

## Friendship Times

### Friendship Friends Meeting

#### Calendar

Sun, May 30	9 am Extended meeting for worship (5 <sup>th</sup> first day) 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, June 7	9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, June 14	10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
Sun, June 21	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, June 28	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, July 5	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, July 12	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
July 15-19	NC Yearly Meeting at Wilmington
Sun, July 19	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Tues July 21	Newsletter deadline
Sun, July 28	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Aug 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 Meeting for Worship is on Wednesday at 7 pm, in the Prayer Room, 7<sup>th</sup> floor Woolman Hall, Friends Homes Guilford, occasionally followed by discussion

#### From the Editor

The newsletter covers both June and July. My intention is to distribute the Eighth Month newsletter no later than the last Sunday of that month. Material should be submitted, preferably by email, no later than Tuesday, July 21.

#### June and July Query

*Query 6 Do we endeavor by example and precept to cultivate in our children a sense of openness and expectancy about life, and to aid them in their growth in spiritual understanding and moral discernment? Do we share with them the faith that guides the practice of Friends, while encouraging them to develop their religious insights as the Spirit of God may lead them?*

*Query 7 Do we endeavor to live in the life and power that takes away the occasion of all war, seeking to do our part in the work of reconciliation between individuals, groups, and nations? Do we faithfully maintain our testimony against nuclear and all other military preparations, the bearing of arms, and all participation in war?*

**5<sup>th</sup> Month Meeting for Worship  
with Attention to Business**

Friendship Friends Meeting Minutes 2015-  
5-10

Friendship Friends Meeting gathered for business near the appointed hour on Fifth Month 10, 2015. Some 27 Friends and attenders were present. Meeting opened with a period of waiting worship.

Friends agreed that Lloyd Lee Wilson would serve as recording clerk for the day.

Stephen Holland presented the treasurer's report for Fourth Month. The report was accepted and the narrative portion is attached below. Friends approved changing the budget line item "New Building Expense" to "New Building Corporate Contribution".

Income in April 2015 was \$1,665 to the General Fund and \$890 to the New Building Fund.

Expenses in April 2015 totaled \$2,419. The operating expenses totaled \$459.10 including \$200 for Conference/Travel plus other minor expenses. No supporting contributions were paid in April. Meeting House expenses totaled \$1,959 including \$1,400 from New Building Expenses for a site survey and \$250 for Equipment & Maintenance.

Summary for April 2015

	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
General Fund	\$1,665	\$2,419	\$14,502
New Building Fund	\$890	\$0.00	\$8,825
All Operating Funds	\$2,555	\$2,419	\$31,392

The Nominating Committee draft report was presented by Deborah Shaw for initial consideration. Friends are encouraged to make further suggestions or recommendations to Bonnie Parsons or Jim Hood. A final report will be presented for approval in Sixth Month, if way opens.

**Friendship Friends Meeting 2015  
Nominating Committee Report**

*"To serve on a committee (or take on other Meeting responsibilities) is a commitment to the life and wellbeing of the Meeting, whether or not it makes full use of our gifts or is invariably stimulating in its consideration of profound spiritual issues."*

Patricia Loring. 1997. Listening Spirituality, Volume II, Corporate Spiritual Practices Among Friends, page 171.

**Officers**

- Clerk: Sidney Lee Kitchens
- Co-clerk: Susan Carlyle
- Treasurer: Stephen Holland
- Assistant Treasurer: Ray Treadway
- Recording Clerk: Hannah Logan Morris

- Membership/Statistics Recorder: Claire Koster
- Assistant Membership Recorder: Miriam Biber-Peterson

### **Board of Directors**

- President: Sidney Lee Kitchens
- Vice President: Susan Carlyle
- Treasurer: Stephen Holland
- Secretary: Hannah Logan Morris
- Directors: Jim Hood, Darlene Stanley, David Brown, Judith W. Harvey

### **Committees**

- Audit: George White, Dave MacInnes, convener
- Care & Counsel: Ray Treadway (for fall only), Anne Rouse, Bonnie Parsons convener, Maureen Burns, Grace Sullivan, Gay Bowles (beginning 1/2016), meeting clerk/ex officio
- Communications: Dave MacInnes - newsletter, Chris Nelson – web, Judy Purvis – George Fox
- Finance: George White, Stephen Holland convener, Ray Treadway, Jim Rouse
- Handbook: Dave MacInnes, Claire Koster convener, Ted Benfey, Miriam Biber-Peterson
- Hospitality: Claire Koster, Judy Reece convener, Brian Poynton, Betty Poynton, Christy Hopkins, Maureen Burns, Gay Bowles
- House & Grounds: Richard Phillips, Carey Reece convener, Jim Hood, David Parsons, Kim Carlyle, Chris Biber-Peterson
- Meetinghouse cleaning schedule coordinator: Anne Morris
- Supplies purchaser: Deborah Shaw
- Greeter coordinator: Judith W. Harvey
- Library: Carole Treadway convener, Anne Rouse

- Pathways: Susan Carlyle, Susan Wilson, Grace Sullivan, Howard Taylor
- Peace & Social Concerns: Sheri Grace convener, Joan Tillotson, Anne Cassebaum, Jim Fernandes, Juliet Smith, Howard Taylor, Raleigh Bailey
- Religious Education: Kembra Howdeshell convener, Anne Morris, Sheri Grace, Hanna Passmore Hobson
- Worship & Ministry: Darlene Stanley convener, Carole Treadway, Deborah Shaw, Susan Wilson, Neil Swenson, meeting clerk/ex officio
- Calendar Coordinator: Sidney Lee Kitchens
- Meetinghouse Fundraising Committee: Kembra Howdeshell convener, Jim Hood,
- Meetinghouse Planning Committee: Richard Phillips, Carey Reece convener, Mae Brown, Juliet Smith, Don Smith, Neil Swenson, Claudia Dinep

### **Representatives**

- Yearly Meeting Representatives: To be named in 6th month business meeting
- Interim Body Representative: To be named in 6th month business meeting
- Piedmont Friends Fellowship: Joan Tillotson, Christy Hopkins
- Quaker House: Joan Tillotson
- Friends Committee on National Legislation: David Parsons
- Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee: Sidney Lee Kitchens
- Friends General Conference – Judy Purvis•

The clerk presented a draft Spiritual State of the Meeting Report for initial consideration. Friends are encouraged to make further suggestions or recommendations to Sid Kitchens. A final draft will be presented for approval in Sixth Month, if way opens.

A theme of this past year at Friendship Friends Meeting has been growth. For example, the attendance at our meeting for worship has grown noticeably over the past year. We have been blessed with new attenders, faithful Guilford College students and frequent visitors because of events at the college or in the area. Similarly, we have experienced increased participation in monthly meeting for worship with attention to business. It is a pleasure to have involvement from a wider cross section of the meeting.

As a result of this growth, we occasionally overflow the available seating in the worship room and spill out into the anteroom. Space is also an issue during our monthly potlucks that precede meeting for business.

These impacts have lent greater urgency to the work of the Meetinghouse Planning and Meetinghouse Fundraising committees. After a joint meeting of these two committees in the fall, the Meetinghouse Fundraising committee offered three informational forums about the new meetingroom concept that was approved by the meeting. They also gave an overview of the fundraising model that they were considering for this project. After they completed these presentations, the Fundraising committee began contacting members of the meeting to conduct a feasibility study. The results of this study will inform the meeting whether the

concept of a new meeting room is a financially realistic one.

New members and attenders have also brought fresh perspectives and ideas to a number of different areas of the meeting. For instance, questions were raised about the process by which Friendship Meeting allocated funds for donations to organizations, especially at a time when the meeting was starting to raise money for a meetinghouse project. As a result, an ad hoc committee was formed which suggested a new process for prioritizing a smaller number of donations. We also formed an Ad Hoc Emergency Procedures committee to examine the meeting's protocol if there would be an emergency at the meetinghouse. Similarly, initiatives from new members and attenders led to the formation of a men's group that meets twice per month. A book club was also formed to discuss Barbara Brown Taylor's *An Altar in the World*. This fresh energy has also contributed to our standing committees. For example, the Peace & Social Concerns committee has enriched our meeting with regular forums on topics such as one member's trip to Cuba last November with Witness for Peace, including the effects of the embargo, current immigration issues, the shared security document and Friends Committee on National Legislation priorities. They have also continued collecting food for the food pantry at First Friends Meeting, as well as organizing an Angel Tree for a needy family at Christmas time.

The increased number of children attending meeting has also allowed the Religious Education committee to organize a monthly kids' meeting for business. These sessions are not only a valuable opportunity for the children to learn about Quaker

decision-making, but also a chance for them to take ownership of a service project. For instance, this past year the children raised money for Heifer International. Under the guidance of the Religious Education committee, the children also on occasion close meeting on the fifth First Day of a month.

In the midst of these changes and growth, we have also been mindful of continuing to refresh the spiritual center of our meeting. For example, our gathered time together on First Days continues to be enriched by our new process of sharing joys and concerns out of the silence before the breaking of meeting for worship. We also continue to gather for sessions of Deepening the Spiritual Life of the Meeting on fourth First Days of the month. Similarly, we are nurtured by opportunities to worship with experienced Friends at midweek meeting for worship at Friends Homes – Guilford. Monthly meetings for worship are also organized at Camden Place, providing an opportunity to meet with an older Friend who often cannot physically join us at the meetinghouse on First Days.

While our meeting has been blessed this past year with new members, new transfers of membership and new sojourning members, new marriages under the care of the meeting and new births, we have also experienced loss as well. The deaths of Ruth Bailey and Clarence Parker brought sadness, but also recognition of the many contributions these long-time members brought to the meeting.

Howard Taylor reported for the Peace & Social Concerns Committee with a request for clarification of its role in the

meeting. Specifically, the committee requested feedback about its proposal that it be empowered to make public statements without asking meeting for business for approval before releasing those statements. Deep discussion of the best roles of the Peace & Social Concerns Committee followed. The topics engaged by the committee are of pressing concern to us individually and corporately. Friends encouraged the committee in the roles of providing education on social justice concerns to the meeting, research and assess social concerns brought by the meeting, recommending action to the meeting and providing support for our members and attenders involved with social action. We reminded ourselves that issues of peace and social justice should be addressed in a timely manner, and we seek to find ways to do so more effectively while also waiting for God's timing. Friends expressed support for the Peace & Social Concerns Committee and their faithful service to our meeting community. However, the meeting affirms that all public statements should be approved in advance by the monthly meeting for business.

- The clerk read a letter from Steve Hayes requesting that he be released from membership in this monthly meeting. He will be joining the congregation of First Lutheran Church in Greensboro. Friends approved his release and authorized the clerk to communicate this to First Lutheran Church.
- The clerk read a letter from Rich Square Monthly Meeting minuting Susan Wilson's transfer of

membership from Rich Square to Friendship Friends Meeting. Susan has been sojourning at Friendship for about a year. Friends welcomed Susan into membership with us.

- Friends approved offering to host the scheduled Interim Body meeting in Tenth Month 2015.
- Friends are encouraged to send news items to *George*, the meeting's weekly news update, by the third day of each week.

No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned, purposing to meet again on the appointed day in Sixth Month, if consistent with Divine Will.

Submitted:

Sidney Lee Kitchens Clerk  
Lloyd Lee Wilson  
Recording Clerk for the Day

Answers to Fifth and Sixth Month queries taken from the March query workshop

*Query 5. Do we regularly attend our meetings for business, and are they held in a spirit of love, understanding, and forbearance? Do we seek the right course of action in humble submission to the Authority of Truth and in the patient search for a sense of unity under Divine guidance?*

While our general attendance at meetings for business has grown to the most it has been in a great many years, we continue to encourage more participation from all. We have worked on challenging issues together such as plans and fund raising for a new meeting space, serious budgetary changes, questions of how we are associated with the larger Quaker world and our statement

regarding the treatment of undocumented refugee children, just to name a few. We have sought the right course of action in our various deliberations and have done so, for the most part, in a spirit of patience and tolerance for one another. There have been times when perceptions of "the right course of action in humble submission to the Authority of Truth" varied widely. We have worked toward the sense of unity under Divine guidance.

*6. Do we endeavor by example and precept to cultivate in our children a sense of openness and expectancy about life, and to aid them in their growth in spiritual understanding and moral discernment? Do we share with them the faith that guides the practice of Friends, while encouraging them to develop their religious insights as the Spirit of God may lead them?*

The children of the meeting are such a gift to our community. When they return to the meeting room shortly before the close of worship there is an expansion of our hearts and beings as we receive them with joy. The cultivation of openness and expectancy about life seems to be a mutual seeking between the children and the adults in the meeting. Those who work most closely with the religious education for the children do seek to aid them in their spiritual growth and moral discernment, as do others of us as we have opportunity. We seek moments to share with them the faith and practice of Friends as best we can. We hope to create and nurture safe space for them to be led by the Spirit in their own religious understandings. Evidence of that has been apparent as they have shared in joys and concerns at the close of meeting for worship and as we have watched them grow.



Some members of the Burmese Care Team celebrate Pyu Pyu's transfer to Guilford College!

Front: Bonnie Parsons, Patti Hughes (New Garden FM), and Win Mim (high school junior);

Back row: Pyu Pyu, Judy Reece, and Tuza (the mother)

Annual sessions of

**2015 Yearly Meeting of North Carolina  
Yearly Meeting Conservative  
July 15-19, 2015 on the campus of  
University of North Carolina at Wilmington**

NCYMC tentative program information

Preliminary outline for worship, fellowship, play, learning and business for all ages

Theme: "Living Into Our Gifts"

Wednesday, 7-15 : Afternoon registration, greeting one another and moving in, Late afternoon worship, evening Meeting of Ministry and Oversight (for everyone)

Thursday, 7-16: Morning Bible Study with Bruce Arnold, children and youth activities and Meetings for Business, Special Interest groups. Evening Program on "Discernment of Our Gifts" led by Katherine Damiano

Friday, 7-17: Morning Bible Study with Bruce

Arnold, children and youth activities and Meetings for Business, Special Interest groups and Evening Program on "Living Into Our Gifts" with Katherine Damiano  
Saturday, 7-18: Morning Bible Study with Bruce Arnold, children and youth activities, short morning Meeting for Business, Meeting for Worship, afternoon Meeting for Business, Evening Inter-generational Event

Sunday, 7-19: Morning Bible Study with Bruce Arnold, pack up, Meeting for Worship and Closing Minute

Also -- Some further considerations

1) Registration forms are available at the meetinghouse or at [www.ncymc.org](http://www.ncymc.org).  
2) The Planning Committee is accepting suggestions for interest groups or workshops for afternoons. Persons who would like to offer such an activity should contact Bruce Arnold at [brucearnoldlcs@gmail.com](mailto:brucearnoldlcs@gmail.com).

3) The current Nominating Committee would like to know of persons who might be interested and willing to serve on the Planning, Hospitality, and Youth Program Committees for 2015-16. Since the annual sessions will meet at Guilford College in 2016, it is important that a number of persons from Friendship Meeting be on those committees. The Nominating Committee needs to identify these committees in order to present names at the upcoming yearly meeting in 2015. Contact Sid Kitchens for more information ([sidneyleek@hotmail.com](mailto:sidneyleek@hotmail.com))



Max Carter officially receiving the diploma for Juliette Smith. She later was given her diploma and a short version of commencement at the hospital where she was resting following the birth of her son Milo, the newest member of Friendship Meeting.

The wedding of Amanda Szabo and David Huff took place Sunday May 24 and was well attended by members of this Meeting. The weather was picture perfect and everyone had a great time. Amanda and David send their thanks to all who attended and especially to her hard working Clearness/Oversight Committee.

The wedding bench used by Amanda and David. They are donating it to Friendship so now we will have one to use at future weddings.



Photo by Dave MacInnes



A message from Amanda and David's wedding

Photo by Bonnie Parsons



Friendship Friends Meeting  
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[www.friendshipmeeting.org](http://www.friendshipmeeting.org)

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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  
Ray Treadway, Assistant Treasurer  
Hannah Morris, Asst Membership  
Recorder

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