

JANUARY 2023 | ISSUE NO.15

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!

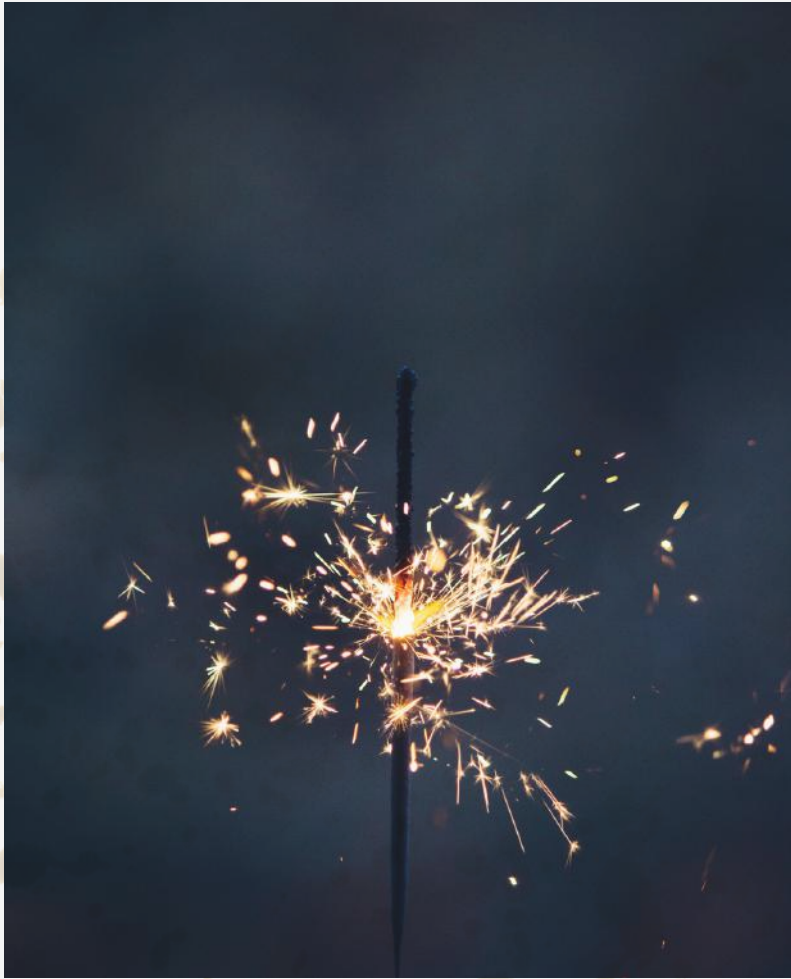
This is a monthly e-newsletter dedicated to keeping you up to date on current events within FCNC.

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

“

...ALL DAYS ARE ALIKE; HOLY IN THE
SIGHT OF GOD.”

-ROBERT BARCLAY (1648 – 1690)

”

A Word of Devotion:

"THE LIST"

By: Mike Wall

“ As they were walking along the road, a man said to him,
“ I will follow you wherever you go.” Jesus replied,
“ Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of
Man has no place to lay his head.” He said to another
man, “ Follow me.” But he replied, “ Lord, first let me go
and bury my father.” Jesus said to him, “ Let the dead
bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the
kingdom of God.” Still another said, “ I will follow you,
Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my
family.” Jesus replied, “ No one who puts a hand to the
plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of
God.”

Luke 9:57-62

I passed by this church sign that really started me to thinking. "Put Christ on the list". ?? Although I understood what was attempted to be said, I began to think that maybe this is an example of where the church has gone wrong (I am not singling out this one church).

Put Christ on the list? No way.

There must be 1000 things on "the list." Of course, this "list" is referring to the Christmas list that includes decorations to be hung, presents to be bought, parties to attend, cards to be mailed, shopping and shipping, phone calls, facebooking, wrapping, cooking, cleaning and last minute things that got scribbled onto the bottom of the list because they didn't make the first version. Add a wedding. And suddenly a funeral. A candlelight service. Did we get the candles?? Just thinking about that list gives me a headache!

But what if this message appeared on the church sign in April, not December? Is the list any shorter when it is not Christmas,?

My desk will still be cluttered with things that have to be done. There are people who will need help. Things to be repaired. Plans to be constructed. Problems to be solved. Family events. Social events. I don't know about YOUR list, but mine seems to go on forever.

So, what number does Christ get on the list? Can I pencil Him into #595? Surely He should be higher than just breathing a prayer on the way out the door some mornings. #12? If I get really serious about it, maybe He could make my TOP 10! Let's definitely squeeze Christ into THAT list.

NO. Jesus never asked to be put on any list.

"As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him." (Mark 1:16-20)

Jesus didn't ask if He could fit into their lives. He called them, and us, to abandon our lives and follow Him. He BECAME their list. Peter, Andrew, James, John and many others down through the centuries gave up their "lists" to adopt the agenda of Jesus. They left their family (Zebedee) in the boat. They left their business (hired help) in the boat. They left their experience (fishing), housing (Galilee), and everything else, choosing to begin each day finding what Jesus prescribed and then doing it.

In Luke 9:57-62, Jesus made His calling even more clear. "As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.'" Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

Has the church today become so watered down by inserting Christ into our lists, that we have failed to be the living church, but have become a dying routine?

Pastors constantly hear reasons why people are not involved in church, and usually, the word "busy" is in there somewhere. I think that problem will never be solved until an individual determines to solve it.

We have an increasing shortage of pastors today. Often, it is because those who feel a calling from God, don't want to give up their nets, their families, their homes and launch out into a new journey with a new list.

Even inside the church, too many times, churches are so busy being Baptists, or Methodists, or dare I say, Quakers, that we have little time left for the agenda of Jesus. Hour-long discussions about crossing a T, dotting an I, or hanging a picture on the wall really don't seem to be very effective means of fishing for men.

Even Sunday morning Worship can become a process of merely working through our list: 2 old songs, a short prayer for sick people, 3 announcements, a few minutes of quiet, a sermon, and come back next week. What happened to the "House of Prayer" that Jesus called for? Has the Holy Spirit interrupted our planned service lately?

But everyone has a list, don't we? Don't we need a house, and all that includes? Don't we have to earn money? Don't we have to support families? Certainly! But, maybe we don't NEED that boat. Or whatever....

I watched my Father walk away from a lucrative business because he felt Christ calling. I came home from school one day and our family had moved from a new house in the country to an old house in a new city. Did that change our life and sometimes stretch our faith? Absolutely. But we never missed a meal, and never had to wear jeans with holes in them!! Dad trusted the Lord to provide when he gave up his list for Christ's.

The Question is about the list.... Should we shoehorn Christ into our list? Or adapt His? If we want to be faithful as His followers, we need to adjust some things. He IS the List.

Make your New Year Happy! Change lists.





Upcoming Events:

January 15th

Yadkin Valley Quarterly Meeting
3PM

January 20-22

Youth Pastor's Retreat
at Ridge Crest

January 2023

REGISTRATION is OUT!
for the March Youth Retreat
at Ridge Crest

February 19th

Young Friends Gathering
5PM-7PM
Location: Union Cross

March 3th-5th

Youth Retreat to Ridgecrest
Early Bird Deadline -

February 1st (\$40)

Final Deadline-

February 20th (\$50)

(See below for more info)

Check out the next few
pages for more
information about
these events



****Attention Committee Members****

Don't forget to let us know if there is any upcoming dates we should add to our newsletter by the 20th of each month

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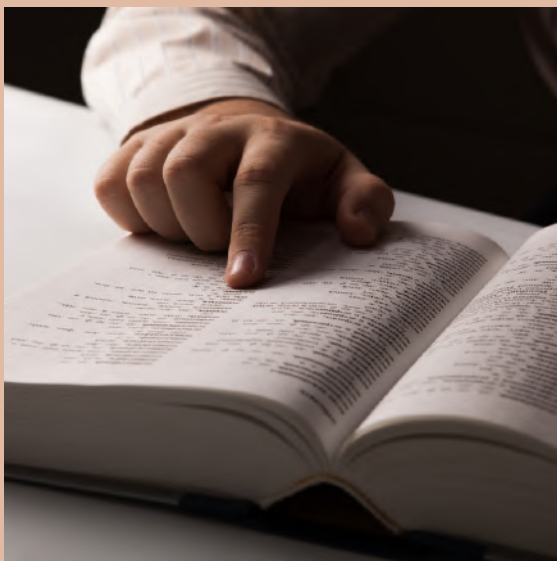
Announcements:



REMINDER

2022 Directory

Now available!



Your updated version of the directory is now available on the FCNC website!

Access to the directory will require a password.

Click the link provided to head over to the website and enter the password to view, download or print.

Password: **Directory2021!**

[Log in HERE](#)

In Search of a Pastor for Centre Friends



WE RECEIVED AN E-MAIL ANNOUNCING THAT **CENTRE FRIENDS** IS LOOKING FOR A FULL TIME PASTOR. BELOW IS A LINK TO THE JOB DESCRIPTION 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.

MEMORIALS

As a way to remember those who have passed on, we want to take time each year to thank God for their service and faithfulness. Please list names below of members who have passed away this year. Memorials for 2022-2023 will be read at the NCUSFW 2023 Spring Conference.

Year _____ Meeting: _____

Name(s) _____

email **Mary Anna McCullen** – deetsmaryanna@gmail.com
or Mary Anna's mailing address is: 108 Northview Drive Goldsboro, NC 27530



Early Bird Deadline - February 1st (\$40)

Final Deadline- February 20th (\$50)

Registration is now up on the FCNC website!
Don't wait to sign your youth up for this
awesome event!

[CLICK HERE](#) to register now!

FWCC Registration

Dear Friends,

This is a good time for many people to make plans for the coming year. I hope you are planning to join us at our first in-person Section Meeting since 2019! Look for more information about the great speakers and workshop options coming in January. Every Friend is welcome to attend. If the cost is an obstacle, ask your monthly or yearly meeting or local church if there are funds available to help Friends attend Quaker events.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

In friendship,
Robin Mohr
Executive Secretary



Registration is Open!



FWCC Americas 2023 Section Meeting



Becoming the Quakers the World Needs

Haw River State Park, Greensboro, NC | March 23 - 26, 2023

Continue to next page



You'll be Inspired at the 2023 FWCC Americas Section Meeting!

Registration is now open for the in-person events for the 2023 FWCC Americas Section Meeting. We are looking forward to being together, in-person at Haw River State Park.

The theme of the event is "Becoming the Quakers the World Needs," and the Bible study themes will focus on the Great Commandment to love God and one another.

There will be opportunities for worship, fellowship, small groups, consultation, business, Bible study, nature and growth.

This will be a hybrid event, and the registration for the virtual portion of the sessions will be opening in early 2023.

Learn more about the sessions and
[**REGISTER HERE!**](#)



Friends World Committee
for Consultation

SECTION OF THE AMERICAS

Comité Mundial de Consulta
de los Amigos

SECCIÓN DE LAS AMÉRICAS



QUAKER VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Live your values while gaining valuable job skills and living in community!

Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) is an experiment at the intersection of transformational spirituality and activism, an 11-month Fellowship program for young adults aged 21-30. Participants engage in social justice work, live in intentional community and explore Quaker practices around decision-making, sustainability, discernment and simplicity.

Participating Fellows receive room, board, transportation, a monthly stipend, support of QVS staff and local meeting members among many other benefits. QVS Currently has houses in Minneapolis, Boston, Philadelphia and Portland, OR.

[CLICK HERE](#) to apply today!

Application deadline: February 28, 2023

Contact Ruth Cutcher if you have questions or would like to learn more about incentives for early applicants.

Ruth@quakervoluntaryservice.org or [765-238-8791](tel:765-238-8791)



North Carolina Friends Historical Society

2.5K likes · 2.7K followers



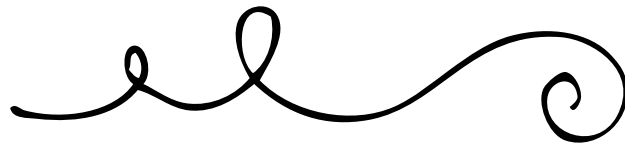
Message

Like

Search

Below is a post from the North Carolina Friends Historical Society Facebook page. You may find it interesting, as it mentions one of our current Meetings.

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit their Facebook page and see more fascinating historical articles.



"Our posts this week about Contentnea Quarter of the late North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM) have been in recognition of the 92nd birthday of the late Billy Britt, the longtime Superintendent of the Yearly Meeting who grew up in the Quarter. In his 2012 book "Giants in the Land: North Carolina Yearly Meeting Leaders," Britt profiles another person with deep roots in and around Goldsboro: Luby Randolph Casey (1894-1991). Although Casey attended Guilford College in the hope of preparing for public ministry, his experience in preparing and delivering sermons convinced him to pursue another vocation, and he taught and was a school administrator for some time before founding the successful Goldsboro Nursery.

Luby served in many positions as a charter member of Goldsboro Monthly Meeting, was clerk of Contentnea Quarterly Meeting, was a member of the Guilford College Board of Trustees, and initiated the retirement program for pastors of NCYM (FUM). Beyond Friends, he was president of the Goldsboro Rotary Club and the N.C. Nursery Association. He also served on the Wayne County Board of Education. He wasn't one to fiddle around with his time, which recalls this story in Billy Britt's book:

"Luby had a yen for a fiddle. He was only a teenager, and his father didn't want him to have it, as fiddles were considered instruments of the devil....Luby wanted one so badly that he saved up and bought one anyway. He hid it in the barn and, from time to time, he would sneak out to the barn and practice. One day, his father heard the shrieking coming from the barn and went to investigate. He found Luby "sawing" away. After listening for a while, he left without a word and never brought up the matter again. Luby concluded that his playing was so bad that his father decided that he could not possibly be a threat to righteous living."

QUAKERS IN

HISTORY

Nicholas Upsall (1596-1666)



Although Nicholas Upsall did not suffer the fate of Mary Dyer (who was hanged in Boston), he was a Quaker in Boston during the height of the persecution of the Quakers by the Puritans, and he received severe punishment for professing beliefs that differed from Puritan beliefs.

Nicholas Upsall and Dorothy Capen were born in Dorchester, Dorset, England where they married in 1630. Shortly after their marriage in 1630, they sailed on the Mary and John to the colonies settling first in Dorchester and moving to Boston in 1644. They had five daughters. Only two of the five daughters lived long enough to marry and have children.

Things seemed to go well for Nicholas and Dorothy. They were successful innkeepers, proprietors of the Red Lyon Inn built in 1654 on the corner of North and Richmond Streets. Nicholas, however, became interested in the Quaker movement, and for this he suffered 10 years of persecution beginning in 1656 and lasting until his death in 1666. The General Court passed the first law against the Quakers October 14, 1656. Nicholas spoke out against this "as he did look at it as a sad forerunner of some heavy judgment to follow upon the country." The following day he was taken to court for the offense of speaking out against the law. He was fined for this offense, and in early 1657 was in court again for meeting with other Quakers to the dishonor of God. He was banished to Sandwich and later went to Rhode Island. His wife remained in Boston caring for the youngest children and running the inn. Nicholas returned to Boston three years later and was almost immediately put in prison where he remained for two years. He was then on a sort of house arrest, being sent to live with John Capen in Dorchester "provided the said Upshall do not corrupt any with his pernicious opinions, or admit Quakers or other heretical persons to have communion with him or recourse to him." He was essentially confined at the home of John Capen, believed to be a relative of his wife, for the remaining four years of his life.

To read more about Nicholas Upsall and his impact on Quakers throughout history, [TAP HERE](#).

FUM UPDATE

Cultivating seeds of New Life

Dear Friends,

As we come to the close of 2022, we rejoice at the ways God has blessed and grown the ministry of Friends United Meeting this year. In keeping with our theme, Cultivating Seeds of New Life, we see lives being changed and communities flourishing in the places we serve.

In Tanzania, Friends churches are being planted, and people are discovering new life in Christ. This is especially true in Dar es Salaam, where Muslim leaders have invited Friends to plant a church in their community.



In Kenya, the Friends Church Peace Team worked in conflicted communities to teach nonviolent action in preparation for national elections. We continue to pray for a peaceful transition in the country.



FUM UPDATE

The Friends Church in Belize City has completed its first membership class, welcoming ten new members. These members are among the first Belizean Friends.



At Friends Theological College, a new cohort of graduates has been prepared for ministry to serve Friends churches throughout Africa.



At Ramallah Friends School, a new Quaker life coordinator has been appointed, and there is a renewed focus on Quaker learning and programs. The programs are grounded in historic Quaker testimonies and the awareness of the seed of God that is present in everyone.



FUM UPDATE

Following the July 2022 fire at the Lindi School in Nairobi, Friends across the globe are responding to ensure that a new school will be built to serve children living in the Kibera slums.



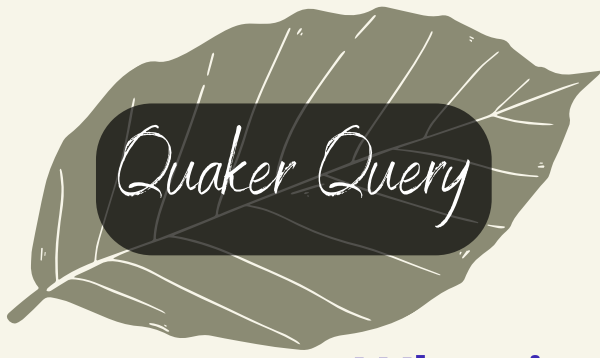
In North America, FUM's new Billy Britt Fund supports fresh learning and spiritual growth initiatives to help Meetings and churches flourish.



As we thank God for these and other signs of new life—we also thank you! Without the faithful and generous partnership of local Meetings and churches and Yearly Meetings and associations, our shared ministry within FUM cannot continue, let alone thrive. We are grateful for each and every gift we receive from your fellowship, whether you are supporting one of our excellent field staff, a specific project or partner ministry, or the FUM General Fund.

Thank you for all you do!

Blessings and peace to you,
Kelly Kellum,
General Secretary



...for January



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...

- What would you try in 2023 if you knew that you could not fail?

Maybe you should try it anyway...

-What draws you closer to Jesus and how are you going to do more of that in 2023?

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

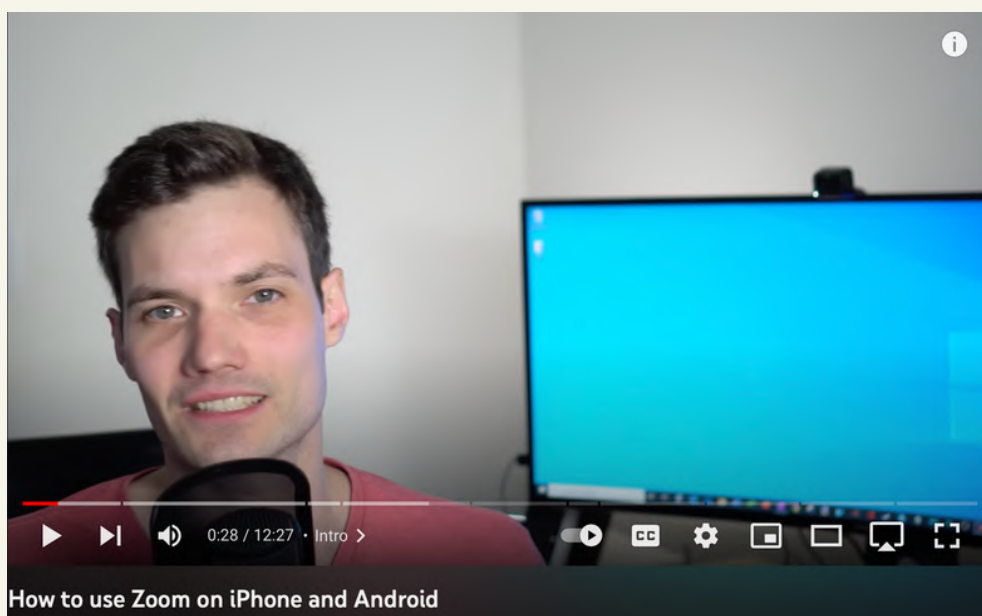
Click here to send me an e-mail
jenny@friendschurchnc.org



We've been talking about ZOOM meetings over the last few months in hopes of helping to further our reach as committees and Meetings as a whole. We've featured written instructions with pictures as well as a list of reasons for HOW Zoom could benefit our Meetings.

This Month we will be adding a link for a simple, yet informative video with visual instructions on how to use Zoom and all of its most basic functions right from your smart phone!

[CLICK HERE](#)
to watch the video on Youtube.



Meet our Missions

Belize Friends School



Historically, FUM's work in Belize focused primarily on providing a second-chance education option for urban at-risk youth on the verge of failing within their school system. Founded by Sadie Vernon in 1994, the Belize Friends School gives boys and girls the encouragement, tools and instruction needed to succeed, all within a loving, Christian environment. Now under the leadership of Belizean educators, the school continues to impact the lives of students and their families.

More recently, a new and expanded vision for Belize has emerged and begun to bear good fruit. A large new facility allows for the growth of the school and the launch of new types of community-based ministries. With a church planting pastor now on-site, a multi-generational worshiping community of Christ-followers is starting to flourish and consider how they are being called to minister within the Southside of Belize City. Programs for teaching peace and conflict resolution, literacy education for adults, and police-community mediation are increasingly integral to the mission presence of Friends in Belize.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)





Prayer **CORNER**

How can we pray for you?

Prayer:

Pray for our Missions!
Pray for the Mexico mission team
as they prepare for a Mission trip
in 2023



Pray for revival among Friends in the
USA and abroad; as well as physical
provisions for those less fortunate
Friends.

Praise:

Praise God for a new year,
and more time in which to
spend in His service.

December

RECAP

Centre Friends Nativity







QLC Candle Light Service

The annual Quaker Lake Candlelight Service was Sunday night, December 11th. A crowd of all ages enjoyed worship, Christmas music, and hot cocoa with s'mores.





White Plains Friends Christmas Play



Visiting Branon Friends

On December 4th, Mike Wall was able to visit and worship with Brandon Friends. Here are some pictures!



Gloria Simmons gives
childrens message



Singing within
the congregation



Singing within
the congregation



M&C Clerk, Trish Belton,
leads worship



Geraldine Brannon
making announcements