

DECEMBER 2022 | ISSUE NO.14

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!

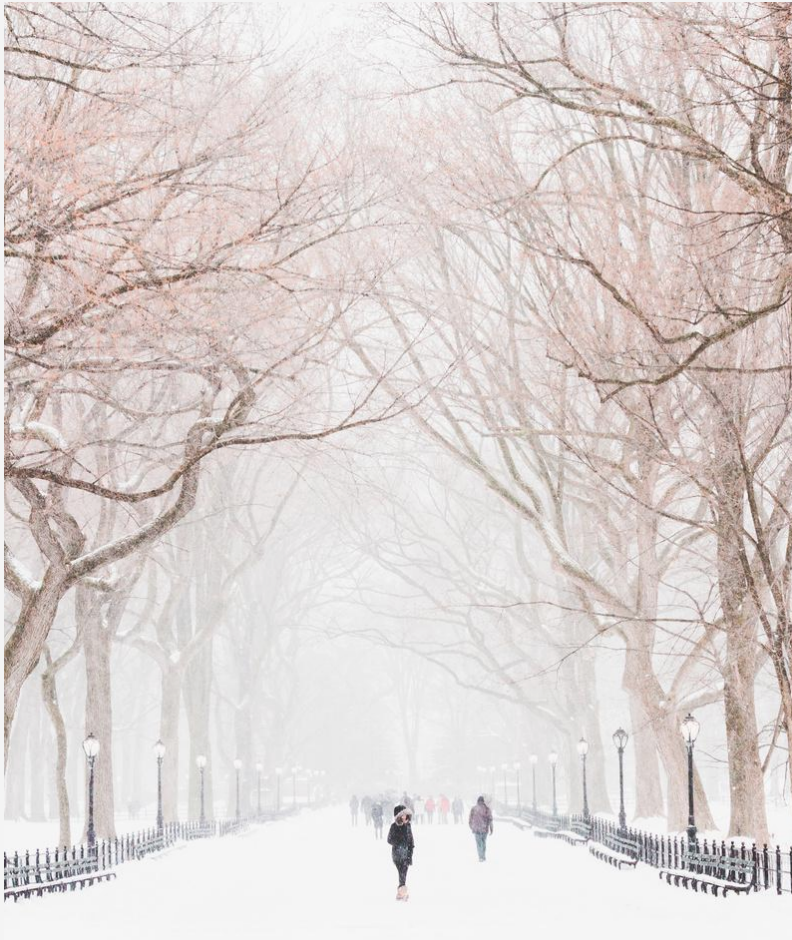
This is a monthly e-newsletter dedicated to keeping you up to date on current events within FCNC.

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

“

WHEN THE STAR IN THE SKY IS GONE,
WHEN THE KINGS AND PRINCES ARE HOME,
WHEN THE SHEPHERDS ARE BACK WITH
THEIR FLOCKS
THE REAL WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS.

TO FIND THE LOST
TO HEAL THE BROKEN
TO FEED THE HUNGRY
TO RELEASE THE PRISONERS
TO REBUILD THE NATIONS
TO BRING PEACE AMONG BROTHERS
TO MAKE MUSIC IN THE HEART.

-NINETEENTH CENTURY QUAKER
BENEDICTION

”

*“I bring you good tidings of great
joy, which shall be to all people”*

Luke 2:10

A Word of Devotion:

GLAD TIDINGS & GREAT JOY

By: Jane Fryar

"I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people"

(Luke 2:10 KJV).

This Scripture verse has become the basis for dozens of Christmas carols. One in particular comes to us from 19th Century England:

**God rest ye merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!**

Because the English in the carol is old-fashioned, we may think the writer is talking to "merry gentlemen" - gentlewomen, gentle children, gentle people - people who already have caught the spirit of the season and are already celebrating: "God rest you, merry gentlemen!" (In fact, maybe they have celebrated enough and are ready to take a rest!)

But in reality, the words pronounce a blessing: God rest you merry! The first line of stanza one repeats the blessing of the chorus: Comfort and joy! Rest and merriment! Both the chorus and the opening line pray these twin blessings on those listening to the carol.

The great busyness of Christmas in the 21st century can make blessings of comfort and joy seem oh, so far away and fanciful. Our busyness can keep our hearts from receiving - or even remembering - that our Lord wants us to receive these blessings from his kind and generous heart. Too many of us endure "the holidays" as a six-week-long marathon with way too much to do, way too much to eat, and way too many obligatory social events.

All this is bad enough, but when we know it will all climax around January 15 when way too many bills come due . . . well, everything combined can make us want to collapse into a tired heap!

We forget that "the holidays" are (or at least could be) "holy days," days set aside for the express purpose of basking in the comfort and joy, the "glad tidings of great joy," baby Jesus brought to earth.

In all the bustle and busyness, the Christmas angels call us to look back, back to our Savior's manger bed. In looking, we remember, "Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray."

There's the comfort! There's the joy! No matter how lost we feel, no matter how far we have strayed from that manger and from faith in the Savior who once lay there, we can come home. Our Father's arms are open wide in welcome because his Son, Jesus, was born on Christmas Day for us, was crucified and buried on Good Friday for us, and was raised to life on Easter Sunday for us, never to die again.

The darkness will not win. The evil will not win. Dismay may overtake us, but it cannot hold us captive. We have a Savior! And in his victory over sin and Satan, hell and death, we find eternal comfort and receive unending joy. May comfort and joy be yours - this holy season and always!





Upcoming Events:

December 2-3 & 9-10 2022

Snow Camp
"Festival of Lights"
6PM-9PM

December 9, 2022

Drive-Thru Nativity
White Plains Friends
5PM-7PM

December 11, 2022

Candlelight Service
at Quaker Lake
more details to come

December 16-17, 2022

Center Friends
LIVE drive thru nativity
at Grand Arbor Farm

December 18, 2022

Christmas Musical
"Arrest these Merry Gentlemen"
White Plains Friends
6 PM

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

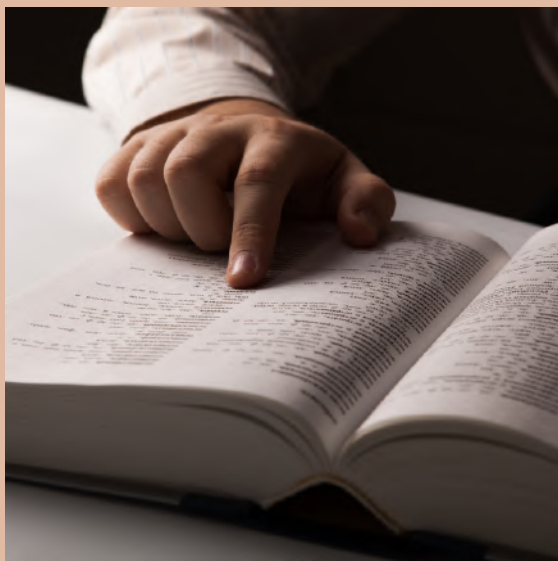
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Announcements:



REMINDER

2022 Directory *Now available!*



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

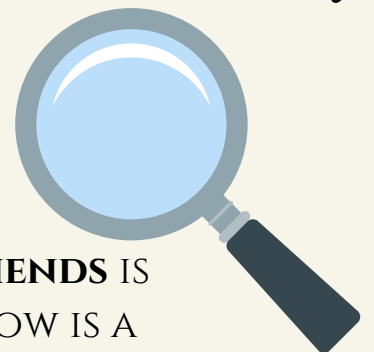
Access to the directory will require a password.

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 & Youth Pastor for Centre Friends



WE RECEIVED AN E-MAIL ANNOUNCING THAT **CENTRE FRIENDS** IS LOOKING FOR A FULL TIME PASTOR & YOUTH PASTOR. BELOW IS A 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.

NOTE: YOUTH LEADER POSITION NEEDS TO HAVE APPLICATIONS TURNED IN BY **DECEMBER 31ST**

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



Hold You In The Light

Festival of Lights

December 2-3 & 9-10, 2022

6:00-9:00 pm

Admission: \$5 per person

Location: 301 Drama Rd. Snow Camp, NC 27349

Live Musical Performances

December 2

6:00 B Everett Elementary School
6:30 Sapphire Dance Studio
7:00 Bynum UMC Bluegrass
7:30 Erica Harris

December 9

6:00 The Burlington School
6:30 KARIZMA Dance
7:00 It's a String Thing
7:30 One Direction Bluegrass
8:00 Taunja Ruch Ingram

December 3

6:00 Studio 1 Show Choir
6:30 TBA
7:00 Caleb Rivera
7:30 "Bless Everyone's Hearts"

December 10

6:00 Chatham Charter Band
6:30 Burlington Boy's Choir
7:00 Western Alamance Choir
8:00 Shannon Clemente and Taylor McGee
8:30 Olivia Williams
9:00 Voices@1

Food Trucks

Games

Vendors

Craft Walk

MIRACLE IN THE BARN

Drive-thru Living Nativity

presented by Centre Friends



December 16 6:00-8:00pm

December 17 6:00-8:00pm

December 18 2:00-4:00pm

Wee Friends and Meeting Youth

present the story

Sunday afternoon

Grand Arbour Farm

1457 Gregson Road

Pleasant Garden

Canned Food collected

at the gate



WHITE PLAINS FRIENDS MEETING

*You Are Invited To A
Drive-Thru Nativity*

Friday, December 9th

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

849 Old Hwy 601, Mt. Airy

QUAKERS IN

HISTORY

Elisabeth Abegg (1882-1974)



Elisabeth Abegg was born on March 3, 1882, in more tolerant times than those on her horizon. She grew up in Alsace (now a part of France) when it was a province of the German Reich, but moved to Berlin after France reclaimed the disputed border territory in 1918. In Berlin, she became involved with the relief work of the Quakers, who, true to their Christian beliefs, were among the first to provide food and medical assistance to the German populace after the November armistice of 1918 was signed. These experiences strengthened Abegg's commitment to the Quaker faith and instilled beliefs that would mark her life.

Abegg earned a doctorate and became a history teacher at the prestigious Luisenschule, an all-girls' school. Her career suffered with Hitler's rise to power after 1933 when she became increasingly disparaging of the Nazi regime. Transferred to another school because of her outspoken criticisms, by 1940 she was denied the right to teach because of her continued refusal to either accept or advance the Nazi party line.

Throughout the 1930s, Germany's Jews suffered the systematic loss of fundamental human rights. By 1939, as persecution and degradation became the norm, they had no shred of legal or moral protection. In September 1941, all Jews in the German Reich were ordered to wear a Star of David on their clothing when appearing in public. Germany's Jews were either working as slave laborers or being deported to the Eastern territories to be annihilated as part of Hitler's "Final Solution" of the "Jewish Question."

Refusing to remain uninvolved, the 60-year-old Elisabeth Abegg began to actively rescue Jews. Though responsible for her ailing older sister Julie and her 86-year-old bedridden mother, both of whom lived with her in her home in Berlin's Tempelhof district, she used her apartment at Berliner Strasse 24A (now Tempelhofer Damm 56) on countless occasions to provide temporary shelter for Jews hiding from the Nazi dragnet. Creating an extensive rescue network consisting of her Quaker friends as well as former students, she saved the lives of dozens of Jews who were sheltered either in her own apartment, which consisted of three and one-half rooms, or in temporarily empty adjoining apartments. She continued these activities at serious risk, especially considering that several of her neighbors at Berliner Strasse 24A were fanatical Nazis who suspected her of disloyalty because she refused their requests to fly the Nazi flag.

Abegg found safe and permanent hideaways in Berlin, East Prussia, and her beloved Alsace for Jewish refugees. Selling off her jewelry, she used her remaining wealth to raise enough funds to finance the successful escape into Switzerland of several of her most endangered charges. Concerned that the Jewish children were missing an education, she tutored them at her home. Almost daily, she spent long hours traveling by streetcar and subway to visit her wards at their secret locations, bringing food, money, and forged identification papers. After the Second World War, Abegg resumed teaching in Berlin. She became a member of the Social Democratic Party of Germany and was active in Quaker groups.

On Abegg's 75th birthday in 1957, a group of individuals whose lives she had saved published a commemorative booklet to honor her. And a "Light Shined in the Darkness" contained a number of moving testimonials, including that of Hertha Blumenthal : "With Fräulein Dr. Abegg was revealed the truth that a life of love for one's fellow human beings, together with respect for others, is the most elevated and eternal value.... Her rectitude, straightforwardness, and endless love will always be the model ... upon which I pattern my life and will come into play whenever anyone needs my help."





FUM
UPDATE



"Unleashing the Power"

***Unleashing the Power* is a North American program intended to combine spiritual formation and practical skill-building to energize and equip Friends in nurturing healthy and faithful congregations.**

Nine virtual workshops are proposed for 2022–2023.

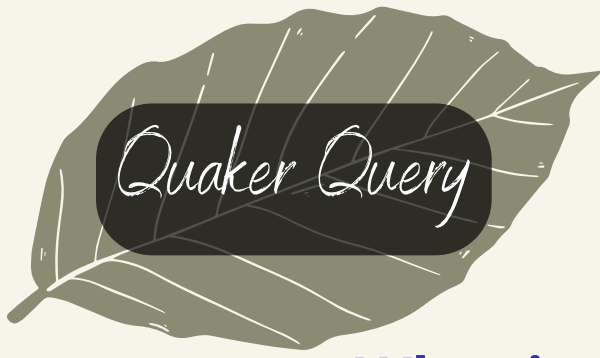
Most, if not all, of the series workshops will be an hour-and-a-half in length and held on a weekday evening. They began in October 2022, these monthly

Zoom workshops will cover topics such as the following:

- Community ministries (shelters, tutoring programs, food pantries, etc.)
- Having grounded conversations across differences
- Conflict within congregations
- Gifts and leadings and how these can guide nominations and service in the Meeting
- Small congregations
- Children's ministries
- How congregations can be supportive of parents
- Hybrid worship communities and the implications of this beyond worship
- Faithful closure for congregations reaching the natural end of their life cycle

We hope that many of our North American churches and Meetings will send one or more members to each of these workshops. Dates, facilitators, and registration information are coming soon, and we will all be enriched by the presence of Friends throughout North America.

For more information or to **REGISTER** for one of the workshops listed above, [CLICK HERE](#)



...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 I truly believe it is more blessed to give than to receive?
How do I show this in my life?

-Who is my Neighbor? In what ways can I give more to them?

Social Media

Comm-Tech Committee



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

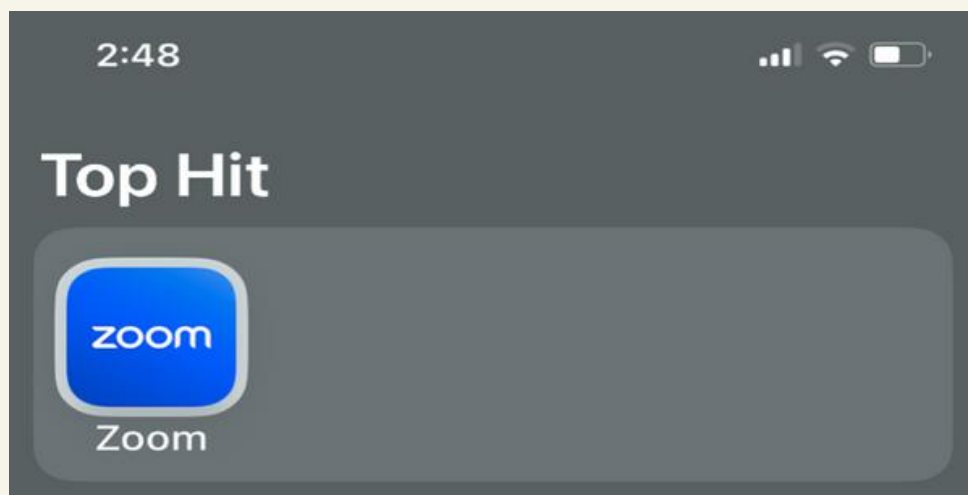


Zoom Instructions:

We've been talking about "Zoom" lately. We want to make every effort to help you navigate Zoom and use it to your Meetings full advantage. Check out the simple step by step instructions below for joining a "Zoom" call.

1)

Install the zoom app on your smart phone (or ipad/tablet) and/or desk-top computer (for apple this is from the app store (blue icon with triangle shaped wooden sticks) – google play for android



2)

Receive meeting invite via email for an upcoming zoom meeting. This will be sent by the host to your e-mail.



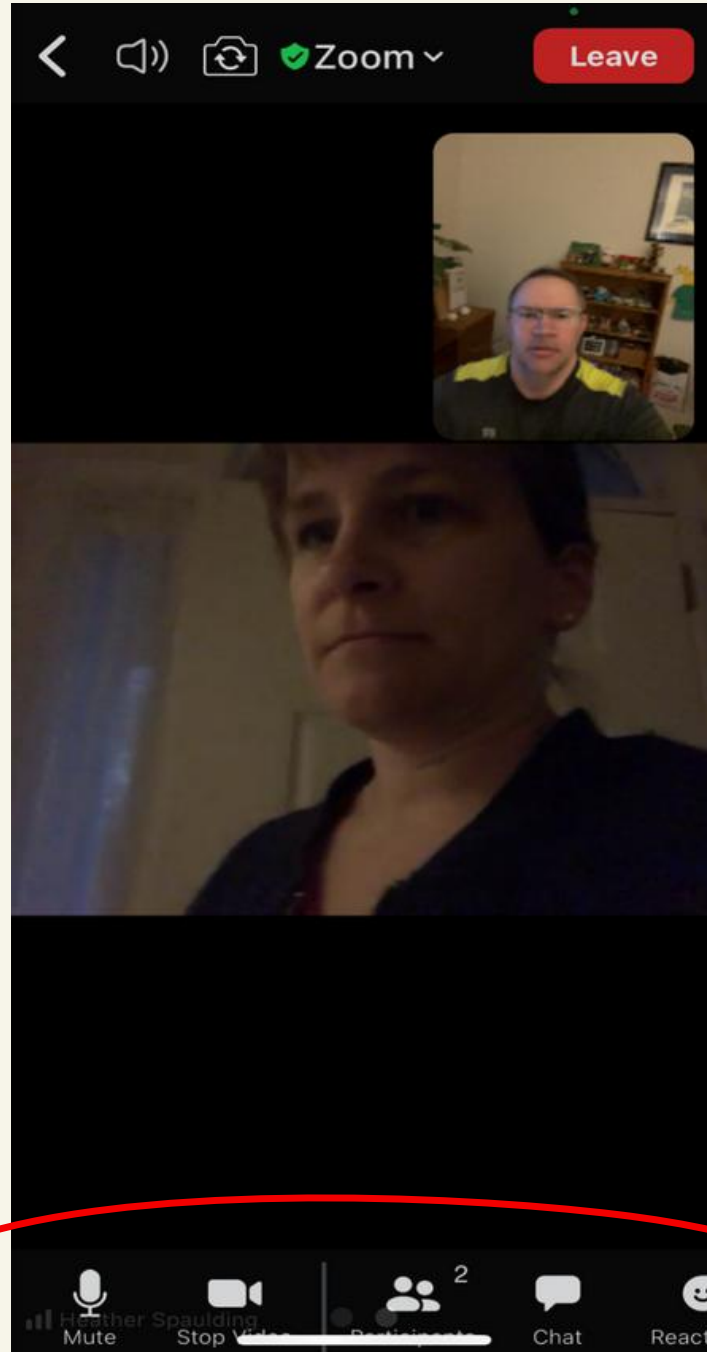
James Spau... 2:03 PM
To: Jenny Gullion >

invite

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86246628159?pwd=ZkJncGJyd0l2OEhwZjJFNlUdXMOxWQOT09>

3)

Click on the blue hyper-link of the invite to join the zoom meeting. Make sure you're unmuted (microphone symbol should not have a red-line through it) and make sure your camera is on; both the microphone and camera app are toggle switches – just click on it to switch between mute and unmute. Click anywhere on the screen to see the mute button menu on the bottom left of the screen shot below.



4)

Other tips: make sure there is plenty of light in the room you're in – preferably natural light but artificial light will work if it's bright enough. You will need internet/wifi/cell-signal sufficient to receive and send video. A poor internet connection will prevent your ability to join zoom. If you're joining via a desk-top (or laptop) computer you will need a webcam – video and microphone built in (some monitors have this built in). Be aware that background noise can be distracting to others on the zoom call – a quiet room is best to avoid distracting others.

Meet our Missions

Ramallah Friends Missions



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.

This community is a beacon of hope for Friends around the world and an example of the difference which can be made through a resilient ministry of presence. As FUM looks to the future, we are exploring new ways we are being called to be Christ's light and love in Palestine.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)





Prayer **CORNER**

How can we pray for you?

Prayer:

Pray for George Strickland
on the passing of his wife,
Linda.



Pray for those in foster care this
holiday season. Pray that the Lord will
lead more people into becoming
foster families. It is a huge need across
many of our counties in NC.

Praise:

Praise God for the gift of His
Son for our Salvation, as
well as His provision for our
needs.
He is faithful!

NOVEMBER

RECAP

Southern Quarterly Meeting

David Briles presiding



Hugh Spaulding, Clerk of M&C



Eric Morrison- (new pastor at
Thomasville)

Young Friends Youth Retreat

The Fall "Survivor" youth retreat at QLC was a success! With inspiring speakers and fun games & food. Friends were made and fun times were had.





Celebrating 350 Years!

The NCYM Inc Board planned and hosted a Quaker Jubilee, celebrating 350 years of Quakers in North Carolina. The event was held on November 5, 2022 at Quaker Lake Camp; invitations were sent to all known associations of Friends in North Carolina, as well as unaffiliated meetings. The attendees rekindled old friendships, enjoyed food & fellowship, and shared some history of their local meetings. There also was a talk by Max Carter and a trivia game with fun facts about Quaker history in North Carolina. Many of those who attended remarked how wonderful it was to re-gather with those in different associations, and many expressed hopes for similar opportunities in the future.



