Stewardship Sunday

Each Sunday, we are assured by our pastor that God loves us! We are challenged to live in response to that love by loving others. Living in response to God’s love is not always easy. It can demand that we make changes in our lives and the way we think about and deal with other people and how we allocate our resources. Thinking about others and their needs ahead of our own wants can be challenging – especially when many of the societal messages we hear tell us to look out for ourselves first.

On April 6, during 11:00 AM worship, we will be talking about stewardship – a concept that has to do with many things beyond money. How we care for the earth, how we care for ourselves, how we care for the good news of God’s love for us, and how we care for the resources that are in our sphere of influence, are all a part of the spiritual discipline of stewardship.

Our meeting has ministered faithfully for more than 100 years – not because members have given year after year out of duty, obligation, or guilt. Such motivations can’t sustain an institution for over a century. We are so grateful for these gifts! Our Meeting is still here because generations of Friends have counted themselves blessed and have therefore supported its mission with generous gifts of gratitude and joy. Now it’s up to us.

We have compiled this information about the meeting’s financial situation:

2014 Budgeted Funds
$91,031.56

Salaries and Benefits
$56,458.56  62% of budget

Operating Expenses
$29,423.00  32% of budget

Committee Expenses
$2625.00  3% of budget

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Proceeds from our Thrift Shop provide the funds to feed approximately 40 families each week.

We ask that you prayerfully consider your commitment to the work of Winston-Salem Friends Meeting. God has blessed us with love and grace. How will we show our love through the stewardship of our resources? We hope that we can count on you to continue the work of Winston-Salem Friends Meeting through your gifts of time, energy, prayer, talents, and money.

--The Stewardship/Finance Committee

### Nelson/Radcliffe Circle News

For April, May, and June, the Circle gave $100 to Christian Service missions in Kenya and Ramallah, $60 to the Friends Homes Assistance Fund, $50 to the Spring Conf. Offering at Quaker Lake, and $50 to NCUSFW Projects.

They also gave $25 to the Church Women United. They continue to give so much!!

### Phil Gulley in the Area

Phil Gulley is at First Friends, Greensboro, for the Quaker Renewal Program in April. The Meeting Schedule is from 7:00 to 9:00 pm on Wednesdays, and the introduction began on March 27th. April 3rd will focus on Peace, April 10th on Integrity, April 17th on Community, and April 24th on Equality.

Phil will be using his newest book, *Living the Quaker Way*. No pre-registration is required, and leadership will be provided by the Friends Center staff.
Did you know….

That in the material found in the attic at the Meetinghouse at Sixth and Broad Streets there are several small numbered pamphlets on early Friends? I have no idea when they were acquired by Winston-Salem Friends Meeting, but they were published between 1886 and 1889.

One is entitled *A Short Account: Springett Penn, by his father, William Penn.* It was published by the Tract Association of Philadelphia (Arch Street) in 1889, and is an account of the last weeks and days of Springett’s life before his death as a young man, “breathing his last on my breast the tenth day, Second Month, between the hours of nine and ten in the morning, 1696, in his one-and-twentieth year.”

William Penn characterizes his eldest son as “my very dear child,” who “did from his childhood manifest a disposition to goodness and gave me hope of a more than ordinary capacity.” Penn says, “For more than a half year before it pleased the Lord to visit him with weakness, he grew more retired, and much disengaged from youthful delights, showing a remarkable tenderness in meetings, even when they were silent.”

Penn makes the years between us shrink, and it is clear that only times, not emotions, have changed in the 350 years since he said, “I lose all that any father could lose in a child.”

**Monthly Meeting Approval Items**

Monthly Meeting for worship, business and concerns met on March 23rd and approved the following items:

- The minutes of the last meeting, with one change.
- A memorial for Robert “Bob” Holder.
- The installing of internet service to the Community House for the use of the family now living there. They will pay for installation and service.
- Participation in the Old Town Book Drive again this year. We will be collecting Kindergarten age books.
- Participation in Earth Fair Day, sponsored by Peace and Social Concerns. It is April 26th.

Other items, including signage for the property, and how to invite all persons to carry-in meals were discussed.

**Earth Fair Day – April 26th**

*Winston-Salem Friends Meeting is participating in Earth Fair Day again this year. If you would like to help, please contact Agnes Frye. We will be distributing things to both children and adults. Please join us for a wonderful day at the Fairgrounds!*
Easter and Spring

Easter and spring come almost hand in hand, offering an appropriate ritual for both the observance of the Resurrection and the arrival of spring. The Risen Christ brought great joy to His people on the day of His Resurrection. And spring, a new season of birth, of hope and faith, brings joy to mankind.

Year after year, each season in turn assumes its role in the calendar of time. Spring, with its songs and flutes, buds and blossoms, brings cheer and strength and hope and the solace of faith.

The first spring blossom is as glorious to the eye as is the meaning of the Resurrection to the heart and the soul of man. Humanity cannot ignore the greatness of all things in nature and life and cannot ignore that behind the great changes in the seasons and behind all life is the work, labor, and love of the Master of all.

One cannot close his eyes to the spring beauty that unfolds around him: the new green, the flowers, the longer days of sun, the worming land, the budding trees and plants. She cannot close her ears to the birdsongs that resound from orchard and woodland, from dooryard and pasture, from field and fen.

Nor can he close his ears and his heart to the glorious message of Easter as expressed in the hymns and from the pulpits of churches across the land. Each person becomes aware that there is something far greater than the accumulation of wealth and material things. She learns that all riches must be in faith and spirit and love. And with these truths before him, there will no longer be room in his heart for greed and hate. There will be room only for love and compassion, room only for peace and the richness of its content.

Lansing Christman
The American Friends Service Committee reaffirms its opposition to the death penalty. We base our stand on the Quaker belief that every person has value in the eyes of God and on Quaker testimonies against the taking of human life.

The Supreme Court agrees that there is no conclusive evidence that the death penalty acts as a deterrent to crime. It recognized that the continuing demand for capital punishment is in part a desire for retribution. We find it particularly shocking that the Supreme Court would give credence to retribution as a basis for law.

Punishment by death is inflicted most often upon the poor, and particularly upon racial minorities, who do not have the means to defend themselves that are available to wealthier offenders. A minority person convicted of a capital offense is much more likely to pay the extreme penalty than a white person convicted of the same crime.

The grossly disproportionate number of nonwhites sentenced to be executed and the continuing demand for the death penalty indicate that the death penalty may be an outlet for acknowledged racist attitudes. This outlet is now legally sanctioned, but it is nonetheless morally unacceptable.

The death penalty is especially abhorrent because it assumes an infallibility in the process of determining guilt. Person later found to have been innocent have been executed. This will continue to happen under our current legal system.

It is bad enough that murder or other capital crimes are committed in the first place and our sympathies lie most strongly with the victims. But the death penalty restores no victim to life and only compounds the wrong committed in the first place.

We affirm that there is no justification for taking the life of any man or woman for any reason.

American Friends Service Committee

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**April Short-Term Programs**

**April 11 – 13, 2014**

**Using Class and Race Awareness to Strengthen Social Action**

George and Ingrid Lakey offer a weekend of specific understandings and tools that support unity and collaboration in the area of racial division handicapping movements for peace and for social and environmental justice.

**April 25 – 27, 2014**

**Building Organizational Trust**

Clinton Pettus offers methods of working effectively and efficiently with and through others. If trust is developed within an organization, each participant will feel safe to share his or her talents and feel comfortable in posing constructive questions and concerns.

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**Food Pantry/Thrift Shop February**

On only three Fridays in February, the Food Pantry served 104 households and 390 individuals. The Thrift Shop sold $397.43 in goods. We have the new freezer in place and full!

The Food Pantry is in need of rice! If you can donate rice, please do so!
April Birthdays

6 – Susan Ward
12 – Jack Putnam
   Ian Rose
21 – Justin Williams
25 – Bill Smith

April Anniversaries

Larry and Jane Bullin  April 8, 1995
John and Becki Fallen  April 30, 1999

We call ourselves Quakers, or members of the Religious Society of Friends. What does that mean? This section provides us with writings from well-recognized Friends as food for thought.

Neither silence, nor words, nor music, nor baptism with water are in themselves religious ends. We are called upon to partake of the sacrament of communion at every meal; when alone; and when in Friends’ Meetings, where our form of worship gives a unique opportunity for corporate union in the Spirit of God.

Friends World Conference, 1937