetinghouse was in October of 1956. Each Sunday in October will have a particular focus connected both to High Point Friends Meeting as a local Quaker meeting as well as our wider Quaker family.

October 4 - *A Legacy of Love (World Quaker Day)* – The theme for *World Quaker Day* is "*Let Peace Be Among Us"* and we will kick-off our October focus by exploring what it looks like for us as a Quaker faith community to live with a courageous vision for the future.

October 11 - *A Legacy of Leaders* - The theme for our second Sunday will lift up and celebrate the legacy of leadership within High Point Friends Meeting over the past seventy years. This will include both pastoral ministry leaders as well as Meeting leadership and those who have been involved in the wider Quaker ministry. **During our 11AM hour, Max Carter will be sharing about the legacy of Quaker leaders in the High Point / Greensboro area.**

October 18 - *A Legacy of Service and Witness* – For this Sunday, we will celebrate the ways High Point Friends has offered service and ministry in the High Point community and beyond. We'll also invite Friends to vision how we can continue this legacy of service and witness in the present.

October 25 - *A Legacy of Generosity* – For our final Sunday, we will recognize and celebrate how Friends in High Point Friends have been generous over the years and their generosity makes it possible for us to offer ministry and worship and service in the present. How does this challenge and encourage us to be a generous congregation and leave our own legacy for the future. **Colin Saxton, a recorded Quaker minister and the Stewardship Theologian in Residence at Everence Financial, will join us to share what it looks like to be a generous congregation. He will share in 10AM worship and our 11AM hour.**

We will also be creating display tables that will highlight our High Point Friends Meeting history over the years. This will include worship bulletins, important letters, and lots of pictures! If you have anything in your possession that you feel would be meaningful to display, please let us know and we would love to borrow it for the month of October

There will be more that we will be sharing about our October focus over the next month through Sunday announcements and weekly emails. We hope that you will be able to make plans to join us as well as invite other folks to join us in October.



Friends Disaster Service October Work Project

North Carolina Friends Disaster Service is getting ready for our next rebuild trip, **October 11–16, 2026**, when we will be serving in Marion, North Carolina, through the Baptists on Mission facility. After recently returning from Spruce Pine, where our volunteers helped a family with five children continue rebuilding their home after Hurricane Helene, we are looking forward to another opportunity to put our faith into action and help families still working to recover.

We welcome volunteers of all experience levels. If you are a plumber, electrician, painter, have experience hanging sheetrock, or have other construction experience, your skills can make a tremendous difference. Just as importantly, you do not need construction experience to join us. If you have a willing heart and willing hands, there will be a place for you to serve.

We will meet **Sunday, October 11, at 5:00 PM** at Atlantic Country Buffet, 114 Morganton Heights Blvd., Morganton, NC 28655, before beginning our week of service.
If you are interested in joining us for all or part of the week, please contact Gary Dodson so we can plan for meals, lodging, and work assignments.
Every trip reminds us that rebuilding is about much more than repairing houses. It is about restoring hope and letting families know they have not been forgotten. We hope you will consider joining us in Marion and being part of this important work.
Thank you for your continued prayers, support, and service.

Contact: **Gary Dodson**
336-736-0845
2476 Beckerite Road
Sophia, NC 27350

6th Annual Arts and Crafts Fair



Tanya Bazemore organized the first Arts and Crafts Fair at **Springfield Friends** in the fall of 2020. From a handful of craftspeople, it's grown to 17 vendors! Join us on **Saturday, October 31st from 10:00 to 3:00**. Come browse and buy tables selling Christmas cards, hand-made decorations, wreaths, scrap booking supplies, wooden bowls, quilts and knitted goods, paintings and more!

The General Store will be selling baked and canned goods, chicken pies, cakes and candy. Feeling hungry? Stop by the kitchen for a delicious fried bologna or grilled cheese sandwich, home made soup or a cup of coffee!

NC Friends Historical Society

October 10, 2026, marks the 200th anniversary of the death of anti-slavery activist and "conductor" on the Underground Railroad, Vestal Coffin (1792-1826).

An ardent Quaker abolitionist in the Guilford County Quaker community, he helped form the state's first Manumission Society in 1816; aided in free Benjamin Benson's successful suit for freedom in court after he was kidnapped and sold into slavery; taught in the 1821 Quaker Sabbath School that surreptitiously taught enslaved persons how to read; and in 1819 with his wife, Alethea, aided free John Dimrey in his escape from kidnappers, the first recorded act in Guilford County of what became known as the Underground Railroad.

On October 10, the North Carolina Friends Historical Society invites you to learn about the Coffins and their early Civil Rights work. The program will be at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Library, 1420 Price Park Dr., Greensboro, site of the Coffins' farm in the 1800s. Featured speakers include:

9:00 a.m.: Introduction by Max L. Carter
"The Underground Railroad in Guilford County" —Gertrude Beal
"Vestal Coffin, Benjamin Benson, and John Dimrey" —Adrienne Israel
"Vestal Coffin and the Slave Deeds of Guilford County"— Jeff Thigpen, Register of Deeds
"The UGRR in culture, drama, and song" — James Shields, Director of Burlington's African American Cultural Arts and History Center
"Vina Curry and Alethea Coffin: interracial work on the UGRR" — Sarah Thuesen
11:00 a.m.: Walk to the "Witness Tree" in the Guilford College Woods, site of documented UGRR activity adjacent to the Coffin farm.
4:00 p.m.: Tour of the New Garden Friends graveyard (801 New Garden Rd., Greensboro) with a focus on sites connected with Vestal and Alethea Coffin, including the Coffins' graves and the site of the Sabbath School.
All events free and open to the public.
For more information, contact Max L. Carter, mcarter@guilford.edu







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) **Starting September 15 we will be focusing on the Gospel of Mark.** 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-2PM 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

Family of Betty Hayes- Please keep Toni and Tom Gray and the family in prayer as they continue to mourn the passing of long-time High Point Friends Meeting member, Betty Hayes. A beautiful Memorial Service was held on Friday, September 25, at High Point Friends Meeting.

Vickie Sheets- Please keep Vickie Sheets in prayer as she and her father, **Carroll Bowles**, mourn the recent passing of **Gerrie Bowles.**

Joyce Wolford - Joyce is back home after spending a few months at the National Institutes of Health following her recent bone marrow transplant. Both Joyce and Jerry are now acclimating to their "new normal" as she continues to recover and gain strength at home.

Michael Cushwa - Michael recently had to undergo amputation surgery on one of his legs (from the ankle down) due to ongoing health issues. Please keep Michael in your prayers for his continued recovery and healing.



HIGH POINT Friends MEETING

800 Quaker Lane
High Point NC 27262
Phone: 336-884-1359
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