

BEARING FRUIT

The Official Newsletter of Friends Church North Carolina



ARTICLES TO HELP
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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

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“GIVE OVER THINE OWN WILLING, GIVE OVER THINE OWN RUNNING... AND SINK DOWN TO THE SEED WHICH GOD SOWS IN THY HEART AND LET THAT BE IN THEE, AND GROW IN THEE, AND BREATHE IN THEE, AND ACT IN THEE.”

-ISAAC PENNINGTON

”

“...and they shall call his name Immanuel”
-Matthew 1:23



A Word of Devotion: “IMMANUEL,” GOD WITH US

By: Dr. Kevin Burris
Toccoa Falls College

The approach of Christmas brings back a rush of memories from various stages of life that make me pause in my thoughts and almost feel the warmth of cherished times with those I love. For some reason, I usually think first of one Christmas when we were very poor, but my parents went beyond my wildest expectations to buy me an entire set of G.I. Joe toys and accessories. I also think of the first Christmas I spent with my wife and the first Christmas that we hosted the extended family at our own house. I remember so clearly the joy of watching my children anticipate Christmas, open presents, and play in the midst of a pile of boxes and wrapping paper.

However, sometimes, Christmas memories are difficult. One Christmas was spent partially in the hospital due to an unexpected surgery. Other Christmases have been the first ones spent without a loved one who had passed away. As I look forward to the coming Christmas season, feelings of sadness and even foreboding come upon me since my father has been very sick and will be unable to be home with my mother for the first time in over 50 years. I know things will be different and dread the pain this will cause my mother.

Whether the season brings excitement or sadness in our personal lives, I find myself often forgetting the words of the angel to Joseph and the powerful declaration of "Immanuel," God is with us. The angel's declaration is taken from Isaiah who lived in a time of spiritual impoverishment among God's people and prophesied about coming times of defeat and exile. The declaration is to Joseph, a poor carpenter, who lived in a time of Roman rule and who is experiencing the pain and doubt of finding his intended wife to be pregnant with a child that was not his own. In contrast to their dark times, Isaiah and Joseph are assured that God is with them. Despite his messages of doom, Isaiah makes some of the most memorable predictions of the Messiah's birth (7:14; 9:6-7), crucifixion (52:13-52:12), and second coming to set up an eternal kingdom (65-66)! Despite Joseph's humble life in a troubled time, he was Jesus' earthly father, experiencing the fulfillment of so much Scripture as he shared intimate times of life and fellowship with God incarnate in the baby and young boy Jesus!

For some reason it is so easy to see how God was with Old Testament saints like Isaiah and how Jesus was physically present with Joseph, Mary, and the disciples, but sometimes so difficult to understand how He is with us today. How do we incorporate the concept of Immanuel into our Christmas thinking? How do we prepare ourselves to fully experience God's presence in the season in which we should most naturally celebrate the advent of Jesus into this world?

I find three simple practices to be extremely helpful in preparing oneself to experience God's presence more deeply during the Christmas season. First, establish or step into Christian rituals before Christmas. Traditional ways of preparing for Christmas such as advent calendars and regular Scripture readings have been used for centuries and allow us to participate with believers worldwide as we remember Christ's birth. Add to these your own traditions that go beyond basic gift-giving and focus on the reason for giving. Even small touches like adding a Christmas game that promotes fellowship and thankfulness allow us to better experience God's presence.

Second, set aside times each day to look to Christ's second coming. I have often neglected this in the Christmas season, but His first coming is always reminding us that He's coming again. This simple exercise will encourage you with hope, even if your Christmas situation this year may be less than you'd hoped. It will also spur you to think about those around you who do not know Christ and encourage you to make connections between Christmas and the soon coming return of the Savior.

Finally, live your life in a way that reflects the truth that Immanuel, God with us, is an ongoing reality if we have the Holy Spirit living within us today. God is always with us as the Holy Spirit warms our hearts with previous Christmas memories or comforts our hearts during Christmases that may be particularly difficult. The Holy Spirit proves to be "God with us" as our hearts take joy in Christmas carols and advent readings. The Holy Spirit is "God with us" as we take care and thought into buying and receiving presents for those we love and for those we don't know. Indeed, the Holy Spirit is "God with us" in exactly the same way that He was with Jesus as He grew from an infant to adulthood – empowering, leading, teaching, comforting, and confirming the will of the Father each moment of our existence!

May God be with each of you and your families this Christmas season as you prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth so long ago! May He also be with you as you anticipate His next advent on earth! We agree with the Spirit, "Come Lord Jesus! May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen." (Rev. 22:20-21)





Upcoming Events:

DECEMBER 7TH 2025

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF WORSHIP AS WE REFLECT ON THE REASON FOR THE SEASON. THE QUAKER LAKE CAMP CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 7 AT 5:30PM, AND WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE. PARK AT THE MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING AND TAKE A CANDLELIT STROLL TO THE SHELTER. WE'LL MAKE S'MORES AND ENJOY CIDER AND HOT CHOCOLATE AFTERWARD. THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC; NO RSVP NEEDED.



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

DECEMBER 12 & 13 2025
DRIVE THRU NATIVITY
@ WHITE PLAINS FRIENDS
6:00-8:00 PM

DECEMBER 21ST 2025
YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
@ WHITE PLAINS FRIENDS
6:00 PM

AS THE HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES ROLL IN, DON'T FORGET TO EMAIL US WITH YOUR MEETINGS VARIOUS EVENTS!

- FUNDRAISERS
- COMMUNITY OUTREACH
- PLAYS
- COMMUNITY MEALS
- CHARITABLE COLLECTIONS



If you have any announcements

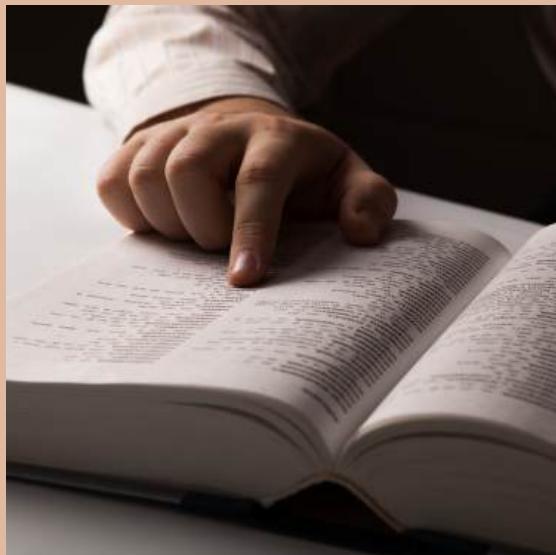
Let us know at
jenny@friendschurchnc.org



Announcements:



REMINDER



[Log in HERE](#)

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 Conternlea 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

Directory *still available!*

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

Rocky River Friends Meeting

1795 Staley Snow Camp Rd.
Siler City, NC 27344

Job Description for Pastor of Rocky River Friends Meeting

Pastor Job Description 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 commensurate with education and experience.

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

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

DEEP CREEK FRIENDS MEETING
PASTOR JOB DESCRIPTION

Overview

This is a full-time pastor position. The pastor reports to and is subject to the oversight of Ministry & Counsel. The pastor is primarily responsible for the spiritual well-being and growth of the whole church and its prospective members. Bi-vocational applicants are encouraged to apply.

Application Instructions

To apply for the pastor position at Deep Creek Friends Meeting, submit a résumé to:

Angie Brendle
angieb25@gmail.com
(336) 244-8791

Applicants will receive an email indicating receipt of their application materials. Once materials have been reviewed, applicants should expect an email if they are eligible for an interview(s).

Compensation and Benefits

This is a salaried position. The salary range is \$50,000 to \$58,000. Salary will be determined commensurate with the applicant's qualifications. The pastor will be provided a 6% IRA contribution. Housing is available for the pastor near the meeting. The pastor will receive two weeks of paid vacation per year, which is nontransferable from year to year. The pastor will have opportunities each year to attend Christian conferences/retreats, which are to be paid for by Deep Creek Friends Meeting in accordance with the approved annual budget.

Minimum Qualifications

- Possess a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, having accepted Him as Lord and Savior
- A call to the pastorate and the desire for personal growth and development in that calling
- The ability to clearly articulate the Christian faith for the whole church and prospective members
- An understanding of the Friends Church of North Carolina (FCNC) Faith and Practice, or a willingness to learn
- The ability to establish and maintain an effective working relationship with other staff and Ministry & Counsel

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DEEP CREEK FRIENDS MEETING
YOUTH MINISTER JOB DESCRIPTION

Overview

This is a part-time (15–20 hours per week) youth minister position. The youth minister reports to the Christian Education Committee. The youth minister is responsible for providing spiritual leadership, mentorship, and support to the middle school and high school youth of Deep Creek Friends Meeting. This position will involve fostering a welcoming environment for young people to grow in their Christian faith and to become committed followers of Jesus Christ who participate in worship, fellowship, and discipleship.

Application Instructions

To apply for the position of a part-time youth minister at Deep Creek Friends Meeting, submit the following:

- 1) A current resume that includes your qualifications and work history;
- 2) A list of three non-family references to speak to your character and work performance;
- 3) A typed statement detailing:
 - a. Your relationship with Jesus Christ;
 - b. Your desire to be a youth minister; and
 - c. Any other information you deem relevant and want to share; and
- 4) One typed lesson plan for a youth meeting one hour in length.

These materials should be submitted via email to jcbrendle0812@email.campbell.edu AND randrmoran@gmail.com. Once materials have been reviewed, you should expect an email response indicating receipt of your materials. If eligible for an interview(s), you should expect a phone call. Appropriate steps will then be taken to schedule a time and place for the interview(s).

Compensation and Benefits

This is a salaried position. Salary will be determined commensurate with education and experience. The youth minister will receive 20 hours of vacation time/personal time per year (equivalent to one week per year), which is nontransferable from year to year. Additionally, the youth minister will have off any days the church is closed for approved holidays or inclement weather. The youth minister will have opportunities each year to attend Christian conferences/retreats which are to be paid for by Deep Creek Friends Meeting in accordance with the approved annual budget.

Minimum Qualifications

- An active and growing relationship with Jesus Christ
- The ability to articulate clearly the Christian faith

DEEP CREEK FRIENDS MEETING
PASTOR JOB DESCRIPTION

- Recorded, ordained, or equivalent, and if not, willingness to become recorded as a pastor
- A high school diploma or equivalent
- A valid driver's license in the State of North Carolina
- Pass a background check

Preferred Qualifications

- An educational background in ministry, including but not limited to, seminary courses
- Pastoral experience in the church setting

Basic Responsibilities

- Responsible for all Sunday morning worship services
- Responsible for all Wednesday Night Bible Studies
- Be present at church functions and outings to build and strengthen relationships with members of the congregation
- Be available by phone for contact and ministry needs
- Be available and willing to perform weddings and funeral services
- Participate in visitation of shut-ins, hospital patients, nursing home residents, and others in crisis situations
- Develop ministries that will provide care to a growing church family in times of need
- Provide spiritual direction through listening, prayer, and counsel to members who desire to give attention to their spiritual and personal lives
- Maintain confidentiality of members as they share personal burdens and concerns
- Support and build up existing church leadership through prayer and encouragement while mentoring potential leaders
- Meet once per month with other church ministerial staff
- Attend Ministry & Counsel Meetings each month
- Attend churchwide business meetings
- Prepare and present a Ministry Activity Report each month to Ministry & Counsel

- A call to youth ministry
- The ability to establish and maintain an effective working relationship with other staff and the Christian Education Committee
- A high school diploma or equivalent
- Experience working with youth and children
- 21 years of age
- Must have a valid driver's license in the state of North Carolina
- Must pass a background check

Preferred Qualifications

- An educational background in ministry
- Experience in youth ministry, children's ministry, and/or Christian education
- Experience in planning and executing events and programs
- Experience in public speaking

Basic Responsibilities

- Youth Ministry
 - Lead and coordinate weekly youth meetings for two age groups:
 - Third through sixth grade
 - Seventh through twelfth grade
 - Develop Bible-based lessons and activities that nurture spiritual growth
 - Provide mentorship to youth members
 - Provide support for youth members and their families
 - Encourage youth participation in church services, ministries, and outreach
 - Plan and execute a Christmas program each year involving the youth
 - Plan and execute one youth outing per quarter
 - Plan and execute one youth service project per quarter
 - Attend Christian Education Committee meetings (one per month)
 - Timely submit articles and relevant activities for publication in the church newsletter
 - Contribute to the growth of the youth ministry by maintaining relationships with current youth members and building connection with prospective youth members
- Missions and Outreach
 - Organize and/or participate in youth mission trips and service projects
 - Work with other staff and the Christian Education Committee to plan and execute Vacation Bible School
 - Support additional events sponsored by Christian Education Committee including but not limited Easter events and Trunk n' Treat
- Church Involvement and Collaboration
 - Attend Sunday School and Sunday Worship each week
 - Attend Wednesday Night Bible Study each week

FUM UPDATE

African Friends Church Pastors Conference to be Held in Uganda

"...Pastors are gathering not only for fellowship & renewal, but also to embrace & affirm an African Quaker identity—doing ministry as African Quakers, for Africans, in Africa."

So said John Muhanji, Friends United Meeting Director of African Ministries, describing the Eleventh Friends Church Africa Pastors Conference. The conference runs from December 26–30 with this theme: "Empowerment for Kingdom Impact: Equipping Servant Leaders for Transformation Ministry."



[CLICK HERE to read more!](#)

Meet our Missions Samburu Friends Mission



The Samburu people are nomadic pastoralists who keep cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys. Recently, huge swaths of collectively-held range land in the Samburu region have been privatized, leading to extreme disruption of grazing and migration patterns. This, in turn, has led to an increase in violent conflict with neighboring communities. Education and literacy training for the Samburu are crucial at this time, as capable leadership is needed in negotiating these conflicts, and only 6% of Samburu adults have a secondary school education.

Building the Friends Church in Samburu involves building communities, not building buildings. As early Friends knew, it is the body of Christ that matters, not the building in which Christ is housed. Worship is often shared under a tree with indigenous songs, spirited dancing, and readings from the Bible.

[CLICK HERE to read more!](#)

Excerpts from: Some Fruits of **SOLITUDE**

Proverbs, Wisdom & Principles for Better Living

By: William Penn



Quotes on "Religion":

473- "Public worship is very commendable, if well performed. We owe it to God and good example. But we must know, that God is not tied to time or place, who is every where at the same time: and this we shall know, as far as we are capable, if we wherever we are, our desires are to be with him."

474- "Serving God, people generally confine to the acts of public and private worship: and those, the more zealous do offer repeat, in hopes of acceptance."

475- "But if we consider that God is an infinite spirit, and as such, everywhere; and that our Savior has taught us, that he will be worshiped in spirit and in truth; we shall see the shortness of such a notion"

476- "For serving God concerns the frame of our spirits, in the whole course of our lives; in every occasion we have, in which we may show our love to his law."

FCNC BOOKSTORE HIGHLIGHTS

In this portion of the newsletter we will highlight books that can be purchased through the FCNC online bookstore! A link will be provided where you may purchase your own copy and add to your library at home!

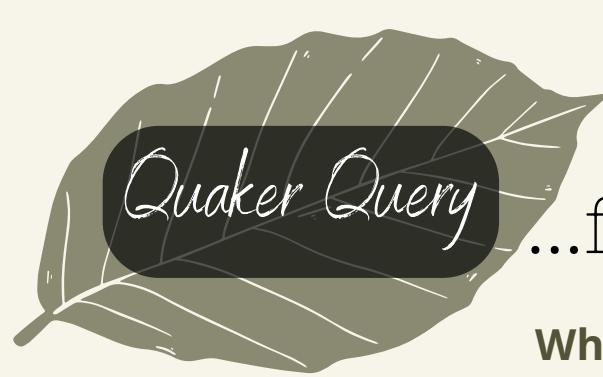
"Unforeseen Joy"
By: Damon Hickey
[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE](#)

An instructional manual on how to serve a Friends Meeting as Recording Clerk. Includes examples of situations, how to record minutes of such occurrences, when computer use is advised, and where and when to send completed minutes.

"UNFORESEEN JOY"
*Serving a Friends Meeting
as Recording Clerk*



Damon D. Hickey



...for December



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 you guard against covetousness, remembering that the quality of life does not depend on the abundance of possessions? Do you seek to discern how much of your time, talents and resources you should devote to the service of others?

[-Quakers in Ireland Religious Society of Friends](#)

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?

Robert Kidd has ~~been taken~~ to Chapel Hill hospital with a major stroke as of 12/2/25. Robert is a former pastor in several Friends Churches.

Pray for the loved ones of Mike Bodenheimer, a long-time and deeply valued member of the North Carolina Friends Disaster Service who passed away on November 18th 2025

Praise:

**Praise God for
Peace in any circumstance**

God does not promise that life will be easy, but He does promise us peace (John 14:27). When we take our eyes off our circumstances and focus on Him, He gives us peace.

Mike Bodenheimer, Known for his steady dedication and willingness to help wherever he was needed, embodied the spirit of quiet generosity that defines the organization. His kindness, reliability, and hands-on commitment touched countless lives through the many projects and relief efforts he supported over the years. His obituary is listed with J.C. Green & Sons Funeral Home, and he will be warmly remembered by all who had the privilege of working alongside him.



November RECAP

Visit to Back Creek

Superintendent, Mike Wall, was able to visit with Back Creek Friends on November 2nd 2025



Prayer and music



Pastor John Voncannon watches as children sing!



Special Trio singing invitational song



Good crowd present



New Audio/Video system added
to the Worship and Music !!



Warm welcoming atmosphere as people
gathered to Worship. Growth is evident !