

FEBRUARY 2024 | ISSUE NO.28

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

“

“THE QUAKER TRADITION AT IT'S VERY HEART IS BUILT AROUND THE CONVICTION AS THE PEOPLES OF GOD WE ALL CAN PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE UNFOLDING OF GOD'S WORK IN THE WORLD. NO MATTER HOW INEXPERIENCED OR UNQUALIFIED WE THINK WE MAY BE .”

WESS DANIELS

WESS DANIELS IS THE WILLIAM R. ROGERS DIRECTOR
OF FRIENDS CENTER & QUAKER STUDIES AT
GUILFORD COLLEGE

”

A Word of Devotion:

FIVE WAYS TO LOVE AT ALL TIMES

By: Molly Howard

Grand Canyon
University

‘ A friend loves at all times’
-Proverbs 17:17

Loving one another is very important to God. In fact, Jesus says it is the second greatest commandment (Matthew 22:39).

Sometimes we may not know the best way to show love to others or even how we can be loving in a particular situation. Proverbs 17:17 says that a “friend loves at all times.” We should love others, not only during good times, but always. Here are a few ways to love at all times:

Carry Each Other's Burdens-Galatians 6:2

One way to love at all times is to carry each other's burdens. Especially during difficult times, people need someone who they can rely on.

Carrying each other's burdens might not look the same in every situation. Some people might just want a listening ear. Others might need physical help, such as help with yard work or cleaning. Still others might just want to know someone is there for them if they need it.

As Proverbs 17:17 says, “A brother is born for a time of adversity.” When we carry each other's burdens, we are strengthening one another and living our lives to reflect Jesus and the words of the Bible.

Be Present in Rejoicing and Mourning-Romans 12:15

Often, in order to love people, we must be present in what they are experiencing, whether it be joy or hardship. Romans 12:15 says, “Rejoice with those who rejoice.” When someone is finding success and going through happy times, we may feel jealous or question their happiness instead of rejoicing with them. However, we are told to rejoice with them and be happy in their celebrations as this shows the love of Christ.

However, we are also told to mourn with each other. In times of grief, sadness and hurting, it may seem easier for us to avoid the pain of others, rather than to comfort them through their circumstances. However, we are called to show love to our brothers and sisters in Christ in the good and the bad times.

Forgive One Another-Colossians 3:13

Forgiveness is powerful. Yet, love and bitterness cannot coexist. Colossians 3:13 tells us to forgive as the Lord forgave us. His forgiveness is perfect. Even though we do not deserve it, He freely offers it to us, and we should do the same for others.

1 Peter 4:8 says, “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”

Care About the Needs of Others-Philippians 2:3-4

Another way to show love at all times is to care about the needs of others. This can be need for physical items, such as the need for food or clothing. For example, you see that there is a coat drive for people in your community and you take the time to participate. Perhaps, you hear that your friend’s car has broken down, and you show love by offering to give them a ride.

However, there can also be other needs that may not relate to possessions. For example, maybe you notice that a mother seems tired lately and offer to babysit her kids for a few hours so she can have a break. Or perhaps a friend has seemed down lately, so you schedule a time to talk and hang out to help fill that need. Philippians 2:3-4 talks about valuing other’s interests above our own. Loving other people requires taking the focus from ourselves and putting it on other people.

Pray for One Another-James 5:13

In some circumstances, it may feel like we cannot do anything to help meet the needs of others. We do not have to feel helpless in these situations, instead we can pray for those people and their needs, as this is a great way to love others. We can bring the person to God in prayer.

Whether the person is going through hard times or struggles or they are at a high point in their life, prayer is powerful. 1 John 5:14 says, “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.



Upcoming Events:

February 17th 2024

Billy Britt fund event

February 27th 2024

Quaker Trustees Training Series
(See flyer below)

March 10th - 15th 2024

Eastern N.C. Disaster Relief

March 16th, 2024

QLC flashlight egg hunt
[click here](#) to register

March 17th- 20th 2024

White Plains Friends Revival
Beginning Sunday at 11 AM
Continuing 7PM Nightly
Speaker: Randy Quate

March 23rd 2024

Community Easter egg hunt
hosted by Concord Friends

March 23rd 2024

Mid-Year Gathering
10AM at Deep Creek Friends
(lunch will be served)

May 17th- 19th 2024

Stoking The Fire - [Save The Date!](#)

Date TBD

Online Young Adult Bible Study
(college age to under 40)
For a brief description [CLICK HERE:](#)
To register [CLICK HERE](#)

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

BILLY BRITT FUND EVENT

February 17, 3pm

Friends Homes Guilford Living Room
925 New Garden Rd, Greensboro, NC

To learn more about the Britt Fund and North American Ministries, please join us for a short program and time of fellowship. Kelly Kellum, Global Director for FUM, and Colin Saxton, former FUM Director, will be present.



****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

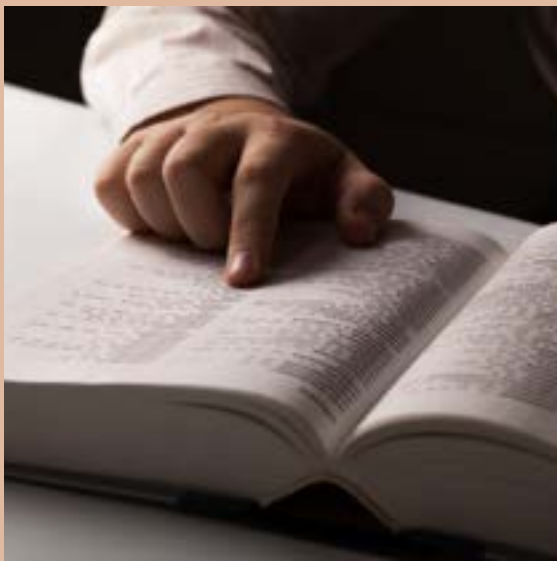
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Announcements:



REMINDER

Directory *still available!*



Your updated version of the directory is now available on the FCNC website!

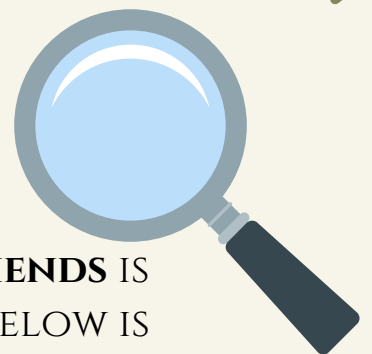
Access to the directory will require a password.

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.

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**

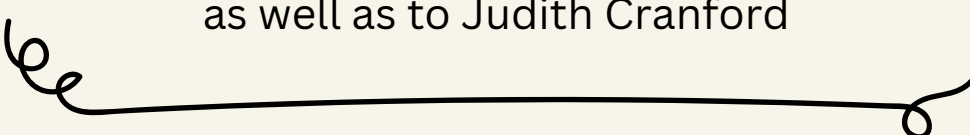


New **ADDRESSES**



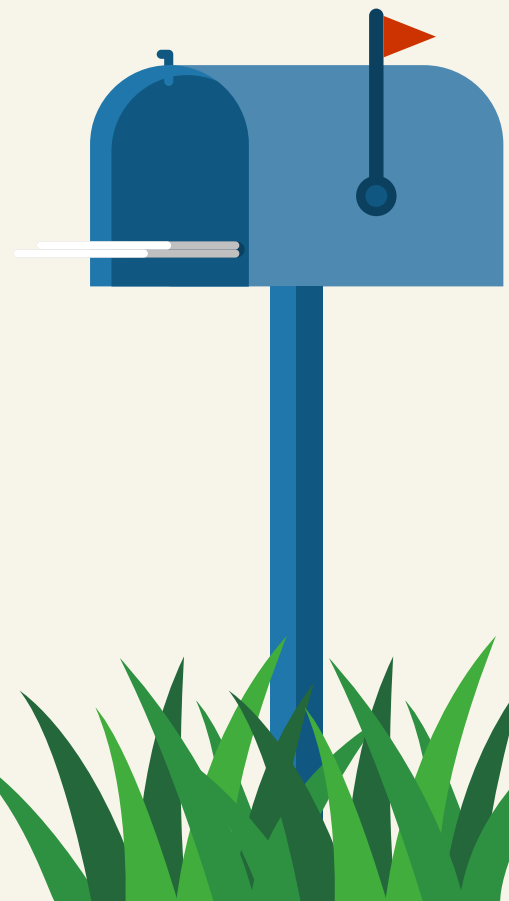
FCNC
**P.O. Box 4240,
Archdale, NC 27263**

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



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

Please send correspondence
and NC USFW project
donations here.



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Recycle and help others

This was sent in by a Bearing Fruit subscriber.

This is a fun and simple way to get involved and help others!

Those who work with children's ministries and youth work may want to make this a project to work on with your kids.

Check out the link below for a 3rd option to help the Ronald McDonald House by collecting pop can tabs!

[CLICK HERE](#)

1) Save **amber medicine bottles with the label removed** for **FAME** (Fellowship of Associates of Medical Evangelism). FAME began in 1970 in Columbus, IN as the result of a dream by Judge Milford Anness to start a Christian medical mission organization. FAME has grown from a group struggling to build one hospital in India, to an organization that has helped build 70 facilities in 29 countries around the world – hospitals, clinics, feeding centers, church buildings, housing for medical staff, and mobile medical units. FAME is now located in a warehouse on Southeastern Avenue in Indianapolis. For more information Google FAME Partners in Medical Evangelism.

2) As of December 2021: The **Right Sharing of World Resources Stamp Program** accepts stamps of all issue dates and countries, both used and unused stamps, sheets of stamps, albums, boxed collections of stamps, envelopes, and postcards. With foreign stamps, if they are still on the envelope or postcard, leave them there. If they are already removed, they are still welcome. If there are special markings on any envelopes, leave the stamp on the envelope. If there are not, leave 1/8 – 1/4 around the edge so the **ENTIRE** stamp is preserved. **PLEASE LEAVE PEELABLE STAMPS ON THE ENVELOPES AS THEY STICK TO OTHER STAMPS WHEN PEELED OFF.** These stamps are purchased by stamp collectors and proceeds benefit RSWR (Right Sharing of World Resources). **Any stamps are acceptable; however, NONPROFIT and PRESORTED ones have very little value.** You can Google Right Sharing Stamp Program for more information.



North Carolina Friends Disaster Service

AN OUTREACH MINISTRY OF N.C. FRIENDS

Gary Dodson, Co-Coordinator
2476 Beckerite Rd
Sophia n.c. 27350
Phone 336-736-0845

Walter Shore, Co-
Coordinator
2324 Shore Rd.
Yadkinville, N.C. 27055
Phone 336-244-0527

Allen Gibson, Co-
Coordinator
8225 Charlbert Ct.
Apex N.C. 27539
Phone 919-656-9030

Eastern N.C. Disaster Relief March 10th - 15th , 2024 New Bern, North Carolina

We are planning on starting this new year of 2024 with a March rebuilding trip. This March rebuilding trip to New Bern will be a continuation of our past rebuilding trips. We will be helping families that have had their homes damaged by weather disasters including some families that have been completely displaced from their homes. Some of these families have been homeless for years. We will be continuing to help these people by changing their lives forever.

As we have done in the past, we will be working with the Baptists On Missions Disaster Group. We will be staying at their New Bern Rebuild Center. The accommodations will be dormitory style with women in one area and men in the other. If you would like to participate, please contact one of the Co-Coordiators listed above as soon as possible.

Lodging : Baptists on Missions – New Bern Rebuild Center
2108 Old Cherry Point Rd.
New Bern N.C. 252-571-6347

Meals will be provided by the Baptist on Missions group.
(Prepared by our wonderful cooks !!!!!)

Plan on meeting Sunday afternoon, Mar 10th at 5:00 PM at Moore's BBQ 3621 MLK Blvd New Bern NC for a group meal.

Please share this information with everyone at your meeting/church.

[?] Thank You for your continued support of the

North Carolina Friends Disaster Service.

Friends United Meeting (FUM)

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

Goals:

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

The group will meet monthly via Zoom.

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

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

Community Easter Egg Hunt

Hunt Times:

11:30 1 year old-Pre K
12:00 Kindergarten-2nd grade
12:40 3rd-5th grade

Join us March 23rd
from 11:00am- 2:00pm
at Sumner Civitan club

Free Food
Free Prizes
Bouncy House
Face Painting
Petting Zoo
Crafts



Ages 1 years old
to 5th grade

Free event!

Canned food donations accepted
at entrance for Concord Food
Cupboard.

Hosted by
Concord Friends
Meeting





Dear Friends,

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

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

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

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

Direct any questions to: travelingministry@fwccamericas.org

In Friendship,

Robin Mohr

Executive Secretary

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

By: Bennie Burton

Now is a good time to reward your members with the Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship Life Membership which helps fund our scholarships. Also, it is important to begin talking to the high school seniors in your congregation about applying for the Cox Scholarship between January 1 and March 15, 2024. Students are eligible to receive a scholarship for a maximum of four years and must be a participating member of a meeting that actively participates in NC USFW.

Scholarship applications are on the following website,

<https://www.friendschurchnc.org/usfw>



All contributions to the scholarship fund need to be made by the end of March 2024.

One of the ways to contribute is to recognize your circle's members with an Eliza Armstrong Cox Lifetime Fellowship membership.

ELIZA ARMSTRONG COX LIFETIME FELLOWSHIP MEMBER

Eliza Armstrong Cox Lifetime Fellowship membership is an honor and recognition for service and dedication to the meeting and NC-USFW. Circles will submit \$25 per nomination, (\$12.50 to USFWI and \$12.50 to the EAC Scholarship Fund). A certificate signed by the USFWI President and the NC- USFW President is sent to the circle that submits the name for recognition. Nominations can be made at any time of the year.

Members are recognized at the Annual Gathering in the fall each year.

MEMBER(S) TO BE RECOGNIZED: _____

NAME & ADDRESS OF PERSON(S) TO RECEIVE CERTIFICATE(S):

DATE _____

Enclose \$25 per nominee payable to NC-USFW and send the check to the USFW-NC Treasurer. Contact the Treasurer to see if pins are available if one is desired.

Thank you for supporting the E.A. Cox Scholarship Fund.



Patches, My Quaker Kitty

We have one children's book that we are offering for \$15. It is written by **Joy Britt Reavis** (our Stewardship Secretary). It is a precious story about her two cats and how one cat, Patches, displays many of our core Quaker values (SPICES). Beautifully written and illustrated, it would make a great gift for your child or grandchild. The title of the book is Patches, My Quaker Kitty. Joy has graciously donated the proceeds from these books to the Eliza Armstrong Cox Scholarship Fund.



"I am Joy Britt Reavis, a ninth generation Quaker. Many mornings while I prepared my morning coffee, my cat, Patches, would sit and wait patiently at my feet to be fed. In contrast, the other cat, Bella, would meow loudly and demand to be fed. I became inspired to write about Patches when I realized how well she exemplified the Quaker core values or "SPICES." This book is appropriate for children of all ages, whether Quaker or not. If you are interested in having more copies, you can reach me at:

joyreavis@gmail.com

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

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

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

Quaker Trustees Training Series



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

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

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

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

February 27 (1:00 PM ET): *Policies*

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

April 30 (1:00 PM ET): *Rentals*

May 28 (1:00 PM ET): *Investments*



Students in Jim Fussell's Books of the New Testament course wash one another's feet.

From Friends Theological College, Robert Wafula writes:

“...Once in a while, we receive a visiting lecturer, particularly for our modular academic programs. The FTC students were blessed to have Jim Fussell from Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Jim is a graduate student at Earlham School of Religion in Indiana, and came to FTC by the recommendation of FUM as a Living Letter. He arrived on campus on November 20, and left on December 31. He taught two intensive courses for the Diploma in Theology programs. These were Books of the New Testament and Quaker History. Each of the two courses lasted ten days. While he tried his best to get acquainted with the culture and the accent of the community around him, his students had a share of their own endeavor to grasp Jim’s American accent. When one of the lecturers asked some of Jim’s students how they were enjoying having Jim as their instructor, one of them said, “Well, we would understand him (Jim) better only if he could try his best to speak not through the nose.” Overall, by the end of his visit, Jim was beginning to gain a lot of rapport with the students and the FTC community.”

[CLICK HERE to read the full letter](#)

QUAKERS IN HISTORY

Slavery in the Quaker World 1688

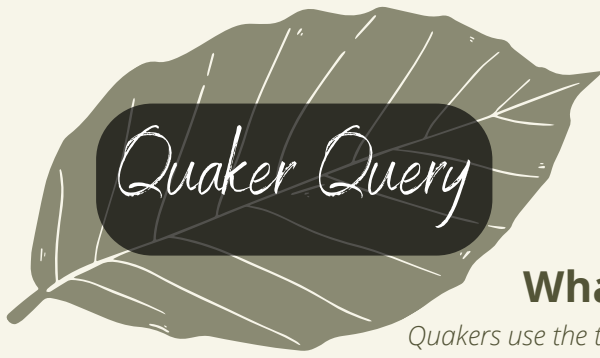


Quakers have long been hailed as heroes of the abolitionist movement. Friends like Anthony Benezet and John Woolman worked tirelessly to convince other Whites to abolish slavery and embrace liberty for all. Fourteen years ago, when I began research for my book *Christian Slavery*, I wanted to understand this abolitionist history better. I started with the “beginning”: the first antislavery protest in North America, written by German and Dutch Quakers in Pennsylvania. But as I quickly learned, this was only part of the story when it comes to Quakers and slavery.

The 1688 Germantown Protest, as it is often called, was the first document in North America to denounce slavery. It is an extraordinary document. It declares, among other things, that the authors are “against the traffick of men-body.” It goes on to explain that slavery cannot be a Christian practice and that it is against the Golden Rule. It is worth lingering on the following passage:

There is a saying, that we shall doe to all men like as we will be done ourselves; making no difference of what generation, descent or colour they are. And those who steal or robb men, and those who buy or purchase them, are they not all alike? Here is liberty of conscience, w[h]ich is right and reasonable; here ought to be likewise liberty of ye body.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full article in the Friends Journal



...for February

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 recognize divinely inspired insight? Can you distinguish between divine leadings and your own needs or desires?

-How do you use your time, energy, resources, gifts, and material possessions in the service of God's love?

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

Social Media

Comm-Tech Committee



**DON'T
FORGET!**

You are invited!!

We have created invitations!

These invitations can be customized by your meeting and made available to all members to give out as they see fit. Have you ever wanted to invite someone to church but weren't sure what to say? Maybe you wanted to show someone what "Friends" were all about but couldn't find the words. That's where the invitations come in!

Not only are these invitations, but on the back, there's a simple explanation for WHO the Friends are, with a "QR code" to scan for more information.

There are three formats. Youth/teen, young adult/adult and traditional adult. Below you will find all three formats. There are links that you can follow to download and get them printed at your local Staples.

If you are unable to do that, I can have them made and shipped straight to your meeting.

Simply e-mail me at: jenny@friendschurchnc.org

To go to Canva and download these designs

Youth/Teen: [Click HERE](#)

Young adult/Adult: [Click HERE](#)

Traditional Adult: [Click HERE](#)



Front

YOU'RE INVITED TO



Where:

When:

Additional Info:

Back

Friends are: Christ Followers. Community leaders.
They are people who love others just as
they are.

Friends are NOT: Amish. The Quaker Oats guy.
And no... they're not a cult.



Friends/Quakers are similar to other Protestant denominations
but offer these unique differences:

Centering: Our lives are busy. That's why we find it important to stop and "center" ourselves.

No Sacraments: We believe in a direct communion with God. And baptism is not physical but rather a baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Open Worship: During worship, we give others a chance to share

Core Values: We attempt to live a life of **SPICES!**

Simplicity-**P**eace-**I**ntegrity-**C**ommunity-**E**quality-**S**tewardship

For more information visit: www.friendschurchnc.org/discover


Front



Back

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Front



You belong here.

Come Join us!

Where:


When:

Additional info:

Back

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For more information visit: www.friendschurchnc.org/discover

Meet our Missions Jamaica



Over 100 years ago, FUM missionaries went to Jamaica to help plant churches, begin schools and train leaders. Today, Jamaica

Yearly Meeting members continue to reach out to their communities by nurturing those in need, inviting new people into their fellowships and providing quality education through Happy Grove School. Partnering with Quaker sisters and brothers from

North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Jamaican Friends also hold a thriving Vacation Bible School outreach to children throughout the island.



Prayer **CORNER**

How can we pray for you?

Prayer:

Pray for Cheryl Benson on the passing of her mother.

Pray for Ben Hurley as he recovers from open heart surgery.

Pray for former pastor Brandon Dockery, his wife & son
(God knows their need)

Praise:

Praise God for His abundant, unconditional love and the ability we have as believers to share that love with others.

January RECAP

Visit to Centre Friends

Superintendent, Mike Wall, was able to worship with Centre Friends on January 28th. Interim Pastor, Daniel Jordan, brought a challenging message on how to expand the church through community.

