

### 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

66

"THE WINTER TREE RESEMBLES ME, WHOSE SAP LIES IN ITS ROOT: THE SPRING DRAWS NEAR AS IT, SO I SHALL BUD, I HOPE, AND SHOOT."

THOMAS ELLWOOD, 1639-1714

A Word of Devotion:

SPRING FORWARD IN FAITH

By: Andrea

99

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 4-3:19

I recently moved to an area that has seasons and it's a whole new experience for me. I've been mesmerized by the changing leaves, watching them as they shift from green to fiery reds and oranges, and just recently the trees that spent the whole winter with bare branches have sprouted small, white flowers. It's truly beautiful to watch winter melt into spring. I go outside and feel the sun bring new warmth. It's familiar but new all at once.

<u>Isaiah 43:19 NIV</u> says, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Sometimes in order to come into a new season and spring forward in faith, we have to let go of the old season. <u>Isaiah 43:18 NIV</u> says, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past." One of the many lessons life teaches us is to let go. We can't hang on to past hurts, past struggles, and past relationships. And, sometimes this means we have to give ourselves <u>time to grieve</u> in order to move forward. We may have to let ourselves feel the loss, be sad for a little while, and talk to someone who cares. After we've grieved, we can pick ourselves up and start looking ahead once again.

As spring starts to surface and the trees begin to bloom, we can see God's reminder to align our hearts to the new thing He's doing. Let us go to prayer, asking Jesus to help us embrace all the "new" he has in store for us:

Dear Lord, Thank you for developing me into the person You want me to be. I have to admit, Jesus, that sometimes I find it hard to let go of old things even when I know they are holding me back. Help me, Lord, to truly see this spring season for what it is: a lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be. As flowers begin to adorn the trees once again and fresh grass rises up from the ground, renew in me the strength to let go of the past and move forward in my faith journey with You. Amen



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

#### April-May 2024 (see flyer below)

The FCNC Missions committee is once again asking all of the Churches to have a special offering to collect donations for the Yearly Meeting Mission projects. We would like for churches to target a special Sunday in

April or May to give attention to our missions. It doesn't have to be one of these months but to please schedule this any Sunday that it is convenient. There is a bulletin insert attached that can be distributed that list where the money goes. 100% of all donations go directly to one of these missions.

#### April 25-27th 2024

Quaker Leadership Conference Richmond, Indiana w/zoom option (more info below)







#### <u>Upcoming Events:</u>

#### April 5th-7th 2024

Rocky River Friends Revival (more information below)

#### April 12th-14th 2024

Youth Conference at Fort Caswell

#### **April 20th 2024**

Pig Picking at Bethel Friends Meeting

#### **April 30th 2024**

Quaker Trustees Training Series (more information below)

#### May 6th 2024

Quaker Men's Spring Fling
At Deep River Meeting @ 5:57PM
\$10 per meal
Kelly Kellum, General Secretary of FUM, will be the
guest speaker.

#### May 17th- 19th 2024

Stoking The Fire - <u>Save The Date!</u>
<u>CLICK HERE</u> for more information and registration.

#### May 18th 2024

**USFW Spring Conference at QLC** 

#### **Date TBD**

Online Young Adult Bible Study
(college age to under 40)
For a brief description CLICK HERE:
To register CLICK HERE
(see flyer below)

#### September 20-23, 2024 SAVE THE DATE!

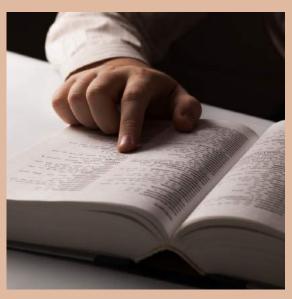
Kaleo Youth Workers Retreat (See flyer below)

#### Announcements:



REMINDER

# 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 to view, download or print.

Password: Directory2021!

# In Search of a Pastor & Youth Pastor for Centre Friends

We received an e-mail announcing that **Centre Friends** is looking for a full time Pastor and Youth Pastor. Below is a link to the Job descriptions that will give interested applicants a good idea of what Centre is looking for. Prayerfully consider this and reach out to those that may qualify, if the Lord should so lead.

CLICK HERE TO VISIT FCNC WEBSITE TO READ THE FULL JOB DESCRIPTION.

# Youth Leader Position Opening



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





# IN SEARCH

# of a full time Pastor Science Hill Friends Meeting

2421 Lassiter Mill Road Asheboro, NC 27205

In rural Randolph County, right off of New Highway 49 If you are interested in applying or visiting please contact Tammy Garner @ 336-460-4421 or <a href="mailto:garnerseed@rtmc.net">garnerseed@rtmc.net</a>

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



# IN SEARCH

## of a full time Pastor Bethel Friends Meeting

2519 Bethel Church Road Asheboro, NC. 27203

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

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

We want our pastor to participate in our meeting activities.

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

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

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



# IN SEARCH

## of a full time Pastor Centre Friends Meeting

325 HWY 62 E Greensboro, NC

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

Send resume to:
Centre Friends Meeting Ministry and Counsel
Attn: Julie Hatchel, Clerk
PO Box 632
Randleman, NC 27317
julie@asheborolawyer.com

#### Centre Friends Meeting 325 East NC 62, Greensboro, NC 27406 Mailing Address: PO Box 632, Randleman, NC 27317

(336) 674-5081

#### PASTOR JOB DESCRIPTION

#### PRIMARY FUNCTION:

 The Pastor's major concern should be for the spiritual well-being and growth of the whole church and prospective members.

#### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, having accepted Him as Savior and Lord
- Have an understanding and agreement with FCNC Friends Faith and Practice
- Good communication and organizational skills
- Previous training and/or experience as a pastor in a church setting is preferred

#### RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Overall objective is to seek to lead lost souls to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ
- Responsible for all Sunday morning services
- Prayerfully seek to bring Biblical and practical messages to the congregation each week
- Sensitive, during Open Worship, to the Holy Spirit's leading so that there may be opportunity for free expression of the Lord's message through the congregation's voice
- Encouraged to be present at church functions and outings, outside of the Sunday morning worship hour, to build and strengthen relationships with members of the congregation
- Available and willing to perform wedding and funeral services
- Participate in visitation of shut-ins, hospital, nursing homes, and other crisis situations while helping to 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
- Must maintain confidentiality of members as they share personal burdens and concerns
- Support and build up present leadership in the church through prayer and encouragement while mentoring other potential leaders
- Be available by phone for contact and ministry needs, while set office hours are not required
- Encouraged to take part in a variety of activities on the Quarterly Meeting and FCNC levels as well as in the wider body of Friends United Meeting

#### ACCOUNTABILITY:

- Prepare and present a monthly Ministry Activity Report to Ministry and Counsel
- Pastor will be subject to the oversight of Ministry and Counsel, to include regular and timely performance evaluations

Compensation package will be commensurate with the individual's education and experience. Bivocational and part-time position applicants are also encouraged to apply.

Please send resume to: Centre Friends Meeting Ministry and Counsel

Attn: Julie Hatchel, Clerk

PO Box 632

Randleman, NC 27317 julie@asheborolawyer.com

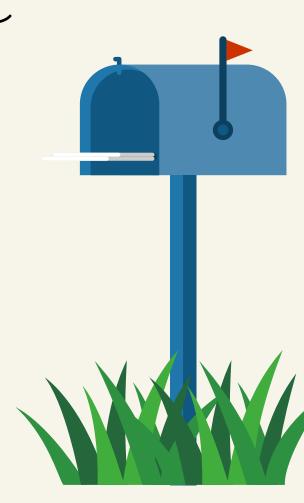


FCNC P.O. Box 4240, Archdale, NC 27263

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

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

Please send correspondence and NC USFW project donations here.





# BETHEL FRIENDS MEETING PIG PICKIN' APRIL 20, 2024

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

#### **USFWI PRESENTS:**

# A DRAWING COMPETITION FOR KIDS

DESIGN THE COVER FOR THE 2025-2026 BLUEPRINTS using the theme:

"Love in Many Languages"

based on I Thessalonians 2:8



FOR 5-12 YEARS OLD AND 13-18 YEARS OLD

#### LET YOUR CREATIVITY BE SEEN THROUGH THIS COMPETITION!

One Grand Prize \$100

PRIZES FOR WINNERS IN BOTH AGE GROUPS

1ST PLACE \$75 2ND PLACE \$50

**3RD PLACE** \$25

#### **CONTEST RULES:**

- ARTISTS MUST ATTEND A FRIENDS MEETING
- ARTWORK MUST BE 81/2" X 11"-- PORTRAIT ORIENTATION
- PENCIL OR BLACK INK (NO COLOR)
- ONLY ONE ENTRY PER PARTICIPANT
- OPTIONS FOR ENTRY SUBMISSIONS:
  - MAIL OR HAND DELIVER TO ANY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER
  - MAIL TO RITA MINTMIER, 6354 LEWIS DAVIS RD., RANDLEMAN, NC 27317 USA
  - Scan and email to rmintmier@yahoo.com

ALL
ENTRIES
MUST BE
RECEIVED
BY
AUGUST
30, 2024

#### We Invite You to Revival Services





#### at Rocky River Friends Meeting 1795 Staley-Snow Camp Road, SILER CITY, NC

Telephone: 336/622-3466

Email: RockyRiverFriends@yahoo.com Website: RockyRiverFriendsMeeting.org

#### Friday - Sunday, April 5-7, 2024

7:00 pm each evening and 11:00 am on Sunday morning

#### Guest Speaker: Dr. Robert "Bob" Shackleford, Jr.

He served as the 4th President of Randolph Community College, Asheboro, NC from 1/1/2007 until his retirement on 7/1/2022, and former Chaplain at the Pentagon during 9-11.

A member of the U.S. Army Reserves from 1985-1992, Shackleford served as battalion chaplain and assistant division chaplain. He served as a chaplain in the North Carolina Air National Guard from 1992 until his retirement in January 2008. From 1997 until his retirement, he was the Wing Chaplain (senior supervisory chaplain) for the 145th Airlift Wing.

Dr. Shackleford earned an associate degree in secondary education from Bluefield College in Bluefield, Va., and a bachelor's degree in physical education from the School of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Mo. He completed his master's degree in child development and family studies and a doctorate in human development and family studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He also holds a Master of Divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest. He and his wife, Teresa, live in Randleman and have 3 children, Kristi, Kori, & Will.

#### Special Music in each service!

Lunch in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, 4/7/2024

Who will YOU invite to come with you??!!

#### **FCNC Missions Sunday**

The Missions Committee of Friends Church of North Carolina contributes to many ministries, including missionaries, Friends' Meetings in underprivileged areas, and the ministries of Friends United Meeting. What we do depends on you!

#### You can:

- Pray for the missionaries and ministries.
- · Give financial support.
- · Go on a mission trip, VBS, work group, etc.
- Grow your knowledge with newsletters.
- Get the word out to other Friends.

#### Missionaries

- -Bob and Hope Carter, medical and spiritual ministry in Kenya
- -Oscar Mmbali, Director of the Belize Friends Center

#### Ministries supported by N.C. Friends

- -Jamaica Yearly Meeting Vacation Bible School, Leadership Training & Building Projects
- -Matamoros, Mexico Missions- Pastoral Support and Building Repairs
- -Friends Center in Alabama (formerly MOWA)
- -Friends Campus Ministry
- -Africa Friends Theological College, Lugulu Hospital, Turkana and Samburu missions
- -Middle East Ramallah Friends School
- -Bolivia- Friends International Bilingual Center
- -Mesquakie Friends Church
- -Kickapoo Friends Center
- -Cuba Friends
- -FUM Emergency Relief Fund
- -Quaker Lake
- -FEMAP

Any amount of money donated is appreciated. If you can't support financially, please keep these missions in your prayers.

#### Missions Sunday

The special collection today goes to support these ministries. As you feel led please send checks to FCNC, with Missions on the memo line. Mail to the NCYM, Inc. office at 600 E. Springfield Rd., High Point, NC 27263.

#### Maybe you can't go; but you can help send others!!

MARK 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the World and preach the gospel to all creation."

This fall Kaleo Academy, the Youth Ministry Department at Barclay College, and MidAmerica Yearly Meeting are partnering together to host the first-ever National Friends Youth Workers Retreat. This will be an opportunity for those who work with youth within the evangelically minded Friends Church to gather together for some training, encouragement, and rest. We will be gathering at the beautiful Quaker Ridge Camp in Colorado on Sept. 20-23, 2024 and we invite any youth workers in FCNC to join us! The cost is \$250 plus travel expenses.

More information coming soon!

# NATIONAL FRIENDS YOUTH **WORKERS RETREAT**

SEPT. 20-23, 2024 QUAKER RIDGE CAMP IN COLORADO \$250 PER PERSON





Faith, Imagination, Reverence, and Enthusiasm

This annual retreat is for those a fire with the Holy Spirit, who seek deeper faith and bolder witness. Through worship, learning, and fellowship, we will open ourselves to Christ's presence, and allow the Spirit to work within us as we seek God's power. We hope you'll consider joining us as we seek to stir up the embers of our faith—both as individuals and as Friends. This year's Stoking the Fire will be a hybrid event, with inperson and virtual options.

# STOKING THE FIRE MAY 17-19TH 2024

Quaker Hill Conference Center Richmond, Indiana & Online Everywhere

CLICK HERE to register
Check out the schedule on the next page!

	Stoking the Fir	e—May 17–19,	, 2024	
Fire: Faith, Imagination, Reverence + Enthusiasm				
	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
8:00am		Breakfast		
9:00am		Unprogrammed Worship		
9:30am		Morning Worship	COAL	
10:30am		Break		
10:45am		COAL	Morning Worship	
12:00pm		Lunch		
1:00pm		Workshop I	Departure	
2:00pm	Check-In  Welcome &  Gather	Workshop II	12	
3:00pm		Break		
4:45pm				

Dinner

Worship

COAL

**Fortifying the Flame** 

5:00pm

6:30pm

7:30pm

8:30pm

#### NC USFW Spring Conference Registration Saturday, May 18, 2024



#### **Quaker Lake Camp**

Karla Jay will be our guest speaker for the 2024 NC USFW Spring Conference. Karla serves as the FUM Coordinator of Global Ministries. She was born in Guatemala and raised in the United States. Karla says, "I have had the privilege to be in a multicultural setting for most of my life. My passion is seeing unity within the Friends Church so that we can be what God has called us to be, to bring the good news of Christ to the poor and oppressed."

Karla's role with FUM is to provide direct oversight of FUM's growing Latino ministry programs and liaison with African ministries. In addition to these important roles, Karla will coordinate the Living Letters Programs and administer Global Ministry finances. She has served at FUM for three years.

Please join us to hear Karla's story and learn about all that has happened while serving at FUM. Her own personal story will show how her life has been "Rooted in Love" by following Jesus.

9:00 – 10:00 am Registration and Bookstore with light refreshments 10:00 am – 12 noon Welcome, Music, Program and Business 12:00 noon Luncheon – catered lunch @ \$15.00 each

Please send memorials by May 1, 2024 to Mary Anna McCullen, deetsmaryanna@gmail.com If you can't attend, please watch the live stream video on You Tube- search for Paul Routh. If you have questions contact Sherry Hylton 336-339-8058 or sbhylton3@yahoo.com

#### NC USFW Spring Conference at Quaker Lake Please clip and send by May 1, 2024

Name(s)	
Meeting	<u>.</u>
Number of Lunches at \$15.00 each	Total \$
Places attach this form with shock written t	a NC HSEW and mail to

Aicia Sharp 908 Scottish Rite Dr, Apt 219 Greensboro, NC 27407

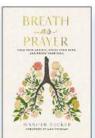
Please send the names of the USFW members from your meeting who have passed away since May 2023 to Mary Anna McCullen, NC USFW Historian by May 1, 2024. We will have a special memorial service at our Spring Conference at Quaker Lake on May 18, 2024, to honor those precious ladies who have died since our last Spring Conference.

Send to Mary Anna McCullen at <a href="www.deetsmaryanna@gmail.com">www.deetsmaryanna@gmail.com</a> or mail to her at 108

Northview Drive, Goldsboro, NC 27530 . Thank you.

#### USFWI 2024-25 reading list

#### www.barclaypressbookstore.com/USFWI-2024-25



Breath as Prayer Jennifer Tucker \$20.00



Forgiving What You Can't Forget Lysa TerKeurst

\$30.00



Please, Sorry, Thanks
Mark Batterson
\$22.00



Start with Prayer Max Lucado \$20.00



The Light Among Us Jill George & John Dirring \$18.00



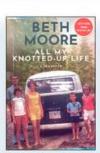
Lost and Found
Suzanne Woods Fisher
\$18.00



To Every Season
Nancy Learned Haines
\$17.00



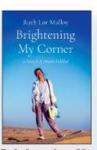
The Wings of Poppy Pendleton Melanie Dobson \$17.00



All My Knotted-Up Life Beth Moore \$28.00



Being Elisabeth Elliot Elen Vaughn \$25.00



Corner
Ruth Lor Malloy
\$25.00



Blackwell Janice P. Nimura \$17.00



Befriending the Prophets Howard R. Macy \$16.00



of Quaker Service

Max L. Carter,

Sarabeth Marcinko,

& Betsy Alexander

\$20.00



**Light in Gaza** editors: Jehad Abusalim, Jennifer Bing, & Mike Merryman-Lotze \$25.00



Quaker Quicks: In Search of Stillness Joanna Wood \$11.00



#### Friends United Meeting (FUM)

has a renewed focus on North American Ministries and wants to try something new this year for Young Adults (college age to under 40).

#### Goals:

- Educate young people about the Quaker core values and how to live them
- Introduce them to Quakers around the globe
- Expose them to FUM and some field staff.

The group will meet monthly via Zoom.

It would be great if we had a good representation from North Carolina!

Support for North American Ministries is provided by the Billy Britt Fund. Billy Britt was a former NC Yearly Meeting Superintendent who cared deeply about our youth and young adults. Nearly 75 donors have contributed to the Fund to help sustain North American Ministries programs.

**CLICK HERE** to Register



Kaleo Academy is now accepting applications for our program which will happen in the summer of 2024. Students and their mentors will meet on the campus of Barclay College for our theology camp to learn about what God is calling them to do. If you know a high school student who would be a good fit please have them fill out the application by

**CLICKING HERE** 



#### Dear Friends,

As I hope you have heard already, a gathering for Young Adult Friends from around the world will be held from 1 – 5 August 2024, immediately before the FWCC World Plenary Meeting, from the 5 - 12 August 2024 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Inspired by the Southern African word ubuntu, the theme will be based on Galatians 3:28: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

The event is intended to improve mutual understanding of Quaker diversity amongst Young Adult Friends worldwide, to reinforce international Quaker identity, and to re-establish the Young Adult Friends global network, leading to joint actions and plans. The event is planned by an international team consisting principally of Young Friends from Africa, with some representation from elsewhere, supported by elders from Southern Africa Yearly Meeting and the Africa Section.

This letter is to encourage young adult Friends, ages 18-35, to attend both conferences. Registration is open now at FWCC World Plenary Meeting. The cost for both conferences, all 12 days including room, board, and program, is \$1300 for Friends from higher income countries like the US and Canada. For lower income countries, the cost is \$130. Airfare and other expenses are separate.

Direct any questions to: <a href="mailto:travelingministry@fwccamericas.org">travelingministry@fwccamericas.org</a>
In Friendship,
Robin Mohr
Executive Secretary

The Quaker Leadership Center (QLC) is a resource for Friends across the branches of American Quakerism. It is a ministry of the Earlham School of Religion. In this time of rapid cultural and congregational change, the Quaker Leadership Center (QLC) equips Quaker leaders to faithfully adapt and innovate by:

- -cultivating new connections among diverse Quaker expressions
- collaborating with existing partners to revitalize leaders and their Meetings & churches
- -curating relevant resources
- -creating spaces for Friends leaders and congregations to discern their unique vital future

In January the QLC will be offering a series for Quaker Trustees, facilitated by Emily Provance.

## Quaker Trustees Training Series



Do you serve as a Quaker trustee or have another role with particular responsibility for the financial, property-related, or legal concerns of a Friends group?

This new online series from the Quaker Leadership Center, facilitated by Emily Provance, is designed to weave together practical tips, spiritual conversation, guest experts, and networking to help Friends who are working through some commonly held concerns.

Each Zoom gathering is free and 90 minutes long and will include lots of opportunities for you to ask questions and receive resources.

January 30 (1:00 PM ET): Quaker Trustees

February 27 (1:00 PM ET): Policies

March 26 (1:00 PM ET): Legal Structure

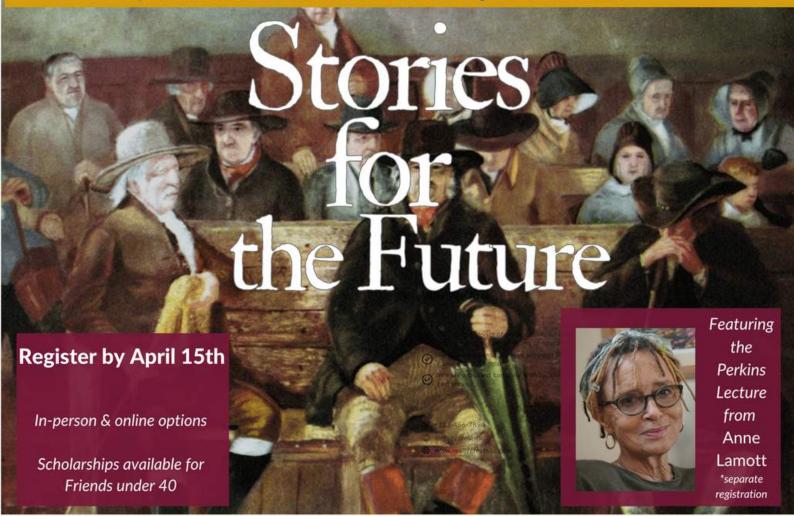
April 30 (1:00 PM ET): Rentals

May 28 (1:00 PM ET): Investments



# THE SECOND ANNUAL QUAKER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

April/Fourth Month 25-27, 2024. Earlham School of Religion. Richmond, Indiana



The Quaker Leadership Center (QLC) is a resource for Friends across the branches of American Quakerism. It is a ministry of the Earlham School of Religion. In this time of rapid cultural and congregational change, the Quaker Leadership Center (QLC) equips Quaker leaders to faithfully adapt and innovate by:

- -cultivating new connections among diverse Quaker expressions
- collaborating with existing partners to revitalize leaders and their Meetings & churches
- -curating relevant resources
- -creating spaces for Friends leaders and congregations to discern their unique vital future

To learn more about the upcoming conference <u>CLICK HERE</u>
To see other events coming up from QLC <u>CLICK HERE</u>





#### **Ambwere Farm Maize Harvest is Sold**

An array of activities is currently happening within the Friends United Meeting sustainability project in Kitale, Kenya—the Ambwere Farm—with the latest activity being the sale and delivery of maize (corn) to the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) in Kitale.

To read the full article **CLICK HERE** 

To watch a video of the maize being sorted and stacked **CLICK HERE** 





Come to me, all you who are weary...
Words of introspection by Michael Sherman-FUM Coordinator for North American
and Caribbean Ministries

Since Thanksgiving of 2003 I have generally had a regular gig pastoring or preaching somewhere on a Sunday morning. I did the math and that's almost 1,100 Sundays; minus a few for vacations and illness.

I love preaching, don't get me wrong. I like the regular exercise of what may seem like a strange muscle. I use my professional responsibility of spoken ministry as a personal spiritual practice of attention.

On February 18, I found myself sitting on the pastor's left-hand side in a familiarly-styled pew about halfway up the center aisle with the good folks at White Plains Friends Meeting, in Mt. Airy, North Carolina. Having arrived a little early, there was opportunity to watch and witness as folks entered the sanctuary, finding their places, seeing familiar faces, and recognizing unfamiliar faces. There were warm greetings of welcome and the exchange of a customary, "It's good to be here." I felt the welcome deeply and it was indeed good for me to be there.

In 2022, on an FUM Living Letters trip to Cuba, there was a pastor's retreat for the pastors of Cuba Yearly Meeting. The pastors were listened to, their lives and their ministries were prayed over, and I had the opportunity to preach a sermon as a part of the retreat. One of the closing comments in the midst of the goodbyes was a thank you for preaching, praying, and ministering. One of the pastors said, "As pastors, no one preaches and teaches to us, no one prays for us; we are not always ministered to the way you all have done. It is so good to receive these things." I heard him say this and I appreciated the thanks for my small part in that care and nurture for the men and women who are pastors in Cuba Yearly Meeting, mis hermanos y hermanas.

# QUAKERS IN HISTORY

How Black Quakers
Influenced History
-An article by <u>Barclay College</u>

Paul Cuffe (1759-1817)



Black Quaker Paul Cuffe was a free slave who taught himself mathematics and seafaring skills and amassed considerable wealth. He was active in the abolitionist movement and encouraged education as a way to help slaves gain their freedom. Cuffe also became involved in a movement which supported moving free slaves to Africa.

In mid-September 1810, Cuffe shared with his Quaker meeting that he was being led to establish a trading community in Sierra Leone. It would trade goods instead of humans. He embarked on efforts to establish settlements on Africa's west coast and to develop trade routes to the area. In 1811 he founded the Friendly Society of Sierra Leone. In December 1815, Cuffe and 38 black settlers sailed for Sierra Leone and landed in February 1816. Later that year, he returned to the United States and sought backing for another voyage. However, his health soon began to decline, and he died the following year.







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 does it mean to listen to God?

-Have you learned to distinguish inspiration from impulse, insight from temptation, patience from laziness?

#### 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



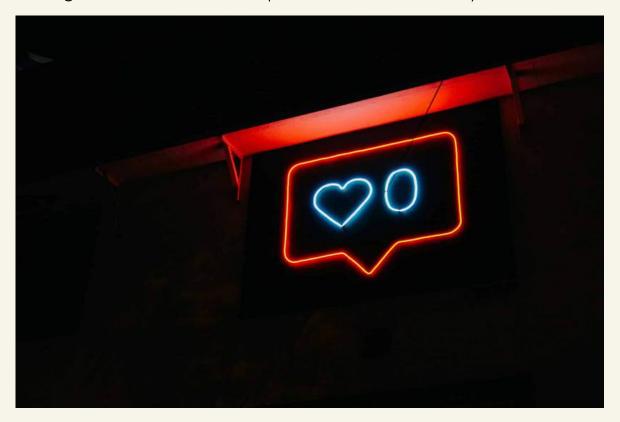
# Wish You Had a Stronger Social Media Presence? Try This.

I just read one of the best and most relatable articles on building a social media presence that I have ever seen, thanks to a Bearing Fruit subscriber!

Trying to reach our community through social media leaves many of us confused and trying the same things over and over again with little to no results. Yes, there are strategies that are helpful, but there is also a mindset that goes with it. A mind set of helpfulness and making your posts be about your audience.

#### **CLICK HERE**

to read the article. Make sure your Social Media team at your Meeting sees this article. I promise, it's worth your/their time!



### Meet our Missions Turkana Friends Mission



The Turkana people are semi-nomadic animal herders who are particularly vulnerable to drought and food insecurity, as well as to violent conflict with neighboring people-groups. Only 3% of Turkana adults have a secondary school education.

Turkana County in northwest Kenya is a desert landscape. As part of their daily life, girls and women walk great distances to fetch water. One priority of the Turkana Friends Mission is providing access to water through boreholes, tanks, and biosand water filters. Once water becomes accessible in a community, girls can pursue education at school. The Mission operates three primary schools and four nursery schools.

In addition to water access and education, the Mission offers adult literacy classes, training in small business development, women's self-help groups (in partnership with Right Sharing of World Resources), refugee ministries, peace building (in partnership with Friends Church Peace Team).

To learn more **CLICK HERE**.



# Le How can we pray for you?

#### Prayer:

Pray for your neighbor.

Whoever God may lead you to view as your neighbor, lift them up in prayer this month.

Local community, our state or right next door... God knows their needs.

#### Praise:

Praise God for the gift of His Son.
For His death, burial and
resurrection so that we might
have life, and life more
abundantly!



# QLC Flash Light Egg Hunt

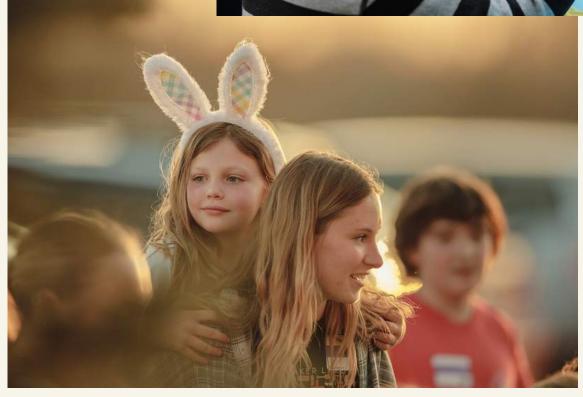
Nearly 130 elementary-aged students enjoyed this year's Flashlight Egg Hunt at Quaker Lake Camp! The evening consists of a craft, silly songs, games, dinner, a devotion, and the epic egg hunt once the sun goes down. The event coincides with summer staff and volunteer training, so participants get to meet the staff they'll see at this year's Summer Camp.

To see more pictures and to check out QLC Facebook page **CLICK HERE** 













# Concord Friends Community Egg Hunt

Concord Friends held their Community Egg Hunt on March 24. They had a great crowd of kids and volunteers. Besides the egg hunt, there was a bouncy house, petting zoo, bingo games, crafts, face painting and hot dog meal served by Sumner Civitan Club. We collected approximately 100 cans of food for our Community Cupboard.



# Science Hill Easter egg Hunt

"We celebrated with a big Easter Egg Hunt complete with an egg hunt, egg dying, egg race, bingo, for the young, and lunch for all. Last year we had two children. This year 13 kids. We were blessed with a beautiful day and a happy group of young and old. On Sunday we had a delicious breakfast cooked by Quaker men ranging from ages 14-84. The Youth and leaders distributed Easter baskets to the senior citizens. It was a wonderful, happy weekend. "









# Cedar Square Men's Drama

The mens drama at Cedar Square turned out wonderful! With 200 in attendance, it was highly anticipated and did not disappoint!







