

NOVEMBER 2025 | ISSUE NO.49

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



A poem of Devotion:

THANK YOU GOD, FOR EVERTHING

By: Helen Steiner Rice

**THANK YOU, GOD, FOR EVERYTHING,
THE BIG THINGS AND THE SMALL.
FOR "EVERY GOOD GIFT COMES FROM GOD"...
THE GIVER OF THEM ALL.**

**AND ALL TOO OFTEN WE ACCEPT, WITHOUT ANY THANKS OR PRAISE,
THE GIFTS GOD SENDS AS BLESSINGS, EACH DAY IN MANY WAYS.
AND SO AT THIS THANKSGIVING TIME, WE OFFER UP A PRAYER...
TO THANK YOU, GOD, FOR GIVING US A LOT MORE THAN OUR SHARE.**

**FIRST, THANK YOU FOR THE LITTLE THINGS
THAT OFTEN COME OUR WAY,
THE THINGS WE TAKE FOR GRANTED
BUT DON'T MENTION WHEN WE PRAY,
THE UNEXPECTED COURTESY, THE THOUGHTFUL, KINDLY DEED,
A HAND REACHED OUT TO HELP US IN THE TIME OF SUDDEN NEED.
OH, MAKE US MORE AWARE, DEAR GOD, OF LITTLE DAILY GRACES
THAT COME TO US WITH "SWEET SURPRISE"
FROM NEVER-DREAMED-OF PLACES.**

**THEN, THANK YOU FOR THE "MIRACLES"
WE ARE MUCH TOO BLIND TO SEE,
AND GIVE US NEW AWARENESS OF OUR MANY GIFTS FROM THEE,
AND HELP US TO REMEMBER THAT THE KEY OF LIFE AND LIVING
IS TO MAKE EACH PRAYER A PRAYER OF THANKS
AND EVERY DAY THANKSGIVING**



Upcoming Events:

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

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

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

latest
NEWS



**PRAY FOR THE NCFDS
TRIP TO NEW BURN THIS MONTH!
NOVEMBER 2ND-7TH**



If you have any announcements

Let us know at ↓
jenny@friendschurchno.org



****Attention Committee Members****

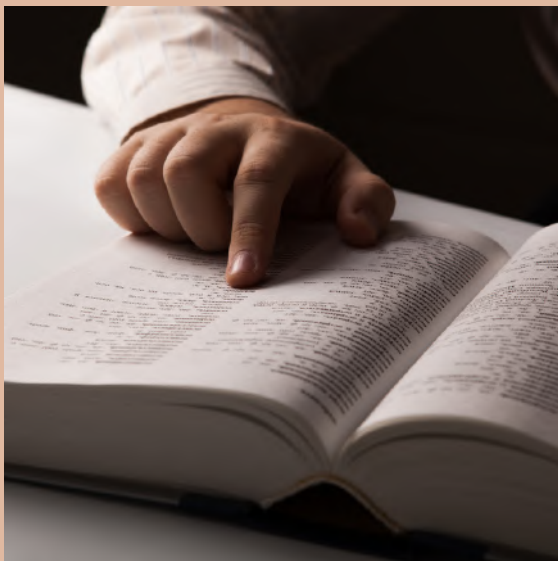
Don't forget to let us know if there is any upcoming dates we should add to our newsletter by the 20th of each month

Announcements:



REMINDER

Directory *still available!*



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

paul@friendschurchnc.org

[Log in HERE](#)

A heartfelt message from a Friend

Hello,

I am Judy McPherson, member of Science Hill Friends Meeting, Asheboro, NC. I have felt burdened by the needless suffering endured by children, adults and seniors that can be traced back to the Standard American Diet. Scripture reminds us,

Romans 12:2 NIV

2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

It is so easy to conform to the Standard American Diet, it is all around us. It is so much in your face and your children's. It is SO tempting!

Recently, I was given the opportunity by my church family to coordinate an event at Science Hill Friends Meeting featuring Annette Reeder, The Biblical Nutritionist, thebiblicálnutritionist.com. Annette holds a B.S. in Nutrition plus a Diploma of Biblical Studies. She has been studying food, nutrition and medical science for over 30 years. Annette's calling, "I am here for one purpose, to awaken you to the simple vibrant health that God has designed for you!"

Continued.....

Annette has a burden for your health, as I do. She constantly strives to renew minds as to what the Bible teaches us about health using these three principles:

Eat only substances God created for food.

As much as possible, eat foods as they were created – before they are changed or converted into something humans think might be better.

Avoid food addictions. Don't let any food or drink become your god.

Annette and her husband rode for 3 ½ hours from their home in Virginia to arrive at our church meeting house by 10:00 am to attend our Sunday morning service prior to her presentation that began at 1:30 and ended at 4:30 with a break about half-way through. She is very well organized, well informed and dedicated. Annette's delivery is upbeat, joyful and enthusiastic. In short, she has so much to share and is a pleasure to work with.

Now, it is important to make it clear that Annette does not know that I am contacting you and I receive no compensation for doing so.

I simply want to suggest that you consider inviting Annette to your church to encourage your church family on their health journey, helping them to refuse conformance to the Standard American Diet and transforming them by the renewing of their minds. I have had concerns for years about the health of our community and nation with the unnecessary suffering and debt it brings to individuals and our nation.

This statement from UCLA Health briefly explains my concerns. [Click here](#) to view this statement.

Simple and manageable adjustments to diet and beverage choice can result in dramatic improvements in health. They can also serve as preventive measures against silent killers such as obesity, hypertension – elevated blood pressure – and diabetes, protecting the health of main organs such as the brain, eyes, heart and kidneys, and increasing life span.

Let's do what we can to eliminate needless suffering, through prevention, by teaching and following health principles found in God's word. It is my sincere desire that we can all participate in encouraging our church families and communities in their physical, mental and spiritual health journey. You can find Annette, the Biblical Nutritionist at thebiblicalnutritionist.com, biblicalnutritionacademy.com and The Biblical Nutritionist on YouTube. She and her team provide many opportunities to support your church family and community in your health journey in light of Bible principles.

Sincerely,
Judy McPherson



Job Description for Pastor of Randleman Friends Meeting

Randleman Friends Meeting is a traditional programmed Quaker meeting that also incorporates elements of un-programmed worship.

The pastor's primary focus is the spiritual well-being and growth of the Meeting's members and prospective members.

The pastor reports to Ministry and Council and the Monthly Meeting and adheres to guidelines presented in FCNC (Friends Church of North Carolina) Faith and Practice.

Desired Qualities:

- Energetic and motivational
- Knowledge and understanding of Quaker history
- Applies Quaker practice, testimonies, and doctrine in messages and in life – specifically peace, equality, and continuing revelation
- Interest in growth of the meeting
- Interest in Missions
- Provides thought provoking, challenging messages
- Incorporates logic and reason in decision making
- Positive and cooperative leadership

Responsibilities:

- Provide leadership and spoken messages for Sunday morning worship services
- Oversee special services, including weddings and funerals, as needed
- Attend and participate in the Meeting's activities
- Support Monthly Meeting committees
- Provide contact and visitation with members and prospective members
- Provide support for members as needed
- Participate and support activities of Southern Quarterly Meeting and FCNC

Persons interested in this position should send resume to randlemanfriendsmeeting@gmail.com

Job Posting Part-Time Pastor

Mar Mac Friends Meeting
1954 Old Grantham Road
Goldsboro, NC 27530

Mar Mac Friends Meeting is seeking to fill the position of a Part-Time Pastor. We are an evangelical, conservative Quaker Meeting in rural Wayne County, North Carolina. We are a member of Contentnea Quarterly Meeting, Friends Church of North Carolina and Friends United Meeting.

Primary Functions

- Prepare and lead Sunday Morning worship service
- Provide pastoral leadership to the meeting

Qualifications

- Must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, having accepted Him as Savior and Lord and have an understanding and agreement with Friend Church of NC Faith and Practice
- Previous training and/or experience as a pastor
- Recorded as a Quaker minister is desired.

A more detailed job description is available if requested.

If interested please contact:

Connie Seymour, Clerk of Ministry and Counsel
116 Perkins Drive
Goldsboro, NC 27530

919-922-0441 email: connieseymour@msn.com

Rocky River Friends Meeting

1795 Staley Snow Camp Rd.
Siler City, NC 27344

Job Description for Pastor of Rocky River Friends Meeting

Rocky River Friends Meeting Vision/Mission Statement:

- To tell the story of Jesus based on his teachings
- To further the work of Christ in the world
- To encourage and treat all human beings with love, dignity, and respect through humanitarian service and social justice
- To promote peace in the world

Pastor Job Description:

- The pastor's primary concern should be the spiritual well-being and growth of the Meeting's members and prospective members

Desired Qualifications:

- Knowledge and understanding of Quaker history
- A belief in Jesus Christ, having accepted him as Savior and Lord
- An understanding and agreement with FCNC(Friends Church of North Carolina)
- Training and/or experience as a pastor

Responsibilities:

- Leading people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ
- Responsible for all Sunday morning services bringing Biblical and practical messages to the congregation each week
- Attend and participate in the Meeting's activities other than the Sunday morning service
- Available to perform special services, including weddings and funerals
- Provide support for members as needed and visitation of shut-ins, people in the hospital and in nursing home facilities as well as those in crisis situations
- Participate and support activities of Western Quarterly Meeting and FCNC

*Compensation package will be commensurate with education and experience.

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

allasaveatal@yahoo.com
Dallas Brooks, Clerk of Ministry and Counsel
Rocky River Friends Meeting

DEEP CREEK FRIENDS MEETING
PASTOR JOB DESCRIPTION

Overview

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

Application Instructions

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

Angie Brendle

angiebre25@gmail.com

(336) 244-8791

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

Compensation and Benefits

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

Minimum Qualifications

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

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DEEP CREEK FRIENDS MEETING
PASTOR JOB DESCRIPTION

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

Preferred Qualifications

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

Basic Responsibilities

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

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DEEP CREEK FRIENDS MEETING
YOUTH MINISTER JOB DESCRIPTION

Overview

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

Application Instructions

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

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

These materials should be submitted via email to jbrendle0812@email.campbell.edu AND randrmoran@gmail.com. Once materials have been reviewed, you should expect an email response indicating receipt of your materials. If eligible for an interview(s), you should expect a phone call. Appropriate steps will then be taken to schedule a time and place for the interview(s).

Compensation and Benefits

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

Minimum Qualifications

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

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

Preferred Qualifications

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

Basic Responsibilities

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

FUM UPDATE

Sewing Projects in the Kakuma Refugee Camp

The Kakuma Refugee Camp is situated in an isolated part of northern Turkana County near the borders of Kenya and South Sudan. It is one of the largest refugee camps in the world with somewhere between 200,000-300,000 people from conflicts in more than 8 countries in the region. There are at least three Friends Meetings in the camp that are a part of FUM's Turkana Friends Mission and these ministries have often included various projects, such as sewing and soap making, for education and income generation for their members.



[CLICK HERE](#) to read more!

Meet our Missions

Friends Lugulu Mission Hospital



Friends Lugulu Mission Hospital (FLMH) is a 100-bed, 100-year-old Quaker hospital about two hours' drive north of Kisumu. The hospital is owned and operated by Elgon Religious Society of Friends (also known as Lugulu Yearly Meeting) in partnership with Friends United Meeting. It provides essential surgical, obstetric, and medical care in a densely populated and fertile area, serving all patients without regard to religion, ethnicity, or ability to pay. The hospital has won national awards for its HIV/AIDS comprehensive care and treatment program. This four-day visit will include opportunities to learn from hospital staff about providing care in a setting which is spiritually rich but constrained in medical resources, and to learn more about the local neighborhood.

[Click HERE to learn more!](#)

Excerpts from:
Some Fruits of
SOLITUDE

Proverbs, Wisdom & Principles for Better Living
By: William Penn



Quotes on
"Religion":

486- "But though God has replenished this world with abundance of good things for man's life and comfort, yet they are all but imperfect goods. He only is the perfect good to whom they point. But alas! Men cannot see him for them; though they should always see him IN them."

489- "The truest end of life, is to know the life that never ends."

490- "He that makes this his care, will find it his crown at last."

FCNC BOOKSTORE HIGHLIGHTS

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

Sojourners No More
By: Damon D. Hickey

[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE](#)

Before the Civil War, Quakers in the South were a despised minority – anti-slavery, anti-war, anti-secession. Sojourners in a hostile region kept to themselves or moved away. By the time the war ended in 1865, most Southern Quakers had migrated to the Midwest. But by 1920, their numbers in the South had swollen into the thousands. Many were leaders of the "New South." And much of their distinctiveness has vanished. They were sojourners no more, physically or spiritually.

Sojourners No More
The Quakers in the New South
1865–1920



Damon D. Hickey



Quaker Query

...for November



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, who are parents, and others having children in your care, seek by prayerful endeavour and example to lead them to a knowledge of the Truth as it is in Jesus Christ? Do you make opportunities for all, especially the young people in the meeting, to learn of essential Christian truth and to understand the basis of Quaker experience and witness?

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

Social Media

Comm-Tech Committee Statement

Hello from your FCNC Comm-Tech Committee!

Some members within FCNC are still unaware that we have a newsletter!

The best way for Friends to stay up to date and aware of news & events is to get connected.

There are 3 great ways to do that:

- 1) subscribe to Bearing Fruit (click [HERE](#))
- 2) follow FCNC's Facebook Page (click [HERE](#))
- 3) join FCNC's Facebook group (click [HERE](#))

Social Media isn't for everyone, and we completely understand, so that's where "Bearing Fruit" is a great option.

But what about those in our Meetings who still haven't heard about or seen the newsletter?

That's where YOU come in!

Pastors, announce to your congregations on Sundays.

Friends, ask your friends if they've seen the newsletter.

Committee leaders, consider printing off copies to hand out to those who are less likely to use technology.

Together, we can get the word out! Thank you for your help

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



Prayer **CORNER**

How can we pray for you?

Prayer:

Both Jamaica and Cuba have torn roofs,
fallen trees and flooded houses by
hurricane Melissa.

Please continue to pray for both of our
Quaker Friends there and for the people
that are suffering due to this disaster.

Praise:

**As we pray for the recovery of their
homes, electricity and provisions,
Praise God for the protection for our
Friends who endured the recent raging
storm.**

October

RECAP

Trunk or Treat White Plains

A very full and festive trunk or treat was held at White Plains Friends on October 31st! The Gospel accompanied with candy was given out to a large part of the community. The word has gotten out and it appears to be growing in popularity within the community each year. Keep up the good work Friends!



Odre Nuevo Update

This is the building that is being erected for Odre Nuevo, which is the Hispanic Church under the care of Deep Creek in Yadkin Quarter. It is currently having Stucco applied to the exterior...



Cane Creek Homecoming

Superintendent, Mike Wall, attended Cane Creek Friends for their Homecoming on Oct. 5. Marcus Wall was guest preacher. Below are pictures with 3 of Cane Creek's pastors from recent years, plus the congregation and guest speaker.



FCNC 2025 Epistle/Message

Friday, 8/8/2025 & Saturday, 8/9/2025 at Quaker Lake Camp in Climax, North Carolina held the FCNC 8th Annual Sessions. These are the Epistle/Message to Friends Everywhere.

Friends Church of North Carolina 8th Annual Sessions

Epistle/Message to Friends Everywhere

Friday, 8/8/2025 & Saturday, 8/9/2025 at Quaker Lake Camp, Climax, NC

Theme: *Planted & Flourishing: New Growth, New Vision*

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.
-1 Thessalonians 5:11 - 11 (NIV)

Representatives of Friends Church of North Carolina gathered at Quaker Lake Camp, Climax, NC, on Eighth Month 8-9, 2025 for their 8th Annual Sessions. Presiding Clerk **Roger Holt** welcomed Friends as the Friday afternoon first business session opened. In the opening minute he spoke on Psalm 150 (ESV), the praise psalm.

*Let Everything Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!
Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!
Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!
Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

Growing up in a Friends Meeting, he did not remember much praising the Lord with trumpets, lute, harp, tambourines, dance, etc, but he also wondered if we regularly praised the Lord enough? We should praise Him for the simple things — the air we breathe, the ground we walk on, etc. Can we praise the Lord for the peace we can find even in turbulent times when we go to the Lord? Ginger Holt led in the singing of the hymn, "Be Thou My Vision."

Roll Call and sign-up sheets indicated 65 Friends representing 20 Meetings plus 9 visitors present that afternoon. Visitors recognized included Bob and Hope Carter with Bob giving greetings from his father, Wayne Carter, Emma Condori Mamani from Bolivia, Michael Sherman from FUM, Katie Moran and family from Barclay College, and Wayne Finger from Quaker House, Fayetteville, NC.

Mike Wall, our FCNC Superintendent (part-time), reported on his work of visiting pastors to give encouragement, pulling them together for times of fellowship and encouragement, visiting one Monthly Meeting each month, and helping Meetings that request help. He noted that 8 Meetings are searching for pastors. *Great is the Lord and (still) Greatly to be Praised.* - Psalm 145:3. He challenged us to seek God's vision for a plan of action to use the resources given us for ministry.

Ministry & Counsel clerk **Tommy Sluder** reported on two recent gatherings of elders and pastors invited from all meetings which spoke of the need for new leadership with vision and increased effective communication. Ministry and Counsel is charged with the Spiritual Condition of our Meetings and the need to develop strategic plans for the next many years. Upon recommendation from Ministry & Counsel, Rodney Kirby, pastor of Archdale Meeting, was approved for Recording as a Friends Minister.

Quaker Lake Camp celebrated 75 years of ministry this summer reaching 660 youth under the theme, *More Like Jesus*, trying to reach kids where they are at, during Heather Varner's 21st summer as Camp Director.

Friday evening included worship from Baltimore Friends; Intergenerational Worship from our Young Friends, and Speaker, **Troy Thornburg**, Director of Operations from Youth Commission International.

In Saturday business sessions, **Erin Mintmier**, Assistant Clerk, brought a recommendation from the Administrative Oversight Commission to move 2026 Annual Sessions to November 6-7 at Quaker Lake was approved with the hope that it may help with more youth participation in Annual Sessions. August is a month of starting school and sports which may be a factor in why there has been less involvement.

Kelly Kellum, General Secretary from FUM who spoke via zoom. He spoke of the many FUM missions that are supported through Yearly Meetings. However, FUM has noticed a 30% drop in donations and they were \$200,000 shy of their budget. Kelly went on the road and raised \$130,000, still leaving them short \$70,000. Approval was given to send \$25,000 to FUM

Michael Sherman, Coordinator of FUM North American and Caribbean Ministries, read a letter of thanks from Kelly Kellum for our support of FUM. He read from Hebrews 10:22-25 and referenced the different verses through his presentation relating them to the various programs and groups under FUM NA-C ministries. NA-C Ministries is also working on "Looking Forward" initiatives to connect Friends through Nurture, Cultivate, Support, Connect, Equip, and Energize—to grow and build future leadership especially among young Friends.

Other Quaker organizations/ministries had displays and/or opportunity to report on their work during the sessions.

Saturday afternoon activities included the Memorial Service coordinated by Southern Quarter in remembering Friends who had died in the last year. Ministry & Counsel Clerk Tommy Sluder led the recognition ceremony for retiring pastors, Hugh Spaulding and David Hobson; and the recording ceremony for Rodney Kirby, which was followed by a reception with refreshments. Baltimore Friends shared some beautiful music with us later in the afternoon.

After dinner, Michael Sherman gave the closing message. Annual sessions adjourned until November 6-7, 2026.

Roger Holt, Presiding Clerk
Christine Blamer, Recording Clerk

The Woodhouse legend and Quaker travelers, history

The Woodhouse and Quaker travelers: a historical journey

The Woodhouse refers to a ship, often called the "Quaker Mayflower," that brought a group of 11 early Quakers from England to New England in 1657, seeking religious freedom and to spread their beliefs. This voyage was fraught with peril, including a harrowing passage through the Hellgate, a treacherous strait in New York.

Upon arrival, the Quakers faced immediate and severe persecution in Boston, where they were imprisoned, examined for witchcraft, and eventually expelled. However, some remained, including Sarah Gibbons, Richard Doudney, and Robert Hodgson, who went to Long Island, while Dorothea Waugh and Mary Wetherhead stayed in New Amsterdam (now New York City). This journey exemplifies the Quaker testimony of travel in the ministry, where individuals felt a calling to travel and share their faith and message of peace and equality with others. Early Quakers like those on the Woodhouse often faced dangers and hardships, yet they persisted in their mission.

The story of the Woodhouse and its passengers highlights the following key aspects of Quaker history and beliefs:

Religious Persecution: Quakers in England faced persecution for their beliefs, which differed significantly from other Protestant denominations.

Pacifism and Equality: Quakers believed in the equality of all people and practiced pacifism, which often brought them into conflict with authorities.

Spiritual Guidance and Travel in the Ministry: Quakers often felt a strong inner lead to travel and share their faith, a practice known as travel in the ministry.

Resilience and Perseverance: Despite persecution and challenges, Quakers demonstrated remarkable resilience in establishing their presence in the New World.

The Woodhouse represents a significant event in Quaker history and the broader story of early American settlement and religious freedom. The journey of these early Quaker travelers laid the foundation for Quaker communities throughout the Americas and continues to inspire Friends today.

"They gathered sticks, they kindled a fire, and left it burning." Phrase on the wall of the dining hall at Earham College.

Historical: In some historical contexts, like the story of Earham College's founding, the phrase could represent a pivotal moment in time, where a community was established or a new chapter began.

Biblical: The phrase can be seen in a biblical context as well, with fire often symbolizing divine judgment, purification, or destruction, as seen in passages like Deuteronomy 32:22 and Matthew 13:40. Figurative:

YFAC Fall Retreat

RELENTLESS
GRACE

RIDGECREST
OCT. 10-12, 2025

