

FEBRUARY 2025 | ISSUE NO. 40

BEARING FRUIT

The Official Newsletter of Friends Church North Carolina

ARTICLES TO HELP
YOU THROUGH:

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WELCOME!

Welcome to your Friends Church North Carolina Newsletter!
This is a monthly e-newsletter dedicated to keeping you up to date
on current events within FCNC.

We strive to highlight topics of interest such as announcements,
who/what we support, recent activities, upcoming events etc.

How can you help?

Let us know if you have information that falls into these categories
at an FCNC level. Email information, pictures or ideas to our Social
Media Coordinator,

Jenny Gullion at: jenny@friendschurchnc.org



Quotes by Quakers

“

“LOVE IS THE HARDEST LESSON IN CHRISTIANITY; BUT, FOR THAT REASON, IT SHOULD BE MOST OUR CARE TO LEARN IT.”

-WILLIA PENN, 1644-1718

”

A Word of Devotion:

A LESSON IN LOVE

By: Jenny Gullion
-SMC for FCNC

“Suffering is Never for nothing”

-Elizabeth Elliot



***“Who is my Neighbor?
How shall I love him?”***

I pondered these questions as I sat in the silence. 1 John had never spoken so loudly and quite clearly before. The preacher’s words stirred my mind and made me dissect the day to day actions I carried out in my life.

Of course I was conscious of those around me. Of course I cared for the state of my world, neighborhood and church brethren.

But what does it look like to truly love them?

And then it hit me... I began to examine all of the ways that others have loved me.

Suffering puts us in a unique position to receive love. Love, we otherwise may not have known we needed. Love that has always been for others. But when you find yourself in need, when you are the one lacking and suffering with either physical pain or perhaps the emotional variety, that’s when it happens. That’s when the kindness and loving Spirit of God begins to move in the hands and feet of those around us.

Instead of giving, we become the recipient and it’s humbling, moving and overwhelming. And if we take notes, we’ll learn what it looks like to love others.

In 2023 I was bed bound because of a blood clot that ran all the way from my hip to my knee. My vein was completely blocked and I was in excruciating pain and scared. As a previously healthy 32 year old woman who had never had a health problem in my life, I was in a vulnerable place that I had never been in before.

I was in need. I needed physical help. I needed emotional care. I needed the kindness and love of Jesus to comfort me.

And then the lesson began, disguised as the outpouring of love and care of the community surrounding me. What looked like meals and conversation, loving on my children and maintaining my home was actually a crash course in loving my neighbor. I sat in the seat of the student and got to see first hand what is needed when you can not care for yourself or your family.

What did I learn you ask? What was my biggest take away?

Get physical. Get Personal. Put your feet on the ground, your hands in the dishwasher.

Put the meal in the oven. Slip on your rubber gloves and scrub that toilet.

Put your laundry skills to use, and make a bed. Wash a load and fold it.

Drive them to that appointment. Reach out, hold their hand and pray while the tears stain your cheeks.

One of my favorite and impactful “lessons” during my time of need was from a girl named Julia.

I barely knew her.

*She was a friend of a friend and I had met her briefly in a coffee shop.
When I became bed ridden, she heard about it and she came to my house.
She walked into my messy room, the bed cluttered with medication bottles, heating pads, baby items and a long list of other things I needed within arm's reach.
She sat beside my bed, propped her feet up, sat back in a chair and just stayed with me. She talked, she listened. She cried and laughed with me.
She ate a sandwich and brought joy and normalcy to my otherwise bleak outlook within the confines of my bedroom.*

Julia had no idea that she was the teacher that day, and I her student. Learning for future days just how to love my neighbor. Learning what it looks like to be Jesus' hands and feet and put action to it!

John 2:14-18

"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

The end and fruition of this story is that I have been doubly blessed, as I have had the opportunity to be the recipient of God's love and more recently the deliverer of it. Julia's mother-in-law was diagnosed with terminal cancer a few months ago. As a previously strong, healthy, woman in her 50's, I know what she's feeling. I've had the blessing to be the one sitting with her, delivering meals and helping to maintain a clean home for her. When Scripture tells you it is more blessed to give than to receive, this is exactly what is meant!

If you are in the season of need, sit tight and learn! Class is in session and it's time to take notes, because in the words of Elizabeth Elliot, "Suffering is never for nothing". And if you're in a season of mountain top dwelling, look for the opportunity to love your neighbor. Even if it feels awkward, even if they don't seem thankful, even if you don't think they're worthy. Put your shoes on, walk out the door in faith and get ready to "wrap your waist with a towel" and wash the proverbial feet of those Christ died to save.

John 13:1-17





Upcoming Events:

**FEBRUARY 14TH 2025
HAPPY VALENTINES DAY
FRIENDS**

**MARCH 29TH 2025
MID YEAR GATHERING
(SEE FLYER BELOW)**

CHECK OUT THE NEXT
FEW PAGES FOR MORE
INFORMATION ABOUT
THESE EVENTS

**JANUARY & FEBRUARY
IS A TIME WHERE THERE
AREN'T AS MANY
EVENTS &
APPOINTMENTS.**

USE THESE MONTHS TO

-REFRESH

-RENEW



-REST

**AS THINGS PICK BACK
UP, DON'T FORGET TO
LET US KNOW ABOUT
EVENTS GOING ON
WITHIN YOUR FRIENDS
COMMUNITY!**

THE BOOK ROOM ONLINE

[CLICK HERE](#) to check out the
online bookstore on the
FCNC website. A great
resource for many friends
books!



If you have any announcements

Let us know at

jenny@friendschurchnc.org

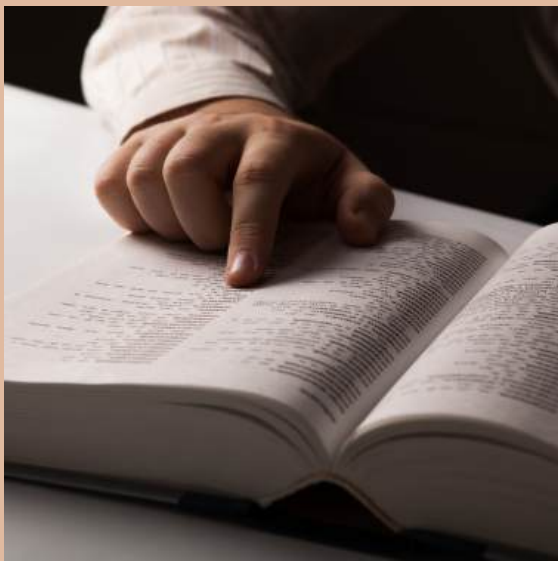
****Attention Committee Members****

Announcements:



REMINDER

Directory *still available!*



There was a possible data breach in our directory. Therefore the password has been changed. Please reach out to Paul Routh to learn how to regain access.

paul@friendschurchnc.org

[Log in HERE](#)

In Search of a Pastor & Youth Pastor for Centre Friends

WE RECEIVED AN E-MAIL ANNOUNCING THAT **CENTRE FRIENDS** IS LOOKING FOR A FULL TIME PASTOR AND YOUTH PASTOR. BELOW IS A LINK TO THE JOB DESCRIPTIONS THAT WILL GIVE INTERESTED APPLICANTS A GOOD IDEA OF WHAT CENTRE IS LOOKING FOR. PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER THIS AND REACH OUT TO THOSE THAT MAY QUALIFY, IF THE LORD SHOULD SO LEAD.



CLICK [HERE](#) TO VISIT FCNC WEBSITE TO READ THE FULL JOB DESCRIPTION.

Youth Leader Position Opening



Concord Friends Meeting has an opening
for a part time youth leader. [TAP HERE](#) to
see more information on this position
and to apply



IN SEARCH

of a full time Pastor
Science Hill Friends Meeting

2421 Lassiter Mill Road
Asheboro, NC 27205

In rural Randolph County, right off of New Highway 49
If you are interested in applying or visiting please contact
Tammy Garner @ 336-460-4421 or garnerseed@rtmc.net

Mailing address:
Science Hill Friends
c/o Tammy Garner
PO Box 1386
Asheboro, NC 27204



IN SEARCH

of a Pastor
Bethel Friends Meeting

2519 Bethel Church Road
Asheboro, NC. 27203

We are a small, but active meeting. Our average attendance for morning worship is between 35 and 40. Our USFW attendance is around 14 ladies for each of our monthly breakfast meetings. The USFW is very involved in community and mission projects. Our Quaker Men meet once a month for breakfast, fellowship and devotions.

Our meeting serves 1000+ people at our Pig Picking fundraisers in April and October each year. We also have various other activities that reach out into our community.
We want our pastor to participate in our meeting activities.

We want our pastor to lead us in studying God's word, reaching others for Christ and helping us to grow in our own walk with Christ. We want a pastor who will care for our meeting as we will care for them, with love, compassion and concern.

We want them to be a close part of our Bethel family.

For more information contact Sarah Cox Clerk of Ministry and Council
336-963-2710



IN SEARCH

of a full time Pastor
Centre Friends Meeting

325 HWY 62 E
Greensboro, NC

Centre Friends Meeting is searching for a full time Pastor. Check out the Pastor job description on their website.

<https://www.centrefriends.org>

Send resume to:
Centre Friends Meeting Ministry and Counsel
Attn: Julie Hatchel, Clerk
PO Box 632

Randleman, NC 27317
julle@asheborolawyer.com



**Job Posting
Part-Time Pastor**

**Mar Mac Friends Meeting
1954 Old Grantham Road
Goldsboro, NC 27530**

Mar Mac Friends Meeting is seeking to fill the position of a Part-Time Pastor. We are an evangelical, conservative Quaker Meeting in rural Wayne County, North Carolina. We are a member of Contentnea Quarterly Meeting, Friends Church of North Carolina and Friends United Meeting.

Primary Functions

- Prepare and lead Sunday Morning worship service
- Provide pastoral leadership to the meeting

Qualifications

- Must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, having accepted Him as Savior and Lord and have an understanding and agreement with Friend Church of NC Faith and Practice
- Previous training and/or experience as a pastor
- Recorded as a Quaker minister is desired.

A more detailed job description is available if requested.

If interested please contact:

Connie Seymour, Clerk of Ministry and Counsel
116 Perkins Drive
Goldsboro, NC 27530

919-922-0441 email: connieseymour@msn.com

Rocky River Friends Meeting

1795 Staley Snow Camp Rd.
Siler City, NC 27344

Job Description for Pastor of Rocky River Friends Meeting

Rocky River Friends Meeting Vision/Mission Statement:

- To tell the story of Jesus based on his teachings
- To further the work of Christ in the world
- To encourage and treat all human beings with love, dignity, and respect through humanitarian service and social justice
- To promote peace in the world

Pastor Job Description:

- The pastor's primary concern should be the spiritual well-being and growth of the Meeting's members and prospective members

Desired Qualifications:

- Knowledge and understanding of Quaker history
- A belief in Jesus Christ, having accepted him as Savior and Lord
- An understanding and agreement with FCNC(Friends Church of North Carolina)
- Training and/or experience as a pastor

Responsibilities:

- Leading people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ
- Responsible for all Sunday morning services bringing Biblical and practical messages to the congregation each week
- Attend and participate in the Meeting's activities other than the Sunday morning service
- Available to perform special services, including weddings and funerals
- Provide support for members as needed and visitation of shut-ins, people in the hospital and in nursing home facilities as well as those in crisis situations
- Participate and support activities of Western Quarterly Meeting and FCNC

*Compensation package will be commiserate with education and experience.

*Persons interested in this position should send resume in PDF to:

dallasavestal@yahoo.com

Dallas Brooks, Clerk of Ministry and Counsel
Rocky River Friends Meeting

New

ADDRESSES

FCNC
P.O. Box 4240,
Archdale, NC 27263

It is also the new mailing
address for NCYM INC.
as well as to Judith Cranford

Treasurer NC USFW:
Alicia Sharp
908 Scottish Rite Dr.
Apt 219
Greensboro, NC 27407

Please send correspondence
and NC USFW project
donations here.



Job Description for Pastor of Randleman Friends Meeting

Randleman Friends Meeting is a traditional programmed Quaker meeting that also incorporates elements of un-programmed worship.

The pastor's primary focus is the spiritual well-being and growth of the Meeting's members and prospective members.

The pastor reports to Ministry and Council and the Monthly Meeting and adheres to guidelines presented in FCNC (Friends Church of North Carolina) Faith and Practice.

Desired Qualities:

- Energetic and motivational
- Knowledge and understanding of Quaker history
- Applies Quaker practice, testimonies, and doctrine in messages and in life – specifically peace, equality, and continuing revelation
- Interest in growth of the meeting
- Interest in Missions
- Provides thought provoking, challenging messages
- Incorporates logic and reason in decision making
- Positive and cooperative leadership

Responsibilities:

- Provide leadership and spoken messages for Sunday morning worship services
- Oversee special services, including weddings and funerals, as needed
- Attend and participate in the Meeting's activities
- Support Monthly Meeting committees
- Provide contact and visitation with members and prospective members
- Provide support for members as needed
- Participate and support activities of Southern Quarterly Meeting and FCNC

Persons interested in this position should send resume to randlemanfriendsmeeting@gmail.com

Mid-Year Gathering

**March
29th**

**Business:
10AM**

Cane Creek Friends

719 W Greensboro Chapel Hill Rd
Snow Camp, NC 27349

Individual Committees:

Please refer to your Committee Clerks as to whether or not you will be meeting.

Committee Clerks: PLEASE let Cheryl Benson know if your committee plans on meeting. This allows the Meeting House the opportunity to accommodate a space for you.



Let the Children
come to me



Christmas is a special celebration in various parts of Kenya and the entire world. It is the moment we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, and is more of a thanksgiving affair in Kenya, and Africa at large. People travel from the cities to the villages to reunite with family. These are the times when children get new clothes, decorate mud houses by drawing flowers on the walls, and families get to share special meals together.

It is not any different on Mt. Elgon, in Western Kenya. The orphan and vulnerable children Christmas party has become a norm since its inception six years ago, and once again, on 23 December 2024, all roads led to the Chebyuk Peace Centre for the Children's Celebration.

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

Meet our Missions
Lugulu Friends Hospital



Friends Lugulu Mission Hospital was established by Quaker missionaries in 1913. Now a 100-bed hospital, the hospital provides emergency, medical, and surgical services in a densely populated region where such resources are scarce. All patients are welcome, and compassionate care is offered to all patients—including those with HIV/AIDS. Friends Lugulu Mission Hospital provides services with dedication and compassion—treating the body, mind, and spirit. Chaplaincy services include spiritual and mental health care, devotional messages, and prayer and counsel with patients and their families. Social workers treat HIV/AIDS patients with respect and honor.

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

Excerpts from:

SOLITUDE

Proverbs, Wisdom & Principles for Better Living

By: William Penn



Quotes on "Neutrality":

425- Neutrality is something else than indifference; and yet of kin to it too.

426- A judge ought to be in different, and yet he cannot be said to be neutral.

429- He that espouses parties, can hardly divorce himself from their fate; and more fall with their party than rise with it.

432- And yet, where right or religion gives call, a neuter must be a coward or an hypocrite.

433- In such cases we should never be backward; nor yet mistaken.

QUAKER QUESTIONS

Taken from "Questions Quakers are Asking"

By: Seth B. Hinshaw

Blessed Peacemakers

Albert Einstein once said, "The pioneers of a warless world are the young men who refused military service." A further observation is said to have come from a child: "What if they gave a war, and nobody came?" Those who have suffered for their sincere efforts to be true to the teachings of Jesus relative to violence have his blessing pronounced upon them. Matthew 5:9

There is a strong temptation for individuals in the church to say, "There is nothing we can do. Why try? There will always be wars. The Bible says so." What is the fallacy in these statements? The words of Bonaro Overstreet may be relevant:

"You say the little efforts I make will do no good; they never will prevail to tip the hovering scale... But I am prejudice beyond debate in favor of my right to choose which side shall feel the stubborn ounces of my weight.."

Do you want your very own copy of "Questions Quakers are asking?"

[CLICK HERE](#)
to order from your
FCNC bookstore!



Quaker Query

...for February

What is a "Quaker Query"?

Quakers use the term Query to refer to a question or series of questions used for reflection and in spiritual exercises. Friends have used Queries as tools for offering spiritual challenges to the community for much of their history.

Consider this...

-Do I make my home a place of friendliness, joy, and peace, where residents and visitors feel God's presence?

-Do we provide our children and young adults with a framework for active, ongoing participation in the Meeting

Social Media

Comm-Tech Committee Statement

Hello from your FCNC Comm-Tech Committee!

Many members within FCNC are still unaware that we have a newsletter!

The best way for Friends to stay up to date and aware of news & events is to get connected.

There are 3 great ways to do that:

- 1) subscribe to *Bearing Fruit* (click [HERE](#))
- 2) follow FCNC's Facebook Page (click [HERE](#))
- 3) join FCNC's Facebook group (click [HERE](#))

Social Media isn't for everyone, and we completely understand, so that's where "Bearing Fruit" is a great option.

But what about those in our Meetings who still haven't heard about or seen the newsletter?

That's where YOU come in!

Pastors, announce to your congregations on Sundays.

Friends, ask your friends if they've seen the newsletter.

Committee leaders, consider printing off copies to hand out to those who are less likely to use technology.

Together, we can get the word out! Thank you for your help

Click here to send me an e-mail
jenny@friendschurchnc.org



Prayer **CORNER**

How can we pray for you?

Prayer:

Pray for the families who lost loved ones in the recent air plane collision near Washington D.C.

Pray for the continued restoration of Western NC

Pray for those who lost everything in recent house fires in California

Praise:

Praise God for His Sovereignty

“Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!”

Romans 11:33

january

RECAP

Visit with Marlboro Friends

On January 12th Superintendent, Mike Wall, was able to worship with Marlboro Friends! It was the day of ice and snow, and still a good crowd was able to meet!

