

The Meeting for Worship

“Be still and know that I am God.”

We welcome you to this meeting. It is a time of worship together in silence and through spoken words. There is no human leader or prearranged program. Each person who enters the meeting helps determine the depth of our worship as a group.

We believe that the spirit of God lives in the hearts of us all. When we open the way and listen to God an inner light that dwells within us will shine through us. Sitting quietly here each seeks to have an immediate sense of this divine leading and to know first hand the presence of the Spirit.

The prayer of earnest expectancy of quiet waiting and of deep consecration has been used by people of every age to lead them to the love, power, wisdom, and truth that are at the center of our existence. We are all part of one another and of creation. Because of this spiritual relationship, worship in a group may prove a far richer and more profound experience than worship by an individual alone. “Where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them.”

God speaks in the hearts of those who earnestly seek and, in a Friends Meeting, worshippers may give expression to thoughts that come sincerely from the depth of life and experience. These messages bring a deepened sense of God’s presence and help troubled hearts gain some of that peace which passes understanding. Such a meeting is always a high venture in faith and it is to this venture that we invite you this hour.

Many of us are new to his Meeting and all of us are seekers of the truth conscious that we still have much to learn.

Please make yourself known to those around you after Meeting for we all need one another. We trust you may find a source of help and strength just as your presence will strengthen us.

Wherever our search for truth and spiritual growth may lead, we invite you to share it with us.

On First Day (Sunday)

Fellowship for song 9:45 a.m.
“Make a joyful noise”

Meeting for Worship 10 a.m.
In silence we wait...

First Day School 10 a.m.
Provisions for Children & Youth

Second Hour 11 a.m.
Forum and Fellowship

3rd First Day of each month
Monthly Meeting with attention to business

5th First Day of each month
Loaves and Fishes - Potluck and Fellowship

Location
625 Tower Street
Raleigh, NC 27607



THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS QUAKERS

RALEIGH FRIENDS MEETING



625 Tower Street
Raleigh, NC 27607

919-821-4414

www.rtpnet.org/friends

The Religious Society of Friends

The Religious Society of Friends, commonly known as Quakers, had its origin during the Puritan Revolution in England, George Fox, who founded the Society, began preaching in 1647 and attracted a variety of religious seekers during that period of social, political, and religious upheaval.

To Fox came clearness: “there is One, even Christ Jesus, that can speak to thy condition.” The immediacy of Christ became the heart of his message and ministry, the beginning of the Quaker movement. Seeking spiritual reality, these early Friends found that they could experience God directly in their lives without benefit of clergy or liturgy or steeped church.

Quakers came to America almost immediately after their appearance in England, seeking, as countless others before them, relief from religious persecution. Many of them settled in the new colony of Pennsylvania, founded in 1682 by Quaker William Penn, who welcomed those of all faiths in full fellowship.

Friends’ belief in the worth of each individual has been expressed in committed social action from the early advocacy of the abolition of slavery to prison reform, civil rights, and the peace movement.

Early Carolina Quakers

In the fall of 1672 George Fox and William Edmondson made the trek through Dismal Swamp in southern eastern Virginia and came out at the site of the present town of Hertford, N.C., along the Perquimans River. The settlers were called together in what became the first service of Christian worship in Carolina Colony. So warm was the reception that Fox and Edmondson traveled about the region which is now Albemarle County for several days by canoe, visiting and sharing Truth as perceived by Friends.

The seeds of Quaker faith were sown and how they took root and flourished! By the 1690’s, John Archdale was the Quaker Governor of North Carolina and a large percentage of the members of the Colonial Legislature were Friends. Essentially, Carolina at this time could be

called a Quaker Colony. (Friendly Newsletter, Vol. 55, 1998, N.C. Yearly Meeting)

Outreach from Raleigh Friends Meeting

Raleigh Friends Meeting supports and encourages projects such as the American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and local interracial and peace movements.

The Peace Booth at the NC State Fair was established under the wings of peace communities, including Raleigh Friends Meeting, Raleigh Mennonite Church and United Church. In the fall of 2006 the Peace Booth celebrated its 55th anniversary.

Oberlin’s neighborhood tutoring projects, concerns for environmental safety and nuclear waste storage, and assistance with the homeless census involve members of Raleigh Friends are a few examples of Outreach from Raleigh Friends Meeting.

Raleigh Friends Meeting is an associate of Piedmont Friends Fellowship. Piedmont Friends Fellowship encompasses Friends Meetings through North Carolina that choose not to be affiliated with a specific Monthly Meeting. The majority of Piedmont Friends Fellowship members use Philadelphia Yearly Meeting’s book Faith and Practice as a guide for all those who seek to understand in greater detail the ways we endeavor to apply our fundamental affirmations.

Community within Raleigh Friends Meeting

Committees:

- Ministry and Counsel
- Peace and Social Justice
- Community
- Adult Education
- Young Friends
- Hospitality
- Building and Grounds

For details of the activities and responsibilities of the committees, please call 821-4414 or see the list on the shelves in the Meeting Room

Meeting History

The Raleigh Monthly Meeting of Friends was formed by a small number of friends in March 1926. The first meeting

Clerk was Charles G. Doak. In October 1927, Meeting joined with the United Church of Raleigh. Many individual Friends maintained membership in both the Meeting and United Church. The two organizations maintained separate identities and denominational ties. The Monthly Meeting became a member of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting.

For more than 40 years Raleigh Friends enjoyed joint fellowship and social action activities with the United Church. During this time, meetings for worship and business were held at varying times and places. The United Church today is known as Community United Church of Christ, a sister community of faith for Raleigh Friends.

Beginning in 1967, a renewed interest in an independent Meeting for Worship was felt among Friends. First Day (Sunday) Meetings for Worship and discussion began to be held at the King Religious Center at North Carolina State University in January 1968. a program of worship and education developed for Young Friends.

In the fall of 1969, the residence of the Charles Doak family at 120 Woodburn Road became available for use as a meeting center. During this time of growth, Raleigh Friends initiated a number of social action causes including the Raleigh Women’s Center, the Rape Crisis Center of Wake County, and Quaker House in Fayetteville. Friends participated in civil right marches and volunteered in soup kitchens. Worship and discussion activities continued to grow in this setting leading Friends to clarity about building a new Meeting House.

Land for the new Meeting House was found on Tower Street in the Oberlin Village Community. Guidelines given to the architect included blending in with the architecture of the historic African American neighborhood as well as serving as a place of worship, hospitality, learning, and service. In June 1990, the Meetinghouse was dedicated in a service of worship for commitment and gratitude.

Today active participation in Outreach and Community within Raleigh Friends Meeting leads us to honor George Fox’s belief “meeting that of God within one another”.