

## Peter & Martha

teaching pulled them into the Triangle  
and God pulled them into the Durham Friends Meeting,  
and as the country felt pulled by the weight of the past  
and felt pulled by the light of a better future,  
between doors slammed in the face  
and doors held open to hope,  
Peter & Martha heard a calling and answered it,  
standing for what all peoples can be if no group is denied,  
civil rights a charge of God's to all of us,  
as is hearing the soft hard call of peace  
as the alternative to the easy shout of bloody war,

obedience to the will of God  
rather than to the will of fallible humans,

and in the midst of building a family  
they watched Couch Road which passed close to their house,  
just below the pond's dam:  
and every day a bus would pass on its way  
to the underfunded white school,  
and another bus would pass going the other way  
to the even more underfunded black school,  
half a decade since even the Supreme Court got it  
that separate cannot be equal,

so as a city upon a hill a dream came to the Meetings  
of a Friends school open to all  
and open to the best in all,  
true to Friends the way to truth long and hard  
for every intimation of revelation must be  
considered within,  
maybe shared,  
and, if shared, considered without,  
and considered with all other opinions  
while seeking to hear how that of God within  
reacts to the possible ways  
and then hoping the choice made  
builds upon a solid foundation,

the decision is made,  
they give the land for a school  
and brick & mortar follow the bulldozer,  
the dream starts to build  
and fear regresses some to want to stop it:  
dynamite at the site and bullets in the house,

the dream perseveres and a school is newborn,  
Martha there at the beginning to help lead it,  
Martha & Peter there at the beginning  
and every year since to give all they have:  
land, their own children,  
the charge to keep holding us to the vision  
that all have that of God within them,  
and that a school can treasure it  
and help each student release it  
and each can be more and more,  
better and better,  
closer to what the world needs  
to help all follow a true path,

Peter, ever the practical, always holding us to logistical needs  
that must be met on the way from the present to the dream,

both Peter & Martha have Chaired the Board,  
both have given Carolina Friends School that which is incalculable:  
their love,  
their vision,  
their commitment to listening for God  
and following what they hear,  
with courage,  
with strength,  
and with trust that others also hear the calling,  
and that together we can create a school  
that can come into being  
and endure for generations,  
and we will be successful as long as we remember the sacred charge  
to appreciate and help release that of God in everyone.

by Henry Walker  
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