

# *A Friendly Word*

**First Friends Meeting \* (336)299-8869 \* [office@firstfriendsmeeting.org](mailto:office@firstfriendsmeeting.org)**

**First Month, Twenty-Sixth, 2017**

## **Events at a Glance**

**Thursday, January 26**  
**Companions in Christ,**  
6:30pm, Gathering Room

**Saturday, January 28**  
**Sheila's Reception,** 3pm,  
Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, January 29**  
**Clearness Committee**  
**Workshop,** 12:30pm,  
Fellowship Hall

**Monday, January 30**  
**Finance Committee,**  
7:00pm, Library

**Tuesday, February 1**  
**Peace & Social**  
**Concerns,**  
6:30pm, Gathering Room

**Thursday, February 2**  
**Companions in Christ,**  
6:30pm, Gathering Room  
**Transition & Search**  
**Committee,** 7:00pm,  
Library

**Sunday, February 5**  
**Ministry and Counsel,**  
12:00pm, Library

**Tuesday, February 7**  
**PLRP,** 6:00pm, Library

**Wednesday, February 8**  
**Daisy Newman,** 6:15pm,  
Fellowship Hall

**Thursday, February 9**  
**Companions in Christ,**  
6:30pm, Gathering Room



## **TURNING THE PAGE**

Jim Kimel, Personnel Clerk

Deborah Suess is transitioning from being our pastor to semi-retirement, the next milestone in her journey. We wish her well, but oh my God! First Friends has to find a new pastor. Can our community succeed at handling this daunting task? For many reasons, the answer is a resounding YES.

In 2003, First Friends began a search for a new pastor after our beloved Jack Kirk retired. We missed Jack and it was hard to imagine going forward. After over a year of gathering member input, sifting through resumes and conducting interviews, we were led to offer the pastorship to Deborah and she was led to accept our offer. We were not looking to replace Jack, we were looking for a leader to take the meeting in new directions using her vision and talents. And we hit the jackpot.

Friends, we have successfully searched before and we can do it again. We have the blueprint from 2003, we have strong leaders and we will soon have an interim pastor to help guide our process. We are planning, with God's help, for success.

Consider this process like you would a book. Bill Stevens, Jack Kirk and Deborah Suess are chapters in the book, each one contributing to the history of our meeting. Even though we move on to new chapters, we do not forget but enjoy the memories of the past. Our meeting is evolving and changing much like a hardback book to a Kindle. We have gone from letters to email and Kodak pictures to websites and Facebook.

First Friends does not need to read how-to books because we are a can-do community. I know we can be led by the Spirit to channel this energy into our pastor search.

The First Friends community is writing a special book called a journal. We cannot read ahead because the pages are blank. Yet with great hope we await the Light of Christ to continue leading us as we write our unique faith story.

If you have any questions about our ongoing process, feel free to talk with Bill Davis, Beth Joyce, myself or any member of the Transition and Search Committee.

# Let's Celebrate!

## Celebration for Deborah & Tim!

Join us for a carry-in following Meeting for Worship on Deborah & Tim's final (for now) Sunday, February 26th. Hospitality will provide the ham and we ask if you are bringing a dessert to consider making something with dark chocolate as that is Deborah's favorite! There will be a program that will provide plenty of laughter, and a few inevitable tears, as we celebrate all that Deborah Sues and Tim Jackson have so generously given us for 12 years. Please email Traci Cossman or Beth Joyce if you have any questions.

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**On Sunday, February 12 join us in welcoming musicians Nancy Maeder and David Langham of Durham Friends Meeting. They will be offering their ministry of music at our 11 am Meeting for Worship. Nancy and David are both members of the Road Home Band. You won't want to miss them! For more information check out their Facebook page.**

**<https://www.facebook.com/The-Road-Home-Band-156804814394466/>**





**January 29, 2017**

**9am Unprogrammed Meeting for Worship**, Gathering Room

**10am Godly Play** for our children in Room 205 and Faith Seekers for our youth group in Room 208.

**10am Adult Gathering**, This week, we will continue to discuss Quaker activism and add consideration of the topic of ministry as we transition into several weeks of reflection on the role that each of us plays as a minister. Our QuakerSpeak video this week will be "Student Activism as Prophetic Ministry." The topic of ministry is particularly timely in our Meeting as we undergo changes in our pastoral leadership.

**11:00am Deborah Suess** will be bringing a message entitled "My Damascus Road... just not as dramatic as Paul's...."

**Baby Blessing of Adelaide Corrine Lebrato**

**12:30pm, Clearness Committee Workshop**, Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, January 29, Clearness Committee Workshop:** After the ceremonies and marches are done, how do we decide what glimmers of possibilities and little nudges are ours to do and which are not? How do we discern God's leading and let go what is not ours? Clearness committees offer one way of coming to clarity about God's guidance for us. Join us Sunday, January 29 in the Fellowship Hall, 12:30-2:30. All are welcome. Bring a bag lunch. Address questions to [sarabethterrell@gmail.com](mailto:sarabethterrell@gmail.com).

Office Phone Number:

336-299-8869

Office Email:

[office@firstfriendsmeeting.org](mailto:office@firstfriendsmeeting.org)

[www.firstfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.firstfriendsmeeting.org)

Office hours:

Mon: Closed

Tues.-Thurs. 10:00am-2:00pm

Fri: 9:00am-1:00pm

Unless there is an emergency or illness, our office manager Ellen Ramsey will be present during those hours. If you need to see one of the pastors, please call or email them directly. You are also welcome to leave a message for a staff member with Ellen. Please let us know if you have questions or concerns. Thank you for your patience as we have worked on restructuring our office hours.

**Next Sunday, February 5,** Deborah's prepared message will be entitled, "Why I am a Quaker."

## **IN THE LIGHT ...**

**Brad McHargue**, who is doing traveling visitation ministry Sunday at Durham Friends Meetings.

**David and Sam Wyrick**. David's stepfather, Rex Billings, died recently due to heart failure. He was a good friend and husband to David's mother for 38 years.

**Sarah Jo Wall**, friend of Phil & Monica Hix, is undergoing lung cancer treatments.

**Mary Ann Phillips Eisenbrand**, who was a birthright Quaker at First Friends and used to sing in the choir with Ada Sue, Lou, Ruth, Wayne, and Carson, has fourth stage lung cancer as well as other medical complications. She is the sister of Gloria Phillips Turlington and the sister-in-law of Gail Brafford Phillips. Her address is:  
A Touch Above Care, 5800 Llano Rd., Atascadero CA 93422.

## **THANKSGIVINGS**

**Congratulations to Greg Woods** as he begins serving as the Interim Campus Ministry at Guilford College.

**Congratulations to Lesley-Ann Tommey** (Phil and Monica Hix's daughter) on her ordination last Sunday evening. It took place at College Park Baptist Church.

Quaker Trivia: **Question:** What were Sunday Schools called in the early days of Quakerism? **Answer:** Sunday Schools were called First Day schools.

Carolina Quaker Experience, p.247  
Carolina Quakers, p.59

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**Quaker Quote:** *"Simplicity does not mean getting rid of all of your possessions, but rather integrating them into your life's purpose."*

*From a talk by Mary Gregory as remembered by Emily Sander, 2000*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Sheila and Chris are getting married!** We are having a small private ceremony but we can't imagine a party with out y'all there! Come join us for an "After the Wedding" celebration on Saturday, January 28th from 3:00pm to 5:00pm at First Friends Meeting in Fellowship Hall.

We are registered!  
Having recently combined our two households we have everything we need. The one thing we wish for is a honeymoon. We are registered on "Wanderable". We hope to get up to the mountains for a week or so in the spring. Either click on or copy and paste the link that will take you to our registry.

<http://www.wanderable.com/hm/chrisandsheila2017>



Sheila Hoyer **and**  
Chris Burnett

It's an After the Wedding Celebration!

3:00pm to 5:00pm  
2017

First Friends Meeting  
2100 W. Friendly Ave.  
Greensboro, NC 27403

**Our new address is:** Sheila Hoyer and Chris Burnett  
1501 Valleymede Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410

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**Norman Rider** has decided to move to assisted living at Friends Homes. He is now in room 925 in the Fry Building. His phone number is still [336-292-4325](tel:336-292-4325). Cards are always welcomed.

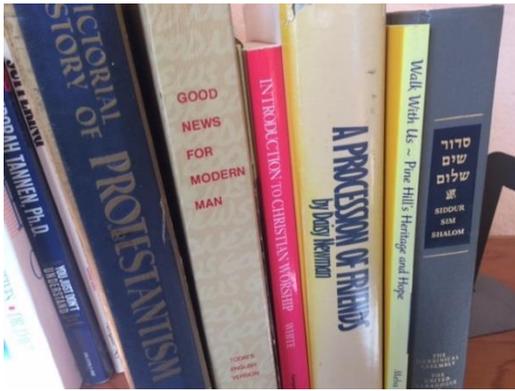
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## Restroom Renovation



**Update...**David Millsaps from DLM left word on Tuesday that the work has passed electrical & plumbing inspection. They are now ready to begin work on the ceilings. Thanks to all for your patience during this time.





**FREE BOOKS!**  
Deborah is “releasing” about 400 of her beloved books. They are in the upstairs children’s library. They are yours (with love)



for the taking! Look for the book shelf in the corner marked with a sign.

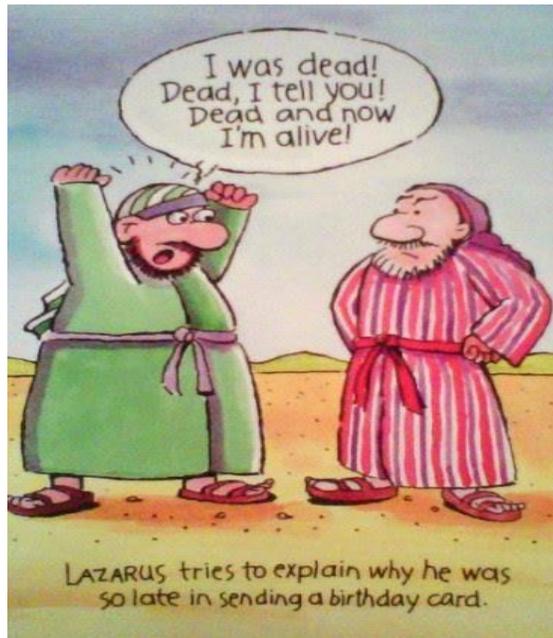
## **WIDER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Summer "Living Letters" Service-Learning Trip to Palestine-Israel**

Jane and Max Carter will lead a service-learning trip to the Ramallah Friends School and sites in Palestine-Israel **June 20-July 5** under the sponsorship of Friends United Meeting. Service will include light maintenance work, cleaning, landscaping, and other tasks at the Friends School and meetinghouse. Learning will include in-depth introduction to the situation in Palestine-Israel, including visits to the "holy sites" and conversations with Israelis and Palestinians actively engaged in the work for peace and justice. For information, contact [mcarter@guilford.edu](mailto:mcarter@guilford.edu).

**Couple Enrichment Opportunity in Hickory, NC - Feb 10-12, 2017** Mike and Marsha Green, of Durham Meeting, are offering their annual Contemplative Retreat for Couples on Feb 10-12. Participation is limited to 9 couples. Cost is \$290/couple, which includes lodging in a large lake house on Lake Hickory in Hickory, NC, and six meals. If interested, please send a deposit of \$100 by Jan. 31. This workshop is held under the care of Friends Couple Enrichment. More information is available on the FCE website at <https://friendscoupleenrichment.files.wordpress.com/2016/12/retreat-flyer-for-feb-2017.pdf> . Questions? Contact [marshaquaker@gmail.com](mailto:marshaquaker@gmail.com).

**Spring 2017 Newcomers Soccer.** The soccer program at the Newcomers School (for immigrants and refugees) is in need of volunteers for the Spring season. You could help by organizing/distributing gear, transporting players, or even coaching. For more information please contact Joe Allred at [jallred2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jallred2000@yahoo.com) or Michael Amend at [michaelamend22@gmail.com](mailto:michaelamend22@gmail.com).



Happy belated JANUARY Birthdays...	JANUARY Birthdays...
1/1 Jim Reese 1/2 Janis Hammet 1/3 Ryan Gordy 1/6 Tripp Sheldon 1/6 Keri Petersen 1/9 Erica Lewis 1/9 Brooks Grantham 1/11 Cassandra Israel 1/13 Nathan Gibboney 1/15 Joe McBane 1/15 Rachel Sheldon 1/15 Julie Tillman	1/19 Molly Hunt 1/19 Jenn Bonsall 1/19 Elizabeth Vance 1/26 Sheila Hoyer 1/26 Joe Allred, Jr. 1/31 Sara Beth Terrell  If your birthday is not listed, please contact the office.

**You are invited to an event co-sponsored by Inner Ground/Monica Hix:**

**Soil & Sacrament:** Dinners, Dialogue & Work Day. **Fred Bahnson** is a writer, permaculture gardener, and the director of the Food, Faith, and Religious Initiative at WFU School of Divinity. His book, *Soil and Sacrament*, tells the story of how people of faith all over America are re-rooting themselves in the land, reconnecting with their food and each other. **Join Us!** – for one or all of the following events:  
**Small Dinner & Dialogue Groups** – visit [www.healingground.org](http://www.healingground.org) for a complete listing of dates and locations. **Monday, March 20** – communal dinner & dialogue with the author, Fred Bahnson. **Saturday, March 25** – morning workday in a local garden. This event is co-sponsored by Healing Ground (contact Pat Bailey, 336.644.0076) Inner Ground (contact Monica Hix, 336.601.4217).