

Asheboro Community Bible Study

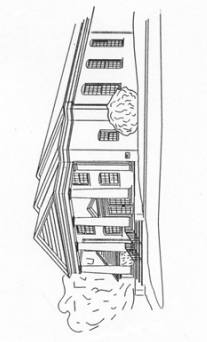
The 2023-2024 Study began at Asheboro Friends Meeting on September 11, 2023. You can choose between Monday nights at 7:00 PM or Tuesday mornings at 10:45 AM.

In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.

— *Psalms 18:6 (ESV)*

The study will cover the following books: Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, & Ephesians. Registration is now open and the cost is \$35.00 for each adult.

For more information contact Jay Brownfield at 336-653-9002 or visit the website at <https://asheboroeve.cbclass.org/>.



Asheboro Friends Meeting

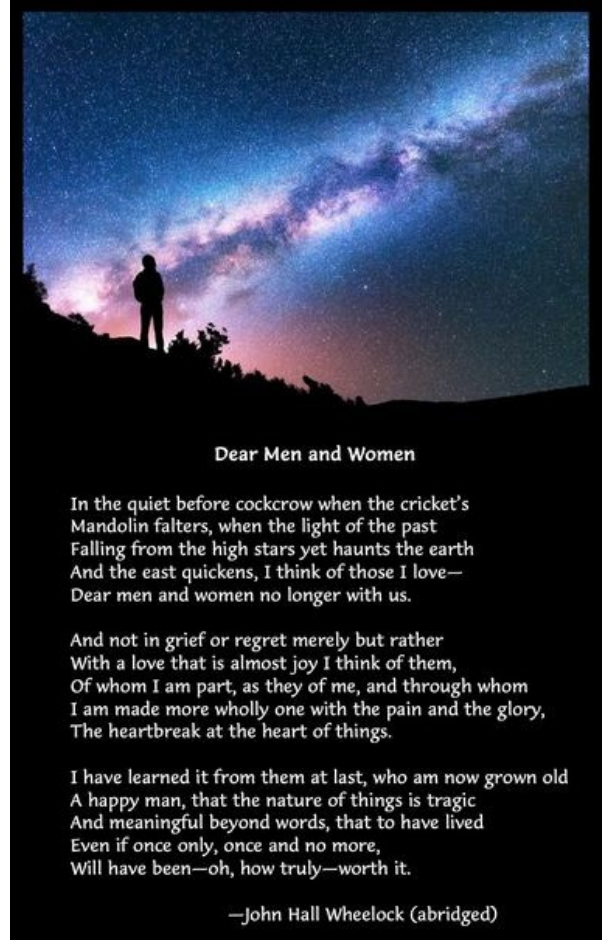
PO Box 987
Asheboro, NC 27204-0987



Dr. Wayne Dunn



Doyle Vaughn



Dear Men and Women

In the quiet before cockcrow when the cricket's
Mandolin falters, when the light of the past
Falling from the high stars yet haunts the earth
And the east quickens, I think of those I love—
Dear men and women no longer with us.

And not in grief or regret merely but rather
With a love that is almost joy I think of them,
Of whom I am part, as they of me, and through whom
I am made more wholly one with the pain and the glory,
The heartbreak at the heart of things.

I have learned it from them at last, who am now grown old
A happy man, that the nature of things is tragic
And meaningful beyond words, that to have lived
Even if once only, once and no more,
Will have been—oh, how truly—worth it.

—John Hall Wheelock (abridged)



Günther Tlotzek



Ed Mayhew

Asheboro Friends Meeting

East Kivett and Main Streets
Asheboro, North Carolina

Mailing Address
PO Box 987, Asheboro, NC 27204-0987

“I Have Called You Friends”

John 15:15

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Cynthia Pierce, Youth Director
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Pastor's Study: 336-629-2858
Pastor Cell Phone: 336-689-4275
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Asheboro Friends Meeting

A Message from your Pastor and Parker J. Palmer

These past few days I have found myself thinking of Christmases past and that this year will be different. Of course every celebration is different, but in the past six months I have experienced the loss of four very dear friends. After a debate within myself I chose to share their photographs on the cover. When I came upon this message from the Quaker poet and author Parker J. Palmer, in the Quaker vernacular it “speaks to my condition.” I will continue to miss each of these men, but I am forever grateful that I am blessed by their friendship.

Merry Christmas
David Millikan

At this time of year, more than a few of us suffer from the holiday blues. For some, the sadness comes from missing the “dear men and women” with whom we celebrated in years gone by. I feel it myself this year, having lost a younger sister in March.

I love this John Hall Wheelock poem (*on the front cover*) because it takes memories that might bring only grief or regret and turns them into causes for celebration. What’s to celebrate? The fact that we were blessed to know these dear souls, and the fact that their loss makes us “more wholly one with the pain and the glory, the heartbreak at the heart of things.” Which is to say, more fully human...

There are two ways for the heart to break. It can break apart into a thousand shards and leave us bitter and withdrawn. Or it can break open into a new largeness of life, making us more compassionate, more loving, more alive—not in spite of our losses, but because of our losses.

There is no love without loss, but without love there is no life: allowing our hearts to break open is a doorway into more life. So if the blues hit this holiday season, let’s honor those dear men and women not only by grieving their loss but by living our lives in the fullness of gratitude and generosity.

Yes, to live, even if once only, is truly worth it!

Parker Jay Palmer is an American Quaker author, poet, educator, and activist who focuses on issues in education, community, leadership, spirituality and social change. He describes himself thusly:

*POETRY + PROSE + POLITICS: Pro-democracy, Pro-civil discourse, Pro-decency
[Palmer’s 10 books are available at tiny.cc/qocmuz AND <http://tiny.cc/5rcmuz>.]*

Cover: *Dear Men and Women* by John Hall Wheelock, 1886–1978, American poet

Birthdays & Anniversaries

B Carol Bullins — December 15

B Ava Grace Fogleman — December 21

B Pat Hurley — December 29

CUOC for December:

Canned Chicken & Dumplings

Feeding Locals First Christmas wish list: Christmas cards, candy, pens, markers, colored pencils, puzzle books, drawing tablets, small notebooks, playing cards, gloves, socks, toboggans, hand warmers.

Please purchase soon or you can give a monetary donation to USFW and they will buy the items needed.

November Financial Report:

Income:	\$ 8,090.00
Expenses:	\$ 9,349.96
Gen Fund Balance:	\$ 36,786.50

Giving to Asheboro Friends Meeting is available online through our website at www.asheborofriends.org. Anyone can support the ministries of Asheboro Friends Meeting by simply clicking on the “Give to AFM” icon supported by our partnership with Tithe.ly where you can follow the simple instructions. Go to our website from your smart phone by scanning the QR code located on the front cover of this newsletter.

Advent is the near approach of the Son of God in the flesh for which one must prepare oneself with greater watchfulness and by the practice of works of charity. It is the voice of the prophets announcing the Messiah who comes. It is the world awaiting its Redeemer, sighing as the parched ground for the dew of heaven. It is St. Paul exhorting the faithful, awakening them from their sleep upon the vigil of the coming of Christ. It is John the Baptist, the last of the long line of prophets, who cries in the wilderness, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord!”

— Fernand Cabrol

Excerpt: Mystery



Detail from "Mystical Nativity," by Sandro Botticelli

“No priest, no theologian stood at the Manger of Bethlehem, and yet all Christian theology has its origin in the wonder of all wonders: that God became human. Holy theology arises from knees bent before the mystery of the divine child in the stable. Without the holy night, there is no theology. “God has revealed in the flesh,” the God-human Jesus Christ - that is the holy mystery that theology came into being to protect and preserve. How we fail to understand when we think that the task of theology is to solve the mystery of God, to drag it down to the flat, ordinary wisdom of human experience and reason! Its sole office is to preserve the miracle as miracle, to comprehend, defend, and glorify God's mystery precisely as mystery.”

Excerpt from *God is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, p.28, available from the FUM online bookstore.

It was said that the Wise Men after visiting the Babe in the manger “went back another way.” No one can really see Christ and go back the same way. Life becomes different from that hour.

— E. Stanley Jones



The Season of Advent

The promise for Israel and the promise for the church
is Jesus Christ;
He has come, and He will come again.
This is the essence of Advent.



First Sunday	Hope	December 3
Second Sunday	Love	December 10
Third Sunday	Joy	December 17
Fourth Sunday	Peace	December 24
Candlelight Service	Christ	December 24

"The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord."

— Henri Nouwen

Letter from Belize

From Belize, Nikki Holland writes:



"The other day I was walking to my office and I encountered Ms. Benjamin, our reading coach, going into her classroom. She was holding a letter, which she gave to me. It was a letter about how much a student loves Ms. B, written in neat and beautiful handwriting, decorated with colorful designs. I looked up from reading it to see tears shining in Ms. B's eyes. "You understand it?" she asked. I said I did and asked if it was written by a particular student, because of the word choice. She nodded, took a breath, and said, "She didn't know how to write any letters when she got here

last year. She couldn't even hold a pencil." Then it was my turn to take a breath! This student is about sixteen years old! I knew she was having trouble, but I hadn't known it was that much trouble! Only one year and now she can write her loving thoughts so beautifully! This is the effect of our reading program at Belize Friends."

Asheboro Friends Prayer List December 15, 2023



Members

Becky Boone
Carol Bullins
Jackie & Pat Cole
Becky Craven
Amy Fogleman
Ava Grace Fogleman
Sheila Huffman
Linda Lanier
Helen Marley
Fred Ownsbey
Mary Ella Pugh
Family of Lois Richardson
Family of Doyle Vaughn
Danny West
Jan Winslow



Friends

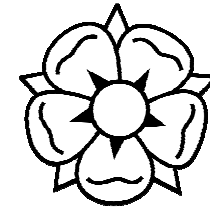
Julia Barnes
Alice Beasley
Logan Brooks (surgery)
Suzanne Brown
Barbara Bullin
Larry Byrd
Ethan Clarke (cancer)
Eddie Coggins (dialysis/kidney transplant)

Betty Cox
Gwen Davis
Family of Wayne Dunn
Theron Farlow
Vickie Frye (cancer)
Ruby Gainey
Treva Gallimore
Janet & Warren Godwin
Doris Hughes
Bill Ivey
Roger Hatchel (cancer)
David Horne
Frank Horton
Pat Hussey
Doris Jacobs
Michael Jacobs



Hospitals & Nursing Homes

Brookdale:
Bryan Bowman
Pat Rutherford
Brookdale, Rock Hill, SC:
Harry Hudson
Sandy Ridge Memory Care:
Linda Moody
Terra Bella:
Hal Powell



Law Enforcement & Services

Jeremy Callicutt
Evan Underwood
Stephen Vaughn
Asheboro Police Department
Asheboro Fire Department
Randolph County Sheriff's Office



Missions

Chosen People Ministries - The Arnolds
Gideon Ministries
HASTEN International
Nikki Holland—Belize
Lydia's Place
Neighbors Helping Neighbors & CUOC
The Friends Center MOWA
Jonathan Spainhour



Ministers & Staff

David Millikan
David Peters
Cynthia Pierce
Mike Wall
Rusty Parsons

Please submit additions to our prayer list:
Email: asheborofriends@yahoo.com
Phone: (336) 625-3803 or (336) 689-4275



Klaussner Employees
Ray Lambe
Ben Lewis (cancer)
Libby McNeil
Jeremy Moore
Renee Nelson
Tony Norris
Jackie Parks
Linda Poole (cancer)
Family of Larry Reid
Jennifer Ruff (cancer)
Gil Sides
Helen & Richard Small
Pam Thomas
Family of Günther Tlotzek
Phyllis Tysor
Sib Vinson
Dwight & Nancy Walker
Jeff Wilder (cancer)
Dolan Williams
Jasper & JoAnn Winslow



Our World, Israel & The Ukraine
Asheboro Friends Meeting & Kids Klub
Friends Church of NC & Contentnea Quarter
Friends Disaster Service
First Responders & Healthcare Workers
All Our Elected Officials
Unspoken Requests
Unsaved Family & Friends



Thanksgiving Celebration Held at Ambwere Farm

A one-of-a-kind harvest celebration was held on 7 December 2023 at Friends United Meeting's Ambwere Farm in Trans-Nzoia County, Kenya. The event celebrated the hard work of the FUM team and its Ambwere farm staff, as everyone gave thanks for a bountiful harvest. As the team prepares for another season, the community celebrated its successful year with on-site visits, prayers, speeches of appreciation and encouragement, and songs of praise. The day concluded with a shared meal.



Attending the celebration were Lloyd Stangeland, representing Ambwere Farm's project donors; John Muhanji, FUM African Ministries; and additional committee directors, including Emeritus Clerk Richard Sitati. Each expressed their gratitude to the farm staff for their unwavering support throughout the project—from the initial preparation of land to the conclusion of the harvest season.



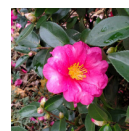
This event also attracted the head of the local administration, who was particularly impressed by the impact the project had created for the community. The corn project lies on about a thousand acres and has created employment for the local community, thereby reducing the poverty rate, and has also reduced incidents of theft, since every household has at least one member employed as a casual laborer at the farm. In her speech she affirmed that her office will be open for consultation and guidance during the next planting season, if needed. She also encouraged the committee to diversify the project, since Kenyan agribusiness is on the rise.

John Muhanji provided an extensive explanation of the project's purpose, which promotes food security for Kenya and

sustainability for FUM missions. John encouraged the staff that working at the farm is a form of mission work for all.

Lloyd Stangeland expressed his gratitude to the farm's technical team, intercessors, suppliers and staff at-large—as it takes a combined effort to reap a successful harvest. Despite his geographical distance from Ambwere, he was able to receive real-time information and pictures of the progress at the farm via the efficiency of the farm team.

As Lloyd returns to the U.S., he carries a message of hope and unwavering faith from the Ambwere team to the FUM Board and its Sustainability Committee.



Kids Klub News

Christmas Caroling



Everyone is invited!



Wednesday

December 20, 2023

3:30 PM



We will return to

Asheboro Friends Meeting

~ 5:00 PM for a Sandwich Meal

In the Fellowship Hall



Game Day

Wednesday

December 27, 2023

In the Fellowship Hall

10:00 AM

Soup Lunch at Noon

Everyone is invited!



For more info contact:

Cynthia Pierce

(H) 336-629-6430

(C) 336-953-2675

