

Friendship Times

Friendship Friends Meeting

Calendar

Tues, Feb 24	Worship with John Bowles
Fri, Feb 27	7-10 pm Game Night at the Meetinghouse
Sun, Mar 1	9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, House and Grounds, Peace and Social Concerns Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sat, Mar 7	2 pm Memorial Service for Clarence Parker in the Living Room, Friends Homes Guilford
Sun, Mar 8	10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
Thurs, Mar 12	6 pm Pathways dinner
March 13 – 15	PFF annual retreat
Sun, Mar 15	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sat, Mar 21	10 – 3 All Meeting Retreat
Sun, Mar 22	9 a.m. Deepening the Life of the Meeting. 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Tues, Mar 24	Deadline for March newsletter
Sun, Mar 29	9 am Extended Meeting for Worship 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 at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, in the Prayer Room, 7th floor Woolman Hall, Friends Homes Guilford.

In this Issue

In this issue, besides the usual calendar and business meeting minutes, you will find our responses to the first two queries, our monthly lesser known Quaker quotation, an announcement of our annual All Meeting Retreat, a report from the Fund Raising Committee and a report from the Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

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, Mar 24.

Month's Query

Query #3 Do we follow the teachings of Jesus and seek the inspiration of His Holy Spirit in our daily lives? Are love and unity maintained among us? Do we cultivate a forgiving spirit, and do we avoid and discourage needless and destructive criticism of others? When differences arise, do we endeavor promptly to resolve them in a spirit of love, honesty, and humility?

Minutes

2nd Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

February 8, 2015

Meeting began with a brief period of silent worship.

1. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report: Second Month Report for First Month Income and Expenses in 2015

Income in January was \$1,055 to the General Fund and \$100 to the New Building Fund.

Expenses in January 2015 totaled \$746.93. There were no operating expenses and no supporting contributions paid in January. Meeting House expenses totaled \$746.93 which included a \$570 annual payment for insurance.

Summary for January 2015

	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
General Fund	\$1,055	\$747	\$11,443
New Building Fund	\$100	\$0	\$7,135
All Operating Funds	\$1,155	\$747	\$26,838

2. Fundraising Committee Report

Annual Report to Friendship Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Fundraising Committee Members: Jim Hood and Kembra Howdeshell (convener)

The Fundraising Committee is responsible for raising funds for the construction of a new meeting room for Friendship Friends Meeting.

In September 2014, the Fundraising Committee presented a report to the Friendship Friends Meeting for Business on their joint meetings with the Building Committee regarding the estimated cost of a new meeting room and a strategy for fundraising. Following the September meeting, the Fundraising Committee has taken 2 steps. First, the Fundraising Committee held a series of 3 information sessions presented in November 2014 to inform members and attenders of the estimated cost to construct the meeting room and to address city code issues regarding water runoff on the meetinghouse property. The committee also presented its plan to determine what the meeting membership and attenders would be willing to pledge toward this project. Two information sessions were held at the meetinghouse on November 2nd and 16th and another session was held at Friends Homes on November 5th; each forum following the meeting for worship. Second, the committee has drafted a letter to be sent to the wider membership regarding this project. The letter includes examples of monthly payments for various pledge amounts over a 3-year or 5-year span. The committee is currently meeting with individual members of the Building and

Fundraising Committees to identify their pledge amounts. In this process, we are improving the letter and plan to include some details about the proposed construction project pending input from the Building Committee.

The Fundraising Committee will be preparing a poster of the meeting's fundraising goal depicted as a thermometer. The thermometer will be filled in monthly as pledges are made to provide a visible indicator of the meeting's committee to this project and to encourage all to contribute toward our goal of a new meetingroom. The thermometer will not list individual contributions, but only the total increase in pledges and the budget line item for the Building fund.

3. Open Letter on the Expansion of Medicaid

- There is a request that Friendship Friends Meeting sign on to an open letter by Working America to Governor Pat McCrory in support of the expansion of Medicaid.
- The issue will be taken up by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee

next month, before being brought again to Meeting for Business.

4. Membership Report

- Craig Fox has requested to lay down his membership at Friendship Friends Meeting.
- His request was approved.

5. Report on the Query Workshop

- Sidney Lee Kitchens gave a report on the recent Query Workshops.
- Eight people were present, and they responded to 7 of the queries. The responses will be included in the newsletter, and read at the Yearly Meeting of NCYM-C.
- The next Query Workshop will be April 11, 10-12.

6. Advance Notice for Meeting for Business

- Friends are encouraged to send a copy of reports, letters and other business that will come before Meeting for Business in advance, by sending it to the George Fox email newsletter so that Friends can read them in preparation for Meeting for Business.

The meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

March Birthday

Imani Khamala 3/5/08

FRIENDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND the Piedmont Friends Fellowship (PFF) Annual Meeting taking place the weekend of March 13-15. The program can be accessed on the PFF website at <http://piedmontfriendsfellowship.org/welcome/retreat-info/pff-spring-retreat-and-pfym-annual-sessions/>

2013 All Meeting Retreat

Our retreat will be held on Saturday, March 21st from 10 AM to 3 PM in the meetinghouse. Our theme will be *Spiritual Practices*. Child care will be available. Please put this meeting on your calendar.

Dinner at Pathways Center: Thursday March 12th at 6 pm.

This is a change from the Monday evenings that we did last year. This change should allow those who have not been unable to participate to come. Susan Carlyle will coordinate the food that we serve. It's like a pot luck meal where there are 30 people who are our guests. If you can make a casserole, please let her know. We'll need at least 4, depending upon how many Friends we will be feeding as well. Susan will follow up on the suggestion to have milk for the children. She has a friend who will supply the salad and she is going to provide peanut butter and fruit spread sandwiches. If you don't want to cook, there are things that you can bring to help out such as fruit, apple juice, cups, etc.

Our main goal is to be a friendly presence to people who are experiencing a difficult time in their lives and need the temporary support of this family shelter

Please help Susan plan our food.

Tuesday Feb 24, 7:30 PM: we will have a time of worship with John Bowles at Camden Place, 1 Maritlhe Ct. Questions?—please call Anne Rouse at [\(336\) 676-6626](tel:3366766626) if you are planning to attend.

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 way that Jesus lived among men shows us the way that God lives among men and the way in which we are to live with one another. It was a way of fellowship. And fellowship, as Jesus understood it, was not mastery, but a living comradeship which respected the freedom of others and safeguarded instead of crushing out the growth of their personalities. In His intercourse with his disciples, and with others, we always find him respecting personality: He never forced men's wills or violated their moral freedom.

William Charles Braithwaite, 1921

Memorial Service

At 2 pm on Saturday March 7 there will be a Memorial Service for Clarence Parker in the Living Room, Friends Homes Guilford. Clarence worked as an industrial chemist at Rohm Hass in Philadelphia. He and Helen moved to Greensboro and eventually to Friends Home. Clarence was a very giving person, helping out at Guilford College chemistry department and supporting many activities and causes in the Meeting. He was the first editor of the current Friendship Times and was an inspiration for its later editors. (your current editor)

Each month our responses to the query of the month will appear in the newsletter. Since the first seven queries were only addressed this month you will find our responses to both queries one and two in the January newsletter

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?

The meeting for worship at Friendship Friends Meeting is based on silent, expectant waiting for a glimpse of the Divine and is at the core of the life of the meeting. Vocal ministry arises from seeking what God might have us share with others, in spoken ministry or sometimes in song. Frequently only one or two messages are given and on occasion our meetings are completely silent, although alive and enriching. When engaged with distracting thoughts, we try to return to the presence of God in our meditation. There is a focused time at the end of worship, before the meeting is formally ended, for those present to share joys and concerns, thus involving the entire community in these personal matters. The Worship and Ministry committee sponsors forums and an annual all-meeting retreat to engage members of community in enriching our spiritual lives. Once a month there is an opportunity for those who are so led to come together to consider a query or scripture and share in an effort to deepen the life of the meeting. We do feel we are encouraging of those who may have a gift in vocal ministry as well as those persons who may rarely speak. We are aware that those who speak are spoken

to encouragingly by attending persons regarding their message.

Query 2: Are we faithful in our attendance at meetings for worship and are we careful not to disturb the spirit of the meeting by our late arrival? Is our behavior therein that of open submission to God in silent communion?

Most Friends are faithful in attending meetings for worship and other activities intended to strengthen the spiritual life of our meeting community. The meeting room is often filled to very near capacity on First Day morning. Many Friends arrive early in order to share in a short time of fellowship before settling into worship. Those who arrive after meeting has settled are careful not to disturb the worship. The tenor of worship is that of open submission to God in silent communion, enriched by the vocal ministry of those Friends who are so led.

What's happening at Peace and Social Concerns?

On Friday, January 16, AFSC staff (and Friendship Meeting attendee) Lori Khamala and immigration attorney Ann Marie Dooley (and First Friends Meeting attendee) presented a forum on current immigration issues, including the child refugee crisis at the border and the presidential Executive Action on immigration.

Twenty adults and five children enjoyed a potluck and learned a lot about the complexity of the unaccompanied children and immigration legal difficulties.

Between October 2013 and September 2014, 67,339 unaccompanied children were apprehended at the border, primarily from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, primarily because of intense violence in those countries. Friends can see a video testimony of a young

man (not a child) who fled El Salvador because of gang violence
See www.tinyurl.com/storyofmybrother. AFSC is working with groups in Charlotte and in Greensboro to address local needs, though in Greensboro we are still in the research phase. In addition, we learned about the new “Deferred Action for Parents of Americans” program. This program will shield around 4.5 million people from deportation and will grant them work permits for 3 years, though it will not provide any path to permanent residency or citizenship.

What can we all do to help these children?

--Contact the President to urge him to stop deporting children and instead grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to individuals fleeing El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

-- Donate to the legal funds of unaccompanied children and their families via www.lssp.org/donate and direct donations to the Immigration Assistance Project (IAP).

Game night coming up February 27,
7 - 9 pm in the Meetinghouse

What is game night? For those who have attended it is a chance to relax and enjoy the company of those we often only see on First Day. Don and Kembra and others bring their favorite games, tables are set up and people choose their game or people to play with. The games aren't very long or hard and are usually accompanied by lots of laughter and if you are lucky, homemade treats. This is very much an intergenerational activity, participants range from 5-95 years old. There are always children and elders present. Once a number of college QLSP students joined us for a long evening of games – but still not too competitive. I would encourage those who have not come to try this wonderful activity once this year; we have lots of games to play and tables to fill. Bringing food to munch on is very optional but much appreciated (submitted by your editor).

Friendship Friends Meeting
Box 8652
Greensboro, NC 27419
(336) 854-5155
www.friendshipmeeting.org

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Box 8652
Greensboro, NC 27419

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