

JANUARY 2025 | ISSUE NO.39

BEARING FRUIT

The Official Newsletter of Friends Church North Carolina

ARTICLES TO HELP
YOU THROUGH:

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NEW

NEW

WELCOME!

Welcome to your Friends Church North Carolina Newsletter!

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

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

How can you help?

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

Jenny Gullion at: jenny@friendschurchnc.org



Quotes by Quakers

“

“WHAT IS LOVE? WHAT SHALL I SAY OF IT, OR HOW SHALL I IN WORDS EXPRESS ITS NATURE? IT IS THE SWEETNESS OF LIFE; IT IS THE SWEET, TENDER, MELTING NATURE OF GOD, FLOWING UP THROUGH HIS SEED OF LIFE INTO THE CREATURE, AND OF ALL THINGS MAKING THE CREATURE MOST LIKE UNTO HIMSELF, BOTH IN NATURE AND OPERATION. IT FULFILS THE LAW, IT FULFILS THE GOSPEL; IT WRAPS UP ALL IN ONE, AND BRINGS FORTH ALL IN THE ONENESS. IT EXCLUDES ALL EVIL OUT OF THE HEART, IT PERFECTS ALL GOOD IN THE HEART. A TOUCH OF LOVE DOTHS THIS IN MEASURE; PERFECT LOVE DOTHS THIS IN FULLNESS.”

-ISAAC PENINGTON, 1663

”

A Word of Devotion:

NEW BEGINNINGS

By: Dennis Lee
Christian Grandfathers Magazine



“I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
‘Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.’ And
he replied, ‘Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the
hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer
than a known way.’

-M.L. Haskins

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:26

Today, we're entering a brand-new year, and many of us are making resolutions about those things we know we have to do, like losing weight, exercising, eating healthier, and taking our vitamins. We also begin to list out what we need to do spiritually, like reading the Bible and praying every day, using our gifts and talents in God's service, to be more loving, Christ-like, and obedient to God's word.

The only problem is that while we resolve to do these things, our resolve soon fades because we really don't have the power to keep them. And it doesn't have to do with our will power, but rather because circumstances beyond our control happened.

And so, as we enter this New Year, we need a new beginning, which starts with a new heart and new spirit. This promise is given to us by the Lord through the prophet Ezekiel.

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."
(Ezekiel 36:26-27)

A New Heart

The Lord is talking about a heart transplant, but not a physical transplant, but a spiritual one. The heart is more than a bodily organ that pumps life-giving blood to the rest of the body. The heart is symbolic of all that it means to be human.

There are over 5,000 heart transplants done every year, and we are the first generation to understand how a new heart can replace an old one.

But what we need is the type of heart the Lord wants us to have.

Having such a new heart will give us the wondrous feeling that somebody else is inside us, Jesus Christ, and how grateful we are because beating inside of us is God's own heart.

Today, with all that is happening in our world, our hearts are becoming hardened. But God can give us a heart transplant, where He'll remove our stony heart and give us a heart of flesh, that is, a heart that is open to all God has.

Therefore, let's begin by asking God to do some cardio-vascular surgery to get our hearts pumping once again with that life giving and life saving blood of Jesus Christ.

But beyond a new heart, God also wants to put a new spirit inside of us.

A New Spirit

God gives us the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of power. In the Old Testament that word for Spirit is "ruach," which means wind or breath. The Holy Spirit, therefore, is the breath of God.

Some people have a hard time catching their breath. And it's really hard to do something when we cannot breathe. But God gives us a new spirit, a new breath of life to assist us in our time of need.

Like the new heart, the new spirit begins when we come to faith in Jesus Christ. This is seen when the disciples first encountered the risen Jesus, and it says Jesus breathed on them, that is the very breath of God, the Holy Spirit, saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20:22)

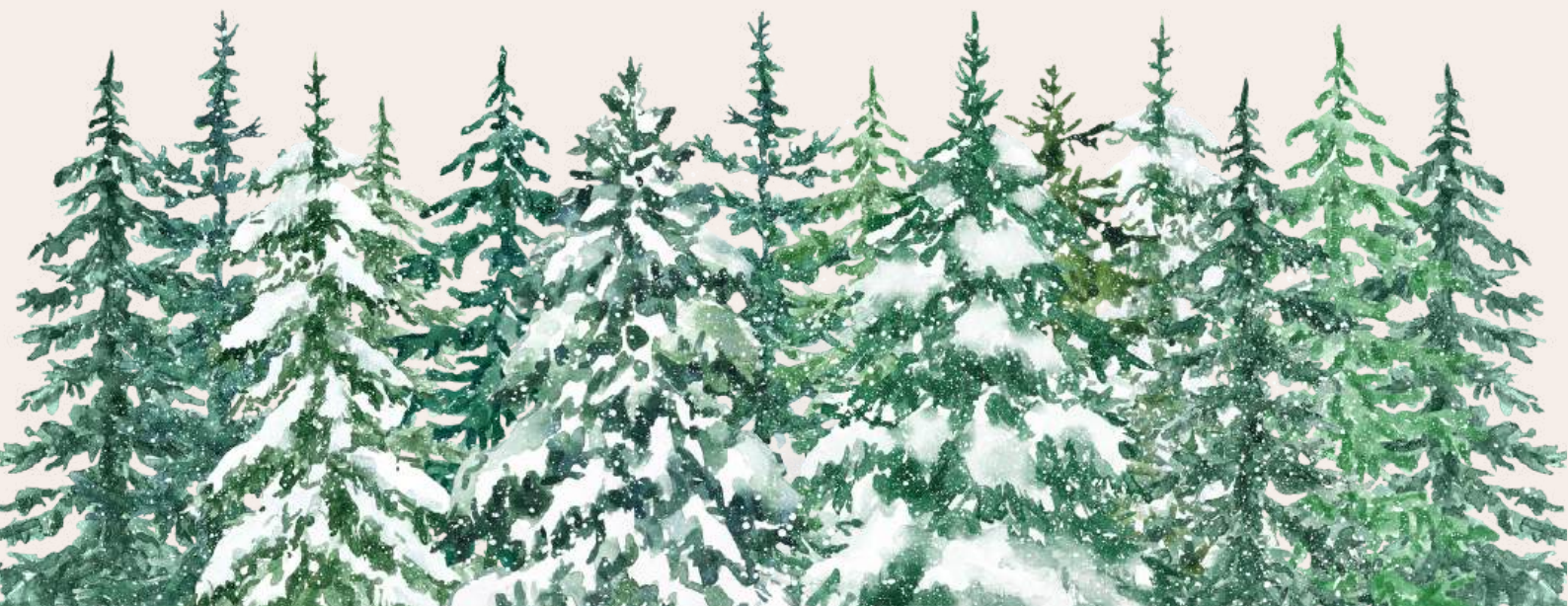
Just as God breathed into Adam and made him into a living soul, so Jesus breathes into us and makes us into new creations in Him, spiritual beings ready for heaven once this life is over.

A New Beginning

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

We can change! But we cannot change on our own. Change comes from within. That's what transformation is all about, it's a change that takes place on the inside. And that's the beauty of the promise given by God through Ezekiel is that we've been given a new heart and a new spirit, that is, God's word written on our hearts, and the Holy Spirit being placed within us.

And so, as we look to start this New Year, let's do so by asking God to give to us a heart that is new, a heart that has been cleansed through confession and forgiveness, and then ask the Lord for a renewed spirit through a genuine Holy Spirit revival in our lives and in the life of the church.





Upcoming Events:

**JANUARY 1ST 2025
HAPPY NEW YEAR
FRIENDS!**

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

**JANUARY IS A TIME
WHERE THERE AREN'T
AS MANY EVENTS &
APPOINTMENTS.
USE THIS MONTH TO
-REFRESH
-RENEW
&
-REST**



**AS THINGS PICK BACK
UP, DON'T FORGET TO
LET US KNOW ABOUT
EVENTS GOING ON
WITHIN YOUR FRIENDS
COMMUNITY!**

THE BOOK ROOM ONLINE

[CLICK HERE](#) to check out the
online bookstore on the
FCNC website. A great
resource for many friends
books!



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

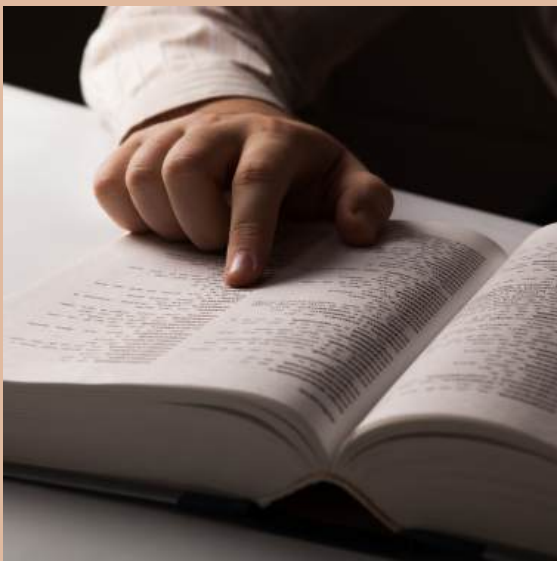
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Announcements:



REMINDER

Directory *still available!*

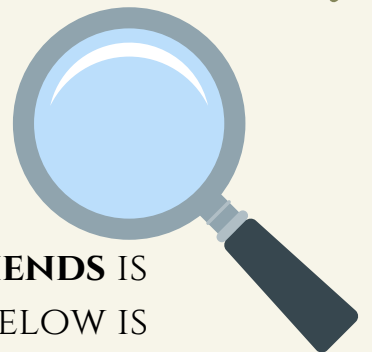


There was a possible data breach in our directory. Therefore the password has been changed. Please reach out to Paul Routh to learn how to regain access.

paul@friendschurchnc.org

[Log in HERE](#)

In Search of a Pastor & Youth Pastor for Centre Friends



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

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

Youth Leader Position Opening



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



IN SEARCH

of a Pastor
Bethel Friends Meeting

2519 Bethel Church Road
Asheboro, NC. 27203

We are a small, but active meeting. Our average attendance for morning worship is between 35 and 40. Our USFW attendance is around 14 ladies for each of our monthly breakfast meetings. The USFW is very involved in community and mission projects. Our Quaker Men meet once a month for breakfast, fellowship and devotions.

Our meeting serves 1000+ people at our Pig Picking fundraisers in April and October each year. We also have various other activities that reach out into our community.

We want our pastor to participate in our meeting activities.

We want our pastor to lead us in studying God's word, reaching others for Christ and helping us to grow in our own walk with Christ. We want a pastor who will care for our meeting as we will care for them, with love, compassion and concern.

We want them to be a close part of our Bethel family.

For more information contact Sarah Cox Clerk of Ministry and Council
336-963-2710



IN SEARCH

of a full time Pastor
Science Hill Friends Meeting

2421 Lassiter Mill Road
Asheboro, NC 27205

In rural Randolph County, right off of New Highway 49
If you are interested in applying or visiting please contact
Tammy Garner @ 336-460-4421 or garnerseed@rtmc.net

Mailing address:
Science Hill Friends
c/o Tammy Garner
PO Box 1386
Asheboro, NC 27204



IN SEARCH

of a full time Pastor
Centre Friends Meeting

325 HWY 62 E
Greensboro, NC

Centre Friends Meeting is searching for a full time Pastor. Check out the Pastor job description on their website.

<https://www.centrefriends.org>

Send resume to:
Centre Friends Meeting Ministry and Counsel
Attn: Julie Hatchel, Clerk
PO Box 632
Randleman, NC 27317

julie@asheborolawyer.com



**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 Contentnea 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

Rocky River Friends Meeting

1795 Staley Snow Camp Rd.
Siler City, NC 27344

Job Description for Pastor of Rocky River Friends Meeting

Rocky River Friends Meeting 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 commiserate with education and experience.

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

dallasavestal@yahoo.com

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

New

ADDRESSES

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

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

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

Please send correspondence
and NC USFW project
donations here.



Randleman Friends Meeting

Helping people at their point of need, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Job Description for Pastor of Randleman Friends Meeting

Randleman Friends Meeting is a traditional programmed Quaker meeting that also incorporates elements of un-programmed worship.

The pastor's primary focus is the spiritual well-being and growth of the Meeting's members and prospective members.

The pastor reports to Ministry and Council and the Monthly Meeting and adheres to guidelines presented in FCNC (Friends Church of North Carolina) Faith and Practice.

Desired Qualities:

- Energetic and motivational
- Knowledge and understanding of Quaker history
- Applies Quaker practice, testimonies, and doctrine in messages and in life – specifically peace, equality, and continuing revelation
- Interest in growth of the meeting
- Interest in Missions
- Provides thought provoking, challenging messages
- Incorporates logic and reason in decision making
- Positive and cooperative leadership

Responsibilities:

- Provide leadership and spoken messages for Sunday morning worship services
- Oversee special services, including weddings and funerals, as needed
- Attend and participate in the Meeting's activities
- Support Monthly Meeting committees
- Provide contact and visitation with members and prospective members
- Provide support for members as needed
- Participate and support activities of Southern Quarterly Meeting and FCNC

Persons interested in this position should send resume to randlemanfriendsmeeting@gmail.com



Hopes for an Upcoming Visit To Palestine and Lebanon



FUM General Secretary Kelly Kellum has invited a handful of Friends leaders to join him in a pastoral care and solidarity visit to Ramallah Friends School in Palestine, with the possibility of also visiting Brummana Friends School in Lebanon.

The tragedies of the current war deeply impact both school communities, which remain committed to creating secure environments for their students and maintaining the normalcy of educational routines, while upholding an unwavering commitment to the Friends' testimony for peace. The primary purpose of this visit is for Friends leaders to provide support, listen to the stories of resilience from these communities, and offer spiritual encouragement as they navigate the realities of this conflict. We hope our presence and participation will help strengthen our collective efforts to embody God's love, peace, and solidarity with those who suffer. Please hold all involved in the Light as plans emerge.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full FUM Newsletter

Meet our Missions *Turkana Friends Mission*



The Turkana people are semi-nomadic animal herders who are particularly vulnerable to drought and food insecurity, as well as to violent conflict with neighboring people-groups. Only 3% of Turkana adults have a secondary school education.

Turkana County in northwest Kenya is a desert landscape. As part of their daily life, girls and women walk great distances to fetch water. One priority of the Turkana Friends Mission is providing access to water through boreholes, tanks, and biosand water filters. Once water becomes accessible in a community, girls can pursue education at school. The Mission operates three primary schools and four nursery schools.

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

Excerpts from:

SOLITUDE

Proverbs, Wisdom & Principles for Better Living

By: William Penn



Quotes on "Impartiality":

406- If our passions must not sway us; less should our fears, profits or prejudices.

410- The impartial judge in judgment, knows nothing but the law: The prince no more than the peasant, his kindred than a stranger. Nay, his enemy is sure to be upon equal terms with his friend, when he is up on the bench.

416-418: What some see to be no-fault in one, they will have criminal in another. Nay, how ugly do our own failings look to us in the persons of others, which yet we see not in ourselves. And but to common is it for some people not to know their own maxims and principles in the mouths of other men, when they give occasion to use them.

QUAKER QUESTIONS

Taken from "Questions Quakers are Asking"

By: Seth B. Hinshaw

Is our peace testimony realistic? practical?

Underlying principles:

-With George Fox the rejection of violence was not a planned doctrine, but rather a spiritual discovery. He found within himself a deep conviction that he could not participate in violence.

-Fox, thoroughly familiar with the teachings of Jesus, was quick to realize that his own inner leading correspondence precisely with what Jesus had taught.

-from that day to this, based on the teachings of Jesus and upon personal conscientious convictions, friends have proclaimed their testimony against "all wars and fightings".

All individuals at all times have not adhered to this position, but it has remained the official statement of our Faith and Practice. (See "Peace Testimony" pp 44-46, 136; 1979 printing)

Do you want your very
own copy of
"Questions Quakers
are asking?"

[CLICK HERE](#)
to order from your
FCNC bookstore!



Quaker Query

...for January



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?

-Is my Meeting tender and considerate of different views, coming to a decision only when we have found unity?

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



Prayer **CORNER**

How can we pray for you?

Prayer:

Pray for wisdom.

Each day we are faced with decisions. Some are harder to make than others. Some are within ourselves and some are visible to others. Let us be like King Solomon and ask for wisdom from God, "Who gives it generously"
James 1:5

Praise:

Praise God for His Compassion
2 Corinthians 1:3-4

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,

4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.



December

RECAP

QLC Candle Light Service

Sunday was such a beautiful night for the Christmas Candlelight Service! Over 175 attendees enjoyed music, worship, and goodies around the fire. Big thanks to Michael Fulp Jr from Cedar Square Friends for being our speaker and to Jerry Wolford for our wonderful photos!



White Plains Friends Christmas

"Tonight, our youth presented their Christmas play! It was a wonderful way to hear the story of our Savior's birth and they did a fantastic job! A big THANK YOU to everyone involved and to all of who attended!!

-WPFM



Visit to Cedar Square Friends

Superintendent, Mike wall, was able to make a visit to Cedar Square on December 8th!

