

Holy One,  
prepare your way in me.

Give me faith, like the stable,  
to know your presence within me.

Give me courage, like Mary,  
to let your life overwhelm mine.

Give me strength, like Joseph,  
to protect what is holy, tender, and growing.

Give me patience, like the shepherds,  
to be still and listen.

Give me humility, like the magi,  
to kneel before your presence.

Give me trust, like the child,  
to let myself be borne into a new world.

Give me joy, like the angels,  
to bring good news to the poor.

Give me love, like the manger,  
to hold Christ within.

Holy One,  
prepare your way in me.

- *Steve Garnaas-Holmes*

First Friends Meeting

December 11, 2011  
Third Sunday of Advent



**TODAY:**

9:00 am - Unprogrammed Worship  
9:00am- Christian Education Committee  
10:00am- Sunday School for all ages  
11:00 am - Deborah Sues speaking  
12:15pm- Ministry & Counsel

**UPCOMING:**

Monday, December 12, 10am- USFW Christmas Tea  
Monday, December 12, 7pm- House & Grounds  
Wednesday, December 14, 6:15pm- Daisy Newman Circle  
Wednesday, December 14, 7:30pm- Choir practice  
Thursday, December 15, 6:30pm- Peace & Social Concerns  
Friday, December 16, 5:30pm- Caroling

**UPCOMING MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP:**

December 18- Evelyn Jadin speaking, "Christmas By Candlelight: A Service of Carols" by First Friends Choir  
December 24- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
December 25- Deborah Sues speaking

**JOYS & THANKSGIVINGS**

**The Youth Group** is grateful to Janice Wood, Barbara Potts, and all who purchased poinsettias for our Christmas display. Proceeds help cover costs of our summer service trip. Thank you, Barbara and Janice for making our Meeting Room beautiful every year!

**FIRST FRIENDS ANNOUNCEMENTS****Upcoming Holiday Events**

- December 16, 5:30pm- Christmas Caroling to our friends less able to get out, and pizza at Bill's Pizza
- December 18, 5:30pm- Christmas Play and Soup Supper
- December 20, 7pm- Adult Night Out: Christmas lights, and goodies at Martha Rierson's.
- December 24, 5:30pm- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in Fellowship Hall with storyteller Meghan Hoffman, 5:30pm.
- December 31- January 1- 24 Hours of Prayer for Peace:  
Saturday, Dec. 31, 12:00pm – Opening Meeting for Worship, Lisa Moran speaking  
Saturday, Dec. 31, 7pm-11:15pm – Soup Supper at Joyce home  
Saturday, Dec. 31, 11:30pm – New Year's Eve Meeting for Worship with New Garden Friends Meeting  
Sunday, January 1, 2012, 11:00am – Closing Meeting for Worship, Bob Plain speaking

**10am Sunday School**

- Jodi Fetrow will be teaching the children's class A Joyful Path in Room 108- the lesson is "A Joyful Surprise: Experiencing God as Love".
- Bill and Dawn Davis continue Bible Study downstairs in Room 2- all are welcome.

**Our Friends Food Pantry** will make available "In Honor" cards to give as gifts this season. Contribution amount is at your discretion. See Jean Christy today, or contact the office during weekly hours to obtain cards. Donations of food

for Christmas meal that will be given out Dec. 22 are greatly appreciated: yams or canned sweet potatoes, rice pilaf, cranberry sauce, canned fruit, green beans and corn. Monetary contributions welcome as well!

**What will our youth be in the Nativity?** All are welcome to come dressed as anything that might have been at the scene. We are particularly looking for talented shepherds and sheep. Costumes for shepherds, kings, and angels available. Rehearsal is Dec. 18, 10am.

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual 24 Hours of Prayer for Peace- TIME TO SIGN UP!** This year we are celebrating 10 years of praying for peace. You can join by signing up to pray and/or host during the event. The sign-up sheet is in the foyer on the wall to your left as you are exiting. See Bob Plain, Liz Plummer, or Sheila Hoyer with questions.

**USFW** meets Monday, Dec. 12, 10am for **Christmas Tea** in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring an item to share for lunch and 2 items for the food pantry (see food pantry announcement for needed items). All women of the meeting are welcome.

**Daisy Newman Circle** meets Wednesday Dec. 14, 6:15pm in the Fellowship Hall. The hostess provides salad greens and drinks. Please bring an item to add to the salad and 2 items for the food pantry. All women of the meeting are welcome. Please RSVP to Betty Godwin: [bgodwin42@bellsouth.net](mailto:bgodwin42@bellsouth.net)/ 273-6316.

**Christmas Morning- Come as you are** to Meeting for Worship, 9am (unprogrammed)/ 11am (semi-programmed). Children are welcome to come in warm pj's- adults in sweats or that wild Xmas sweater Aunt Gladys made for you. Childcare available with Karyle. Please sit up close as we sing Christmas carols and Deborah shares a Christmas reflection.

**The First Friends Choir presents "Christmas By Candlelight: A Service of Carols"** during Meeting for Worship, Sunday, Dec. 18, 11am. The cantata will feature several specially arranged Christmas hymns sung by our wonderful choir, and will include verses of scripture from the Christmas story. Please plan to attend so you can enjoy this special event!

**The Men's Breakfast Group** will be discontinued until further notice due to lack of participation. The meetings may resume after the first of the year if there is sufficient interest. Contact Bob Winsor.

#### **WIDER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**NC Shakespeare Festival presents A Christmas Carol**- Now through Dec. 20, High Point Theater (220 E. Commerce Ave). **Meghan Hoffman** performs as Young Scrooge's girlfriend. Tickets/information: 336-887-3001/ [www.highpointtheater.com](http://www.highpointtheater.com)

**A Christmas Gift**- a one act play presented by Providence Baptist Church Drama Guild, Today- Sunday Dec. 11, 5:30pm (1106 Tuscaloosa St., Greensboro). Admission is free- donations will be accepted for the Children's Home Society.

**Save the Date:** NC Yearly Meeting 2012 Mid-Year Gathering for Worship & Business, March 3, 9:30am-4:30pm at Quaker Lake Camp. Theme: "Being Built Together"; Randy Quate speaking. Registration \$20 (includes meals). Childcare provided.

SO MANY AMAZING QUAKER CAUSES...including First Friends and our Food Pantry, of course. See the weekly email for a list of just some of the organizations which would benefit from your end-of-year giving.

**Scripture  
Isaiah 9:6-7**

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.