

BEARING FRUIT

The Official Newsletter of Friends Church North Carolina

ARTICLES TO HELP YOU THROUGH:

Welcome-1

Quotes By Quakers &

Devotion- 2-5

Upcoming Events-6

Announcements & flyers 7-18

FUM update-19

Quaker History-20

Quaker Query &

Comm Tech-21-25

Meet our Missions-26

Prayer Corner -27

September Recap-28-30

WELCOME!

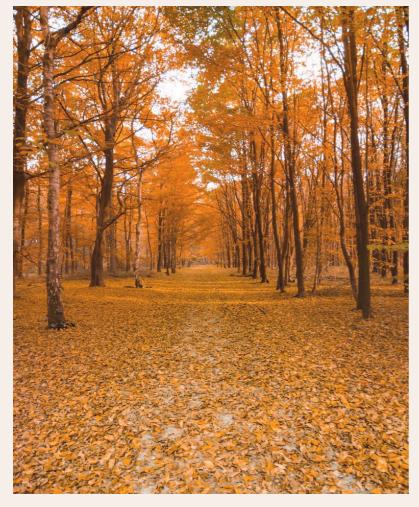
Welcome to your Friends Church North Carolina Newsletter!

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: <u>jenny@friendschurchnc.org</u>





Quotes by Quakers



"IT WOULD GO A GREAT WAY TO CAUTION AND DIRECT PEOPLE IN THEIR USE OF THE WORLD, THAT THEY WERE BETTER STUDIED AND KNOWN IN THE CREATION OF IT. FOR HOW COULD MAN FIND THE CONFIDENCE TO ABUSE IT, WHILE THEY SHOULD SEE THE GREAT CREATOR STARE THEM IN THE FACE, IN ALL AND EVERY PART THEREOF?"

~ WILLIAM PENN, 1644-1718



A Word of Devotion:

"CHANGING SEASONS"

By: Carla Covert

Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God: I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous hand. Isaiah 41:10

I love fall!! The color change, the weather change, the smell change.....its about change. But to change means that something must go.

As I sit here looking out the window with massive trees all around my back yard, I see it happening right now. Leaves falling. What was once a tree deep in rich green, then a tree with vibrant shades of red and orange, now is soon becoming a tree that will be empty. Nothing left but the branches. I guess our human side finds that sad and we wish the color stayed, we think the only thing that makes the tree beautiful is the colorful leaves ...why does it have to be so bare but that's a sign of what is to come.

But for every beginning there is an end and for every ending there is a new beginning. What I find amazing is that those trees still stand. Those branches still reach out and upward. Not like my plants in the front of my house that have to be cut back and will re-grow from their roots next spring. Those trees still stand. There is beauty in the strength of those branches.

This is such a picture of what Jesus does in our lives. We go through all kinds of seasons. Some are seasons of hard times, some loneliness, seasons of loss or other things such as financial hardships. And those seasons change us. We have seasons that are bright and beautiful and rich in life. Then we have seasons that He allows things in our life to enter so that we don't remain the same. But through all those seasons He is telling us let go and let Me. Let go and let me show you what I can do. Let go and let me show you what I can teach you... There is strength in your branches with Me. We have to let to grow a new perspective.

Is 43: 18-19 "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold I am doing a new thing: now it springs forth, do not perceive it? It will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the dessert."

The weight is too heavy for you to carry and still look up. We cannot continue in our walk with Jesus and never let go. We must go through these seasons so that we continue to learn to surrender our control and in the process we desire to be more like Him, to trust Him more, to fall in love with Him more. He did not create us to still look the same this season as the next season. The Bible is clear on that.

Total surrender is hard. But that is because total surrender means giving up control of our hearts, our souls and our minds. When we control our heart, our heart begins to lose heart for the things of Jesus. When we control the depths of our souls we control the wounds and the spaces that are not yet His. And when we control our minds, we allow fear, anxiety, shame to invade and soon we believe what we are thinking instead of resting on what our Father says is true.

We cannot hold on to parts of us and say we have surrendered. God wants all of us. God wants us to let go of the things that are holding us. When we do and those things fall... and new life comes from it. Change happens in us and through us. He reminds us that He is still there standing strong and He is still holding us up, much like the tree and the branches. He says let go of it and I will hold you.

God knows the depths of your world. He knows the depths of your hurt, the depths of your fear, the depths of your insecurities, the depths of your loss but He promises if you let it go He will bring new life and you will be a vessel ready to be used by your creator.

We cannot accept the gift of salvation and then do it our way with our limits, holding on to the parts of our life we don't want to let go. Our relationship with Jesus is worth more than just a part of us...let go and let God! And remember letting go is much like the leaves that will fall this autumn....it is a sign of what is to come. Surrender means to give up oneself into the power of another. So today ... whatever part you're still holding on to surrender it...and allow God to bring newness of life.





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

*World Quaker Day is an annual event where we celebrate the diversity of Quakerism around the world, and build connections to make our community stronger.

World Quaker Day 2023 will take place on Sunday October 1st with the theme 'Living the spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with hope to God's call to cherish creation – and one another'. This is also the theme of the next World Plenary Meeting which is taking place in South Africa and online in August 2024.

Upcoming Events:

*October 1st 2023

World Quaker Day

October 1st 2023

Youth Activity earlybird sign up deadline

October 6th 2023

Registration deadline for NCYM inc Annual Meeting

October 18th 2023

FEMAP business meeting (see pg 12)

October 21, 2023

QLC Pumpkin Festival

October 21st 2023

Bethel Friends Pig Pickin'

November 4th 2023

NCYM inc Annual Meeting

November 3rd-5th 2023

Young Friends Retreat

November 5th 2023

YFAC logo contest deadline



Announcements:



REMINDER

2022 Directory

still available!



Log in HERE

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: Directory2021!

password to view, download or print.

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 FONC 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

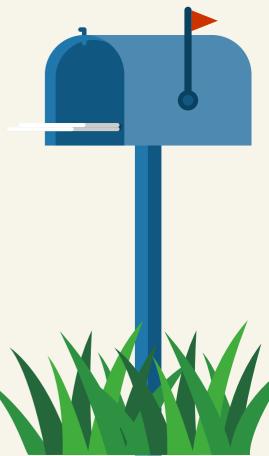




FCNC has a new mailing address!

P.O. Box 4240, Archdale, NC 27263

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





BETHEL FRIENDS MEETING PIGPICKIN'

OCTOBER 21, 2023

Serving 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

Pulled Pork Barbecue with Bethel's Famous BBQ Sauce Pintos • Slaw • Hushpuppies \$10.00 Per Plate

2519 BETHEL FRIENDS ROAD · ASHEBORO

DRIVE THRU
TAKE OUT ONLY

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

YOUNG FRIENDS FALL RETREAT

November 3-5, 2023

Early Bird Registration Oct. 1 - \$40 L Full Price Registration Oct. 2-29 - \$50





FAITH

The gift of faith is the divine strength or ability to believe in God for unseen supernatural results in every arena of life.



INTERCESSION

The gift of intercession is the divine strength or ability to stand in the gap in prayer for someone, something, or someplace, believing for profound results.



LEADERSHIP

The gift of leadership is the divine strength or ability to influence people at their level while directing and focusing them on the big picture, vision, or idea.



نأأ

ADMINISTRATION

The gift of administration is the divine strength or ability to organize multiple tasks and groups of people to accomplish these tasks.



APOSTLESHIP

The gift of apostleship is the divine strength or ability to pioneer new churches and ministries through planting, overseeing, and training.



CRAFTSMANSHIP

The gift of craftsmanship is the divine strength or ability to plan, build, and work with your hands in construction environments to accomplish multiple ministry applications.



1

EVANGELISM

The gift of evangelism is the divine strength or ability to help non-Christians take the necessary steps to becoming a born-again Christian.



GIVING

The gift of giving is the divine strength or ability to produce wealth and to give by tithes and offerings for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God on earth.





GAMES

MUSIC

The gift of helps is the divine strength or ability to work in a supportive role for the accomplishment of tasks in Christian ministry with the ability to often see the need before others do.

\$40 Register
Early by
Bird! October 1

\$50 Register
Full October 2
Price thru 29

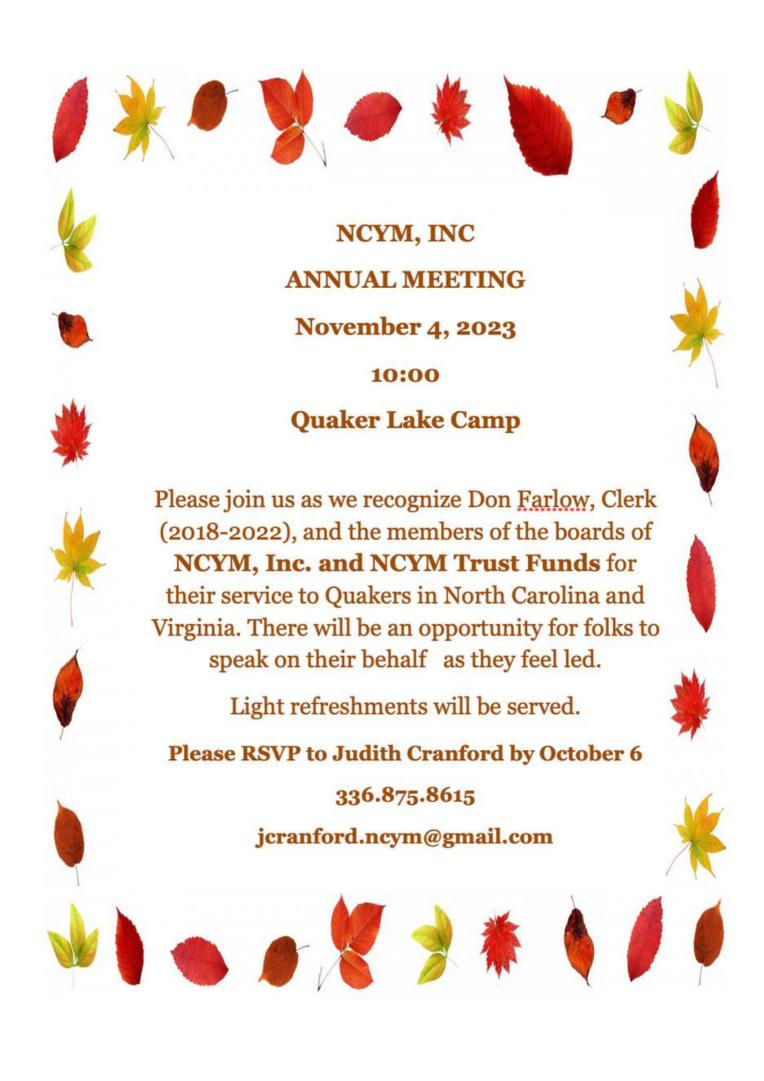
At Quaker Lake Camp Nov. 3-5, 2023

Register at the QR Code or website below https://www.friendschurchnc.org/young-friends





Voting online will end December 31, 2023 https://forms.gle/TwjpHfEYmDrpBa5M7



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

By: Bennie Burton

Now is a good time to reward your members with the Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship Life Membership which helps fund our scholarships. Also, it is important to begin talking to the high school seniors in your congregation about applying for the Cox Scholarship between January 1 and March 15, 2024. Students are eligible to receive a scholarship for a maximum of four years and must be a participating member of a meeting that actively participates in NC USFW.

Scholarship applications are on the following website,

https://www.friendschurchnc.org/usfw



All contributions to the scholarship fund need to be made by the end of March 2024.

One of the ways to contribute is to recognize your circle's members with an Eliza

Armstrong Cox Lifetime Fellowship membership.

ELIZA ARMSTRONG COX LIFETIME FELLOWSHIP MEMBER

Eliza Armstrong Cox Lifetime Fellowship membership is an honor and recognition for service and dedication to the meeting and NC-USFW. Circles will submit \$25 per nomination, (\$12.50 to USFWI and \$12.50 to the EAC Scholarship Fund). A certificate signed by the USFWI President and the NC- USFW President is sent to the circle that submits the name for recognition. Nominations can be made at any time of the year. Members are recognized at the Annual Gathering in the fall each year.

MEMBER(R(S) TO BE RECOGNIZED:	
	NAME & ADDRESS OF PERSON(S) TO RECEIVE	CERTIFICATE(S):
		_
DATF	·	

Enclose \$25 per nominee payable to NC-USFW and send the check to the USFW-NC Treasurer. Contact the Treasurer to see if pins are available if one is desired.

Thank you for supporting the E.A. Cox Scholarship Fund.



Patches, My Quaker Kitty

We have one children's book that we are offering for \$15. It is written by **Joy Britt Reavis** (our Stewardship Secretary). It is a precious story about her two cats and how one cat, Patches, displays many of our core Quaker values (SPICES). Beautifully written and illustrated, it would make a great gift for your child or grandchild. The title of the book is Patches, My Quaker Kitty. Joy has graciously donated the proceeds from these books to the Eliza Armstrong Cox Scholarship Fund.



"I am Joy Britt Reavis, a ninth generation Quaker. Many mornings while I prepared my morning coffee, my cat, Patches, would sit and wait patiently at my feet to be fed. In contrast, the other cat, Bella, would meow loudly and demand to be fed. I became inspired to write about Patches when I realized how well she exemplified the Quaker core values or "SPICES." This book is appropriate for children of all ages, whether Quaker or not.

If you are interested in having more copies, you can reach me at:

joyreavis@gmail.com

FEMAP - Friends Emergency Material Assistance Program

FEMAP volunteers gather at the Allen Jay House in High Point every Wednesday (10am-2pm) to assemble donated items into the various kits—Hygiene, Infant, School and Farmworkers. School kit items are needed as school begins this fall, especially spiral bound notebooks and rulers.

Once each quarter FEMAP holds a business meeting where reports of kit distributions are given along with sharing of sewing projects for producing baby blankets, youth and adult quilts, and making small bears. Interesting programs are enjoyed by all in attendance, like the recent presentation by Brenda Haworth. She told the history of The Model Farm, a project of the Baltimore Association from Maryland Quakers concerned for the Quakers in North Carolina following the Civil War. She put us right there in the late 1860s, speaking about the destruction of farmland, loss of all farm animals and no schools for many years. The next FEMAP business meeting is scheduled for Oct. 18, 2023 at 10:30 am. We meet in the fellowship hall at Springfield Friends Meeting. Everyone is welcome, ladies and gents! Come join us and enjoy a carry-in lunch together.

Update about the fire at the Allen Jay House (where FEMAP assembles kits, etc.)

In the early morning hours of July 31, 2023 there was fire that seriously damaged the Allen Jay house, a post-and-beam frame house built in the 1840s. The main area where the materials and assembly for the FEMAP kits was done was destroyed. Already assembled kits in the bags had to be repackaged; but all of the other supplies, yarn, fabric for quilts, storage boxes, etc. could not be salvaged.

We are very thankful for the firefighters at High Point Station 6 and the other two companies which responded. FEMAP continues their work; they have moved temporarily into the old Fellowship Hall (under the chapel) at Springfield Friends Meeting which is across the street from the Allen Jay house.

History: Allen Jay (1831-1910) lived here from 1868 to 1877 as superintendent during the rebuilding of the Southern Quaker community following the Civil War. His impact on the area was so great that the whole neighborhood in High Point is named after him. (source: Max Carter)

The last page of this issue of the <u>Carolina Woman</u> has the types of items needed for the kits, yarn, fabric, etc. Any and all of the items of all kits are needed; yarn can be "small balls" or skeins, fabric can be remnants, small safety pins and one- and two-GALLON plastic zip lock bags! THANKS FOR ANY DONATIONS







FEMAP KITS

Friends Emergency Material Assistance Program

Any

HYGIENE KITS

- 1 Tube toothpaste
- 1 Adult toothbrush
- 1 Bottle shampoo
- 1 Bar bath soap
- 1 Wide-toothed comb
- 1 Hand towel
- 1 Washcloth
- 1 Deodorant

FARMERWORKER'S KIT

- 1Tube toothpaste
- 1 Adult toothbrush
- 2 Disposable razors
- 1 Deodorant
- 1 Wide-toothed comb
- 1 Foot fungus powder or cream
- 1 Band-Aids (assorted bag or box)
- 1 Hand towel
- 1 Washcloth
- 1 Bandana or Sweat band
- 1 Tylenol or other OTC pain killer
- 1 Pair work gloves
- 1 Shaving cream
- 1 Bar bath soap

INFANT KITS

- 2 Receiving blankets
- 4 Baby washcloths
- 1 Baby towel
- 1 Bar baby soup (Ivory)
- 1 Bottle baby shampoo
- Small tube or jar petroleum jelly
- 2 Pairs infant socks

SCHOOL KITS

- 4 Unsharpened pencils
- 1 Ruler (plastic or wood)
- 1 Block eraser
- 1 Small pencil sharpener
- 2 Spiral wide ruled composition books

PLEASE PACK EACH KIT IN A 2-GALLON PLASTIC ZIP-LOCK BAG

WE CAN ALSO USE (to replace what lost in fire)

YARN any weight, (little/leftover balls too!)

FABRIC FOR QUILTS: small remnants, too!!

SMALL SAFETY PINS

1 & 2 GALLON PLASTIC ZIP LOCK BAGS



WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT REGISTRATION FOR OUR UPCOMING FRIENDS SUMMIT YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE IS NOW LIVE!

This conference only happens every four years (unless there's a global pandemic) and is an opportunity for leaders both young and old within the evangelical Friends Movement to come together and have conversations about the Kingdom, Mission, and Passion of the Friends Church and each other. Plan on joining us no matter your age and be a part of a conversation that could change your life.

To learn more details <u>CLICK HERE</u>
TO REGISTER <u>CLICK HERE</u>

QUAKER ARCHIVES GUILFORD COLLEGE



By: Gwen and Beth

Newsletter, please donate them to the Quaker Archives at Guilford College. We are trying to fill gaps in our collection and are especially missing issues from the early 2000s. Contact us at archives@guilford.edu for more information.





Belize Friends Center Assists in Local Back-to-School Efforts

The September 2 Back-to-School Hair Grooming and School Supply Drive was a community initiative designed to support the children from our community in Southside Belize City, to help prepare them for the upcoming school year. The hair grooming drive exceeded our expectations and will have a lasting positive impact on our community. We had hoped for fifty to sixty school children to attend so we were thrilled to see the turnout of approximately 175 children, and some parents, who attended the event! This overwhelming response demonstrated the importance of impactful events like this one in our community.

The drive served as a medium for unity and collaboration within our community. The enthusiasm of everyone involved created a sense of togetherness and common purpose. It was heartwarming to witness our community coming together through sponsorship and through people volunteering their time, skills, and resources to make the event a resounding success. The positive impact of the day reached far beyond the physical aspect of providing hair grooming services and school supplies—it instilled a sense of confidence, pride, and hope in the children, leaving a lasting impact on their lives.

As a result of the Back-to-School Drive's success, the Belize Friends Center is now firmly established as a source of support and empowerment within our community. This event has opened doors for further collaboration and innovative initiatives, highlighting our long-term commitment to nurturing the growth and development of our youth and community members. We look forward to a future where our center continues to be a driving force for positive change in our community.

OUAKERS IN HISTORY

Elizabeth Drinker 1735-1807

Philadelphia, PA



In the martial climate of August 1777, Henry Drinker was one of a score of prominent Philadelphia men banished to Virginia by the Continental Congress under suspicion of "aiding and abetting the cause of the enemy." The "Virginia Exiles" numbered 18 Quakers. These pacifists were unwilling "to join in carrying on war" and "refused to submit to the arbitrary injunctions and ordinances of men."

In April 1778, a quartet of Quaker women which included Elizabeth Drinker set out on a dangerous trip to the provisional capital of Lancaster seeking to petition the Pennsylvania Council into releasing their deported husbands. Along the way, the party dropped in on Valley Forge and bullied their way into an audience with George Washington who was having trouble of his own. There they met Martha Washington, "a sociable, pretty kind of woman" and supped with the General and his staff. Though the party had an "elegant dinner" Washington could do no more than supply a pass to Lancaster. Once in Lancaster, the women were denied an official hearing but learned their spouses had been scheduled to be brought back to Pennsylvania.

CLICK HERE for more info



...for October

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 allow God to work in you? What does this look like? Are you teachable?
-Is every aspect of your life open to the transforming power of God?

What stands in the way?

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 <u>HERE</u>)
- 2) follow FCNC's Facebook Page (click HERE)
- 3) join FCNC's Facebook group (click <u>HERE</u>)

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

Social Media Comm-Tech Committee

You are invited!!

Last month we said that an idea was submitted that we were excited about, and that idea has come to life!

We have created invitations!

These invitations can be customized by your meeting and made available to all members to give out as they see fit. Have you ever wanted to invite someone to church but weren't sure what to say? Maybe you wanted to show someone what "Friends" were all about but couldn't find the words. Thats where the invitations come in! Not only are these invitations, but on the back, there's a simple explanation for WHO the Friends are, with a "QR code" to scan for more information.

There are three formats. Youth/teen, young adult/adult and traditional adult. Below you will find all three formats. There are links that you can follow to download and get them printed at your local Staples.

If you are unable to do that, I can have them made and shipped straight to your meeting.

Simply e-mail me at: jenny@friendschurchnc.org_

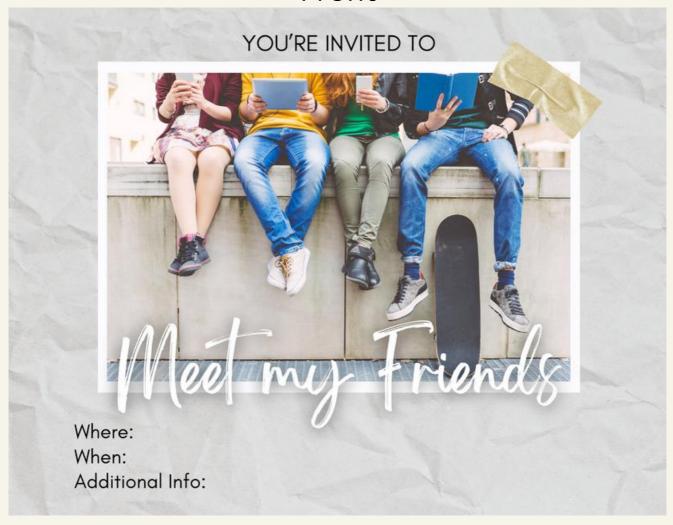
To go to Canva and download these designs

Youth/Teen: Click HERE

Young adult/Adult: Click HERE

Traditional Adult: Click HERE

Front



Back

Triends are: Christ Followers. Community leaders. They are people who love others just as they are.

Friends are NOT: Amish. The Quaker Oats guy. And no... they're not a cult.



Friends/Quakers are similar to other Protestant denominations but offer these unique differences:

Centering: Our lives are busy. That's why we find it important to stop and "center" ourselves.

No Sacraments: We believe in a direct communion with God. And baptism is not physical but rather a baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Open Worship: During worship, we give others a chance to share

Core Values: We attempt to live a life of **SPICES!** Simplicity-Peace-Integrity-Community-Equality-Stewardship

For more information visit: www.friendschurchnc.org/discover

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Meet our Missions Ranuallah Friends School



In 1869, a 15-year old Palestinian girl named Miriam Karam mustered up the courage to ask two Quaker visitors to Ramallah, Eli and Sybil Jones, to start a girl's school in the area. At that time, no education program existed for women in this region. Before long, a medical mission and boarding school for girls was in place. By 1902, a similar boarding school for boys was created by Friends.

It is doubtful that Miriam, Sybil, or Eli could ever have imagined what Ramallah Friends School (RFS) would look like in the 21st century. As the only accredited International Baccalaureate (IB) World School in Palestine, RFS offers an innovative and multi-disciplinary education that prepares Palestinian young people to be outstanding scholars, leaders, and change-makers in their community and around the world. Nurtured in an academic and community life guided by Christian Quaker values and spirituality, the School aims to impact both Christian and Muslim students in a wholistic and life-changing way.

Despite being located in one of the most challenging places on the planet, RFS continues to thrive. Through a terrific partnership with USAid/American Hospitals and Schools Abroad, the School has been able to build a world-class facility. Even with the constant pressure of living under occupation and the regular threat of violence, RFS consistently prepares students who are ready to thrive in college or university, work and service.

To Read more: **CLICK HERE**



Le How can we pray for you?

Prayer:

Pray for the family and friends of Chad Hinshaw on his passing.

Pray for the family and friends of George Strickland on his passing.

Pray for the friends and family of Pastor Howard Seymour on his passing.

Praise:

Praise God for the gift of
Eternal Life!
That we may spend
eternity with our Heavenly
Father and with our loved
ones who have gone
before us.



Science Hill VBS 2023

From the youngest anticipating the rain delay to the oldest hitting the slide anyway, it was a great day of fun and fellowship.











Visit to Mountain View Friends

A few photos taken at Mountain View Friends in Galax, where Mike Wall preached September 10th. Pastor Jeff Stowers is taking some time to recover from his wife Margaret passing away.

