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BEARING FRUIT

The Official Newsletter of Friends Church North Carolina

ARTICLES TO HELP
YOU THROUGH:

Welcome-1

**Quotes By Quakers &
Devotion - 2-3**

**Announcements -4
upcoming events -4**

FCM update-5

Social media-6

October Recap-7-12

WELCOME!

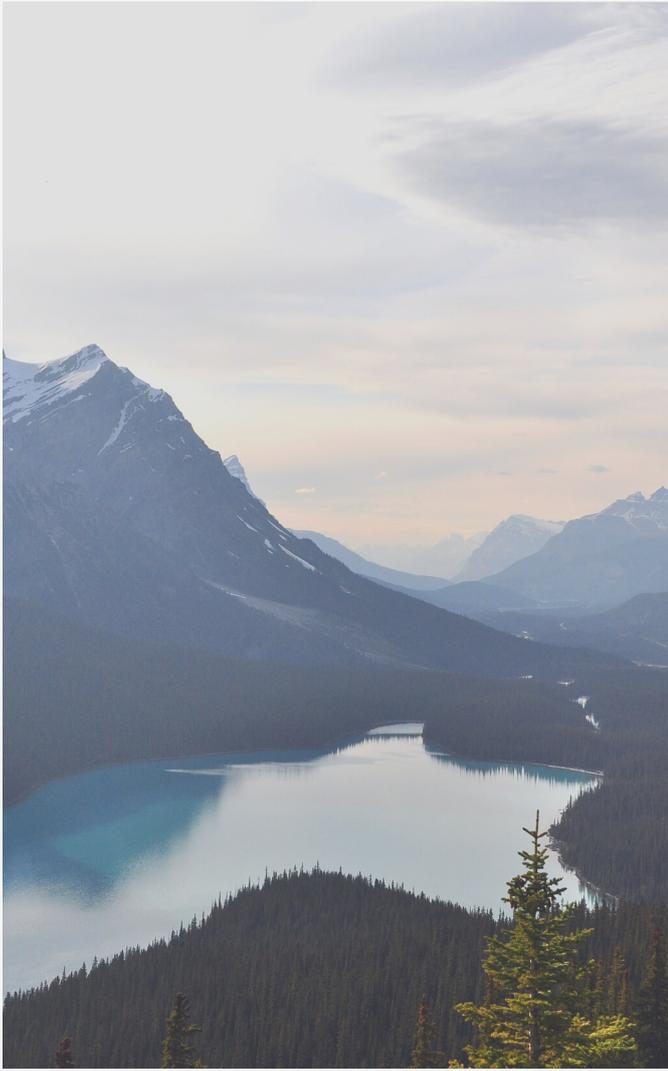
Welcome to your new Friends Church North Carolina Newsletter!
This will be a monthly e-newsletter dedicated to keeping you up to date on current events within FCNC.

We will 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

”

LOOK NOT OUT, BUT WITHIN...
REMEMBER IT IS A STILL VOICE THAT
SPEAKS TO US IN THIS DAY, AND THAT
IT IS NOT TO BE HEARD IN THE NOISES
AND HURRIES OF THE MIND; BUT IT
IS DISTINCTLY UNDERSTOOD IN A
RETIRED FRAME.

~ William Penn, 1644-1718

“

THE STILL, SMALL VOICE

A word of Devotion

By: Mike Wall

Dad was in the lumber business with his family. They were doing well, earning a living in the 60's. Though he had been part of the local church all his life, at 32 years of age, he became a Christian. It wasn't because of a great Revival, nor attending a Rally, nor going to a Mega event. It was because the pastor of his church asked him a simple, question one dark night, standing in the porch light after visiting in our home. "Reece, are you a Christian?"

5 words. No preaching. No emotion. No one else even knew. But Dad told me later that for the first time in his life, he had to admit that he had never given his life to Christ. That still small voice in the night changed his life, because within days, he knelt at an altar, confessed being a sinner, and found Jesus to be what He promised: Savior.

continued on next page

Years later, I asked my Dad how God called him to preach. He told me that he was at the family business, alone, outside. He heard a voice behind him, just over his right shoulder. The voice said, "Preach." He turned to see who was playing a prank on him, but no one was there. He was puzzled, but went on about his business. For a period of weeks, he would hear the voice: "Preach, Preach." Dad had dropped out of school in 9th grade, and knew he did not have the knowledge to preach, nor the desire. But the voice persisted.

I asked him several times over the years in different ways about his call. "Dad- if I had been there would I have heard the voice? "No. It wasn't an audible voice; but I could hear it as if it was." Dad got his GED, went to Bible College, became a pastor and preacher, and touched hundreds of lives and most of our Friends Churches.

1 Kings 19:11-13. The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" (NIV) Elijah was quite a man. God must have thought so also, because Elijah visited with Moses and Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration in Matthew 17.

Elijah was a man of action. He called down fire from heaven; outran horses and chariots, commanded clouds of rain, raised a boy from death, confronted kings, and proclaimed the Word of God. He also ate bird food, ran and hid from a death threat, struggled with depression, and pleaded with God to die because he was tired of fighting the Lord's battles against strong opposition.

But Elijah always knew the Source of his strength. Whatever powerful action he might take, Elijah knew that if God was not in it, it was useless. Tornado wind, earth splitting quake, raging fire, even lightning from above; though loud and powerful, these alone are not manifestations of the power of God. It is the Word of God that makes the difference.

Genesis says that our marvelous world was created when God "spoke." Jesus informed the devil in Matthew 4 that people live by the Word that comes from the mouth of God!

There is nothing sacred about silence. Even sinners call for moments of silence. Quakers have often pointed to silence as if it is something magical. But silence without the Word of God is merely a time to get a nap. Yet sometimes, we need to find the place of silence so we may hear the Voice of God when it comes in a still, small, way- maybe a "gentle whisper." Sometimes, it takes hours, or days, or longer to hear- not minutes.

Distractions keep us from hearing the Voice. As I write these words, my wife turned on a speaker in our kitchen. Suddenly, I was distracted by the sound of those words echoing. I found myself losing my thought pattern, and had to rise and close the door to my study. Distractions keep us from hearing the Voice.

Lightning is beautiful, or maybe scary, but is God in it? A destructive wind may claim our attention, but is God in it? Can Business be necessary, yet distracting? Television, Sports, Recreation, even Church activities may distract us from hearing the Voice.

Don't misunderstand, God is not limited to quiet. He spoke to the Pharaoh of Egypt in some loud, clear, visible and powerful ways. Apparently He knocked the apostle Paul off his horse to get his attention! On this one occasion, He spoke to Elijah in a whisper.

In our time, God has spoken to us in the Bible, which is convenient in a manner that most people of history never possessed. He may also speak to individuals just over their right shoulder. Or in the question of a preacher. It is up to us to discern what is mere distraction. Ignore the distractions, listen to the Voice.





Announcements:



The "Intern-Coordinator" position was approved and all interested persons may contact:
clerk@friendschurchnc.org
Check out our website for a full job description!



DO YOU HAVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS??

THIS PORTION OF OUR E-NEWSLETTER WILL BE DEDICATED TO MAKING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR YOU!

DO YOU HAVE A NEW PASTOR/ YOUTH PASTOR?

ARE YOU IN SEARCH OF ONE?

GOT SOME NEWS WORTH SHARING?

-WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!-



Upcoming Events:

*November 6, 2021

NCYM INC annual Meeting to be held at QLC at 10AM

November 13th 2021

a special celebration of 60 years of Service for Billy Britt

November 5th-7th

Young Friends Fall Retreat at QLC

Attention Committee Members Don't forget to let us know if there is any upcoming dates we should add to our newsletter by the 15th of each month

**If you are unable to attend and would like to join via "zoom" please contact Frank Massey for more information at frank.c.massey@gmail.com

Who We Support: FCM- Friends Campus Ministries

By: Beulah Gullion



Hello Friends,

It is an exciting thing to get to sit down and write to you all about Friends Campus Ministry!! When I took on the role of coordinator this past August one of my main goals was to make FCM more accessible to everyone in our Yearly Meeting. We are a campus outreach ministry for Young Adult Friends, but we are only as strong as the weighty Friends who support us through your love, prayers, and funds! It is intention that you all feel connected to your Young Adults and feel included in this outreach as our few students spread throughout the state are sharing the Quaker Way of following Christ with their peers. We are all seeking to be a light for Jesus Christ, the true Light, as a Yearly Meeting. No where is The Light needed more than on our college campuses and in the lives of the Young Adult Friends who often feel so isolated from their Meetings once their world is filled with assignment deadlines, exams, internships, zoom meetings, and work study. Our mission is to connect these Friends to each other and also to our local Meetings and Quaker communities

This Fall FCM has been off to a great start! After surviving the 2020/2021 school year, we were concerned how attendance and moral would be with kicking off the 2021/2022 year. We are back to having active groups on three of the campuses we were seeking reestablish ourselves to (Raleigh, Greensboro, and Boone) as well as preparing to respond to interest being shown by Friends who are students in Wilmington. Attendance in both Greensboro and Raleigh is thriving and excitement to be a part of growing faith community is attracting others to come back or visit for the first time. Our prayers are being answered not only in these signs of life but also in the provision of a leader in Boone. FCM at App started off rough with a loose in leadership right as we were restarting, but God provided and Boone has been established!! Growth and consistency are staples of this Fall semester thus far and I could not be more joyful in being able to share these words with you! it has been a long journey, but the fruit of your faithfulness as FCNC to support your Young Adults is clear and beautiful!!

I would also like to add that FCM was able to join with FCNC Young Adults to pull off a very successful 2nd annual Fall Beach Retreat since we restarted the tradition in Fall of 2020. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and spiritual encouragement!

In closing, I encourage each of you to reach out to me if you are interested in meeting any of your FCM students, having me come share with your Meeting or group about FCM, have any questions about any of our ministry to campuses, or even if you simply know someone who would benefit from being plugged into our Young Adult community!! I am here for your engagement and questions! Don't hesitate to text, call, or email me!

336-552-2397

gulliongirls6@gmail.com

Love and Light,

Beulah Ruth Gullion, FCM Coordinator

Social Media- Did you know?

"Anatomy of a good post"



The image shows a Facebook post from 'The United Methodist Church' dated November 19 at 7:00 PM. The post text reads: 'Have you read today's entry in The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide, "God's Quiet Voice"? Take a few moments to reflect with us: <http://ow.ly/ss6k30mG5dS> #UMC'. Below the text is a photograph of tall green grasses in a shallow body of water. The post has 11K likes, 19 comments, and 73 shares. Annotations with blue arrows point to various parts of the post: '2-3 lines of text' points to the main text; 'Shortened web link' points to the URL; 'Tags publication' points to the #UMC tag; 'Call to action: Take a moment to reflect with us' points to the main text; 'Images creates a mood' points to the photograph; and 'Got a lot of hearts and likes' points to the like count.

Did you know that the *WAY* you post has a lot to do with the engagement you get? This is the "anatomy of a good post", example brought to you by Sarah Best. With these few simple steps, you'll be creating content like a pro!

Follow Friends Church North Carolina of FaceBook for more Social Media tips!

OCTOBER

RECAP

A Letter from Jamaica

Good morning!

For sometime now, Maureen had advised us that you came to Jamaica to bring some Donations from your North Carolina Yearly Meeting to The Jamaica Yearly Meeting and all the Monthly Meetings in Jamaica.

I have just collected US\$200 each for Amity Hall, Top Moro and Seaside. I have since delivered the amount for Top Moro to Friend Clifford Shand and am awaiting contact with Friend Horace Hall to deliver that for Seaside.

On behalf of the members of the Amity Hall meeting, I extend our gratitude to the Members of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting and to You who has always been looking out for our good. We pray God's continued grace and mercy for you and sincerely hope that someday soon, the Amity Hall Meeting and the Eastern Quarter can be of some small assistance to your meeting, even to host your members in some way. We hope that the mighty God will soon put the Covid19 virus under subjection so that we can again meet and fellowship in person and make such a plan.

I am sure Maureen would have sent you our gratitude from the Jamaica Yearly Meeting but I again thank you for considering us here in Jamaica.

Be well and stay safe in the mighty name of Jesus.

Yours in Christ
Mary Carter Haynes
October 5, 2021

Quaker Men Fall Dinner



Quaker Men's Fall Dinner was described by many as a lovely evening spent at Deep River Friends Meeting!

A BBQ dinner was served and enjoyed by many. Following food and fellowship was a meaningful service led by a chaplain who spoke of his experience working with those suffering from PTSD after the attack on the Pentagon on 9/11. It was both a spiritual and moving experience to hear him speak about his work.

Heather Varner and Christian Allen were present as well as representation for FCM. Generous funds were raised for both ministries.

It was definitely a blessing for Quaker Men to meet in person once again, after such a long time



Pumpkin Festival at QLC

QLC Pumpkin Festival 2021 was a "smashing" success! If a picture is truly worth a thousand words, then nothing can be said to do it justice like these pictures can! Head over to QLC Facebook page to see more fantastic pictures from this event.



Trunk or Treats of FCNC







These are all pictures from Meetings within FCNC who participated in a 2021 "Trunk or Treat"!

With hundreds of carloads full of people receiving candy, encouragement and the Gospel, this is such a special part of ministry in our communities!

Enjoy the adorable pictures of kids and get a few good ideas for your Meetings Trunk or Treat for 2022!

2022!

