



MARCH 2023 | ISSUE NO.17

BEARING FRUIT

The Official Newsletter of Friends Church North Carolina

ARTICLES TO HELP
YOU THROUGH:

Welcome- 1
**Quotes By Quakers &
Devotion- 2-4**
Upcoming Events-5
Announcements & flyers-6-15
New Presiding Clerk-16
**Quaker Query &
Comm Tech-17**
Meet our Missions-18
Prayer Corner -19
February Recap-20-22

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 FOR Quakers

“

"AN OUNCE OF PRACTICE IS
WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS."

-MAHATMA GANDHI

”

A Word of Devotion:

"PRACTICE
WHAT YOU
PREACH"

By: Neil Epler

"...For they preach,
but do not practice"
-Matthew 23:3

Matthew 23:1-12

“Why don’t you practice what you preach?” Have you ever said those words? Maybe someone has said them to you.

Hypocrites are people who pretend to be something they are not. They may say one thing and then do the opposite. They may act one way in a certain setting and then act another way in a different setting. It is very important that as Christians, we follow the example of Jesus Christ. It doesn’t matter where we are or who we are with. The words we speak and the things we do should always reflect our faith. Sometimes we are good at telling other people what they should do and how they should live, but we fail to follow our own instructions. We need to, as the saying goes, “walk the walk, not just talk the talk.”

Some time ago, I saw a Peanuts comic strip that had Snoopy on top of his doghouse with a flock of baby birds. The time had come for the baby birds to learn how to fly, and Snoopy was their teacher. Snoopy flapped his ears and walked to the end of the roof of the doghouse. He leaped into the air and continued to flap his ears. Unfortunately he landed right on his head. He got back up onto the roof and shared this lesson: “Do as I say to do and not what I do.”

In Matthew 23, Jesus tells the crowds and his disciples to do what the Pharisees and the scribes teach them to do, “but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach”

In other words, the leaders talk the talk, but they don't walk the walk. Why is it important to practice what we preach? The most basic reason is the integrity of our faith; we are the body of Christ for the world.

In Matthew 5:14, Jesus tells us, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid." People should be attracted by the light of the way we live and the words we speak. Whether we like it or not, people are watching us and seeing how we respond to the ups and downs of everyday life. Children watch adults and then imitate what they see and repeat what they hear.

Are our words and actions something we want repeated by our children? Our friends, neighbors, coworkers, family members, and classmates are watching us. What evidence do we offer of our profession of faith? Are our responses any different from those of persons who don't profess to know Christ?

Not only are nonbelievers watching us, but so are other Christians. Persons who are new to the faith often look to more-mature Christians. Do our words and actions encourage and build up other Christians?

We practice what we preach when we live our lives as reflections of the life of Christ. The way we act at work should be the same way we act at home, at church, around other Christians, in the supermarket, or waiting for a bus. My wife and I have always said, "What you see is what you get." We try to act the same wherever we are. When people see us, they should see a reflection of Christ. Do we live our lives in ways that reflect him?



Upcoming Events:

March 18th 2023

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

March 17-19th 2023

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

March 23-26, 2023

FWCC Section Meeting
at Haw River State Park

March 25, 2023

QLC flash light Easter egg hunt
Tap [HERE](#) to register
(more information below)

March 2023

Pastor's Spouse Appreciation
(more info below)

April 1st 2023

Concord Friends Meeting
Easter egg hunt
11am- 2PM
(see flyer below)

May 20, 2023

NC USFW Spring Conference
May 20, 2023
(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

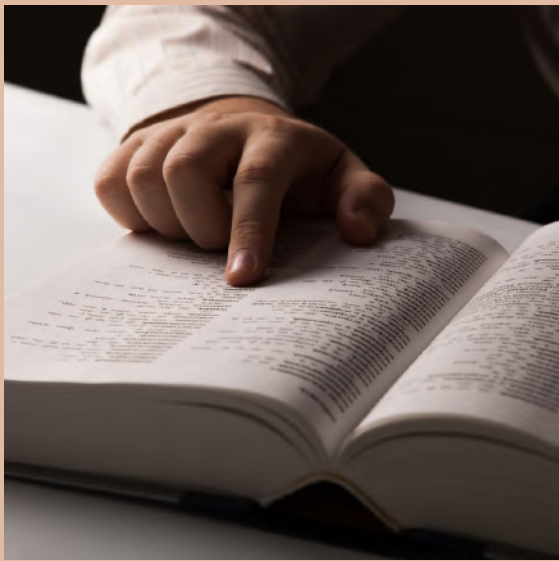
continued on next page

Announcements:



REMINDER

2022 Directory *still available!*



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

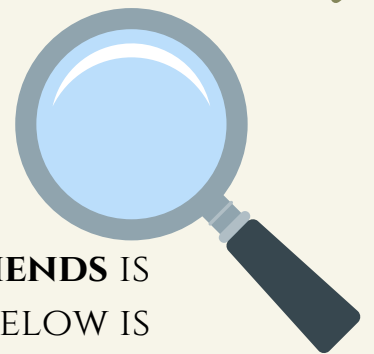
Access to the directory will require a password.

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.

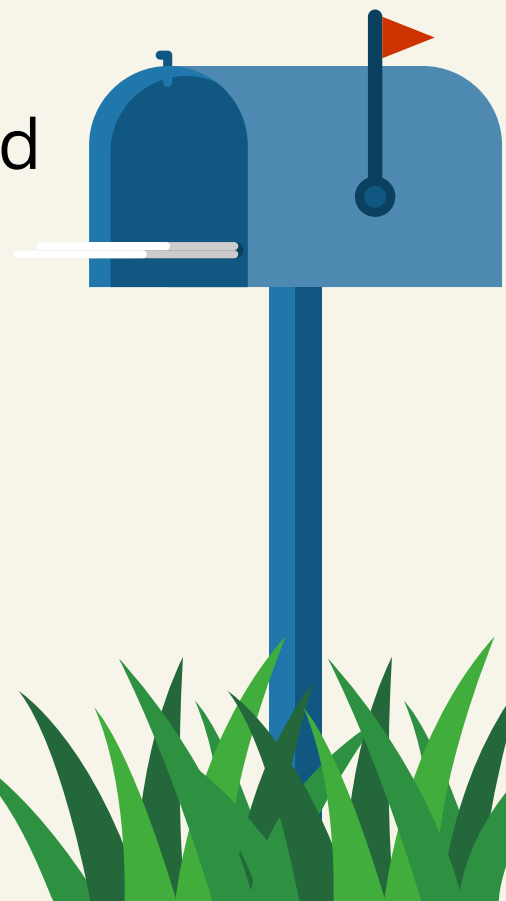
New
ADDRESS



FCNC has a new mailing address!

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

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



MARCH IS

**PASTOR'S
SPOUSE
APPRECIATION
MONTH**

PLEASE CONSIDER SHOWING
YOUR GRATITUDE FOR THE
WONDERFUL PERSON WHO IS
A HELPMATE TO YOUR PASTOR



Whether you give a special card, a lovely bouquet of flowers, a box of chocolates, some small token you know would make them smile, or a simple thank you, know that it will be much appreciated.

Community Easter Egg Hunt

Hosted by
Concord Friends
Meeting

Join us April 1st
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.



Flashlight Egg Hunt

March 25, 2023

Drop-off at 5:30pm & pick-up at 9:30pm

Grades K-5

Cost: \$15

A flashlight egg hunt! Registration includes dinner, games, songs, crafts, a devotion, the egg hunt, and a treat bag. Join us for a fun night of songs, games and a "Quaker Lake style" flashlight Easter egg hunt -- all led by Quaker Lake's 2023 Summer Camp staff! Dinner will be provided and each child will leave with their very own treat bag. This is a drop-off event. Limited space is available, so sign-up today!

QLC

NC USFW Spring Conference Registration

Saturday, May 20, 2023

Quaker Lake Camp

Climax, NC



Hope Carter has served as a missionary in Africa along with her husband, Bob Carter, for 38 years. They began their service as FUM Missionaries and in later years worked with SIM to continue their work in Africa. Over the years, they have worked with AIDs education, provided support for orphans, worked with TB and Leprosy services at Mukinge Hospital and mentored new pastors and leaders through promotion of the Jesus film.

For the past 11 years, they have lived in Kijabe, Kenya and divided their time between Kijabe Hospital and Moffat Bible College. Hope assisted the hospital with its HIV clinic for 2 years and then focused fulltime on teaching in AIDS Ministries at Moffat along with being the health coordinator. At the end of their 38 years of service, they will return to The United States after attending the FUM Triennial in July. They will return periodically to Africa for shorter periods of time while working remotely and helping the home office.

Please join us to hear Bob and Hope's story and all that has happened over the years in Africa. Their challenges and triumphs in Africa correlate with our theme of "Abounding in Hope" by the leading of the Holy Spirit.

9:00 – 10:00 am Registration and Bookstore with light refreshments

10:00 am – 12 noon Welcome, Music, Program and Business

12:00 noon Luncheon – catered lunch @\$12.50 each

Please send memorials by May 1, 2023 to Mary Anna McCullen, deetsmaryanna@gmail.com

If you can't attend, please watch the live stream video on You Tube- search for Paul Routh.

If you have questions please contact Janet Robbins 336-971-1212 or email

jrobbins1604@gmail.com

NC USFW Spring Conference at Quaker Lake

Please clip and send by May 13, 2023

Name(s) _____

Meeting _____

Number of Lunches at \$12.50 each _____ **Total \$** _____

Please attach this form with check written to NC USFW and mail to:

Alicia Sharp

6 H Fraternity Drive

Greensboro, NC 27407

FWCC Registration

Dear Friends,

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

I look forward to seeing you soon!

In friendship,
Robin Mohr
Executive Secretary



Registration is Open!



FWCC Americas 2023 Section Meeting



Becoming the Quakers the World Needs

Haw River State Park, Greensboro, NC | March 23 - 26, 2023

Continue to next page

Dear Friend,

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Blessings,

Rausie Hobson
Clerk, Convocations Committee
FWCC Americas



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

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

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

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

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

Learn more about the sessions and
[**REGISTER HERE!**](#)



Friends World Committee
for Consultation

SECTION OF THE AMERICAS

Comité Mundial de Consulta
de los Amigos

SECCIÓN DE LAS AMÉRICAS

We Invite You to Revival Services



***at Rocky River Friends Meeting
1795 Staley-Snow Camp Road, SILER CITY, NC***

Telephone: 336/622-3466

Email: RockyRiverFriends@yahoo.com

Website: RockyRiverFriendsMeeting.org

Friday – Sunday, March 17-19, 2023

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

Guest Speaker: Jay Marshall

*Jay is Dean Emeritus of the [Earlham School of Religion](http://EarlhamSchoolofReligion.org) in Richmond, Indiana, and a recorded Friends minister since 1985 (by NC Yearly Meeting-FUM). He served as a pastor in North Carolina Yearly Meeting and Indiana Yearly Meeting prior to his ministry as seminary dean. He regularly writes a blog (at jaymarshallonline.com) and recently published **When the Spirit Calls**. A new book is scheduled to be released in November 2023. Jay views retirement life as a "ministry of availability," meaning he has the freedom to say "yes" to the right opportunities as they arise. Born in North Carolina and raised in the Plainfield Friends community of Chatham County, Jay now resides in Greens Fork, Indiana with his wife Judi, who is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church.*

Special Music in each service!

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

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

FCNC 2023

Mid-Year Gathering

at Concord Friends Meeting

on Saturday, March 18th



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

Lunch will be \$10/person.

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

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

A bit about our Workshop Leader, Stevin Ackley:

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

A MARCH MESSAGE FROM

Roger Halt

FCNC's New Presiding Clerk

Who Are We?

If I asked you to tell me who you are, what would you say? Many of us might start with our job or profession. Some might begin with our role in our family; father, mother, daughter, son, aunt, uncle, grandpa, grandmother, etc. Some others may find identity in our hobbies, sports, or organizational roles. All these things may say a lot about us, but as Christians, should we not first and foremost find identity in being a child of God?

As a child of God you have been chosen for adoption, blessed by His grace, made holy or set apart, and held blameless before Him. You have been redeemed by His blood, forgiven of all wrong, and counted as heirs of His kingdom. What on earth could possibly match this identity? An identity unearned that is ours by faith through grace.

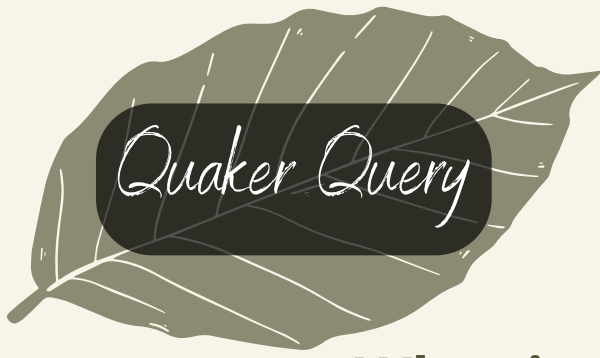
No matter what else happens to us as we journey through life, our identity as God's children is secure. None of the world's powers, no circumstance of good fortune or ill, no tragedy or triumph can diminish or steal our identity in the family of God.

As a child of God, we have a role to fulfill within His family. We have all been given gifts, talents, areas of expertise that we must seek to use to further His kingdom, and advance the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world which is largely unsaved and ambivalent, at best, to His word.

As Friends, we tend to hold tight to the traditions and forms that have been historically a part of our faith. I was raised in a Friends Meeting and I love our traditions. I love open worship and the working of Friends at all levels to come to unity before making a decision as a group. I love our history as peacemakers; as proponents of human rights and equality even when it was dangerous or unpopular. I love our encouragement of the ministry of every believer regardless of sex, race, or national origin, and I don't want to see any of these things diminish or go away.

What I do want to see for us is that each monthly meeting, quarterly meeting, and FCNC itself look at new ways to spread the gospel within our communities. Keep the things that still work well, but look for new ways to reach out to a changing population. This will involve trial and error and a good bit of effort from each of us. We must move forward undaunted knowing that we will experience some failures as well as successes. Do this knowing that if we share all of our efforts within the wider body of Friends we may help others who are striving for the same goal.

Don't be afraid to change in an effort to be more effective. If we are not spreading the gospel through word and deed then we fall short of our calling as God's children.



...for March



What is a "Quaker Query"?

Quakers use the term Query to refer to a question or series of questions used for reflection and in spiritual exercises. Friends have used Queries as tools for offering spiritual challenges to the community for much of their history.

Consider this...

- What are some ways that God specifically speaks to you?
- What are 3 ways that you can share your faith through your actions with your neighbors?

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

Meet our Missions

Cuba



Cuba Friends is a small, vibrant and rapidly-growing group of Friends who are busy ministering to their communities and establishing a vision for outreach to others.

Through FUM's Living Letters program, visitors from across our global fellowship make twice-annual trips to learn from, work alongside and fellowship with Cuban Quakers. With continuing restrictions on travel to Cuba, these trips provide life-sustaining and spirit-nurturing connections for everyone involved. In addition, FUM partners with the Cuban Quaker Peace Institute, a training center for pastors and other leaders, teaching Quaker theology and history, Bible, and peacemaking.

Tap [HERE](#) for more information.



Prayer **CORNER**

How can we pray for you?

Prayer:

Pray for FCM and all of the young adults within and without of our Meetings. They will soon begin studying for finals and navigating their next steps in general.

Pray for direction and leading of the Spirit for them.

Praise:

Praise God for his omnipresence; His unfailing ability to be with us at all times. For with His presence comes Peace that passes all understanding.



HELLO FEBRUARY RECAP

Pastors Retreat at Fort Caswell



Tuesday Worship,
&
Starr Wood &
Cheryl Benson





Late night basketball



Business



Golfing



Supporting with Prayer



Dinner at a
local restaurant

