

Carolina Woman

December 2019, January, February 2020

A publication of North Carolina United Society of Friends Women

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In this issue:

Officers' Reports, Birthdays of Workers and their families, "Greensheet" projects, Advocate Subscription form
In 2020: Ladies Retreat March 7 and NC USFW Spring Conference at Quaker Lake May 16.
New 2020 check transmittal form for your treasurer

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Janet Robbins

"Although I have been on the NC USFW Board for 11 years, this is the first article I have written for the Carolina Woman. As the Treasurer, I prepared the financial reports; then as Secretary and Vice President, I prepared minutes and gathered the information for the handbook. I have been praying about my first article as I have reflected on the new theme: **"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."** Ephesians 4:3.

Until choir practice tonight I didn't have a clear idea of what to say. As we began to sing the song, "Blessings" by Laura Story, I felt that I should share some of the words of the song. They are also good words to ponder as we approach the New Year. If you know this song, you can sing along as I write:

"We pray for blessings,

We pray for peace, comfort for family, protection while we sleep.

We pray for blessings, for prosperity-

We pray for your mighty hand to ease our suffering.

And all the while, You hear each spoken need; yet love us way too much to give us lesser things.

Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops?

What if Your healing comes through tears?

What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near?

What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise?"

Our USFW Ladies Circles are true blessings! A circle in itself is unending and therefore a symbol of unity. We are united to serve, spread love and show peace in our community and in our world. We are united and blessed through trials in life and God's mercy during these times is often a gift we don't immediately recognize. Only God knows the big picture and we have to put our trust in Him. This song also reminds us to count our blessings and know that every spiritual blessing we have is in Christ.

As we begin the holiday season and prepare for 2020, let us pray for blessings for our NC USFW and USFWI. Please put these dates on your calendar: **Ladies Retreat and Weekend of Wellness – March 7th**

(It's coming back! Celebrate the 70th birthday of Quaker Lake and

join us all day event at Quaker Lake with food, classes, fun, and fellowship. March 7th, 2020 Ladies Retreat)

PEACE AND CHRISTIAN SOCIAL CONCERNS

Linda Kersey

I want to begin my article by calling your attention to our verse, Mark 5:9 “*Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God*”.

I want to concentrate on FEMAP (Friends Emergency Material Assistance Program) which is located across from High Point Friends Meeting. This organization is an arm of our churches to bring peace to needy folks around us and in the larger world. I believe a real peacemaker is concerned about these needs in our communities and in our churches. I believe a real peacemaker joins other peacemakers to multiply the fruits of their labors. FEMAP gives us this opportunity to meet with other peacemakers while we are sharing ways to meet needs of less fortunate folk. This strengthens us and allows us to strengthen others and bring peace and comfort to vulnerable people.

I want all of us to be aware of the Wednesday meetings at FEMAP from 10:00-2:00. There will be others at these meetings who will strengthen your faith and allow you to help in a tangible way to bring peace where it is needed. Judy Craven from Christian Service diligently reports different ways FEMAP is used to encourage us to work together as Friends and to look beyond our differences to meet common goals. Whenever you have a chance join this group on Wednesdays and enjoy their fellowship as you work.

Now I want to mention Marian Baker whom I love to follow in the Advocate as she ministers to Friends who need strengthening. Her last sojourn was to Trois Riviera, Quebec, Canada ...”to meet with the women of three Friends Churches there. The women speak Swahili since most are immigrants from the Congo in Africa. Judith Nandikove of Nairobi YM USFW-K was also with Marian and could translate. Judith wants to help the women grow and build a USFW group. This summer Marian, Judith and others from the Northeast went to hold a conference at one of the meetings. Marian reported that over 30 women gathered...and had lots of singing in a variety of languages—English, Swahili, Spanish, Rwandese, and shared their joy of Christ and joy of sharing together...Marian shared about USFWI and what it offers to women and how women from different parts of the world have found it helpful.”

Like FEMAP, USFWI is a means for women to worship together and allow their common goals to bring strength and peace to themselves. Therefore, they spread peace and concerns with their greater community.

Jan McVay also has an article in the September-October 2019 ADVOCATE entitled the Quaker Institute of Peace. She writes “The goal of the Cuban Quaker Institute of Peace is to contribute...to a culture of peace within Latin America...The two principle objectives are to train community leaders ...and to help strengthen Quaker peacebuilding and service through an understanding of Quaker history, theology and testimonies...also this program is designed to develop skills for understanding causes of conflict and developing practical tools for resolving conflicts in their communities.”

I applaud the efforts of the Cuban Friends. Their beloved country has suffered much from conflicts and the Cuban Friends are addressing this need. Whereas, FEMAP and USFWI seek to bring peace through tangible ways of meeting needs, the Cuban Friends have a goal of learning peacemaking skills through study of Quaker history and Theology.

Our Wonderful America is suffering the greatest division since the Civil War and this is a great opportunity to spread peace. Also, our Quaker Churches are suffering a great division at this time and it behooves us to be diligent in our efforts to spread peace. There is no greater need in our troubled world than “spreading peace”. Let’s use our gifts to do just that.

Read the [Advocate](#) and [The Carolina Woman](#) and you will find ways to spread peace.

Your Puzzler this time is from these two sources. #1. From The Advocate Sept-Oct 2019, tell me what the subject of Darla Anderson's article is.

#2. From The Carolina Woman, Sept-Nov. 2019, use Judy Craven's article to tell me where you will find information to help FEMAP.

Sent your answers to linx5432@gmail.com. The first five correct answers will receive from me a \$20.00 gift certificate to your favorite restaurant and a subscription to the Advocate.

SEEK PEACE FOR YOURSELVES AND SPREAD IT ABROAD.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION

Denise E. Barnes

The Season of Giving

"A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great." - Proverbs 18:16 (NIV)

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." - Acts 20:35

During this Christmas season, we all get caught up in the commercialism and activities that seem to never end. We want to buy just the right gifts for everyone on our lists and children make their own lists as well. It's important for all of us to remember the birth of Jesus, the Greatest Gift of all! As adults and leaders of our meetings, we need to teach children that it's okay to receive things: birthday presents, Christmas gifts, awards, etc., and to show their thankfulness for receiving these gifts. On the other hand, we also need to explain to them how important it is to give, without any regret or compulsion. *"God loves a cheerful giver"*. (2 Corinthians 9:7). When we give during the Holiday season, or any time of year, we give to those we love and we give to those who are in need. However, sometimes all the excitement about getting or giving presents can make us forget about the real meaning of Christmas. The act of giving gifts to one another is symbolic of God's greatest gift to us: Jesus! Just as the Wise Men brought gifts to celebrate the Birth of Our Savior, we bring gifts to our loved ones. It is important as parents, teachers and leaders of our meetings, that we model this for our children, as well as talk to them about this act of giving and what it means. We all get excited during the Christmas Season. Let's remember to be thankful for what we get and what we are able to give, but to never let presents become so important that we forget about Jesus. That is what Christmas is all about!

"Give and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full - pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap." - Luke 6:38

BIRTHDAYS OF WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

December 5 Gillian Moody

December 13 Sylvia Graves

December 14 Getry Agizah

December 27 Kaitlyn Wilkinson

January 15 Muna Khleifi (Play Center director)

January 27 Catherine (Kate) Gunza

North Carolina United Society of Friends Women 2020 Greensheet Projects

- Jan** ****Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship Scholarship Fund**
****FTC Scholarship Fund**
- Feb** ***Peace & Christian Social Concerns USFWI**
1-Cuba: Quaker Institute of Peace
2-Right Sharing of World Resources: Samson Ababu Support
3-East Africa: Friends Church Peace Team: Getry Agizah Support
4-Belize: Director of Friends Center
**** FEMAP (Friends Emergency Material Assistance)**
- Mar** ***Four Funds USFWI**
1-Love Fund: Belize – Oscar Siema Mmbali
2-Faith Fund: Kenya- Robert Wafula
3-Hope Fund: Ramallah-Adrian Moody
4- Joy Fund: Kenya-Katrina & Shawn McConaughey
- Apr** ***Christian Service USFWI**
1-N. America: Mesquakie Friends Center
2-N. America: MOWA Choctaw Friends Center
3-N. America: Kickapoo Friends Center
4-Kenya: Lugulu Hospital Adopt-a-Bed
- May** ****Friends Homes Quaker Assistance Fund**
****Spring Conference Offering – Quaker Lake**
- June** ****Matamoros Mexico Missions**
****NCUSFW Projects**
- July** ***Children & Youth USFWI**
1-Ramallah: Amari Play Center
2-Kenya: Turkana/Samburu Girls' Secondary Education
3-Belize: Feeding Program
4. Ramallah: Eli & Sybil Jones Scholarship Fund
- Aug** ****Annual Gathering Offering**
1-Friends Center: Guilford College
2-Campus Ministry
- Sept** ***Membership Apportionment**
\$5.00 per active member
**** NCUSFW Scholarship Fund**
- Oct** ***Keys to the Kingdom USFWI**
1- Belize: Student Services
2- Triennial Travel Assistance (USFW YM Clerks)
3- The *Advocate* subsidy
4- Adult Education in Belize
- Nov** ***United Thank Offering USFWI**
1-Jamaica: Pastoral Care
2-Kenya – Turkana/Samburu Missions
3-Kenya - Turkana/Samburu Pastors (32 Pastors)
4-Kenya – Friends Theological College Extension Program
- Dec** ****MOWA Choctaw**
****Friends Disaster Service** **USFWI Projects **NC USFW Projects*

NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY OF FRIENDS WOMEN TREASURER'S REPORT*Jean Christy, Treasurer*

January	Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship Scholarship Fund	\$1,615.25
	Interest Earned Mollie Cooper Fund CD (Jan-Dec)	\$21.07
	Interest Earned EAC Fellowship Scholarship Fund	\$1.42
	FTC Scholarship Fund	\$1,090.25
	Interest Earned FTC Scholarship Fund	\$1.42
February	Peace and Social Concerns USFWI 2019	
	1-Cuba: Quaker Institute of Peace	\$555.52
	2-Right Sharing of World Resources: Samson Ababu Support	\$655.52
	3-East Africa Friends Church Peace Team: Getry Agizah	\$681.80
	4- Belize: Director of Friends Center	\$525.16
	FEMAP-Friends Emergency Materials Assistance Program	\$1,097.00
March	Four Funds USFWI 2019	
	1-Love Fund: Belize: Oscar Siema Mmbali	\$1,232.50
	2-Faith Fund: Kenya: Robert Wafula	\$1,372.50
	3-Hope Fund: Ramallah: Adrian Moody	\$1,232.50
	4-Joy Fund: Kenya: Katrina & Shawn McConaughey	\$1,132.50
April	Christian Service USFWI 2019	
	1- North America: Mesquakie Friends Center	\$1,025.20
	2- North America: MOWA Choctaw Friends Center	\$1,010.20
	3- North America: Kickapoo Friends Center	\$1,010.20
	4- Kenya: Lugulu Adopt-a-Bed	\$1,249.40
May	Friends Homes Quaker Assistance Fund	\$1,200.00
	Spring Conference Offering - Quaker Lake	\$2,564.00
June	NC USFW Projects	\$1,280.00
	Matamoros, Mexico Missions	\$915.00
July	Children & Youth USFWI 2019	
	1- Ramallah: Amari Play Center Feeding Program	\$1,048.60
	2- Kenya: Turkana/Samburu Girl's Secondary Education	\$1,318.60
	3- Belize: Friends School Feeding Program	\$1,218.60
	4- Ramallah: Eli & Sybil Jones Scholarship Fund	\$1,089.20
August	Annual Gathering Offering:	
	1- Friends Center: Guilford College	\$1,178.00
	2- Friends Campus Ministry -NCFC	\$927.00
September	80% Membership Apportionment to USFWI	\$544.00
	20% Membership Apportionment to Scholarship Fund	\$136.00

	NCUSFW Scholarship Fund	\$425.00
October	Keys to the Kingdom USFWI 2019	\$65.00
	1- Belize: Friends School Student Services	
	2- Triennial Travel Assistance (USFW YM Clerks)	
	3- <i>The Advocate</i> subsidy	
	4- Belize: Adult Education	
November	United Thank Offering USFWI 2019	\$60.00
	1-Jamaica: Pastoral Care	
	2-Kenya: Turkana.Samburu Missions	
	3-Kenya: Turkana/Samburu Pastors (32 pastors)	
	4-Kenya: Friends Theological College Extension Program	
December	MOWA Choctaw-NCYM	\$732.50
	Friends Disaster Service-NCYM	\$1,082.50
Other Contributions		
	Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship (50% USFWI, 50% Scholarship)	\$175.00
	Friends Theological College	\$405.00
	Robert Wafula	\$180.00
	Adopt-a-Nurse	\$150.00
		\$32,203.41

Thank you for the past seven years of support. We are fortunate to have good funds to contribute to our many missions. ***Thank you for your continued support of Alicia Sharp, who will be taking my place beginning in January, 2020.*** She will do her best to keep you informed of our financial situation and continue to pay out those funds that you contribute. USFWI has requested that I make our last contribution to them by December 20th so that she may close out her books for the year. That means that you will need to have your checks to me no later than December 16th.

Happy Holidays to each of you and your families. Jean Christy, Treasurer

Note: For those NCUSFW circles receiving the Carolina Woman as an email attachment, you need to also print the second attachment to the email. It is the new form that NC USFW treasurers need to send with their payments (whenever a payment is sent). This will help funds to be credited to the desired project. Continue to mark on your check, but also send this form with your contribution.

Before December 15, 2019, send checks to Jean Christy, 2549 Cottage Place Greensboro, NC 27455

After December 15: send checks to Alicia Sharp 6H Fraternity Drive Greensboro, NC 27407

Thank you.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Judy Craven

Oscar Mmbali, pastoral minister at Belize City Friends Center writes in The Advocate (Sept.-Oct., 2019) the following about “The Puzzle of the Missing Person”...

The story in John 5:1-8 is an image of a healing puzzle. In this puzzle, the Jewish community set apart a place in the city, near the pool of Bethesda. It was a place where the paralyzed, blind and the lame were taken to seek healing. For the healing to occur, it required someone else to put the sick person into the pool, just at the time when the water bubbled up. One sick person laid there for 38 years because the person to put him into the pool was missing. It is a story of delayed healing because of the missing person... In this story, Jesus took the place of the missing person. He addressed the problem of delayed healing. He completed the healing puzzle.

Much of our Christian service work in NCUSFW is directed to helping children in need. We are learning that schools have many children who could benefit from access to hygiene items like soap, toothpaste and shampoo. Contacts have been made with counselors in several schools in the piedmont area. They are glad to receive our hygiene kits, as well as underwear and gently used pants for younger children. An Alamance County school was given hygiene items collected by Rocky River Friends Meeting as part of their VBS project this summer. One school plans to include hygiene kits for select students in their annual Christmas gift project. Many children, for whatever reason, do not have adequate care given to them in their homes. Who can assist these children? Can we be the missing persons to complete their healing puzzles?

FEMAP greatly appreciates all donations made to provide the school, hygiene, infant and farm worker kits assembled at the Allen Jay House in High Point. Springfield Friends Meeting allows them use of this building at no charge; however, monetary donations are needed to cover monthly utility bills, fuel oil in winter and purchase of kit items needed to complete the number of kits requested. Current needs are for knitted or crocheted caps and scarves, Tylenol, foot powder and Band-Aids.

Thank you for all you do to serve your neighbors near and far. May you have a very blessed Christmas season and New Year.

LITERATURE

Sarah Cox

And Just Like That ... It is 2020

As we look forward to a new year for our USFW, I look forward to serving as your new secretary of Literature and Reading.

I just want to tell you a little bit about myself. My husband, Ricky, and I are members of Bethel Friends Meeting. We have three grown sons, who like their dad, graduated from Wake Forest. That makes us a real Wake Forest family! I am retired from 30 years of teaching kindergarten at Lindley Park. Being a retired teacher, you know how I feel about books!

As we end 2019 and enter this new year of 2020, I encourage you to, first, read your Bible and second, to read some of the wonderful books we have to offer. We still have selections from this year's reading list that are available for purchase. They would make wonderful Christmas gifts!!

I hope each of you have a Christ filled Christmas and blessed New Year!

STEWARDSHIP

Linda Anderson

I recently had a conversation with a gentleman who was lamenting the fact that we live in a very wasteful society, and how we have become a “throw-away” generation. We talked about some scripture verses that speak of how we are to responsibly manage the resources God has given us. I have listed here a few of my favorites:

- **Psalm 24:1:** The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.
- **James 1:17:** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.
- **Proverbs 21:20:** There is desirable treasure, and oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man squanders it.
- **Proverbs 3:9:** Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase.
- **Chronicles 29:12:** Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

Certainly there are a number of other great verses about stewardship in the Bible; these are a reminder to us that God owns everything, and we are to wisely manage any resource that finds its way under our control. We should use everything we have to point other souls to Christ and to advance the Kingdom of God. This is faithful stewardship.

I found the following story on www.inspirationarchive.com. The author's name was not listed, but it is definitely “food for thought”. It is a lesson in conservation, especially for those of us sixty and over. I hope you will find it amusing:

The Green Thing

In the line at the store, the cashier told an older woman that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologized to him and explained, “We didn't have the green thing back in my day.” The clerk responded, “That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment.” He was right — our generation didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. But she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts — wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that old lady is right; we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house — not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us.

When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used a wadded up old newspaper to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right; we didn't have the green thing back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we

replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But isn't it sad how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the green thing back then?

SCHOLARSHIP

Lee Van Hughes

NC USFW members: please remember to reward your members with the Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship Membership.

The Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship Scholarship application applications may be received beginning January 1, 2020. All candidates must be participating members of a Friends meeting that is an ACTIVE member of NC USFW.

New applicants must fill out an application, write a brief personal information LETTER, and send three reference forms. Continuing recipients need to send only the ONE page application form AND a college transcript. Scholarships are awarded for a maximum of four (4) years. ALL forms are online, to be printed out by the applicant and mailed to the address below.

Any of the forms maybe folded and sent by regular mail. ALL forms must be postmarked ON OR BEFORE March 15, 2020.

Mail first class to: Mrs. Lee Van Hughes 1470 Pinefield Drive Sophia, NC 27350.

NOTE FROM NC USFW HISTORIAN

Adis Beeson

MEMORIALS

As a way to remember those who have passed on, we take time at our Spring Conference each year to thank God for their service and faithfulness. We also remember those members who have left the Yearly Meeting but were members prior to the separation, as well as the members who may have left their meeting due to retirement or relocation in their last years.

Please list names below of members who pass away this year. Names may be sent to Adis Beeson at any time during the year; Memorials are read at the NCUSFW Spring Conference.

Year _____ Meeting: _____

Name(s) _____

Mail or email Adis Beeson, Historian - 4305 Beeson Farm Road, Sophia, NC 27350

abee123@northstate.net.

Copy this form as needed, thank you

ELIZA ARMSTRONG COX LIFETIME FELLOWSHIP MEMBER.

The Eliza Armstrong Cox Lifetime Fellowship membership is an honor and recognition for service and dedication to the meeting and NCUSFW. Circles will submit \$25 per nomination. (\$12.50 goes to USFWI and \$12.50 goes to the Eliza Armstrong Cox Scholarship Fund). A certificate signed by the USFWI President as well as the NC USFW President is sent to the Circle who submits the name(s) for recognition. Nominations can be made at any time of the year but members are recognized at the Annual Gathering in the fall each year.

Member(s) to be recognized:

Meeting : _____

Name and Address of person to receive Certificate(s): _____

Date: _____

Enclose \$25.00 **per nominee** payable to NCUSFW and send to the NCUSFW Treasurer with your check. Add \$7.00 if a pin is also requested. Thank you for your support of the Eliza Armstrong Cox Scholarship Fund.

Copy this form as needed, thank you

The Advocate Subscription Form

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202 Community Bldg Rd.
Belvidere, NC 27919-9666