

AUGUST 2023 | ISSUE NO.22

# *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](mailto:jenny@friendschurchnc.org)



## Quotes by Quakers

“

"FORCE MAY SUBDUE, BUT LOVE  
GAINS: AND HE THAT FORGIVES  
FIRST, WINS "

-WILLIAM PENN 1644-1718

”

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A Word of Devotion:

"TEND THE  
GARDEN OF  
YOUR HEART"

By: ANN SKALASKI

"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for  
from it flow the springs of life"  
Prov. 4:23

Growing up in Florida, I never experienced four distinct seasons. When I migrated north in my late thirties, I quickly realized I did not care for snow, but I was captivated by the daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths that seemed to burst from the ground just as the snow melted. It still fascinates me that, after months of being dormant under the frozen ground, the warmer temperatures cause these bulbs to bloom. Of course, we also know that as the days grow warmer, unwelcome weeds begin to sprout.

It's nature's reminder that whatever is buried under the ground comes back in due season.

I have seen this same principle play out in my heart. Whatever I bury there springs forth when things heat up. This includes hurts, fears, ungratefulness, bitterness, and distorted views of myself or of God. If I allow these things to linger in my heart, they produce weeds. These weeds can erupt as unkind words in the heat of the moment. Or they can gradually fill my heart, choking out my joy and the good things God wants to produce in me.



God's Word warns us, "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life" (Prov. 4:23 ESV).

Often, God uses the world he created to teach us how to follow him. In this case, the principles of tending a garden offer a vivid picture of vigilantly keeping our hearts. Seasoned gardeners know that they need to prepare the soil, plant good seed, nourish their garden and pull unwelcome weeds. Let's look at how this can apply to our hearts.

We cannot plant in hard soil; therefore, we must not allow our hearts to become hardened. Tilling the soil is arduous labor, and so is keeping our hearts soft. God gives his children a new, soft heart (Ez. 36:26 ESV), but we must work at keeping it soft. In Mark 8, just after Jesus miraculously fed four thousand with just seven loaves of bread, the disciples embarked on a boat trip, then realized they hadn't brought enough bread for the journey. "And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened?" (Mark 8:17 ESV, emphasis mine).

When we fail to recognize and believe that Jesus provides what we need, our hearts risk becoming hardened. This can look like envy, discontent, fear or anxiety—all indicators that we lack faith in a good God who provides for his children. Trusting God and practicing gratitude keeps the soil of our heart well-tilled. We know the fruit that God desires to grow in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (see Gal. 5:22-23). The Holy Spirit, promised to all who place their trust in Jesus Ephesians 1:12-14, plants these seeds in our heart. They are gifts for us to cultivate.

We also plant seeds in our hearts. The thoughts we entertain and the content we consume deposits seeds, for better or for worse. Philippians 4:8 encourages us to plant good seeds: “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things” (ESV). These thoughts plant good seeds, maybe even bulbs, producing captivating blooms that radiate God’s glory.

Tap [HERE](#) to read more



## Upcoming Events:

**July 24- August 4, 2023**

Jamaica VBS

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

**August 11-12, 2023**

Annual Sessions at  
QLC

**Young Friends at  
Annual Sessions:**

[CLICK HERE](#)

for more information  
and to register

**August 19th, 2023**

USFW Fall Annual Meeting  
at Cedar Square  
(registration below)

**August 30th, 2023**

USFW Art contest drawing  
deadline  
(see flyer below)

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



**\*\*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

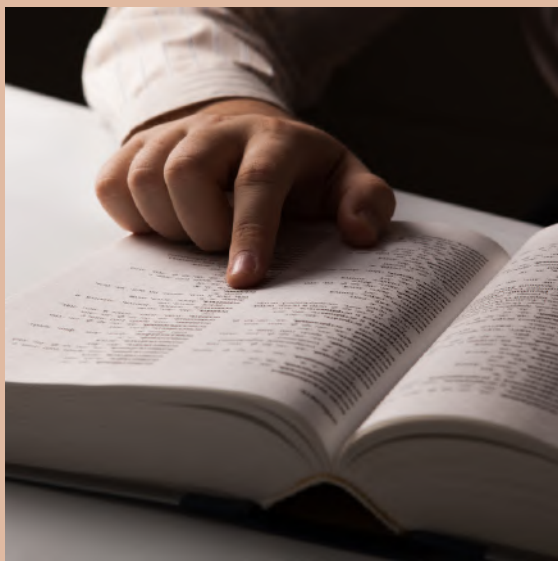
continued on next page

# Announcements:



REMINDER

## 2022 Directory *still available!*



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

Access to the directory will require a password.

Click the link provided to head over to the website and enter the password to view, download or print.

Password: **Directory2021!**

[Log in HERE](#)

### *In Search of a Pastor & Youth Pastor for Centre Friends*



WE RECEIVED AN E-MAIL ANNOUNCING THAT **CENTRE FRIENDS** IS LOOKING FOR A FULL TIME PASTOR AND YOUTH PASTOR. BELOW IS A LINK TO THE JOB DESCRIPTIONS THAT WILL GIVE INTERESTED APPLICANTS A GOOD IDEA OF WHAT CENTRE IS LOOKING FOR. PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER THIS AND REACH OUT TO THOSE THAT MAY QUALIFY, IF THE LORD SHOULD SO LEAD.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO VISIT FCNC WEBSITE TO READ THE FULL JOB DESCRIPTION.

# FCNC 6th Annual Sessions

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

**Guest Speaker:**

**Jay Marshall**

**Dean Emeritus of Earlham  
School of Religion**

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

Ephesians 2:10

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

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

\*Visit FCNC website :

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



## Tentative Schedule

### Friday

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

### Saturday (Breakfast on your own)

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

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

## Offering

**Friday-** Quaker Lake Camp

**Saturday-** FUM Sustainability



To register online  
[CLICK HERE](#)

# *Youth Leader Position Opening*



**Concord Friends Meeting has an opening  
for a part time youth leader. [TAP HERE](#)  
to see more information on this position  
and to apply**



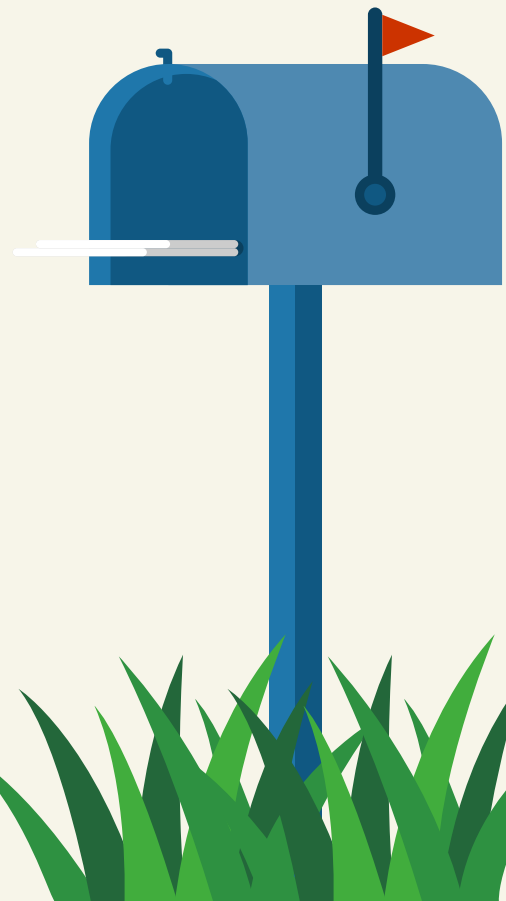
*New*  
**ADDRESS**



FCNC has a new mailing address!

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

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





# NC USFW Annual Gathering Registration

**Saturday, August 19, 2023**

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



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

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

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

**9:00 – 10:00 am Registration and Bookstore with light refreshments**  
**10:00 am – 12 noon Welcome, Music, Business and Program**  
**12:00 noon Luncheon – catered lunch @\$12.00 each**

*If you have questions* please contact :

DeLois Russell at [Deerussell@northstate.net](mailto:Deerussell@northstate.net) or

Donnivee Perry at [donniveeperry@gmail.com](mailto:donniveeperry@gmail.com) Phone (336)-689-0040

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**NC USFW Annual Gathering at Cedar Square Friends**  
**Please clip and send by August 9, 2023**

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Meeting** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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



# USFWI ART CONTEST

## "GOD STILL SPEAKS"



### Contest Rules:

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

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

### One Grand Prize:

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

### Prizes for each age group:

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

**ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 30, 2023**

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





## **FTC Board of Management celebrates at the blessing and dedication of the college's new 16-passenger van.**

Friends Theological College in Kaimosi is thrilled to unveil a new college van, made possible with the generous support of Friends United Meeting.

These wheels-on-wheels will greatly assist students in empowering pastoral ministries, fostering connection and outreach to communities far and wide. We are most grateful for the unity and friendship that made this possible. Join us in celebrating this milestone as we embark on new journeys of knowledge and service!







# Remembering EDEN GRACE in Turkana

The FUM global community is grieving the passing of Eden Grace. Her legacy continues to make a transformative difference in lives and places where she served. This is especially true in Turkana. She was instrumental in starting the Girl Child Education program, supporting the training of pastors, assisting in the development of the board, and raising funds for the mission. Eden was always proud of her Turkana name, Mama Ekile, meaning “mother to the healthy boy.”

On 11 July, the Turkana Friends Mission will host their Jubilee Celebration, celebrating 50 years of ministry. Friends who want to honor Eden’s service in Turkana are invited to give to Friends United Meeting in support of Turkana Friends Mission. Tap [HERE](#) to read comments from John Muhanji



# QUAKERS IN HISTORY

"A Quaker Countenance"

By: HENRY B. WILLIAMS

PHILADELPHIA, JANUARY 15, 1965

"As a good Quaker, I cannot countenance that!" How many times have we heard this statement? It summons up the picture of a stern, pious individual, so thoroughly a part of the Society of Friends that he knows all the traditions, witnesses, and rules and would suffer untold agonies rather than violate the least part of them. He is willing to go against the mores of society, to risk the disdain-even the wrath- of his fellows, to cling severely to the uses of his faith. It is a courageous picture, even if it is not a sympathetic one. Such a Friend is strong for the Faith; he is unyielding and quite satisfied. There is much to admire in this man.

He is halfway on the road to heaven.

The one thing he lacks, however, is perhaps the most important part. One of the names by which seventeenth- century Quakers were known was "The Seekers." The absence of form in their meetings for worship was based on the central theme of "waiting" on the Lord. Almost more than any other group of their time, they understood that the ways of God are unsearchable; that His ways are ways of paradox; that the least will be the greatest in the Kingdom; that the first will be last and the last first.



They knew that God had passed over several of the sons of Jacob to grant His blessing to Judah. God's high priest Eli, who sat in the temple daily, was not to hear God, but the child Samuel did. Amos, the shepherd of Tekoa, tending his flocks, heard the voice of the Almighty and understood it, while the high priest at Bethel, concerned with the rules of sacrifice, was not listening. The Pharisee in the temple, sure in his faith, thanked God that he was not as other men; he kept the rules.

Perhaps it is too harsh to compare with the Pharisee the Quaker who rules his life solely by traditions. He may not mean it with the firmness of the Pharisee, but he is glad to find something definite and righteous to hold on to. This is good, but it is still only half the journey. The rich young ruler, protesting that he had kept all the great precepts "from his youth up," was told to sell all he had and distribute to the poor.

To read the rest of this article and more of the  
Friends Journal from 1965

[TAP HERE](#)

## FRIENDS JOURNAL



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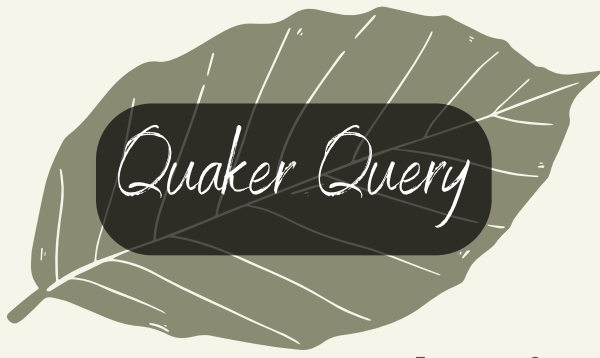
## Thoughts from Turtle Bay

QUAKER UNITED NATIONS PROGRAM

### Steps Without Music

THE classic question as to how many angels can stand on the head of a pin may be an abstraction, but in the closing days of 1964 a very real problem to Alex Quaison-Sackey, President of the 19th General Assembly, was how much of the world's central political business he could balance on the head of a gavel. No one could have handled this highly sophisticated challenge with greater diplomatic skill or parliamentary poise than did this distinguished citizen of Ghana.

The Assembly had hoped to recess before Christmas. Its voting procedure was stymied by the deadlock over past peace-keeping assessments. But before the year's end three matters were to be decided: the filling of four vacancies on the Security Council; temporary expenditure authorizations; and the establishment of the organizational machinery to carry on the work of the Conference on Trade and Development. It was now two days before New Year's. The plenary meeting called for three o'clock had been put off till six. It was seven-fifty, and



...for August



## 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 I live in thankful awareness of God's constant presence in my life?**

**-Do we share our spiritual lives with others in the Meeting, seeking to know one another in that which is eternal?**

## 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](mailto:jenny@friendschurchnc.org)

# *Social Media*

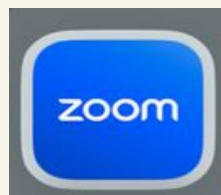
Comm-Tech Committee

The comm-Tech Committee is working on something NEW! Check this space next month to see what's been going on!



## *Annual Sessions Workshop*

Topic: "Zoom Demonstration "



Come see us at the "Old Lodge" at QLC during Annual Sessions for a workshop all about Zoom! Don't forget to bring your phone, tablet or computer to get help setting up and using "Zoom" for video and conference calls.

*-See you there!!*

# Meet our Missions

## *Friends Lugulu Mission Hospital*

[CLICK HERE](#)  
to learn more!

Friends Lugulu Mission Hospital was established by Quaker missionaries in 1913. Now a 100-bed hospital, the hospital provides emergency, medical, and surgical services in a densely populated region where such resources are scarce. All patients are welcome, and compassionate care is offered to all patients—including those with HIV/AIDS. Friends Lugulu Mission Hospital provides services with dedication and compassion—treating the body, mind, and spirit. Chaplaincy services include spiritual and mental health care, devotional messages, and prayer and counsel with patients and their families. Social workers treat HIV/AIDS patients with respect and honor.







# *Prayer* **CORNER**

*How can we pray for you?*

## *Prayer:*

Pray for all of the children heading back to school this month. Besides testing and classes, some of them will face peer pressure, temptation, bullying and emotional/mental stress.

### **ALSO**

Pray for the teachers. Their job is not an easy one.

## *Praise:*

Praise God for His provisions. We live a luxurious lifestyle compared to a lot of the world. They are gifts from God. We have so much to be thankful for!



# July

## RECAP

### FDS Trip to New Bern

As unbelievable as it seems, there are still many homes that need repaired or replaced from Hurricane Florence 2018 damage in the New Bern area where North Carolina Friends Disaster Service has been working with New Bern Baptist on Missions. If God leads you to this type of service, please contact Gary Dodson at [gdodson@northstate.net](mailto:gdodson@northstate.net). There is another mission trip planned for September 24-29, 2023. Men and women of all skill levels needed.

Thanks.

Linda

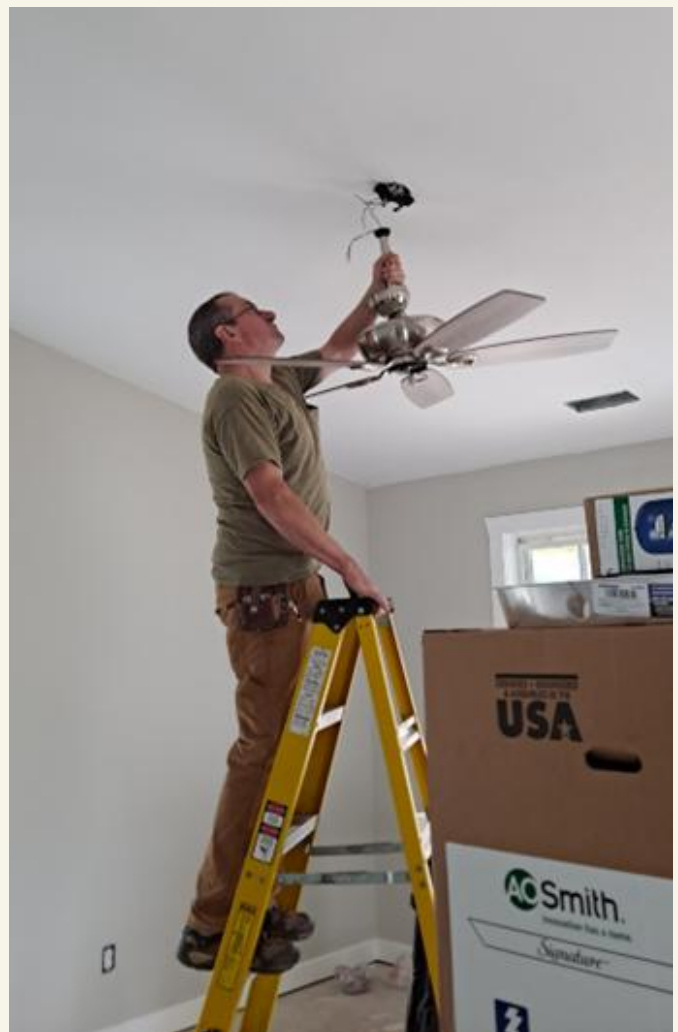
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# Visit to Odre Nuevo

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



This gentleman opened the service with Scripture, prayer and commentary

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



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

A few attenders

