



FEBRUARY 2026 | ISSUE NO. 52

BEARING FRUIT

The Official Newsletter of Friends Church North Carolina

ARTICLES TO HELP
YOU THROUGH:

Welcome- 1

Quotes By Quakers &

Devotion-2

Upcoming Events-3

Announcements & flyers 4-8

FUM update-9

Meet our Missions-9

Fruits of Solitude-10

Bookstore Highlights-10 

Quaker Query -11

Comm Tech-11

Prayer Corner-12

Recap- 13

WELCOME!

Welcome to your Friends Church North Carolina Newsletter!

This is a monthly e-newsletter dedicated to keeping you up to date on current events within FCNC.

We strive to highlight topics of interest such as announcements, who/what we support, recent activities, upcoming events etc.

How can you help?

Let us know if you have information that falls into these categories at an FCNC level. Email information, pictures or ideas to our Social Media Coordinator, Jenny Gullion at:

jenny@friendschurchnc.org



A Song of Devotion: THE LOVE OF GOD

By: Fredrick M. Lehman

THE LOVE OF GOD IS GREATER FAR
THAN TONGUE OR PEN CAN EVER TELL.
IT GOES BEYOND THE HIGHEST STAR
AND REACHES TO THE LOWEST HELL.
THE GUILTY PAIR, BOWED DOWN WITH CARE,
GOD GAVE HIS SON TO WIN;
HIS ERRING CHILD HE RECONCILED
AND PARDONED FROM HIS SIN.

O LOVE OF GOD, HOW RICH AND PURE!
HOW MEASURELESS AND STRONG!
IT SHALL FOREVERMORE ENDURE—
THE SAINTS' AND ANGELS' SONG.

WHEN HOARY TIME SHALL PASS AWAY,
AND EARTHLY THRONES AND KINGDOMS FALL;
WHEN MEN WHO HERE REFUSE TO PRAY,
ON ROCKS AND HILLS AND MOUNTAINS CALL;
GOD'S LOVE, SO SURE, SHALL STILL ENDURE,
ALL MEASURELESS AND STRONG;
REDEEMING GRACE TO ADAM'S RACE—
THE SAINTS' AND ANGELS' SONG.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)



continued on next page



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

Upcoming Events:



Community Easter Egg Hunt

Be Entered to Win a Door Prize Upon Arrival

Join us March 28th
Starting at 11
at Sumner Civitan club

Free Food & Prizes

Hosted by Concord Friends Meeting

Ages 1 years old to 5th grade

Free event!

Canned food donations accepted at entrance for Concord Food Cupboard.

Scan to register

QR code



As activities ramp up this year, reach out and let us know so we can add dates and times to our events page.

If you have any announcements
Let us know at
jenny@friendschurchnc.org



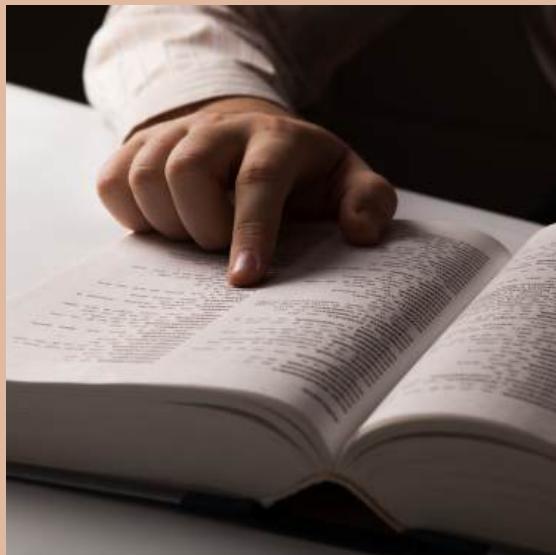
Attention Committee Members

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

Announcements:



REMINDER



[Log in HERE](#)

Job Posting
Part-Time Pastor

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

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

Primary Functions

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

Qualifications

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

A more detailed job description is available if requested.

If interested please contact:

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

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

Directory *still available!*

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

Rocky River Friends Meeting

1795 Staley Snow Camp Rd.
Siler City, NC 27344

Job Description for Pastor of Rocky River Friends Meeting

Pastor Job Description Vision/Mission Statement:

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

Pastor Job Description:

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

Desired Qualifications:

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

Responsibilities:

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

*Compensation package will be commensurate with education and experience.

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

Dallas Brooks, Clerk of Ministry and Counsel
Rocky River Friends Meeting

DEEP CREEK FRIENDS MEETING
PASTOR JOB DESCRIPTION

Overview

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

Application Instructions

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

Angie Brendle
angieb25@gmail.com
(336) 244-8791

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

Compensation and Benefits

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

Minimum Qualifications

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

1

2

DEEP CREEK FRIENDS MEETING
YOUTH MINISTER JOB DESCRIPTION

Overview

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

Application Instructions

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

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

These materials should be submitted via email to jcbrendle0812@email.campbell.edu AND randrmoran@gmail.com. Once materials have been reviewed, you should expect an email response indicating receipt of your materials. If eligible for an interview(s), you should expect a phone call. Appropriate steps will then be taken to schedule a time and place for the interview(s).

Compensation and Benefits

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

Minimum Qualifications

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

DEEP CREEK FRIENDS MEETING
PASTOR JOB DESCRIPTION

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

Preferred Qualifications

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

Basic Responsibilities

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

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

Preferred Qualifications

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

Basic Responsibilities

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

FCNC Internship Newsletter



Take a minute to check out the FCNC Internship Newsletter put together by Terry Linthicum. If you don't already receive this Newsletter regularly, reach out to Terri at: linthicum23@gmail.com. Keep up with the growth within FCNC and the work that Terry is doing to make that growth possible.

THRIVE

2025 IN A GLANCE

Last year was a year full of hope and promise for the future. We enjoyed an intern over the summer that experienced many youth ministry jobs. Cameron Ashley got to visit nursing homes, homes of students in our youth group, and dive into making plans for future Bible Studies.

The summer also brought us one the most successful FCNC Yearly Meetings we've had in several years. We witnessed many young people eager to learn how to take Jesus into the world they live in. I believe some of these will certainly be future pastors and leaders in our churches.

Going into winter break Marlboro Friends had two past externs come back and work on many tasks to get everything ready for youth group meetings in 2024.

I understand the frustration we sometimes face, but what I see is a revival among our young people that has me excited for the future.

INTERNSHIP



PREPARE FOR CHANGE

Understanding the possibilities that are in front of us is the first step to growth in our churches. It's the age old story, if you pray for rain carry around an umbrella. One of the ways you can begin to build an internship/externship program in your church is to add a budget line for future interns/externs. If you don't have one this year carry it over and prepare for when you do have one. Looking to the future and building a foundation for what God may send at any time is simply a wise choice of great faith. As a former high school coach, I never planned to lose a game, but always looked for the victory. A famous coach once told me you can face the world in two ways, every time you're disappointed you look down and give up or lift your head up and keep trying. I believe in what's possible because I follow a God that makes everything possible. Even if it means moving a mountain.

For with God nothing will be impossible.
Luke 1:37

Matamoros Update - Christmas 2025

One of the ongoing Missions that Friends Church of North Carolina supports is a Friends church on the outskirts of Matamoros, Mexico. Many of you have visited and know first-hand the great work that is occurring there. The pastor at Matamoros, Hilda Martinez, along with her husband, Fernando, do great work in the area and are always coming up with new ways to serve the community.

Along with regular services on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights, Hilda and Fernando provide Sunday School and Bible Studies at the Church. Every Saturday they have a regular radio program they use for evangelism. Saturdays are also spent going downtown Matamoros to minister from the streets. Each year they have a vacation bible school that all of the children look forward to. The city has recently let them use a large open municipal building to use for vacation bible school and other activities, bring Christ to many kids for the first time. They also make regular trips to Isla Fantasia, a very impoverished fishing village about an hour south of the church. Members of the Church collect clothing and food items to give to the people on the island. They do not have electricity on the island and can only be reached by boat. Hilda is constantly baking and cooking items that she sells at events and online. They are always looking for new ways to raise money for their outreach.

Wherever Hilda and Fernando go, they always bring big smiles and love to everyone they encounter. Their spirit of giving and service is truly admirable and a joy to be around. They introduce many people to Christ not only with words and sermons but also with their love, caring and generosity. If you ever get the chance to visit Matamoros, you will be blessed.

Each year, FCNC provides the mission with \$500 prior to Christmas to help bring Christmas to the children in the area. Below is a letter from Hilda and Fernando expressing their gratitude. I have used google translate to translate the letter so those of you fluent in Spanish may find errors. Hilda sent me lots of photos capturing many of their different activities. Some of those are attached.

-Scott Carter



To Whom It May Concern

Dear brothers and sisters of the Friends in the USA board, we send our greetings and love.

From Matamoros, Tamaulipas. Wishing that God's blessing and grace may always be upon your lives.

This year we were so blessed by your offerings and donations that the best way to thank and appreciate what you do for us is by working in the Kingdom of God in our assigned place.

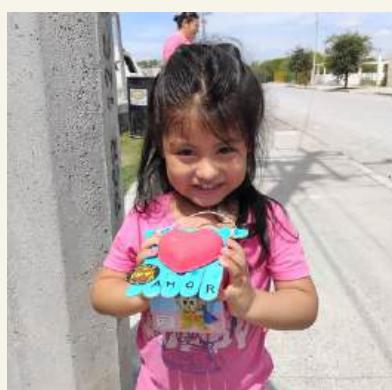
The reason for this letter is to tell you how we used the Christmas offering.

We are also deeply grateful for this offering, because thanks to it, not only our church was blessed, but also many other people in our community.

1. We held an evangelistic program, "A Drama," in a public space that was lent to us by the municipal government. More than 100 children attended, not counting the adults. We bought cylinders and filled them with candy, as well as piñatas and toys for the children. We also brought a snack for after the event: champurrado atole with sweet bread.
2. We received support from Milca's brother and his family to carry out the Christmas program. They are always available to participate (since some members of our church have left the city, and other brothers who support us are recovering from surgery), so as a token of our gratitude, we brought them a gift this year.
3. On one occasion, we went to a hospital in the city and brought coffee, sweet bread, and some Bible tracts. The people were very receptive to the message.
4. On December 25th, we went to a rehabilitation center near the church. We brought sweet bread for the residents, introduced ourselves, and although they are not Christians, they welcomed us warmly.
5. We are evangelizing weekly at a sports complex near the church. Every Wednesday, we hold a service and offer bread and coffee. The problem we've encountered is the faulty electrical installation, as we can't use it (it previously damaged one of our speakers). We recommend purchasing a rechargeable speaker so we can continue preaching.
6. We were also able to bless some brothers and sisters who will be going on a mission trip to the Huasteca Potosina region (San Luis Potosi) this week, using the remaining candy and gifts from the event. They were praying because they hadn't collected anything for the children, and God led me to them. I know it will bless many children.
7. Finally, we will use the rest of the offering to buy paint and donate a can to the place where we are allowed to preach (the sports complex near the church) and also to paint the church facilities.

That's all for now. Warm regards from the local church, and we thank you again for your prayers, financial support, and love, which we can feel even from a distance. We pray that God will bless your lives and wish you a Happy New Year 2026.

With love, Hilda and Fernando





Friends World Committee for Consultation

Friends World News online

Connecting Friends

Crossing Cultures

Changing Lives

... through Faith

Clare Scott Booth (FWCC's next clerk), the late Simon C. Lamb (our former clerk) and Prof. Esther Mombo (our previous interim clerk) at the 2024 World Plenary Meeting



FWCC 2026 Letter to Meetings

Dear Friends

When Jesus' birth was announced it was with news of peace.

Jesus began his ministry by talking about peace, and said goodbye to his disciples by leaving them with peace.

The first word of the risen Christ was peace. Paul began many of his letters by speaking of peace.

And yet, the world does not reflect peace. Even as many of us were reading and singing of peace on earth this year, warlike acts were being planned. But Jesus does not give as the world gives. Instead he advises "do not be afraid".

Our work for peace on earth and our experience of Christ's peace are not separate. And yet finding peace in ourselves joined to peace in the world is the vocation of a lifetime. It wasn't easy in Jesus' time and it isn't easy in ours.

As a step on this journey, the CEC has agreed the next World Plenary Meeting will be themed 'Blessed are the Peacemakers', with a target date of 2030, to mark 2000 years since the start of Jesus' Ministry. We are looking for invitations to host.*

In preparation we are planning quarterly global meetings for worship online (subscribe to Friends World News for updates) and a big online gathering for World Quaker Day (4 October 2026).

Another date for your diary is 29 September 2027 when we plan a global online conference to share our efforts in addressing historic and continuing injustice. Some queries will follow soon.**

Within Friends World Committee for Consultation please join me in gratitude for Esther Mombo who has completed her year as Interim Clerk, and will now begin as Vice Chancellor of St Paul's University in Kenya, while continuing as Assistant Clerk.

We also feel grateful for Simon Lamb who served previously, especially around the anniversary of his passing this first month of the year.

Please also join me in welcoming our new clerk, Clare Scott-Booth. She was an elder at our most recent World Plenary Meeting, and brings with her immense experience from her career in leading charities that provide housing for people in need.

Finally, please don't forget to send the dates and epistles of your Yearly Meetings (or other annual gatherings) to comms@fwcc.world so that we can include them on our website and in our monthly Friends World News e-newsletter, which you can subscribe to here. Sign up for news of all of this from the FWCC homepage.

When Hebrew speakers - then and now - greet one another, they do so by saying shalom; peace. The word in Arabic (Salaam) is very similar.

Shalom is much more than a lack of fighting. It refers to wholeness and harmony, within ourselves and within our communities and the world.

So, this New Year I pray our hearts will know shalom and our feet - as well as those of others - will be guided in the path of peace.

In Friendship,

Tim Gee
General Secretary
Friends World Committee for Consultation (World Office)

FUM UPDATE

Belize Newsletters will be
Organized Differently

This year Friends United Meeting is relaunching its newsletters from the field. In past years, we have relied on field staff newsletters to keep folks informed on what is going on in various places in the FUM world. Most recently, if you were interested in Belize-specific information, you could subscribe to Oscar Mmbali's newsletter. If you were interested in happenings in Africa, you could subscribe to the McConaughey's newsletter, or Robert Wafula's newsletter if you were interested in Friends Theological College, and Rania Maayeh's newsletter to learn about Ramallah Friends School. But in Belize, as in many other places in FUM, we no longer have field staff. Those responsibilities are being cared for by local leadership. In Belize there is no longer a single leader, but a leadership team!



FUM in Belize

January 2026

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more!

Meet our Missions Belize Friends School



Historically, FUM's work in Belize focused primarily on providing a second-chance education option for urban at-risk youth on the verge of failing within their school system. Founded by Sadie Vernon in 1994, the Belize Friends School gives boys and girls the encouragement, tools and instruction needed to succeed, all within a loving, Christian environment. Now under the leadership of Belizean educators, the school continues to impact the lives of students and their families.

[Click HERE to learn more!](#)

Excerpts from: Some Fruits of **SOLITUDE**

Proverbs, Wisdom & Principles for Better Living

By: William Penn



Quotes on "Religion":

498- "And He that lives to live ever, never fears dying."

499- "Nor can the means be terrible to him that heartily believes the end."

500- "For tho death be a dark passage, it leads to immortality, and that's recompense enough for suffering of it."

501- "And yet Faith Lights us, even through the grave, being the evidence of things not seen.

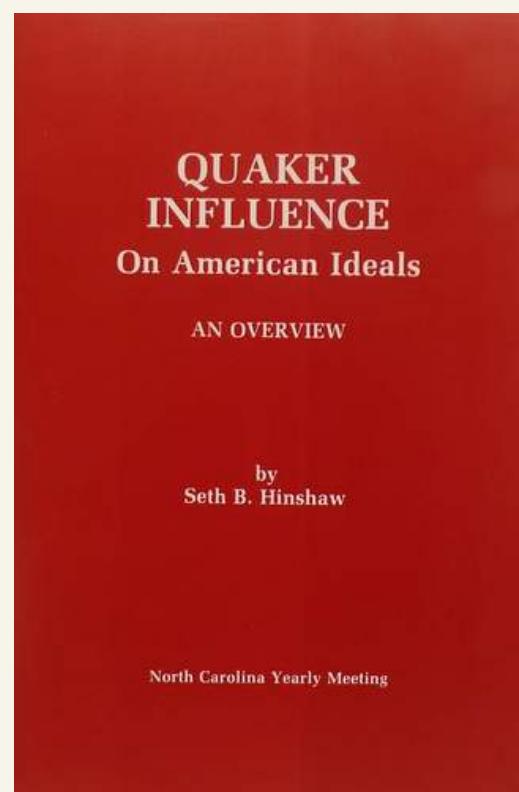
502- "And this is the comfort of the "good" (faithful), that the grave cannot hold them and that they live as soon as they die."

FCNC BOOKSTORE HIGHLIGHTS

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

Quaker Influence
on American Ideals
By: Seth B. Hinshaw
[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE](#)

Hinshaw details how some Quaker ideals influenced America. Ideals such as education, peace and goodwill as well as equality and justice for the oppressed.





Quaker Query



...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...

Does thee cherish a forgiving spirit, and strive to "walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us"? Is thee careful for the reputation of others, more concerned in fact for others' reputations than thy own? Does thee avoid detraction and gossip? Is thee ever mindful to love thy neighbor as thyself? If thee finds thyself at odds with another that threatens to disrupt thy peace, does thee act to repair the breach promptly and lovingly, as Christ commands?

[-Ohio Yearly Meeting Query Page](#)



Social Media

Comm-Tech Committee Statement

Hello from your FCNC Comm-Tech Committee!

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

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

There are 3 great ways to do that:

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

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

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

That's where YOU come in!

Pastors, announce to your congregations on Sundays.

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

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

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

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



Prayer CORNER

How can we pray for you?

Prayer:

Please keep Billy Hedrick in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. He was diagnosed with spinal meningitis and is currently receiving treatment at Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro. We ask for prayers for healing, comfort, and strength for Billy, as well as peace and reassurance for his family and loved ones.

UPDATE:

Billy Hedrick continues to make encouraging progress in his recovery. He is now able to sit up in a chair and has even walked a short distance with assistance from physical therapy. While he still has work ahead of him, his condition is improving, and he is hopeful to be released soon to continue his recovery at home. Please continue to keep Billy and his loved ones in your thoughts and prayers.

Praise:

We serve a God who is not only a promise maker, but also a promise keeper ([Numbers 23:19](#) and [Romans 8:28](#)). He promises to work all things together for our good. There is no greater hope than in a promise fulfiller who has conquered death.



January RECAP

Lots and Lots of snow & ice

January was filled with cold wind, ice and even a good deal of snow! Many roads were unsafe to travel and many meetings, outings and gatherings in general were canceled or postponed. Therefore, there are no local Meeting updates. Hopefully we will have better weather in February and get back to our regular schedules with safe travels.