



# The Faithful Friend

There is a Friend more faithful than a brother. *Proverbs 18:24*



## Graham Friends Church

700 North Main Street, Graham, NC 27253

[www.grahamfriends.org](http://www.grahamfriends.org)

You may reach the pastor at 336-684-5634

and [pastor@grahamfriends.org](mailto:pastor@grahamfriends.org).

### Meeting Times

#### Sunday

9:40AM: Worship Band 10AM: Sunday School

11AM: Worship 5PM: Evening Fellowship

#### Wednesday

11AM: Bible Class

7PM: Fun & Friends 7PM: Bible Class

#### Thursday

7PM: Worship Band

7PM: Bowling at Country Club Lanes

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## Quaker Christmas Communion

Four years ago, we started a Christmas Eve candlelight service at Graham Friends. As far as anyone could recall, it was the first in 100 years of the Meeting. People have loved the carols and candle light and the reading of the Christmas story. In fact, it has become one time in the year when neighbors of the church also come to worship.

This year we are aiming to make the service even more special and hope this will make Graham Friends a favorite place for many around the area to worship on Christmas Eve. Susan Ryman will provide piano accompaniment while Pastor Mark reads the Christmas story from the gospels. The style will be similar to the Easter story with musical accompaniment a few years ago. The congregation will also sing carols in the midst of this musical narrative.

During the service, worshipers will be served mugs of mulled cider and ginger cookies. As they enjoy the warm touch, the smell, and the taste of the season, they will be encouraged to meditate on the Father's goodness to them this year and especially his graciousness in sending his Son. We are praying that this Quaker Christmas Communion will become an annual event for those curious about the Christian Faith and for those who want to try something new at Christmas.

## Christmas Outreach

*How beautiful in the Piedmont are the feet of those who deliver Good News, who publish peace and salvation, who say to the people, "Our God reigns!" (paraphrased, Isaiah 52:7)*

Graham Friends is joining thousands of churches across the nation in a special Christmas outreach this month. The publishers of the English Standard Version of the Bible are providing New Testaments, a Christmas tract by Max Lucado, a coupon for a free month of the ESV Study Bible online, and invitations to Christmas Eve services. The goal is for 1 million homes to be personally served the Good News this Christmas or, if no one is home for the gospel to be left in an attractive doorknob bag. 📖

Help reach  
1 million homes  
with the Gospel  
this Christmas!



## Service Opportunities

Lots needs doing around the church. Here is a partial list:

- repair vinyl siding on fellowship hall doors, repair sticking doors, change lights
- publish the weekly bulletins (typesetting, copying, folding, stuffing)
- maintain the website (or even expanding it!)
- videotape Sunday morning services
- edit Sunday sound files, publish to the internet & CDs
- build a computer and set up an office for a secretary

See pastor Mark to learn how you may get involved.

### Christmas Outreach continued...

We will also be enclosing in our 350 bags a CD with a Christmas greeting from Graham Friends, a word on how to use the contents of the bag, and a Christmas sermon by Pastor Mark.

Every member of the church is encouraged to think of at least four homes where they will personally deliver the Good News of Christmas. The remaining bags will be delivered to homes in the neighborhoods surrounding the church on December 19th at Noon.

Who will you deliver the Good News to this Christmas?



On Monday, November 30th, Hope Shirley led a team from Graham Friends to Charlotte where they helped inspect and carton 2 million shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Joining her were her husband Brad, Wendy and Scott Sheldon, and Pastor Mark. They had such a memorable time that they plan to go back next year for two days and encourage you to consider going with them.

This year, shoeboxes filled with gifts and the gospel will be delivered to more than 8 million children in more than 200 countries. One fourth of the boxes are processed in Charlotte by volunteers from several states.

<http://tinyurl.com/3ltauc>

## Coming Up

**Saturday, December 12, 4-7PM**

Open House at the Rymans, 503 North Main Street, Graham – *Please RSVP*

**Saturday, December 19, NOON**

Delivering good news to the neighborhood

**Thursday, December 24, 7PM**

Christmas Eve service

**Sunday, January 3, 11AM/NOON**

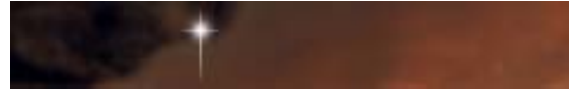
NCYM District Superintendent John Porter

**Sunday, January 17, 11AM**

Kristie and Danny Ward of Naomi's Heart Mission will be with us

## Christmas

*George Herbert (1593-1633)*



All after pleasures as I rid one day,  
My horse and I, both tir'd, bodie and minde,  
With full crie of affections, quite astray;  
I took up in the next inne I could finde.

There when I came, whom found I  
but my deare,  
My dearest Lord, expecting till the grief  
Of pleasures brought me to him, readie there  
To be all passengers most sweet relief?

O Thou, whose glorious, yet contracted light,  
Wrapt in night's mantle, stole into a manger;  
Since my dark soul and brutish is thy right,  
To Man of all beasts be not thou a stranger:

Furnish and deck my soul,  
that thou mayst have  
A better lodging, than a rack, or grave.

The shepherds sing; and shall I silent be?  
My God, no hymne for thee?  
My soul's a shepherd too: a flock it feeds  
Of thoughts, and words, and deeds.

The pasture is thy word;  
the streams, thy grace  
Enriching all the place.  
Shepherd and flock shall sing,  
and all my powers  
Out-sing the day-light houres.

Then we will chide the sunne  
for letting night  
Take up his place and right :

We sing one common Lord;  
wherefore he should  
Himself the candle hold.

I will go searching, till I finde a sunne  
Shall stay, till we have done;  
A willing shiner, that shall shine as gladly,  
As frost-nipt sunnes look sadly.  
Then we will sing, and shine all our own day,  
And one another pay:  
His beams shall cheer my breast,  
and both so twine,  
Till ev'n his beams sing,  
and my musick shine.