



JULY 2023 | ISSUE NO.21

BEARING FRUIT

The Official Newsletter of Friends Church North Carolina

ARTICLES TO HELP
YOU THROUGH:

Welcome- 1
**Quotes By Quakers &
Devotion- 2-4**
Upcoming Events-5
Announcements & flyers 6-15
FUM update- 16-21
Quaker History-22
**Quaker Query &
Comm Tech-23**
Meet our Missions-24
Prayer Corner -25
June Recap-26-28

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

“

"WE ARE NOT FOR NAMES, NOR MEN,
NOR TITLES OF GOVERNMENT, NOR ARE
WE FOR THIS PARTY, NOR AGAINST THE
OTHER, BECAUSE OF ITS NAME AND
PRETENCE; BUT WE ARE FOR JUSTICE
AND MERCY, AND TRUTH AND PEACE,
AND TRUE FREEDOM, THAT THESE MAY
BE EXALTED IN OUR NATION.."

EDWARD BURROUGH, 1659

A Word of Devotion:

“REAL
FREEDOM”

By: Anonymous

”

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.
Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be
burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5

This month, citizens of the United States of America celebrate freedom. The Fourth of July is Independence Day—the day which marks the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Freedom is a blessing we hold dear and defend boldly. Our nation’s armed forces are of one mind, that protecting our freedom is worth dying for. We are what our national anthem proudly proclaims: “the land of the free and the home of the brave!”

But are we really free? Whoever we are and wherever we live, are we free from what really matters? On our own we are not free; all people are very much slaves. We find ourselves to be slaves to sin, and on our own, we cannot break its shackles. We are slaves to our sinful nature and cannot live a day, an hour, even a minute without our sinful nature rearing its ugly head. Thoughts that pass through our heads, words that come flowing from our mouths, self-serving deeds that we scheme to carry out—they all show our true nature.

They all show just how much we are slaves to sin. Thankfully, Jesus broke the shackles of sin and Satan. Jesus has forgiven those sinful thoughts of our minds, the devious actions from our hearts, the careless and hate-filled words that we speak. He forgives us because he lived up to God's sinless standard for us. Then Jesus willingly and lovingly allowed the punishment we deserved to be placed on him. On the cross, Jesus endured our death and hell. When he burst forth from Easter's tomb, he shattered the chains of sin and death.

In Jesus, we have eternal life with God. That's something that no power on earth or scheme of man can ever take away. That's real freedom!





Upcoming Events:

July 24- August 4, 2023

Jamaica VBS

(Please see flyer below to see how you can help)

August 11-12, 2023

Annual Sessions at
QLC

Registration deadline:

August 1st, 2023

[Click HERE](#)

to register online

**Young Friends at
Annual Sessions:**

[CLICK HERE](#)

for more information
and to register

August 19th, 2023

USFW Fall Annual Meeting
at Cedar Square
(registration below)

August 30th, 2023

USFW Art contest drawing
deadline
(see flyer below)

If you have any announcements

Let us know at

jenny@friendchurchnc.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

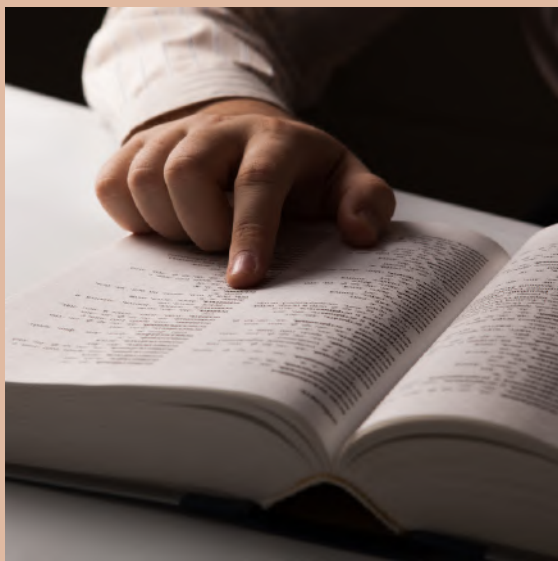
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Announcements:



REMINDER

2022 Directory *still 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 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.

FCNC 6th Annual Sessions

**August 11 & 12, 2023
at Quaker Lake Camp**

Guest Speaker:

Jay Marshall

**Dean Emeritus of Earlham
School of Religion**

*“Being Stronger Workers
in God's Kingdom”*

Ephesians 2:10

**Where in YOUR life could
YOU become a stronger
Kingdom Worker?**

YFAC, Nursery,
Children's Program,
Camp Activities,
Adult Workshops,
Shaded Rocking Chairs.
Young or Seasoned,
we have something planned
for Friends of ALL ages!

*Visit FCNC website :

<https://www.friendschurchnc.org/>
for more info & Registration Forms

FCNC 6th Annual Sessions Registration

August 11 & 12, 2023

Quaker Lake Camp

Please fill this first page out for each attendee
(ages Kindergarten and up)

We are excited to be at Quaker Lake Camp for the 2023 Annual Sessions. Quaker Lake Camp offers many fun opportunities for families. There are walking trails, a pool, climbing tower, and much more! There are also many places to just sit quietly in the beautiful surroundings for prayer and reflection. There is a covered porch with rocking chairs outside the multipurpose building and overlooking the lake.

To meet our caterer's deadline for reservations, we are asking your cooperation by registering and paying by **August 1**.

Registration fees are as listed below. Encourage your youth and young adults to participate as there is no charge for the activities on Saturday, but **NO MEALS WILL BE AVAILABLE WITHOUT PRE-REGISTRATION**. On-line registration and payment are also available at friendschurchnc.org

Name _____ Meeting _____

You are participating in: ☐ **Adult Business Session** (will you have need of the Nursery (0-PreK)? Y / N)
(Please check one) ☐ **Children's Program** (K-5th Grade) Age: _____
☐ **YFAC**

If a child is participating in the Children's Program, please list any allergies:

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Phone (____) _____ (____) _____ (____) _____
Home Cell Work

Emergency Contact Information

Name _____ Relationship _____

Phone (____) _____ (____) _____ (____) _____
Home Cell Work

Registration Deadline: August 1, 2023

Make checks payable to **FCNC** with memo: **Annual Sessions**
Mail to: Forbush Friends Meeting, 4460 Forbush Rd, East Bend, NC 27018
See reverse side for Credit Card payments.

Transactions will appear on your credit card as charged to Friends Church of North Carolina. This information will be kept confidential in a secure location.

Lodging Options:☐ **Hotel Recommendations:**☐ **Holiday Inn Express** (Asheboro), **Hampton Inn** (Archdale), **Holiday Inn Express** (Wendover Ave)

★ **Display tables available for affiliated organizations:**
\$25 for ½ table, **\$50** for whole table

Complete Annual Sessions Experience – Registration begins Friday at 1:30 PM (first business session begins at 3:00 PM, Supper at 5:30 PM). Includes Friday & Saturday visitor fee, all 3 meals (Friday Supper, Saturday Lunch & Supper).

❖ **Adults: \$50.00/person** (includes 3 meals) x _____ = \$ _____

(College & up)

Names:

FRIDAY**Daily Fee**

(includes Supper)

❖ Adults: \$20 x _____ = \$ _____

(College & up)

Total \$ _____

SATURDAY**Daily Fee**

(includes **Lunch & Supper** for **Adults & Children**)

❖ Adults : \$35 x _____ = \$ _____

(College & up)

Total \$ _____

* **Nursery & Children's Program to be offered on Saturday ONLY during business session** *

Credit Card Payment

Credit or Debit Card # _____ **Amount \$** _____

Cardholder Name: _____ **CVC #** _____ (3 digit)

Expiration Date ____/____/____

Zip Code _____

Tentative Schedule

Friday

1:30 PM*	Registration (foyer of multipurpose building)
2:00	Ministry & Counsel
3:00	Business
5:00	Supper (Pre-registration required by August 1)
6:00	Special Music
	Worship (Speaker: Jay Marshall, Dean Emeritus of Earlham School of Religion)

Saturday (Breakfast on your own)

8:00 AM*	Registration (foyer of multipurpose building)
8:30	Morning Praise on the Porch by Valli Chilton
9:00	Start of Business
12:00 PM*	Lunch (Pre-registration required by August 1)
1:00	Memorial Service (Western Quarter)
2:00*	Free time & optional Adult Workshops
5:30	Supper (Pre-registration required by August 1)
6:30	Special Music
7:00	Worship (Speaker: Jay Marshall, Dean Emeritus of Earlham School of Religion)
	Annual Sessions Message

***Book Room open & Silent Auction** (bidding closes at 5:30PM on Saturday. Funds go to support missions)

Offering

Friday- Quaker Lake Camp

Saturday- FUM Sustainability



To register online
[CLICK HERE](#)

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**



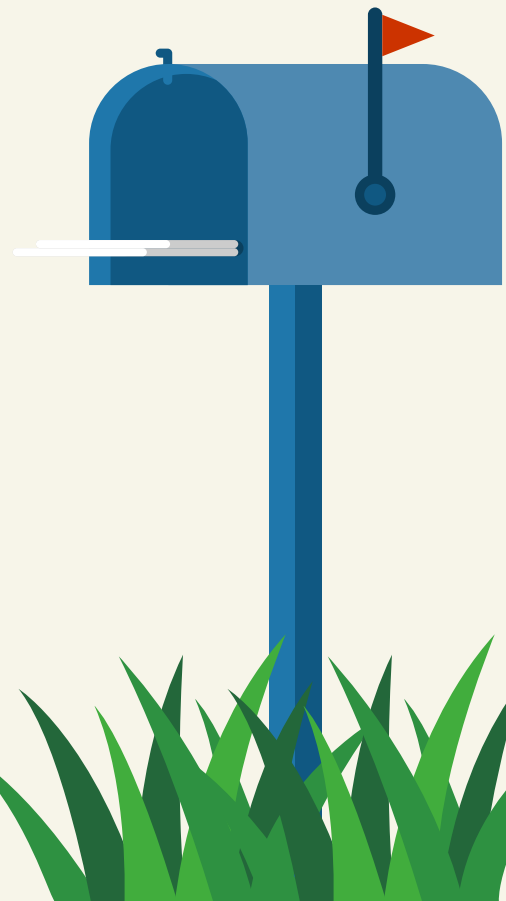
New
ADDRESS



FCNC has a new mailing address!

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

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



NC USFW Annual Gathering Registration

Saturday, August 19, 2023

**Cedar Square Friends
7546 Harlow Road
Archdale, NC 27263**



Thank you to Cedar Square for hosting our Fall Annual Gathering. This year our program will focus on the Triennial in Kenya. Our speakers will be Brenda McKinney and Rita Mintmier along with a few others who will be attending the Triennial July 2-8, 2023. At this meeting we will also install our new officers and recognize our Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship members.

The new theme for the United Society of Friends Women International is "Rooted in Love. Philippians 4:6-7." This year's theme goes along with the Triennial theme of "Come, Abide and Go". These three words hold a lot of meaning. As a family of believers we come together to support one another because we are rooted in Love. As we come together and abide, we receive the peace of God to help us not to be anxious or worry. This peace will allow us to go and share the message of Jesus in many different ways to many different people.

Please remember to bring your Love and Hope dollars to our Fall Gathering so that we may help with the food crisis that is still facing our world.

9:00 – 10:00 am Registration and Bookstore with light refreshments

10:00 am – 12 noon Welcome, Music, Business and Program

12:00 noon Luncheon – catered lunch @\$12.00 each

If you have questions please contact :

DeLois Russell at Deerussell@northstate.net or

Donnivee Perry at donniveeperry@gmail.com Phone (336)-689-0040

NC USFW Annual Gathering at Cedar Square Friends

Please clip and send by August 9, 2023

Name(s) _____

Meeting _____

Number of Lunches at \$12.00 each _____ **Total \$** _____

Please clip / mail with check written to: Cedar Square Friends USFW :

**Donnivee Perry
1396 Riverwood Road
Randleman, NC 27317**

JAMAICA

Vacation Bible School
July 24 – Aug 4, 2023



WANTED: Volunteers & supplies!

Supplies Needed:

- Washcloths – 300
- Pens – 300
- Notepads - 300
- Small soap, shampoo – 300 each
- Toothpaste, toothbrush – 300 each



Volunteers Needed:

If you have ever thought about serving in Jamaica, this could be the year! Our Jamaican Young Friends are ready and willing to serve but need help and encouragement. We will be providing VBS at 9 meetings in 8 days. Cost: \$1,200 which covers all expenses. Please contact Brent/Brenda McKinney with any questions (336) 374-4472 or dbmckinney@surry.net

Theme:

“So, let’s strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up” (Romans 14:19)

Curriculum:

“Hero Hotline: Called Together to Serve God” (Cokesbury Curriculum)

USFWI ART CONTEST

"GOD STILL SPEAKS"



Contest Rules:

- Artist must attend a Friends Meeting
- Two age groups:
5-12 & 13-18
- Artwork must be in Pencil or black ink (no color)
- 8 1/2" x 11" portrait orientation
- Only one entry per participant

★ Design the cover for the
2024-2025 Blueprints
using Philippians 4:6-7

One Grand Prize:

\$100 and artwork will be used as cover for the 2024-2025 *Blueprints*

Prizes for each age group:

- First Prize: \$75
- Second Prize: \$50
- Third Prize \$25

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 30, 2023

Mail or hand deliver to any Executive Committee member or mail to: Rita Mintmier, 6354 Lewis Davis Road, Randleman, NC 27317. Entries will also be accepted at the Triennial



Ramallah Head of School Visits Lindi Friends School in Kibera

In partnership with Nairobi Yearly Meeting, FUM has long supported the Lindi School, in the Kibera Slum of Nairobi. The school provides quality faith-based education, a safe place for children to play, and serves families who struggle to pay school fees. For many children, the meal they receive at school is their only meal for the day.

On June 26, Rania Maayeh, Head of Ramallah Friends School, along with other FUM staff, paid a pre-Triennial visit to the Lindi School, to think about whether there are ways that Ramallah Friends School and the Ramallah community could also come into partnership with the school. She spoke with the school's principal, with teachers, and with students, whom, on that day were taking standardized grade exams. These are some of her thoughts about the visit:

As I reflect on my visit to the Lindi Friends School, nestled within the slums of Nairobi, and witness the challenging circumstances in which those children live, a wave of emotions washes over me. The stark contrast becomes evident when I compare this experience to my visit to the International Friends School, which boasts a more favorable physical environment. However, this introspection also leads me to contemplate the situation back home in Palestine. Although we may not be considered privileged individuals, living under the weight of occupation and grappling with daily struggles, we are still privileged in various ways.

(Continued)

Observing the lives of children in these slums, I am overwhelmed by the profound difficulties they face. Their living conditions are deplorable, with inadequate infrastructure, limited access to clean water, and scarce resources. Yet, despite these circumstances, their thirst for knowledge remains unwavering. They all yearn to learn and improve their lives.

Drawing a comparison to the situation of our children in Palestine, a different kind of frustration engulfs me. We endure the hardships imposed upon us by the occupation—the checkpoints, the barriers, and the constant threat to our safety and freedom. Our daily lives are marked by uncertainty and an ongoing struggle for basic necessities. However, within this reality, we sometimes find ourselves living in a bubble—a bubble of privilege that shields us from the extreme poverty and destitution experienced by many others.

Despite our frustrations as Palestinians, we do have access to education, albeit with limitations. We have schools, albeit with restrictions and interruptions. We have the opportunity to pursue knowledge, develop skills, and aspire to a brighter future. Our children, burdened by the weight of the occupation and the obstacles they face in obtaining an education, find ways to grow, learn, and dream of a different reality.

Reflecting on these contrasting experiences, I am reminded of the importance of gratitude and empathy. We may encounter our own set of challenges, but it is crucial to acknowledge the privileges we possess. It is a privilege to have access to education, even if it is hindered by political circumstances. It is a privilege to have a relatively stable, safe, and healthy environment for our children (particularly at RFS) to learn and play.”





A former student at Lindi, now in training to become a teacher, who is volunteering as a teacher during her student break.



Washing dishes in the Lindi kitchen after lunch.





Much is Growing at Ambwere Farm



The Ambwere family, Quakers from western Kenya, have leased a 900-acre farm to FUM. Recently FUM staff visited. It is not the 4th of July yet and the corn is way taller than knee high!

Click [HERE](#) for a video from Ambwere Farm!



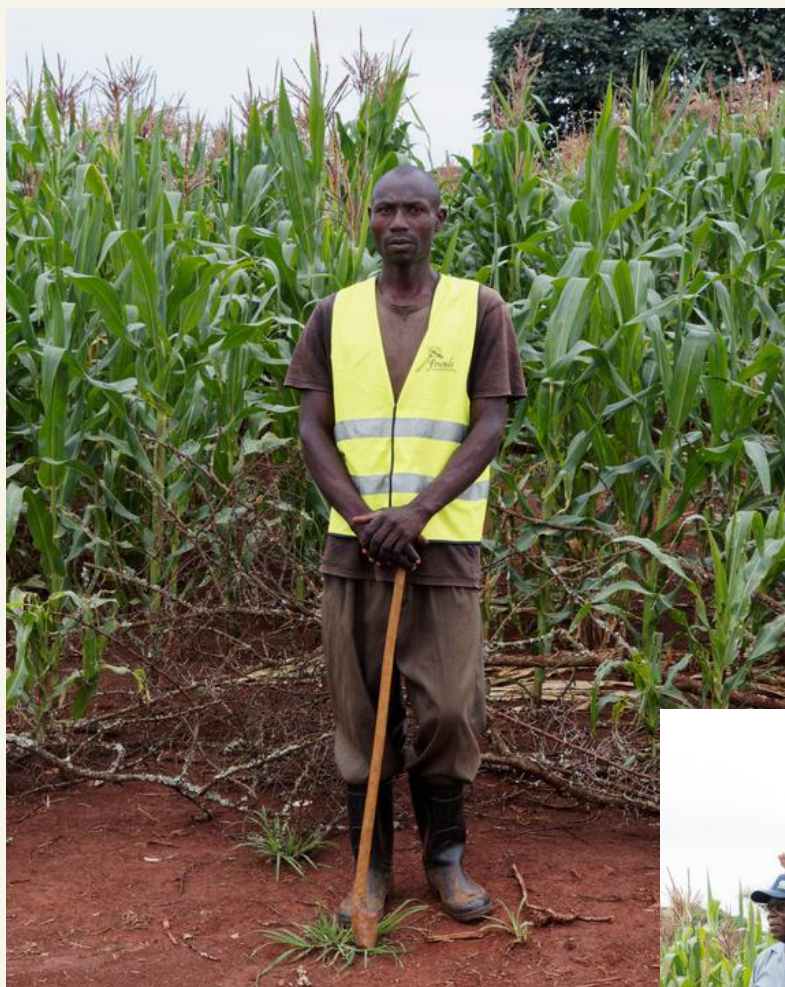
More about Ambwere Farm:

The Ambwere family, Quakers from western Kenya, offered to lease a 900-acre farm to FUM. The farm is located near Kitale, in an area that is very well suited for growing many crops, including maize (white corn).

Several Quakers in the Kitale area with experience and expertise in large scale agriculture, management, and finance have taken on the challenge of overseeing the farm. They hired a farm manager, negotiated the lease, and are putting a plan in place to protect the land and improve its productivity. Since then, the rains have been favorable, the inputs that were added to the soil have worked as hoped, and the crop is looking very good.

Why Farming?

Several years ago, Friends United Meeting began the task of long-term financial planning. The FUM General Board formed the Long Range Financial Planning Working Group to explore past giving trends and to project future trends. This group discovered that giving from North American Friends is decreasing, but that ministry needs are not. In response, the FUM General Board created the Sustainability Committee to develop business and investment projects and explore alternative ways to support FUM programs and priorities. This committee consists of four members from North America, four from Kenya, and one from Jamaica. This farming operation is the first project the committee has undertaken, but they look forward to finding many more ways to supplement the generosity of Friends and what God is doing through Friends United Meeting. If modestly successful, once all loans are repaid, taxes are settled, and operational costs are accounted, this farming project is projected to net \$100,000 per year.



Guard hired to keep monkeys away from the corn



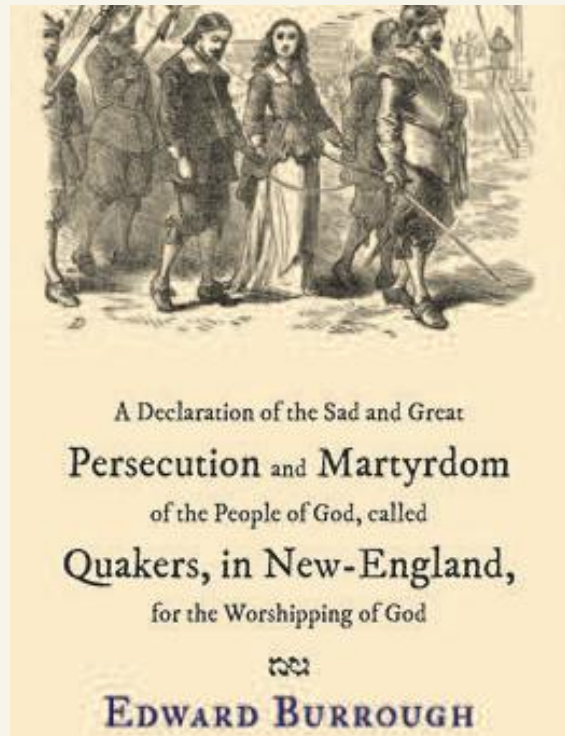
John Muhanji, Francis Makete, and others talk about where lime needs to applied to the Ambwere Farm fields next year



Francis Makete, one of the Ambwere Farm Sustainability Project committee members, and a farmer himself, looks over the FUM maize crop.

QUAKERS IN HISTORY

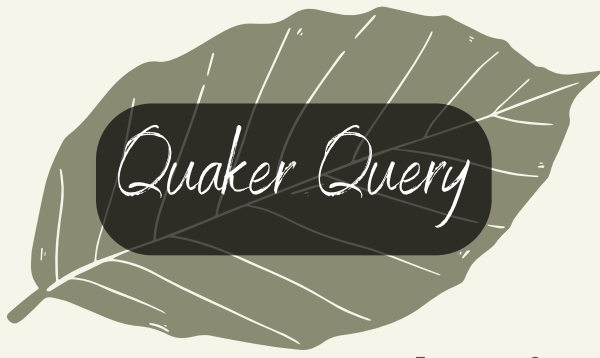
Edward Burrough
1634-1663



Burrough was born in Underbarrow, Westmoreland, and educated in the Church of England, but became a Presbyterian before converting to Quakerism. During his late teens, he heard George Fox preach in 1652 and immediately converted to what later came to be known as the Religious Society of Friends. He was consequently rejected by his parents. Burrough began itinerant preaching throughout England, traveling with another Friend, Francis Howgill.

Upon the Restoration in 1660, Burrough approached King Charles II, requesting protection and relief of Quakers in New England, who were being persecuted by Puritans there. Charles granted him an audience in 1661, and was persuaded to issue a writ stopping (temporarily) the corporal and capital punishments of the Quakers in Massachusetts.

Tap [HERE](#) to read the full letter written to King Charles!



...for July



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...

-What does it look like to be thankful for your freedom? Are there words you can say or actions you can live out that better show your thankfulness?

**-What does the Bible mean when it says we are "free in Christ"?
What does Freedom in Jesus look like in your life?**

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 [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

Meet our Missions

Turkana Friends

[CLICK HERE](#)
to learn more!

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).





Prayer **CORNER**

How can we pray for you?

Prayer:

continue to...

Pray for all of the children that will be passing through Quaker Lake Camp this summer.

Pray for the staff, volunteers and camp Pastors to be able to share the Gospel of Jesus and that God may be glorified and magnified.

Praise:

Praise God for Freedom through Christ!

True freedom can be experienced anywhere!

In the darkest valley or highest mountain. We have so much to be thankful for!



June

RECAP

Cruising with Friends

**Thank
you!**

...from Marlboro, Cedar Square, and Forebush Friends to those that helped with our Cruising with Friends Car Show.

We had twenty cars enter and 80 people! Many youth supported us by cooking hotdogs, handling drinks and registering cars/people.

We raised over \$1,000, which was used for the Youth Trip to the Ark Experience. (It's never too late to help support your local youth groups)

Winners were:

1st: Jerry/Nathan Davis 1971 Chevy Corvette (Red)

2nd: Hurley Hinshaw 1939 Ford Racecar (Black)

3rd: Mike Warwick 1965 Chevy Corvette (Blue)

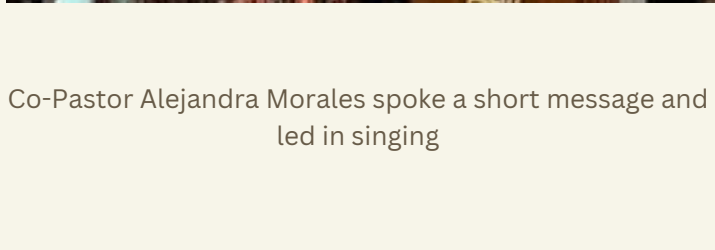


Visit to Odre Nuevo

Superintendent, Mike Wall, was able to visit our Friends at Odre Nuevo (New Wineskins). They have relocated into the Hunting Creek Friends Building for a temporary time....



This gentleman opened the service with Scripture, prayer and commentary



Co-Pastor Alejandra Morales spoke a short message and led in singing



Pastor Misael Morales (behind pulpit) introduced a man who brought the Sermon on this



A few attenders

