

Friendship Times

Friendship Friends Meeting

(336) 854-5155

www.friendshipmeeting.org

Calendar

Sun, Aug 28	9 am Deeping the Life of the meeting 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Sept 2	9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sat, Sept 8	2 pm Memorial Service for Helen Parker, Friends Home Guilford
Sun, Sept 9	10 am Group Singing 10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
Sun, Sept 16	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Sept 23	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Tues, Sept 25	Last day to send newsletter material to Editor
Sun, Sept 30	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Oct 7	10:30 am Meeting for Worship

Weekly at 10:30 am each First Day, Meeting for Worship. Child care is available for Worship and Business Meetings. 7:30 pm Fourth Day, Midweek Meeting for Worship, in Prayer Room, 7th floor Woolman Hall, Friends Homes Guilford, occasionally followed by discussion at 8 pm.

9 am fifth First Day (when there is one), Extended Meeting for worship.

In this Issue

The minutes for Eighth Month's meeting for worship with a concern for business are in this issue. You will also find news from the library committee and some lesser known Quaker quotations to reflect upon.

From the Editor

My intention is to distribute the newsletter no later than the last Sunday of the month; this will be September 25th. Material should be submitted, preferably by email, no later than Tuesday, Sept 25.

Month's Query

Are we mindful of Friends testimonies against alcoholic beverages, tobacco and other harmful drugs; and do we refrain from using them or dealing in them, realize that abstinence is the clearest witness against overindulgence? Do we seek to avoid all kinds of gambling and places of diversion that tend to be demoralizing? Do we keep in mind how diverse and widespread are the temptations to grow richer at the expense of others? Are we faithful to our testimony against taking oaths?

Young Friends Ninth Month Birthdays

Artan Hebner,	9/2/07
Laurel Holland	9/6/03
Kerry Liam Hobson	9/12/08

Minutes

Eighth Month Meeting for Worship with
Attention to Business, August 12, 2012

Meeting began with a brief period of silent
worship.

Meetinghouse Renovations Funding Committee Report

Jim Hood presented a report from the Meetinghouse Renovations Funding Committee. The committee has been consulting with the City Inspections, the City Fire Department, and Richard Philips to explore what renovations we could legally do. Their immediate suggestions will not interfere with previous plans that have been approved for long-term renovations.

The report follows:

As an introduction to Friends, I would like you to know that over the past three years a committee has been at work trying to address the meeting's wish to consider renovation of the meeting. All of this was prompted by a concern for the capacity of the worship area, first day school, social gathering area and present location of the kitchen. The committee has considered many possibilities and run into various hurdles, yet we have remained diligent. We spent several meetings with a private firm determining what renovation needs we have and what they may look like. We have moved slowly mainly due to issues still unanswered but rest assured that we continue to cross each hurdle. We are not at a point to present a formal recommendation with projected cost but will do so when we find all obstacles have been

removed. We do feel, however, that there are some steps that can be taken that will enhance our meeting life.

We recommend that the present library be moved into the present office area. In doing this we can double the size of space for first day school, or provide two locations should there be a need to divide children by age. Since this incurs no cost and can be done by volunteers, we recommend that you consider this today and seek approval.

We would recommend consideration for moving the kitchen (at a later time) to the present office area. With this completed the library/office would move to the present kitchen area which would create a quieter area adjacent to the worship area. If the meeting approves this step we would proceed with getting cost estimates, with potential resources, for the project to be presented for your approval.

As you know there is considerable noise during worship that originates from New Garden Road. We would recommend planting low shrubs across the front of the property that would grow 3-4 ft. high and would serve as a buffer to noise. In addition we would keep the front porch, deck, and steps as they are while making any needed repairs and replacements. We would ask your consideration and if so directed we would proceed with getting cost estimates, with potential resources, for the project.

We would like to have others in the Meeting consider this report and include this as an on-going agenda item at future Meetings for Business.

Friends are pleased to hear this report.

A short addendum to the Membership Report was presented.

The addendum was approved and follows:

ADDENDUM TO REPORT BY MEMBERSHIP RECORDER - 8TH MONTH 2012

The updated directories were finally distributed electronically on July 17th, 2012 and 23 hard copies of the directory were made at a cost of \$18.16.

Handbook Committee Report

The annual report of the Handbook Committee was presented.

The report was approved with appreciation and follows.

The Handbook Committee, which consists of Claire Koster, David MacInnes and Ted Benfey, has met and updated the Handbook. Since there are only a few changes, there will not be a new printing of the handbook. An electronic copy has been sent to all on the email distributions list. Also, Friendship Friends Meeting is entering the twenty-first century and the latest version of the Handbook will, from now on, be on the Meeting website.

While the Committee believes that not many Friends actually read the Handbook, it would like to point out a very useful feature which comes at the very end - the Meeting Calendar. This will be found helpful to anyone serving on a committee as it gives the months in which that committee is to give its yearly report.

Please be reminded that the Handbook Committee is no longer responsible for the meeting directory which is now the purview of the Membership

Recorders who keep it updated and who distribute an updated directory in 6th month. Forty-five copies were sent out electronically.

Nineteen hard copies were printed and distributed to officers, clerks and Friends who do not have email. Five complete handbooks were printed for later distribution to attenders.

The cost of printing the five hard copies of the complete handbook to have on hand, and nineteen copies of the listing of officers, committee list and calendar was \$16.02.

Handbook Change, Hospitality Committee

A change is noted not currently in the new Handbook that Christy Hopkins stepped down as Clerk of Hospitality Committee at the beginning of the new term but remains on the committee as a member. Judy Reece will be the Clerk.

Membership Request

Friendships Friends has received a request for membership from Walt Denny, who will be relocating to Greensboro this fall. His letter was presented to the meeting by the Clerk. Care and Counsel has determined that his request for membership will be best considered when he arrives.

Treasurer's Report

Ray Treadway presented the Treasurer's Reports for the months of June and July. The summaries follow.

They were approved and accepted with gratitude.

Sixth Month

Fund	Income	Expenses
General	\$ 1,114.00	\$ 597,47
All Funds	\$ 1,214,00	\$ 597.47

Expenses of note during the month include sandwiches for Urban Ministry - \$88.88; printing newsletter - \$39.37; child care - \$78.00; social concerns event - \$49.40; donation to Quaker House of Fayetteville for operating expenses -\$100; electricity - \$78.97; gas - \$10.00; telephone - \$68.88; water and sewer - \$9.80; and maintenance of the meetinghouse - \$74.17. The Meeting received contributions to the emergency assistance fund - \$100.00.

Seventh Month

Fund	Income	Expenses
General	\$ 620.00	\$ 591.40
All Funds	\$ 670.00	\$ 591.40

Expenses of note during the month include books for the Library - \$19.95; child care - \$60.00; newsletter - \$22.22; sandwiches for Urban Ministry - \$33.64; printing of directory -\$18.16; regular donation to Quaker House of Fayetteville for operating expenses -\$100; electricity - \$78.97; gas - \$10.00; telephone - \$76.17; water and sewer - 14.43; and maintenance - \$157.32. The Meeting received contributions to the emergency assistance fund - \$50.00.

Our investment in Pax World decreased in market value a total of \$529.75 over the period between April 1 and June 30, but it did earn \$413.73 in dividends.

For the year (seven months) we have received \$8310 to the general fund in donations, while we should have nearly \$13,000 in order to maintain our budget for seven months. Checks can be made out to Friendship Friends Meeting and left in the collection basket in the Meetinghouse or sent to POB 8652, Greensboro NC 27419.

Consideration for a Change in Query Responses

The Clerk presented a proposal to be considered that we change the way we as a Meeting respond to the monthly Queries.

That the Queries be considered and response formulated in a meeting workshop outside of the Meeting for Business. This would take place between approximately 8:30am to 12:00pm on two occasions the dates of which would be suggested by the Ministry and Worship Committee. A bagel and sweet bread, coffee and tea set up for morning could be provided as well as a soup and salad lunch at the end of the session. The clerk would seek volunteers before the workshop to write a rough draft answer to each query: Those Friends writing the rough-draft responses before the Saturday meeting workshops would be called upon in a rotating manner. We may wind up approving the starter draft or come up with something entirely different according to how Divine inspiration moves among us. We would endeavor to answer at least six or more of the Queries in the first session and whatever number were left over in the second. The answers would be considered as approved by the meeting as our annual response and would be heard at yearly meeting for inclusion in the NCYMC

Minutes. Child care would be provided during the Query Workshop Sessions. The proposal was approved.

The meeting ended with a brief period of silent worship.

News from the Library

The meeting library has acquired a new book by Christopher Benfey, son of Ted and Rachel, titled *Red Brick, Black Mountain, White Clay: Reflections on Art, Family, & Survival*. Christopher is a superb writer and the subject matter (or matters) is so wide ranging among the themes named in the title that nearly everyone will find a link. But even if not, this is a lovely, stimulating read. Look for it by the north window in the library. If it's not there, then you will have to wait your turn! For those who don't know, Christopher is a Guilford College graduate and is on the faculty of Mount Holyoke College. This is his fifth book.

Lesser Known Quotations

Each month you will see a lesser known quotation or two from early and more recent Friends that remind us of the Quaker message as it came to Friends in the seventeenth century and as it's lasted to today. Selected by our member Patricia Loring, they are to stir your own reflection, meditation and discussion of what we are about at this time in our history.

The basis of Friends' social concerns is the same as the basis of Quakerism as a whole -- the belief in the within-ness of God. This is not original with Friends. Many other groups have believed that God is within as well as above and beyond man. However, the *emphasis* on the

within-ness of God in all human beings, in the capacity of the individual to communicate directly with God, to experience the spirit of Christ and express it in every aspect of life has led us to adopt patterns of behavior which may be considered distinctively Quaker.

This is the spiritual basis of the Friends' distinctive form of meeting for worship -- waiting in the Light for direct revelation of God's will for us. It is the basis for the distinctive form of meeting for business -- seeking unity in the Spirit. And it is the basis for all the social testimonies. For three centuries Friends have been exploring the application of this belief in the within-ness of God in all men to the problems of human relations and the end is certainly not yet.

A Quaker social concern seems characteristically to arise in a sensitive or very small group -- often decades before it grips the Society of Friends as a whole and as much as a century or more before it appeals to the secular world. ...

The concern arises as a revelation to an individual that there is a painful discrepancy between existing social conditions and what God wills for society and that this discrepancy is not being adequately dealt with. The next step is the determination of the individual to do something about it -- not because he is particularly well fitted to tackle the problem, but simply because no one else seems to be doing it.

Dorothy H. Hutchinson: *The Spiritual Basis of Quaker Social Concerns*, 1961.