

Friendship Times

Friendship Friends Meeting

Calendar

- Sun, Dec 29 9 am Extended Meeting for worship.
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Tues, Dec 31 9 p.m. New Year's gathering and worship to welcome the New Year. -- Meetinghouse
- Sun, Jan 5 9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns Committees meet
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Jan 12 10 am Group Singing
10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sat, Jan 18 8:30 to noon - Query Workshop
- Sun, Jan 19 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Forum on Vocal Ministry, sponsored by Worship & Ministry
- Sun, Jan 26 9 a.m Deepening the Life of the Meeting.
10:30 am Meeting for Worship
- Sun, Feb 2 9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns Committees meet
10:30 am Meeting for Worship

Weekly Meeting for Worship 10:30 am each First Day,. Child care available for Worship and Business Meetings., Midweek Meetings for Worship are held T on Wednesday, in the Prayer Room, 7th floor Woolman Hall, Friends Homes Guilford

In this Issue

In this issue, besides the usual business meeting minutes you will find our monthly lesser known Quaker quotation, a new box listing a monthly food to donate to the Food Pantry and some pictures of the Meeting Christmas party.

From the Editor

My intention is to distribute the newsletter no later than the last Sunday of the month. Material should be submitted, preferably by email, no later than Tuesday, Jan 21.

Month's Query

Query #1 *Do we faithfully uphold our testimony for worship which is based on silent waiting, and for a free and unprogrammed ministry that may be shared by all? Is there a living silence in which we feel drawn together by the Light of Christ, the power of God in our midst; and is this inspiration carried over into our daily lives? Do we come to meeting with hearts and minds open and ready to worship in silence or in vocal ministry or prayer as the Holy Spirit leads us? Does our Meeting encourage those who may have a gift in the spoken ministry?*

Minutes

12th Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Meeting began with a brief period of silent worship.

1. Treasurer’s Report

- Ray Treadway presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month of November.
- This will be Ray’s last month as treasurer, since Stephen Holland will assume the role of treasurer in 2014. We would like to express our great appreciation to Ray for serving as the Meeting’s treasurer for the past few decades.

Treasurer’s Report for Eleventh Month, 2013.

Fund	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
General	\$ 925	\$1,298	\$ 8,941
All Funds	\$ 1,725	\$1,416	\$ 16,983

Expenses of note during the month were the following: child care-- \$54.00, religious education supplies – \$32.75, newsletter expenses – \$17.20, sandwiches for Urban Ministry (four months) – 189.74, regular donation to Quaker House of Fayetteville for operating expenses –\$100; contribution to Urban Ministry of Greensboro – \$600.00; electricity – \$102.95; gas – \$57.04; phone – \$66.59; and water and sewer – \$14.93. In

addition, **\$500** was donated to the building fund and \$300 to the Emergency Assistance Fund, a reimbursement of \$50 to the Emergency Assistance Fund was received, and \$168.80 was distributed from the Emergency Assistance Fund.

In order to meet our budget of \$23,535 for the fiscal year 2012, the Meeting will need contributions of approximately \$9000 in Twelfth Month.

2. Annual Report from Worship & Ministry

As I sit down to reflect on our past committee year what has come to mind is, “do we continue as a committee to put our trust in God and the leadings of the Spirit?” As a committee we strive to conduct our business, as well as, spend a time of worship holding our corporate body in the Light and in prayer allowing an opening to continuing guidance and strength. As our Meeting community has experienced joys and sorrows, we are mindful to hold each other up and offer support as we can through the transitions and changes our members have experienced over the past year.

Our committee sponsored the annual Christmas Eve worship service at Friends Homes in Twelfth month 2012. Residence and Meeting members continue to find fellowship and joy in this worship time.

In Third month the All Meeting Retreat was held entitled, “Discerning our future space: what is our Vision for a Renovated or new Meetinghouse?” It was well attended and a fruitful endeavor which has moved our

community forward in plans to enlarge our space.

We sponsored four Quakerism 101 forums First month through Fourth month. The topics were: Clearness Committees, presenter Deborah Shaw; QLSP, presenter Evelyn Jadin; Biblical Basis of Quaker Testimonies, presenter Jim Rouse; Quest Quest, presenter Deborah Seuss. Often the forums are not well attended, however, we strive to offer topics of interest to newcomers and all members for opportunities to learn and grow in our spiritual walk and understandings of Quakerism.

We continue to be mindful of members who are unable to attend regular Meeting for Worship at the Meetinghouse due to illness or physical limitations or relocations. We have asked various members to gather for worship with members who are in nursing facilities or off sites, and on a regular basis remind members that we have a mid-week Meeting that meets regularly at Friends Homes Guilford. Regular attenders remind us of their desire to stay connected to the larger meeting members and encourage and welcome our attendance.

The current members of the committee are Carole Treadway, Deborah Shaw, Neil Swenson, Ann Rouse and Darlene Stanley.

3. Request of Transfer of Membership

- The clerk read a letter from Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting recommending Kim and Susan Carlyle for a transfer of membership to Friendship Friends.
- Their transfer of membership was accepted with great pleasure.
- The clerk will write a letter in response to Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting.

4. Meetinghouse Planning Committee report

- A sub-committee is meeting with Friends Homes this week to discuss the possibility of acquiring one or both adjacent properties.
- Once a response is received from Friends Homes, the committee plans to develop the available options and share them with the Meetinghouse Fundraising Committee, and the Meeting community.

5. Consideration of the Faith and Practice Revision Committee Questions

- Those present discussed the questions that the Faith and Practice Revision Committee has sent in order to share our responses with the committee.
 - How is this book now used in your meeting?
 - When do Friends turn to the Discipline and in what ways does it meet their needs (or fail to meet their needs) when they do?

We recognize that the Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice is a guide for Friendship Friends and not a set of rules. We appreciate the parts of the Faith and Practice that share the history of Quakerism and North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative), and the importance of the testimonies. Some Friends hope that this part of the *Faith and Practice* will be revised and expanded upon.

Members and committees have consulted the Faith and Practice to help determine procedures for Friendship Friends Meeting, such as membership and marriage. Friendship Friends gives copies of the Faith and Practice to new members. The Worship & Ministry and Care & Counsel committees discuss and reflect

annually on the queries for their specific committees. As a Meeting body, we read the advices annually, and hold semiannual workshops to answer the queries. Some members also use the individual queries for reflection in their private lives.

We feel much of the procedural sections of the Faith and Practice need to be revised and updated. Some members feel that the advices in the Faith and Practice are not in tune with the spirit of Friendship Friends. The language is sometimes archaic and not easily accessible.

5. Queries

- Friends felt that we would like to return to the practice of the clerk reading the monthly queries in Meeting for Worship, even though queries are now answer in semiannual Query Workshops instead of in Meeting for Business.
- Friends approved the proposal.

6. Communications Committee

- Friends expressed concern that we could do a better job with email and website communications. Friends are interested in a weekly email regarding community and meeting events, as well as a timely, well-maintained website calendar. The clerk will speak with the Communications Committee regarding these concerns.

7. Upcoming meeting gatherings and events

- Query Workshop 1st month 18th from 8:30 to noon
- Forum on Vocal Ministry, First Month third Sunday, sponsored by Worship & Ministry
- New Year's Eve gathering and worship from 9pm to midnight

Directory Updates

Wenceslao Orizabal, [630-337-4122](tel:630-337-4122)
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64 Bosworth, Glendale Heights, IL 60139

From Martha Lang

Greetings from snowy Easthampton, MA I am teaching part time at Smith College this semester. Please send my best to Carol and Friendship Friends. My email for now is mlang@smith.edu

New Book Group

Starting Tuesday January 7 at 7:00 pm at the home of Judy Purvis and John Schoonover, 1005 Ridgcrest Drive (2 blocks from the Meetinghouse). The book is *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor

Contributions to the general fund and to our special funds would be appreciated. Checks can be made out to Friendship Friends Meeting and sent to POB 8652, Greensboro NC 27419 or left in the contribution basket on the table just outside of the meeting room.

Friends World Committee for Consultation
 Section of the Americas

LET THE LIVING WATER FLOW! SECTION CONSULTATIONS IN 2014

In a departure from the tradition of holding an annual meeting in March, the Section of the Americas will offer four open consultations between February and April 2014 to examine together some mutually shared issues as well as topics of interest to each region. Continuing with the theme "Let the Living Water Flow! Friends serving God's purposes", all four conferences will offer workshops for Friends to develop our intercultural communication skills for intra-Quaker dialogue and our everyday

lives, and for supporting Quaker leadership in the 21st century.

When FRIDAY APRIL 11, 2014 AT 6:00 PM EDT TO
SUNDAY APRIL 13, 2014 AT 1:00 PM EDT

Where: High Point Friends Meeting, 800 Quaker Lane, High Point, NC 27262

Contact: Lisa Moran, lulu910@earthlink.net

Join Friends from the Americas for a weekend conference to

- learn new skills from one another to sustain and grow our meetings
- affirm our mutual Quaker identity
- consider the future of Friends as a while over the next century
- commit to practices to foster a thriving Religious Society of Friends.

Time: Program begins with supper on Friday evening and concludes with lunch after worship on Sunday. Breakfast on your own.

**Peace and Social Concerns
ACTION BOX**

Please bring in the following food item to go to First Friends Food Pantry during the month of January

Canned meat and fish

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 Quaker method is extremely simple. No intermediary, ritual or ceremony is required. Words are not essential. God does not need to be brought near for "Closer is He than breathing and nearer than hands and feet." It is the human mind and heart that need to be adjusted and made conscious of his presence. And as the sincere worshipper waits in silent meditation, or voices prayer or praise, he experiences this fresh sense of God, and with it a renewal of spiritual strength in communion with God and with his fellow worshipers. In such a setting, the whole meeting becomes a listening post for divine intimations and revelations.

North Carolina Y.M.: *Faith and Practice*.
1962, p 27

**Friendship Christmas Party
Pictures by David Brown**



Friendship Friends Meeting
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www.friendshipmeeting.org

Sidney Kitchens, Clerk
Stephen Holland, Treasurer
Claire Koster, Membership Recorder
Hannah Logan Morris, Recording Clerk

Neil Swenson, Co-Clerk
Ray Treadway, Assistant Treasurer
Hannah Morris, Asst Membership Recorder
Dave MacInnes, Newsletter Editor

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Address Correction Requested

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