

**First Friends is a Quaker Meeting
building healthy relationships
with God, one another, and all creation.**

**336-299-8869
www.friendlymeeting.org
office@firstfriendsmeeting.org**

**Office Hours:
Monday: Closed
Tuesday-Friday: 10:00am-3:00pm**

Ministers: Everyone

**Don Durham, Intentional Interim Pastor
Sheila Hoyer, Pastor of Education and Outreach
Monica Citty Hix, Minister of Music
Ellen Ramsey, Office Manager
Pam Reese, Treasurer
Ana Huckins, Outreach and Education Intern
Cidney Michael Holliday, Nursery Care
Bill Davis, Monthly Meeting Presiding Clerk
Beth Joyce, Clerk of Ministry and Counsel
Margaret Rowlett, Clerk of Personnel Committee**

To email a Clerk or Staff: (first name)@firstfriendsmeeting.org
Don, Sheila, Bill, Beth, Monica, Jean, Ellen or Pam

Sunday Gatherings
Unprogrammed at 9:00 a.m. in the Gathering Room
Choir Practice at 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Gatherings at 10:00 a.m.
Semi-programmed at 11:00 a.m. in the Meetingroom

*Childcare available in the Nursery
(Six years of age and younger)*

For now we see in a mirror dimly,
BUT THEN FACE TO FACE.

Now I know in part;
THEN I SHALL KNOW FULLY,
even as I have been fully known.

1Corinthians 13:12

***First Friends Meeting
January 6, 2019***

Gather and Center

Prelude *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* arr. Bober
with
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Welcome and Announcements Sheila Hoyer

Joys and Concerns

Silence for Centering Prayer

Listen and Respond

Hymn 32 *Creating God, Your Fingers Trace*
(please stand as you are able)

Young Friends Message Sheila Hoyer

Anthem *Who But the Lord* Courtney

Scripture 1 Corinthians 13:12-13 Beth Joyce

Hymn 397 *The Gift of Love*
(please remain seated)

Offertory Invitation and Prayer Beth Joyce

Message "Through A Glass Darkly" Don Durham

Waiting Worship After the Manner of Friends
If led to speak, please stand and wait for a host to bring a microphone.
Please allow for a few minutes of silence between messages.

Go Forth in Spirit

Benediction Don Durham

Sung Response *The Bond of Love* Hymn 395
(stanza 1 only)

Please close Meeting for Worship by shaking hands with your neighbors.

COLORING PAGE



REFLECTIONS AND NOTES

Joining Don on the facing bench is Beth Joyce.

Beth is from Knoxville, TN, where she met her husband Ian Joyce in high school and became friends. They've been married for 32 years and share careers (both in marketing) and a love of travel and oversized dogs. Beth's free time is mostly spent on Quaker things; First Friends, Quaker Lake Camp and Friends Homes. Beth is currently Clerk of Meeting for Ministry and Counsel and Clerk of the Transition and Search Committee and welcomes your questions and input during this process.

Anthem

Who But The Lord

Courtney

Who but the Lord can give the shadows light, can break into the dark, draw morning from the night?

Who but the Lord will hear our cry and answer, "Here am I"?

Who but the Lord makes blinded eyes to see, gives music to the deaf, sets the lonely captive free?

Who but the Lord will by His glory show the paths of peace?

O shine on us the brightness of Your face, to earth's remotest end, every people, every race.

O shine on us until to each is shown Your saving grace.

First Friends warmly welcomes visitors.

Please complete the visitor card and place it in the offering plate.

We invite you to contact pastoral staff with any questions.

Please help yourself to Quaker literature in the foyer.

Activity packets are available for children as well as a fully staffed nursery.

Hearing devices are also available.

Please see a morning host for assistance.

Gentle Reminder: Please silence all electronic devices.

1 Corinthians 13:12-13

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Our first congregational song today, *Creating God, Your Fingers Trace*, was written by Bishop Jeffery Rowthorn. He recalls the composition this way: *My first hymn, written in 1974, was in fulfillment of an assignment that I had given the students in a contemporary worship course at Yale Divinity School: compose a new psalm paraphrase. I had never done this myself, so I chose Psalm 148 and some years later my paraphrase was one of two winning texts in the 1979 Hymn Society of America's "New Psalms for Today" competition.*

The text is a paraphrase of Psalm 148. "Creating God" explores active images of the work of God. Because each stanza starts with a participle, the singer is drawn not into a God of history whose work is complete, but a God whose work is ongoing in myriad ways. Successive stanzas begin with "Sustaining God," "Redeeming God," and "Indwelling God." Rowthorn states several underlying objectives in his preparation of this text:

- to use inclusive language throughout and in particular by addressing each stanza to God;
- to depict the ongoing and unceasing activity of each Person of the Trinity by using present participles . . . rather than static descriptive nouns;
- to evoke awe and wonder and the recognition that our knowledge of the universe remains at best partial;
- to emphasize the radical barrier-free love of God for all.

Bishop Rowthorn was born in Wales and was a founding faculty member of the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University.

"A Modest Proposal: A Conversation about the Revitalization of the Quaker Message in America with J. Brent Bill"

Religious life in America is growing – new congregations are starting, old ones are in the midst of renewal, and thousands of new people are coming to worship. And there is a huge uptick of interest in Quakers, as evidenced by such things as the sale of books about Friends and interest generated internet sites such as Beliefnet.com's "Belief-O-Matic." Thirty thousand people a day try Belief-O-Matic. An issue of Newsweek magazine reported that a "disproportionate number" of respondents to the quiz identified themselves as 'Quaker.'" The article notes that the page on the BeliefNet web site devoted to Quakers has become one of Beliefnet's top fifty links! So why aren't our Meetinghouses bursting with newcomers?

English Quaker Edgar Dunstan once asked -- "What . . . have we [Friends] to declare to this generation that is of sufficient importance to justify our separate existence as part of the Christian fellowship? If you care about the answer to that question, please join us for this workshop/conversation, which will use a combination of worship, social research about religious and congregational life in the U.S., and interactive discussions and activities. This is a continuation of the series we had with C. Wess Daniels. Even if you were not able to participate in that series please come join us as we consider the revitalization of Quakers with the author of the material Wess drew from. **Brent will lead an event on Saturday, February 9, from 10:00am to 2:00pm, Sunday morning, February 10, Small Group Gathering at 10:00am and bring the message on Sunday, February 10, at 11:00am.**

Sun. Jan. 20: Christian Education, 9:30pm, Room 203.

Mon. Jan. 21: Finance Committee, 7pm, Library.

Tues. Jan. 22: Night Shelter, 6:30pm, Urban Ministry Potter's House.

Thur. Jan. 24: First Friends Food Pantry, 1:30pm.

United Society of Friends Woman (USFW) still has a few \$20 gift cards from Auto Bell. They may be purchased in the foyer at the Rise of Meeting on Sundays.

Pecans are still available! United Society of Friends Women (USFW) have pecans available. If you wish to purchase, see any USFW member or look for the sale in the foyer at the Rise of Meeting on Sundays. Pecans are \$10.00 per 1-pound bag.

Financial Peace University - Have the festive colors of red and green morphed into red ink on your bank statement and a frightening absence of green in your wallet? Attend our next offering of Financial Peace University to learn how to set and live on a budget and prepare for all of life's challenges - big and small. The cost of membership is \$99 per household and includes the class itself and numerous online resources. Classes will be held on Monday nights from **January 28 - March 25; 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Gathering Room**. Childcare can be arranged with advance notice. Contact the office for additional information. 336-299-8869.

Annual Feedback Process for Staff

The Personnel Committee needs your assistance as it implements the Annual Feedback policy approved by Monthly Meeting in October. In the coming months, we will be meeting with staff members individually to review how we can give them the support they need to be successful in their positions and have positive working relationships. At the beginning of February, we will be meeting with Sheila Hoyer, Pastor of Education and Outreach. We invite you to provide any information or comments you feel would be of assistance to the committee in our meeting with Sheila by contacting Margaret Rowlett, Clerk of the committee, or Bill Davis, Monthly Meeting Presiding Clerk, by January 31, 2019.

Don't forget that Friends Emergency material Assistance Program (FEMAP) meets at the Allen Jay House across from Springfield Friends Meeting on Wednesdays from 10am-2pm.

JOYS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Our thanks to **Jean Christy** for sharing her musical talents during Sunday's Meeting for Worship. We also thank **Jay McCracken and Diane Burns** for their musical offering.

Thank you to everyone who purchased a poinsettia for the meetingroom display this Christmas. A total of 82 were given in memory of or in honor of loved ones and F/friends, and the Youth Fund received \$428 in profit from the sale. Special thanks is extended to Sue and Mike Renn and to Barbara Potts for setting up the display.

IN THE LIGHT

We hold **Brad McHargue** in our prayers as he continues cancer treatments.

PRAYERS FOR ONGOING HEALTH CONCERNS

Fred and Jean Small. Jim Wilkinson. Ray Hurley. Norman Rider. Dawn Davis' mother. Heidi McLaughlin's son Christopher. Mary Elizabeth Barwick and Patrick Tillman's mother, Marian. Helen's Hoffman's mother, Laurel Hayes. Helen Hoffman's friend Christina. Katie Lebrato's friend Shelley. Jay McCracken and Diane Burn's granddaughter, Ruby. Akil Ramsey. Steve Hoffman. Norm Klos. Ann Burnett. Mandi Odom, her husband, Kaz, and little Kai.

CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us today for:

9:00am Unprogrammed Worship

9:45am Choir Rehearsal

10:00am Small Group Gatherings Resume:

Adults: Quakerism 201. Vicki McCreedy will continue to address the topic of "Speaking Up in the Face of Racism" by engaging participants in real life scenarios. The scenarios can help us all develop the stamina to speak up in the face of everyday bigotry.

Faith Seekers: Youth ages 12 years and older gather in Room 203. Leaders: Ana Huckins and Sheila Hoyer.

Godly Play: Children ages 4-8 (Room 207) and 9-11 (Room 205) will participate in Godly Play. Leaders: Emily Daniels, Allyson English, Kary Gray, Jennie Hunt, Emily Riley, Mary Bryan Stewart, Julie & Patrick Tillman and Kristina Wright.

Nursery Care: Newborn through age 3. Cidney Michael Holliday is part of our fun and loving childcare team in the nursery.

11:00am Meeting for Worship

12:00pm Ministry and Counsel, Library

12:30pm Youth Group Christmas & New Year's Party!

We will be having a Christmas & New Years party this Sunday for our Youth right after meeting gets out. We will start by eating pizza and having a Dirty Santa gift exchange. After this we will go ice skating downtown. For those who do not want to ice skate there are a lot of fun things to do in LeBauer park together. We ask that you send your youth with \$15 if they plan to eat pizza and go ice skating. If they just want to stay for pizza and Dirty Santa, they just need \$5. If they just want to go ice skating they need \$10. For Dirty Santa we ask that the gifts stay under \$10. We plan to be finished around 2:30pm and will send texts. If you can pick your youth up at LeBauer Park that would be great. Any questions, please call, email or text Sheila, 336-688-9354 or sheila@firstfriendsmeeting.org.

Wed. Jan. 9: DAISY NEWMAN will meet 6:15pm in Fellowship Hall. Please bring your favorite item to complement our salad bowl and a couple of items for our First Friends Food Pantry. It is an opportunity for conversation and fellowship with other women of the meeting. See you then. Please RSVP Beth Joyce (beth356@gmail.com) or Traci Cossman (tracicossman@gmail.com) so we may prepare the adequate number of place settings.

Wed. Jan. 9: Stewardship Committee, 7pm, Library.

Sun. Jan. 13: Monthly Meeting for Business, 12pm, Fellowship Hall. Please have reports to Bill Davis (thebilldavis@gmail.com) by Jan. 6.

Understanding the Labyrinth, Sunday, January 13, 10:00am. On January 19 and 20, Unprogrammed Worship is once again bringing the **labyrinth walk** to First Friends. To prepare us to better understand the purpose and meaning of the labyrinth, Rev. Rebecca Husband Maynard will be here at 10:00am Sunday, January 13 during the adult forum hour. A friend of Monica, Don, and Ellen, Rebecca makes the labyrinth walk a primary mission to others for walking the sacred path.

Mon. Jan. 14: United Society of Friends Woman (USFW) will meet at 10am in the Gathering Room.

Tues. Jan. 15: Personnel Committee, 6:30pm, Library.

Wed. Jan. 16: Peace and Social Concerns, 7pm, Gathering Room

Thur. Jan. 17: Working Group to Undo Racism, 7pm, Room 208

Mid-Winter Young Friends Retreat January 18-21, Quaker Lake Camp - There will be a Young Friends Fellowship Retreat January 18-21. We are very excited about this opportunity to gather with our brand new yearly meeting! Registration is \$30. If cost is an issue, please consider it on us. **Inserted is a copy of the registration form.** Please let us know if this is something that your youth is interested in participating! Ana and Sheila

First Friends Labyrinth Walk. The Labyrinth walk will take place Saturday evening January 19, 2019 from 5-7pm and Sunday morning January 20 from 9-11am. Walk with soft Gregorian chants - 5:00 to 6:00pm Saturday; Walk in silence - 6:00 to 7:00pm Saturday. Walk with soft Gregorian chants - 9:00 to 10:00am Sunday; Walk in silence - 10:00 to 11:00am Sunday.