

# Friends at the Spring 3rd Month 2020

*Including a special topic section on race and justice, past and present*

## **Worship Leaders:**

March 1 Judith Bush, Open Worship

March 8 Dottie Hobbs

March 15 Chuck Fager

March 22 Meeting-wide discussion

March 29 Elizabeth Osborne



## **March Birthdays**

2nd Judith Bush

23rd Jackie Adams

27th Sarah McCombie

7th Page Smith

24th Ellen Osborne

28th Guy Smith

10th Griffin Hobbs

25th Dillon Walker

30th John Nelson

21st Elizabeth Osborne

26th Dottie Hobbs

## **March Anniversary**

16th Jennifer and Bruce Walker

## **Announcements**



Congratulations to Adrian Walker on his nomination for the Television Academy Foundation's College Television Awards! Adrian is nominated for a project that he produced for UNC-Chapel Hill's weekly sports broadcast.

Courtesy of Ron Osborne, photographic memories from 2005 celebrating winter, daffodils, and our children!



In appreciation of the gifts that children bring to the meeting, Elizabeth has put together a basket on a back bench in the meeting house with 3 tote bags containing crayons & coloring books and other quiet activities for the youngest children in attendance. We are continuing to develop activities that can be enjoyed by young children in the hut or on the grounds of the meeting house and members of the meeting are available to spend time with children while their parents participate in meeting for worship.



## Special Topic Section on Race and Justice, Past and Present

Spring Monthly Meeting approved this memorial minute Second Month, 16th, 2020:

*It is with much regret that our congregation observes the anniversary of one of the truly horrendous events from our county's past. The night of Second Month, 26th, 2020 marks 150 years since the brutal death of Wyatt Outlaw.*

*On that cold, drizzly night in 1870, a mob of sixty Ku Klux Klansmen forcibly entered Outlaw's Graham home. In the presence of his mother and young son, this mob brutally seized the 50 year-old citizen and town commissioner. Bound hand and foot, Outlaw was then prodded and beaten with clubs to trudge the few hundred feet from his home on North Main Street to the northwest corner of the courthouse square. There, these lawless vigilantes hung him by the neck from an elm tree. The limb they chose pointed toward the courthouse, as yet another symbolic mockery of justice. A placard was hung around the neck of his lifeless body warning his friends and sympathetic neighbors: "Beware ye traitors both white and black." Wyatt's offense was that he was a bi-racial man who was outspoken in his championing the political and civil rights for his fellow freedmen, and for his previous confrontation of Klan nightriders in conduct of his lawful role as town constable.*

*We choose to observe this sad anniversary as a reminder that though a century and half has passed since this horrific event, many of the passions and animosities that fanned the flames of that time have continued to burn, smoldering about us even now. We charge ourselves to not forget, nor to be merely bystanders now. For sins borne of fear, hate, or violence by others, past or present, should not be condoned by the sin of silence on the part of us, ourselves.*

*We mark this anniversary not just so that we may remember the injustice, but so we can continue the work towards justice; not just so that we may remember the suffering, but so we can be an agent of healing and reconciliation.*

Several members of Spring attended a gathering in Graham on February 26th marking the anniversary of the lynching of Wyatt Outlaw. Coverage by the Times-News and the prayer read by Ron Osborne are pictured here:



**Times-News**  
Friday, February 28, 2020

# Remembering a lynching

Wade Harrison speaks of Wyatt Outlaw's history in the community.  
(PHOTOS BY ROBERT THOMASON / TIMES-NEWS)

Wade Harrison speaks of Wyatt Outlaw's history in the community.

Charley Flint holds day lilies as she listens to Wade Harrison speak of Wyatt Outlaw's history in the community.

Ron Osborne, a member of the Spring Friends Meeting in Snow Camp, reads a prayer as a group stands for a solemn vigil Wednesday evening, Feb. 26, to remember Wyatt Outlaw, at what is now Sesquicentennial Park, on the northwest corner of Courthouse Square in Graham, where Outlaw was lynched in 1876.

Members of the Spring Friends Meeting in Snow Camp hold flowers in memory of Wyatt Outlaw at the vigil to observe the 150th anniversary of his lynching in Graham.

We gather here, separated by 150 years, and mere feet, from this tragic event.

We choose to observe this sad anniversary as a reminder that though a century and half has passed, many of the passions and animosities that fanned the flames of that time have continued to burn, smoldering about us even now. Nearer than time or even space do we stand to the rancor-the pain- the pain of offender as well as the offended, that still thrives in our Society. Violence borne of anger; Anger borne of fear: Fear, borne of misunderstanding; Misunderstanding of one another; *Misunderstanding*. The simple failure to realize that we, and all people, everywhere, really seek the same things:

- The wellbeing of themselves and their loved ones,
- Freedom to follow their conscience and will,
- To be treated with respect, kindness, and dignity, and fairness.

Would we all merely understand that each of us share these very same needs and values, that we hold much more in common with one another than do we apart, how different the world, and History, might be.

We must learn that to enjoy these desires ourselves, we must not only permit, but promote, them for others. And then, there need not be winners and losers, nor victors and vanquished-only sisters and brothers.

We charge ourselves to not forget this event, nor to be merely bystanders now. For sins borne of fear for ourselves, of hate or violence by others, past or present, should not be condoned by the sin of silence on the part of us, ourselves.

We mark this anniversary not just so that we may remember the injustice, but so we can continue the work towards justice, not just so that we may remember the suffering, but so we can be an agent of healing and reconciliation.

Offered on the occasion of the sesquicentennial and site of Wyatt Outlaw's tragic death, 2/26/2020-Ron Osborne

In the spirit of continuing to work toward healing and reconciliation, Friends are reminded of the retreat being hosted by Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Yearly Meeting Friday, March 27 – Sunday, March 29 at Carolina Friends School featuring the theme: Learning from the Past and Facing the Present.

**Friday, March 27**

*Registration Table Open at 3:00 pm*

*Afternoon Kickoff at 3:30 pm*

Quaker Organizations

Present Current Priorities

Potluck Dinner

Ice Breaking Activity

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**Saturday, March 28**

- Racism and Colonization (AFSC presentation)
- Lunch
- Quaker History Panel
- PFYM Annual Sessions
- Dinner
- Evening informal activities (games, songs, fellowship)

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**Sunday, March 29**

Worship

PFF Annual Meeting

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[2020 Spring Retreat and Annual Sessions](#) event notice with link to registration.

