

Friendship Times

Friendship Friends Meeting

Calendar

Sun, May 29	9 am Extended meeting for worship (5 th first day) 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, June 5	9 am Worship and Ministry, Care and Counsel, Peace and Social Concerns Committees meet 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, June 12	10:30 am Meeting for Worship, a potluck meal follows, then Monthly Meeting for Business
Sun, June 19	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, June 26	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, July 3	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, July 10	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
July 14-17	NC Yearly Meeting at Guilford
Sun, July 17	10:30 am Meeting for Worship at Guilford College
Tues July 23	Newsletter deadline
Sun, July 24	10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, July 31	9 am Extended meeting for worship (5 th first day) 10:30 am Meeting for Worship
Sun, Aug 7	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. Business Meeting is the second First Day of the month. Child care available for Worship and Business Meetings. Midweek Meeting for Worship is on Wednesday at 7 pm, in the Prayer Room, 7th 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 July. Material should be submitted, preferably by email, no later than Tuesday, July 23.

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?

Weekly events

Tuesday, 12:00–4:30 PM: Quiet Tuesday at the Meetinghouse

Bible Study at 7 pm at the Meetinghouse every 2nd and 4th Thursday

Men's group meets at 7 pm at the Meetinghouse every 1st and 3rd Thursday

**5th Month Meeting for Worship
with Attention to Business**

Minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Friendship Friends Meeting

8th Day, 5th Month, 2016

The meeting opened in silence.

The Meeting approved Don Smith to act as temporary recording clerk for today's meeting.

Sidney Lee Kitchens read a letter received by the Clerk from Anne Cassebaum, requesting membership in Friendship Friends Meeting. The Meeting accepted the letter, and it was forwarded to Care & Counsel for the creation of a Clearness Committee. Darlene Stanley offered to serve on that committee.

The Clerk read from Friendship Friends Meeting's travel minute for Lloyd Lee Wilson to travel to New England Yearly Meeting. She then shared excerpts from several endorsements from Friends who interacted with Lloyd Lee during his travels, including representatives from Cambridge Meeting, Massachusetts, and Gonick Meeting, New Hampshire.

Laurel Holland read a letter from Doctors Without Borders that was addressed to the Young Friends of Friendship Friends Meeting. The letter expressed gratitude for their donation of \$291 and explained how the funds would be used to support and care for refugees from violent conflict. The Meeting expressed thankfulness for our Young Friends' faithfulness.

David Brown reported that two Friends, not members of Friendship Friends Meeting, have become very excited about our community's

development towards a new meeting space. These friends have offered to help us raise money by giving us a matching gift of up to \$150,000. From today, every new gift towards the new meeting room will be effectively doubled. If the Meeting accepts this gift, David and Judy & Cyril Harvey will meet with the couple, finalize the details, and establish the offer in writing. The Meeting accepted the offer of the gift and empowered David, Judy, and Cyril to pursue developing this possibility.

Bonnie Parsons presented a brief report from Care and Counsel. The Committee recommends Susan Wilson, David MacInnes, and Bonnie Parsons to serve on a Clearness Committee for Membership for Judy Williams. The Meeting approved these nominations. Bonnie will convene the Clearness Committee.

Susan Wilson presented a report from the Nominating Committee. The committee has filled a draft slate of nominees for officers, clerks, representatives, and committees. The final slate will be presented for approval in sixth month. The new slate will take effect at the start of eighth month. There are still a few open slots, such as Co-Clerk, that need to be filled. If you feel called to serve in these ways, or if you feel you can no longer serve in your designated capacity, please contact Nominating Committee. Friends are encouraged, if they are approached in the next weeks, to prayerfully consider whether their schedule can permit them to serve. Friends shared thoughts, reactions, and suggestions from the floor. The committee was encouraged to contact everyone, whether they had expressed interest in changing their service assignment or not. Friends accepted the report and expressed gratitude for the hard work of the committee.

Draft**FRIENDSHIP FRIENDS MONTHLY MEETING****OFFICERS, REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEES****OFFICERS**

Clerk..... Susan Carlyle
 Co-Clerk..... open
 Treasurer.....Stephen Holland
 Assistant Treasurer.....Ray Treadway
 Recording Clerk.....Lloyd Lee Wilson
 Membership/Statistics Recorder.....Claire Koster
 Assistant Membership Recorder.....Miriam Biber-Peterson

FRIENDSHIP FRIENDS MEETING**INCORPORATED****BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President..... Susan Carlyle
 Vice President..... open
 Treasurer..... Stephen Holland
 Secretary..... Lloyd Lee Wilson

David Brown
 Judith W. Harvey
 James Hood
 Darlene Stanley

REPRESENTATIVES

Nominating Committee of NC Yearly Meeting-
 Conservative open

Meeting's representative on NCYM-C
 Records Committee ... Claire Koster

Piedmont Friends Fellowship (PFF) ... Christy
 Hopkins, Joan Tillotson

Quaker House Board, Fayetteville, North
 Carolina..... Joan Tillotson

Meeting's contact with Friends Committee on

National Legislation (FCNL).... David Parsons

COMMITTEES

CARE & COUNSEL: Bonnie Parsons, Gay Bowles,
 Maureen Burns, Anne Rouse, Betty Poynton
 Ex officio, Meeting Clerk

COMMUNICATIONS: David MacInnes -
 Newsletter, Chris Nelson - Web, Judy Purvis -
 George

FINANCE: Stephen Holland (convener), Kim
 Carlyle, Jim Rouse, Ray Treadway
 Ex officio, Meeting Clerk

HANDBOOK : Claire Koster, (convener) Ted
 Benfey, Miriam Biber-Peterson

HOSPITALITY: Judy Reece, (convener) Gay
 Bowles, Maureen Burns, Christy Hopkins, Claire
 Koster, Brian Poynton

HOUSE AND GROUNDS: Chris Biber-Peterson,
 James Hood, Kim Carlyle, Richard Phillips, David
 Parsons, Jim Fernandes, Judy Williams

Cleaning List Schedule Coordinator- Sean
 Swenson

Supply Purchaser Phayth Meyer
 Greeters Coordinator Judith W. Harvey

INTERNAL REVIEW COMMITTEE: Dave MacInnes
 (convener) David Brown

LIBRARY: Carole Treadway, (convener), Anne Rouse

MEETINGHOUSE FUNDRAISING: Kembra
 Howdeshell (convener); James Hood, Judith
 Harvey, Young Friends Liaison: Anne Joy Swenson

MEETINGHOUSE PLANNING: Neil Swenson
 (convener), Mae Brown, Richard Phillips, Daniel
 Amstutz, Don Smith

NOMINATING: Dave MacInnes (convener), Susan
 Wilson, Elizabeth Judson-Rea

PATHWAYS: open

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS: Sheri Grace
 (Convener) Raleigh Bailey, Anne Cassebaum,
 Howard Taylor, Joan Tillitson, Aleks Babic, Rachel
 Knight, Francis Coyle

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Kembra Howdeshell,
 (Convener) Sheri Grace, Hanna Passmore Hobson,
 Anne Morris, Elizabeth Judson-Rea

WORSHIP AND MINISTRY: Darlene Stanley
(Convener) Neil Swenson, Carole Treadway,
Susan Wilson, Judy Purvis
Ex officio, Meeting Clerk

CALENDAR COORDINATOR: open

The Clerk presented a draft of the yearly State of the Meeting report. This report will be brought for approval in sixth month. A point of order was raised that we are not in unity with the Handbook, which specifies that Ministry & Worship should review the report before it comes to Monthly Meeting. This has not been our practice, and the Handbook Committee will bring a proposal for revision to a future Meeting to bring our handbook in line with our actions. Suggestions and clarifications were shared from the floor. It was suggested to highlight more specific activities by our Young Friends. Other comments and suggestions that occur to Friends later should be given to the Clerk. Gratitude was expressed to the Clerk for her work in formulating this draft, and the Clerk shared that many others had also helped assemble this pleasurable look back over a year.

State of the Meeting report - 2016

How has the Spirit worked in the life of FFM since we last wrote?

We are grateful to report to you our meetings for worship are carried out faithfully and are well attended. The quality of the gathered silence is generally profound when none are called to speak and when ministry is given it most often seems to come from that place as described by the Psalmist in Psalms 42:7: "Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me."

Our meetings for business in the spirit of worship are full and centered in the seeking of God's guidance for us at all times. Occasionally,

the clerk offers 5 minutes for Quaker Continuing Education at the beginning of our business session together to share our insights on such topics as Friends process, preparation for meeting and the difference between unity and consensus. Our co-clerk has taken a much more active role than past co-clerks, presiding at business meetings and sharing much of the clerk's work load. This year we established a clerk's support committee to listen to our clerk's concerns and offer seasoned counsel. We meet to answer the Yearly Meeting queries.

We continue to grow in numbers and to rise to the challenges that growth presents. In our meetings for business in the spirit of worship we have wrestled with the issues around the recording of ministers. We are discerning the right path in accepting the long term commitment to sponsor a refugee family and we held two Threshing Sessions to enable us to share thoughts and to ask questions. We have considered how the recent state government's ruling affects transgender individuals and have scheduled a forum to learn more about how to be welcoming to all. The House and Grounds committee has labeled our restrooms accordingly.

We continue with activities that enrich the life of our meeting such as mid-week worship at Friends Homes, quiet Tuesdays in our meetinghouse, men's group, Bible study, and monthly sessions for deepening the spiritual life of the meeting.

A substantial gift to the meeting of residential and personal property provided funds that enabled us to purchase land adjacent to our existing property. We can now move forward with our plans to increase the size of our meeting space. The gift was not without challenges. It necessitated much effort in working together. We readied one property for sale by sorting, cleaning, and selling its contents. This proved to be an opportunity for

hard work, negotiation, committee work and community building.

We do not yet know our final plans for expansion, but the Meetinghouse Planning Committee continues its work on this large undertaking working with the House and Grounds Committee to maintain our property and rise to the challenge of the added responsibilities of the new land. We have held two threshing sessions to discern the will of the meeting in this project. Our Religious Education Committee has worked to nurture our young Friends and guide them in their growing social justice awareness. This is done with able assistance from Guilford College students who help with child care and First Day School activities. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee has offered several forums to help us learn more and to offer our witness to the wider community. Our Fundraising Committee is continuing the process of asking each Friend to commit funds toward reaching our financial goals. As always, our Hospitality Committee expends considerable effort to welcome everyone by providing social opportunities before and after our meetings. We are also considering options for and visual equipment and the feasibility of installing internet service in the meetinghouse for forums and educational opportunities.

We gave financial support to Friends seeking assistance for attending the Friends General Conference Gathering, for attending a clerking workshop, and to enroll in the Spiritual Nurture class of the School of the Spirit.

We welcomed Lori and Imani Khamala, Jim and Jane Fernandes, and Rachel Knight as new members; and David Parsons as a sojourning member. We had two weddings under the care of the meeting.

We celebrated the birth of member Hannah Logan Morris' baby and mourned the deaths of

member George White and of Alex Burns, husband of member Maureen Burns.

Rachel Knight presented a proposal from Peace and Social Concerns that the Meeting sponsor a refugee family. We have successfully sponsored six refugee families in the past. This time, we will co-sponsor with African Services Coalition and a few members of New Garden Friends Meeting will join with us, so the responsibilities will be shared. There is a core team of eight members with over 45 total years of experience. Other members of the Meeting offered to help with specific tasks, without being permanent members of a support committee. The Meeting can also help with donating household items, socialization, transportation, and financial assistance. We will also request a family with children, to allow their children and the Meeting children to have peers to connect with. The ASC estimates that support of \$4,500 over three years would be appropriate, but not required. The Peace & Social Concerns Committee feels that we, as a community, are called to serve in this way at this time, and that we have the resources to carry out this service. Friends expressed gratitude for the patient work of the committee to explore this possibility. One member pointed out that the list of tasks can seem overwhelming, but no individual has to do all of it alone. It will be a tapestry of our efforts. All of us can support those of us whose hearts are on fire for this. Friends approved the proposal. Peace and Social Concerns will guide us through the next right steps.

House & Grounds Committee Report

During the April business meeting, the House and Grounds Committee was directed to remove the female and male indicators on our restroom doors and replace them with signs that say "rest room." After we dutifully carried out this directive, a member of our committee learned that this change may not be consistent with city building codes. It is, however, consistent with our Meeting's historical practice of restroom use. This report is informational only; a House and Grounds Committee recommendation may be presented in the future.

The Meeting accepted the report.

Deborah Shaw reported on our Meeting's support for the Quaker Leadership Scholars Program (QLSP) & Friends Center (FC) at Guilford College. The relationship between Friendship and QLSP is rich, varied and nurturing. QLSP students use our building, and QLSP students have often filled the positions of our child care providers. New director of FC, Wess Daniels, attends FFM with his family, and a recent QLSP graduate, who became a member of Friendship, will be married under the care of the meeting at the end of this month. QLSP and Friends Center are grateful for the spiritual and material support they have received from Friendship over the past thirty-four years. The Meeting accepted the report.

Kembra Howdeshell presented a brief report from the Fundraising Committee. The report focused on the pledges made to date. To date, \$32,080 have been paid on \$155,520 in pledges. The committee is working to improve tracking pledges and donations. The Meeting accepted the report.

Don Smith presented a brief report from the Meetinghouse Planning Committee. Site survey and paperwork for the new properties have been completed, and the committee is moving forward with conversations with the architects about developing rough designs that will be presented to the Meeting for a decision. The Meeting accepted the report.

The Clerk read a report from the support committee for Lloyd Lee Wilson. The Committee recommends a process revision, due to the frequent nature of Lloyd Lee's travel ministry, that the Meeting issue a general travel minute for a year, so that Lloyd Lee not have to come to the Monthly Meeting for every trip. Lloyd Lee will be accountable to his support committee, and he will return to the Monthly Meeting at the end of the year (or more often if recommended by the support committee) to share a report on his ministry. The support committee will report to the Monthly Meeting at the end of each year whether they recommend a further travel minute be issued for subsequent years.

Meeting members shared thoughts and reactions from the floor. There is precedent for this kind of approach in the Meeting history, when a member has an active travel ministry. The Meeting enthusiastically supports Lloyd Lee's ministry. The recommendation to establish a general, yearly travel minute was approved.

Treasurer's Report

Income in April 2016 totaled \$2,763.30 with \$1,440.00 to the General Fund and \$813.30 to the New Building Fund. The newly created Young Friends Fund had income of \$301 of monies collected for Refugees and \$209

(transferred from the Building Fund) which the Young Friends raised at a Bake Sale in August 2015.

Expenses in April 2016 totaled \$1,436.93. The operating expenses totaled \$327.00 including \$222 for childcare plus \$105 for the Friends Journal advertisement. No supporting contributions were paid. Meeting House expenses totaled \$534.93 primarily for utilities and a service contract. The Young Friends fund had \$366.00 in expenses including a \$291.00 donation to Doctors Without Borders and \$75.00 for furniture.

Nothing out of the ordinary merited special attention. Note that transfers between funds manifest as both income and expenses, and those cases are marked with asterisks in the spreadsheets. Overall, our income for the year to date is a little behind where we might expect to be at this point in the year, and Friends are encouraged to increase donations.

The Meeting expressed appreciation for Sidney Lee Kitchens' six years of service as Clerk of the Meeting. Members shared appreciation from the floor. They lauded his kindness, generosity, and ability to listen well. A few considered examples: We have been guided by a steady hand, with humor. A laugh, a smile, and a corny joke. Not too far behind that is a heart that is big, strong, and unswerving in its devotion to this meeting and his faith. We've been blessed by his connections between our Meeting and the Yearly Meeting. We've been a part of his growth, and he has helped us grow with him. Nothing seems to ruffle his feathers – his even-tempered nature is a delight. Our Meetings for Business were held to a high standard of

spiritual depth. To preserve his humility, we stopped there.

The Meeting Closed in Silence.

Betty Austin, long time member of Friendship Meeting, passed on May 26. More later when I receive it.

Answers to Fifth Month query 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.

The registration form for **Yearly Meeting sessions** is now on the Yearly Meeting web site: NCYMC.org

The due dates are: June 12th for early registration discount and June 27th deadline to register!

Clerks' Corner

A new newsletter feature where every month or so something will be submitted from our clerks for the benefit of our members' continuing education on Quaker history, thoughts and practices.

What do we do when we are not in unity?

Impasse- from *Listening Spirituality, Volume 2*, Patricia Loring

Impasse is excruciatingly painful for us. Yet we must not overlook its importance in reaching unity. The pain of impasse is not only the pain of finding no way forward; it is the pain of having exhausted our human resources. We have done the best we could in terms of information and insight, sometimes in terms of seeking acceptable compromises. Yet nothing is working, We can make nothing happen. It becomes clear that the solution is- in more than one sense- beyond us.

The word "excruciating" is not irrelevant in the traditional symbolism. The Latin root refers to the torment of crucifixion. Among, early Friends, the Cross referred primarily to the pains into to which we are led by trying to have our own ways, and to the pain filled process of relinquishing our wills. Impasse is excruciating because it is the cross to our own plans, agendas, solutions. It is the hard, bare, place where we wait on some new thing we have not imagined, over which we have no control.

Authentic impasse may last for months or years. While nothing is happening on the surface, it may be a time when people are being brought inwardly to confront the true sources of their motivations and to seek for their cleansing. It may be a time for healing broken relationships within the meeting, for renewing bonds of love

and peace that have become eroded. Where it is not simply a time for a hardening of adversarial positions, impasse can be extremely fruitful in the life of the meeting, in spite of the pain- or perhaps because of it, because of the way it breaks us open and focuses our attention on work that needs to be done.

When the inner work of the Spirit has truly been accomplished, the time will be right for some centered soul to carry the meeting to the place where members can recognize that issues are not what they thought they were. Sometimes the impasse is the consequence of two groups of people addressing very different dimensions of the problem, neither group seeing the question whole.

Hannah and Anne are pleased to announce the birth of Margot's and Joseph's little sister, Eliza Joanne. She was born on May 7 at 2:02am and weighed 6 lbs 10 oz and measured 20 inches long. Mama and baby and family are healthy and home and resting. They've created a Meal Train if you are willing to help out by bringing food <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/mj2exc0u5d8t>, and have a small registry for baby and big sister on [Amazon](#) (Pampers Swaddlers diapers are always welcome). No food or gifts necessary--email or text Hannah if you just want to come by for a visit to see when a good time might be (hclmorris@gmail.com or [336-501-4661](tel:336-501-4661)).



EXCITING NEWS from Rachel Knight: Our Friendship Meeting is going to co-sponsor a refugee family with the African Services Coalition! This proposal submitted by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee was approved by the Meeting in last week's business meeting. We have a core team of eight people to help our family integrate into American life, but we would appreciate any members who feel led in being involved in this joyful journey. The first step is to start collecting household goods and furniture for the family's apartment and to give members a chance to sign up for specific areas of interest. We have attached a list of the household goods that will be needed. Members have the opportunity to volunteer for social interaction (visit family and invite them to social events), transportation (take the family to appointments and shopping), employment (help the family with work related matters) finance education (teach the family about the banking system and assist with budgeting), language (tutor the family in English) and Orientation to Community (help family use laundromat, post office, library, etc.) There are also opportunities to meet the family at the airport, helping set up the apartment, shopping for the staples, and to provide clothing for the family. There will be sign-up sheets at the Meeting house this next First Day. In a few weeks we will be meeting with the AFC to select a family with children. It will be fun to give the family a friendly welcome at the airport and to invite them to a welcome party at the Meeting House.

Fences

Our Quaker Meeting expanded,
It added adjacent land
There was a fence between them
I helped make the two lots one.

At my age I easily tired,
My hammer could serve as a tool,
After the fence was dismantled
The nails my hammer could pull.

Next day was Meeting for Worship.
What could we learn from our work?
If we expand our lifestyle,
Let the new not be fenced from the old.

Others pulled vines from dogwoods,
If left they would choke the tree's life.
If we let vines meander
around our deeper endeavors
They'll choke the life that is in us
They'll stop it, they won't let it thrive.

Now we are told we must spread
much mulch.
What's there will decay without.
We must endeavor to learn
what our inner life needs
to nurture our future growth.

Ted Benfey 6

May 2016

JULY birthdays

Swenson, Sean 7/24/05

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

Susan Carlyle, Co-clerk
Ray Treadway, Assistant Treasurer
Miriam Biber-Peterson Assistant
Membership Recorder:
Dave MacInnes, Newsletter Editor
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