FEBRUARY 2023 ISSUE NO.16

BEARING FRUIT

The Official Newsletter of Friends Church North Carolina

ARTICLES TO HELP YOU THROUGH:

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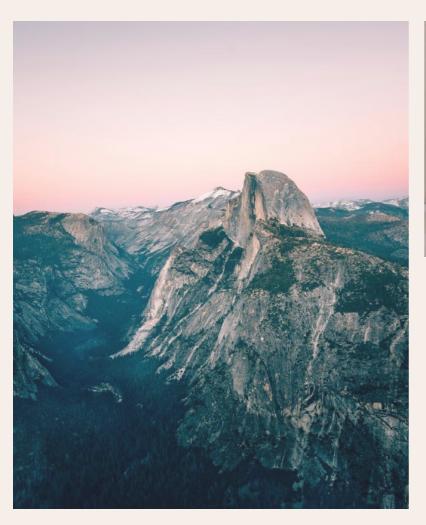
WELCOME!

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

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"FOR ALL DWELLING IN THE LIGHT THAT COMES FROM JESUS, IT LEADS OUT OF WARS, LEADS OUT OF STRIFE, LEADS OUT OF THE OCCASION OF WAR, AND LEADS OUT OF THE EARTH UP TO GOD, AND OUT OF EARTHLY MINDEDNESS INTO HEAVENLY MINDEDNESS." -GEORGE FOX -1657

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A Word of Devotion:

"A REAL LOVE Connection"

By: Ann Chilton

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." The word "love" might bring to mind a familiar phrase: Love is patient, love is kind ...

On one popular TV trivia show, the contestants couldn't name the book of the Bible where these verses are written, but they recognized the words.

Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres

Many have heard these verses recited in wedding ceremonies or seen them written on Valentine's Day cards. And they are found in 1 Corinthians 13, often called the "love chapter" of the Bible. Love never fails ...

At a certain point, some might say 1 Corinthians 13 has been quoted too much, which can cause words to lose their meaning. People might think, "Yeah, yeah, ok. 'Faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love.' I know. I've heard it all before."

Others have heard someone say, "I love you," but a happy ending didn't follow. For some, the word "love" has been exhausted. That's because if we read or speak beautiful words about love again and again, but do not do it with intention or understanding, then the words begin to sound like empty statements.

A better way to say that is, "If I speak in the languages of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal" (1 Corinthians 13:1, NIV).

In fact, 1 Corinthians 13 teaches that people must connect to love, specifically the love of God, in order to live meaningful lives.

Valentine's Day brings good news because–whether single, married, divorced, separated, or any other sort of status–people can connect to the best kind of love, God's love. And Valentine's Day recognizes a holiday of taking time to show affection, to bring

a little more meaning into everyday actions. Instead of mentioning romance in 1 Corinthians 13, the great love chapter teaches about the love of God: agape love, everlasting love, unconditional love, unselfish love. God's love is wide open. His love is available to any people who will yield their hearts and lives to Him.

On one popular reality TV show, a single man meets several single women. As he gets to know them a little better, he eliminates the women he is not interested in. Sounds cruel, right? It is. But it's all done in the name of "love"–and entertainment.

As the women on the show are publicly rejected, one by one, they feel awful. One woman expressed her hopelessness, saying, "If I could have opened myself up to him, I think, if he saw the real me, he would definitely reconsider."

Another thought if she were more beautiful or charming, then he would have chosen her.

"I tried, and it just wasn't enough," she said. In romance, many times, heartbreak comes before lasting love. But God does not line people up, inspect them, and then reject the ones He doesn't like because that is not what real love does. Sometimes cultural expressions and ideas about love are so cheap that it's almost impossible to fathom, in contrast, the wonderful extent of God's love. The Bible confirms this, saying, "Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I

shall know fully, even as I am fully known" (1 Corinthians 13:12). God knows people very well, and He loves us. He knows the strengths and weaknesses, the secret sins and personal joys. God desires to save us from ourselves. His love gives us a second chance, and really, more chances than we deserve.

Billy Graham said, "No matter what sin you have committed, no matter how dirty, shameful or terrible it may be, God loves you. You may be at the very gate of hell itself, but God loves you with an everlasting love."

> 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 If I speak in the languages of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.



Check out the next few pages for more information about these events



March 18th 2023

Mid-Year Gathering at Concord Friends (see more information below)

March 23-26, 2023

FWCC Section Meeting at Haw River State Park

<u>Upcoming Events:</u>

February 2023

REGISTRATION is OUT! for the March Youth Retreat at Ridge Crest

February 3-5th 2023

Friends Campus Ministries Winter Retreat at QLC

February 19th

Young Friends Gathering 5PM-7PM Location: Union Cross

March 3rd-5th

Youth Retreat to Ridgecrest Early Bird Deadline -*February 1st* (\$40) Final Deadline-*February 20th* (\$50) (See below for more info)

March 4th

Women's Retreat at QLC 8:30am-5:30pm (see registration below)

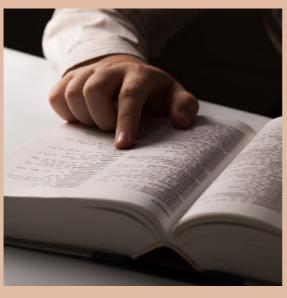
March 17-19th 2023

Rocky River Friends Meeting Revival 7:30PM (see flyer below)



REMINDER





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. <u>Password</u>: **Directory2021!**

In Search of a Pastor for Centre Friends

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

CLICK <u>HERE</u> TO VISIT FCNC WEBSITE TO READ THE FULL JOB DESCRIPTION.

MEMORIALS

As a way to remember those who have passed on, we want to take time each year to thank God for their service and faithfulness. Please list names below of members who have passed away this year. Memorials for 2022-2023 will be read at the NCUSFW 2023 Spring Conference.

Year Meeting:

Name(s)

email Mary Anna McCullen – <u>deetsmaryanna@gmail.com</u> or Mary Anna's mailing address is: 108 Northview Drive Goldsboro, NC 27530



Early Bird Deadline - February 1st (\$40) Final Deadline - February 20th (\$50)

Registration is now up on the FCNC website! Don't wait to sign your youth up for this awesome event! <u>CLICK HERE</u>to register now!



Dear Friends,

This is a good time for many people to make plans for the coming year. I hope you are planning to join us at our first in-person Section Meeting since 2019! Look for more information about the great speakers and workshop options coming in January. Every Friend is welcome to attend. If the cost is an obstacle, ask your monthly or yearly meeting or local church if there are funds available to help Friends attend Quaker events.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

In friendship, Robin Mohr Executive Secretary



Continue to next page

Dear Friend,

We are excited to reach out to you with news that the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) will be holding its hybrid Section Meeting on March 23-26, 2023 at Haw River State Park in Greensboro, North Carolina. This is the first in-person Section Meeting we've held since 2019 and we're excited to gather with Friends from across the Western Hemisphere.

- There will be joy! Noah Merrill will be the lead keynote speaker on Saturday night. He'll be speaking about our theme of "Becoming the Quakers the World Needs."
- There will be worship in many styles! FWCC blends worship styles to be inclusive of the different theological and cultural backgrounds present at events. We've found this creates an atmosphere of openness and curiosity, where Friends learn new things from one another and bring joy to each other by sharing.
- There will be **inspiration**! Past participants often share that there is something special about connecting with Friends from around the world.
- There will be **love**! The Biblical theme will focus on the Great Commandment to love God and one another. We've created special workshops on building relationships that are an antidote to the divisive nature of the world.
- There will be equity! FWCC Americas events are unique because we are the only global fellowship organization of Friends to conduct business bilingually in Spanish and English.

Our community has been working hard to bring new thinking to our Section Meeting. We've opened our doors so all Friends are invited to participate - either virtually or in person.

We're offering a rich program of events both virtual and in-person. See the <u>Section Meeting</u> <u>Website</u> for more details and to register. Virtual registration will be opening soon and a link to that will be on this website. We'll also be adding more information about workshops soon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Blessings,

Rausie Hobson Clerk, Convocations Committee FWCC Americas

You'll be Inspired at the 2023 FWCC Americas Section Meeting!

Registration is now open for the in-person events for the 2023 FWCC Americas Section Meeting. We are looking forward to being together, in-person at Haw River State Park.

The theme of the event is "Becoming the Quakers the World Needs," and the Bible study themes will focus on the Great Commandment to love God and one another.

There will be opportunities for worship, fellowship, small groups, consultation, business, Bible study, nature and growth.

This will be a hybrid event, and the registration for the virtual portion of the sessions will be opening in early 2023.

Learn more about the sessions and <u>**REGISTER HERE!</u>**</u>



Friends World Committee for Consultation SECTION OF THE AMERICAS

Comité Mundial de Consulta de los Amigos sección de las américas



QUAKER VOLUNTARY SERVICE Live your values while gaining valuable job skills and living in community!

Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) is an experiment at the intersection of transformational spirituality and activism, an 11-month Fellowship program for young adults aged 21-30. Participants engage in social justice work, live in intentional community and explore Quaker practices around decision-making, sustainability, discernment and simplicity.

Participating Fellows receive room, board, transportation, a monthly stipend, support of QVS staff and local meeting members among many other benefits. QVS Currently has houses in Minneapolis, Boston, Philadelphia and Portland, OR.

<u>CLICK HERE</u> to apply today! Application deadline: February 28, 2023

Contact Ruth Cutcher if you have questions or would like to learn more about incentives for early applicants. Ruth@quakervoluntaryservice.org or 765-238-8791

We Invite You to Revival Services



at Rocky River Friends Meeting 1795 Staley-Snow Camp Road, SILER CITY, NC Telephone: 336/622-3466

Email: <u>RockyRiverFriends@yahoo.com</u> Website: RockyRiverFriendsMeeting.org

Friday - Sunday, March 17-19, 2023

7:30 pm each evening and 11:00 am on Sunday morning

Guest Speaker: Jay Marshall

Jay is Dean Emeritus of the Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, Indiana, and a recorded Friends minister since 1985 (by NC Yearly Meeting-FUM). He served as a pastor in North Carolina Yearly Meeting and Indiana Yearly Meeting prior to his ministry as seminary dean. He regularly writes a blog (at jaymarshallonline.com) and recently published <u>When the Spirit Calls</u>. A new book is scheduled to be released in November 2023. Jay views retirement life as a "ministry of availability," meaning he has the freedom to say "yes" to the right opportunities as they arise.

Born in North Carolina and raised in the Plainfield Friends community of Chatham County, Jay now resides in Greens Fork, Indiana with his wife Judi, who is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church.

Special Music in each service!

Lunch in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, 3/19/2023

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

FCNC 2023 Mid-Year Gathering at Concord Friends Meeting

on Saturday, March 18th



9AM	Business
10AM	Workshop #1
Noon	BBQ Lunch provided by Concord
1PM	Workshop #2

Lunch will be \$10/person.

Payment is to be received the day of at Registration. Please RSVP to Mike Fulp by March 10th.

Workshops will focus on engaging and recruiting Young Adults within FCNC and the Meetings

A bit about our Workshop Leader, Stevin Ackley:

Steven, his wife Emily, and their four kids live in their hometown of Winston Salem, NC where Steven serves as the Pastor of Discipleship at Calvary Baptist Church. Steven is passionate about fulfilling God's command to make disciples and believes that the local church and the home are God's Plan A to accomplish His mission. Steven has earned both his M.Div and D.Min from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Quaker Lake Camp Women's Retreat March 4, 2023 8:30am-5:30pm

Check-in 8:30am to 9am

Cost: \$50 (light breakfast & lunch included)

Join us for a day of worship, relaxation, and fellowship! Choose from optional activities, reach new heights swinging from our Alpine Tower, or simply enjoy a cup of coffee with friends. Some options include hiking, ceramics, painting, line dancing, cooking demonstrations, yoga, crafts, jewelry making, games, and much more! Retreat is open to women of all ages.

Registration Form

Name(First)	(Last)	(Preferred)
Address		
City	State	Zip
Home Number ()	Cell Number()_	
Email Address	Churc	h
In an emergency please notify:		
Name:	Relationship:	Phone: ()
Do you have any allergies (includin	g food allergies and dietary re	strictions)?
1 <u>4</u>		
Please list any health issues of which	n we need to be aware (i.e. he	art condition, diabetes, asthma, etc

Mail completed form and payment to Quaker Lake Camp, 1503 NC Highway 62 E, Climax, NC 27233 by February 24th or register online at www.quakerlakecamp.org/womens-retreat.



or more information or to inquire about overnight accommodations call (336) 674-2321.

Tap <u>HERE</u> to register online



Work @ QLC

It takes a lot of talented people, both paid staff and volunteers, to create the Quaker Lake experience each summer. Staff applications for summer 2023 are available <u>online</u> now for high school seniors and older. If you are interested in being a volunteer, <u>find out more information here</u>. Please feel free to <u>contact us</u> if you have questions.



Apply for 2023 Summer Staff Today! Please review the document below before submitting an application. Deadline for applications is February 17.



Tap <u>HERE</u> to register online. Deadline for application is February 17th 2023

Mission Opportunity with Cedar Square

As a Yearly Meeting, we are attending a Group mission this year in Pittsburgh, PA. July 16th-23rd. We want to allow other smaller meetings/youth groups to sign up with Cedar Square and ride with us on our bus. To qualify, they must be in 6th-12th grade, have a chaperone (preferably same sex), pay in full, meet at Cedar Square and pick up at Cedar Square, have to stay with Cedar Square outings during the mission trip, etc. The deadline is May 1st/Final Payment to Cedar Square.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you, Sterling C. Brown 336.905.9364

MISSION

Scholarship Opportunity

John Sarrin Scholarships Available

The United Society of Friends Women International, through the John Sarrin Scholarship Committee, provides scholarships for qualifying students who have completed high school and are training to be Quaker pastors or missionaries or who are the children of Quaker pastors or missionaries.

For more information and to apply, please contact:

Lynn Peery Mills, Clerk

John Sarrin Scholarship Committee

john.sarrin.scholarships@gmail.com

Attention: All applications must be recieved by March 1st 2023

OUAKERS IN HISTORY

Herbert Victor Nicholson

1892-1983



Today was the first time I have ever heard of Herbert Nicholson, but I was very inspired by his testimony. He wrote a book detailing the events of his life, which is most likely out of print now. I am including two links for you to be able to read more of his story.

Let it inspire you and push you to follow the Lord's leading, regardless of where He leads.

Tap <u>HERE</u> for more information.



Tap <u>HERE</u> for more information.

Herbert Nicholson, once called "Friend Herbert" was considered a man of inspirational love and lifelong unselfish service designed to improve and promote the welfare of persons of Japanese ancestry. As a lifelong member of the Society of Friends he made his mission one to be devoted to the good of mankind. Having attended Quaker schools all his years of education, he saw his life only as a missionary. He married Madeline Waterhouse, also a missionary who was his partner in all missionary activity as were their children.

First going to Japan to work with the mission of Friends there, later becoming aware of the Second World War and the discrimination against the Japanese people in America, he returned to the United States to help those Japanese who had been taken from their homes and placed in camps, one of which was the Tuna Camp. There he met and befriended Merrill Scott who was director for that camp. As time went by he became involved in a truck ministry, ferrying messages and materials to and from camps all over California as well as becoming a driving force in the effort to undo or mitigate the government injustices against the Japanese, primarily the false accusations due to racism, free the Japanese from the camps, pointing out the injustice of this unnecessary exercise.

After the war was over and the difficult job of repatriation was finished, he returned to Japan and other parts of Asia becoming known as "Uncle Goat". His efforts to bring goats to the people of the area to help them to feed themselves were legendary.

Herbert and Madeline worked diligently for many years in often dangerous situations and with very little funding. As a man who preached in churches, spoke the Japanese language, who intervened in the lives of those who needed comfort and spiritual guidance, many people loved him. Of him it was said that Herbert always greeted people with great sincerity and friendliness. His Bible messages became alive and with real meaning. He was a man the Japanese looked to for joy, hope and love through those turbulent years of World War Two.

A MESSAGE FROM

FCNC's New Presiding Clerk

Greetings to all of my brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. My name is Roger Holt, and I am the new presiding clerk of the Friends Church of North Carolina. I am a practicing veterinarian from Yadkinville, North Carolina, and a longtime (almost lifetime) member of Deep Creek Friends Meeting. My wife, Ginger, and I share 6 children and 4 grandchildren (ranging in age from 3 months to 5 years). I have been blessed throughout most of my life to live on my Grandfather's farm in rural Yadkin County, and to practice veterinary medicine in the community where I grew up.

My favorite hobby is running. As I run, I take in the beauty of my surroundings. Recently, I was running along a high ridge close to my house, and as the panorama of the foothills of Northwest North Carolina opened up before me I felt so blessed, once again, to be a part of my community.

We are all blessed to live in our beautiful state. We are also blessed to live in a state, and nation, where we can worship in a manner of our own choosing without interference or danger. The world, our society, may work to discourage us as we seek to share the gospel with others. Will we be courageous enough to step out in faith, to speak out for what is right and true? In Romans 8:31 Paul encourages "What then shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

We are a small denomination, a small association made up primarily of small to medium sized meetings. Though we may be few in number, I believe that we, as Friends, have a message that the world needs to hear. The gospel, the good news of salvation through our Lord, Jesus Christ is still ours, and is a message worth sharing. The gospel shared in love, in a simple straightforward manner, was the message of first century Christians to their world. We can be just as much the "salt and light" in our communities, and in our world, as they were in theirs.

How do we do this, you ask? Well, we are called to love our neighbor. If we truly love our neighbor, we should want to share the good news with them. What better news can we share with the people that we love than the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Love to All,

Roger R. Holt Presiding Clerk

FUM UPDATE Christmas Party on Mt. Elgon

Every year, the children on Mt. Elgon look forward to the December holidays because it's a festive season. It is a season that brings lots of joy and happiness to share love and gratitude with the staff of Friends United Meeting Africa Ministries and Transforming Communities for Social Change.Mt. Elgon is located on the border of Western Kenya and Eastern Uganda, with an elevation of 14,000 feet. It's a region with a serene environment and impressive landscape, but marred with a history of poverty, violence, and marginalization.On the eve of the Christmas celebration, Mt. Elgon children are seen hanging around the Chepyuk Peace Centre with the hope that Getry Agizah, FUM Programme Coordinator, will show up with "good tidings." Their hope for a Christmas party literally depends on her presence. Many children from Mt. Elgon are from poor families and the possibility of celebrating Christmas is very slim.

This last year, through FUM and TCSC well-wishers, over 1000 children were able to get a decent meal of rice, chapati, and beef stew and enjoyed listening and dancing to Christmas tunes.







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 is the greatest evidence of your faith?

-What are a few ways that God calls you specifically to LOVE your neighbor? Who is your Neighbor?



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 <u>HERE</u>)

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. <u>But what about those in our Meetings who still haven't heard about or seen the newsletter?</u> 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 <u>ienny@friendschurchnc.org</u>





Over the past several months, a number of our news items have described work undertaken through partnership between three Friends organizations working in Kenya: Friends United Meeting's Africa Ministries Office, the Africa section of Friends World Committee for Consultation, and Friends Church Kenya. Of these three organizations, Friends Church Kenya is least familiar to our non-Kenyan readers. So we offer this brief description of their origins and their work.

The Quaker church in Kenya started in the early twentieth century with the arrival of three young Quaker missionaries from Ohio whose work came to be supported by Five Years Meeting (now Friends United Meeting). In 1902, Arthur Chilson, Edgar Hole, and Willis Hotchkiss settled in Kenya's Western region, at Kaimosi. By 1946, East Africa Yearly Meeting was established as a self-governing body, including Meetings from Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. In 1963, the year of Kenyan independence, Friends United Meeting turned over ownership and control of all mission-originated projects to East African Friends. Since then, FUM has been a partner in ministry with the African Yearly Meetings to provide oversight and financial support for multiple ministries and partners.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, East Africa Yearly Meeting split into several different Yearly Meetings within Kenya, while the Tanzanian and Ugandan churches formed their own Yearly Meetings. Within Kenya, what was once East Africa Yearly Meeting has become more than twenty individual Yearly Meetings.

As new Yearly Meetings were formed, they together recognized the need for a Kenyan coordinating body that would enable the Kenyan Yearly Meetings to maintain their individual identities but work together nationally. In 1986, Friends Church Kenya was formed, with headquarters at Kaimosi. FCK aims to unify and harmonize all the Yearly Meetings in Kenya, uphold Quaker values and principles under the Quaker Faith and Practice, and represent Kenyan Quaker interests in national matters.

FCK sometimes works in partnership with other Quaker organizations in Africa, such as Friends United Meeting (FUM) and Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). FCK works with Friends United Meeting to promote Peace Education programs in Kenya's Quakersponsored schools. The FCK National Education Secretary is responsible for coordinating and managing Quaker schools in Kenya, and works under FCK's secretariat.

Recently, leadership from FCK, FWCC, and FUM formed a collaborative team to work together to raise funds and distribute aid to African affected directly or indirectly by the Covid-19 pandemic. This team also visited ailing retired Quaker leaders in Kenya. In these times, there may well be future opportunities for the FUM/FWCC/FCK partnership to work together for the benefit of African Friends, and all Kenyans.

FUM website: More information



Le How can we pray for you?

Prayer:

With a heavy heart, we are announcing that we lost a member of our Friends Disaster service family. On Sunday, January 1st, Rod Jackson passed away following a brief illness. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Praise:

Praise God for His unfailing LOVE! His willingness to extend Grace to us despite our shortcomings and sin is the greatest example of his perfect love for each of us!



Visit to Archdale Friends



Congregational singing and a message from Pastor Rod Kirby

