

JUNE 2022 | ISSUE NO.8

# 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

”

WE ARE NOT FOR NAMES, NOR MEN, NOR TITLES OF GOVERNMENT, NOR ARE WE FOR THIS PARTY, NOR AGAINST THE OTHER, BECAUSE OF ITS NAME AND PRETENCE; BUT WE ARE FOR **JUSTICE** AND **MERCY**, AND **TRUTH** AND **PEACE**, AND TRUE FREEDOM, THAT THESE MAY BE EXALTED IN OUR NATION.

Edward Burrough, 1634-1663

“

### The meeting place:

**“Truth and Mercy have met together**

**Justice and Peace have kissed.” (Psalm 84)**

**“In these two short lines there are four important concepts and two powerful paradoxes. The concepts kept running through my mind as I watched the peace process unfold in its fits and starts. I noticed for the first time that the Psalmist seemed to treat the concepts as if they were alive. I could hear their voices in the war in Nicaragua. In fact, I could hear their voices in any conflict. Truth, Mercy, Justice and Peace were no longer ideas. They became people. And they could talk.”**

*John Paul Lederach, a Mennonite Christian, is an influential author and practitioner in the fields of conflict transformation and peace building. The following is a little play - “a liturgy of sorts” as Lederach calls it - written by him, based on his experiences in working with conciliation groups in Nicaragua who often used Psalm 84 for their biblical reflections.*

continued on next page

A Word of Devotion

TRUTH,  
JUSTICE,  
MERCY & PEACE

By: John Paul Lederach

**NOTE:** This parable-like story is unusually long for a Devotion, but worth while if you follow through to the end. Though it was written by a member of the Mennonite Church, the author shares the same passion for Peace that the Friends have carried in their hearts for hundreds of years.

Greatly distressed in the midst of a nasty conflict, I kept hearing the names of Truth, Mercy, Justice and Peace invoked time and again. When the arguments and blows had gone round and round I made a proposal. "What if," I asked the people in this awful fight, "What if we invited our four friends to join us and asked them to openly discuss their views about conflict?"

Locked in their righteous stances as they were, the people looked at me a bit stunned with such a ludicrous idea, but I proceeded without paying much attention. "I have seen them come and go in other fights. I could ask them to try to clear up a few things." Nobody objected, so I brought Truth, Mercy, Justice and Peace into the room and sat them down in front of the contentious crowd. I addressed the four. "We want to know what concerns you each have in the midst of conflict. Would it be possible to hear your views?"

Truth stood and spoke first. "I am Truth," she said. "I am like light cast so that all may see. At times of conflict I am concerned with bringing forward, out into the open, what really happened. Not with the watered down version. Not with a partial recounting. My handmaidens are transparency, honesty, and clarity. I am set apart from my three colleagues here," Truth gestured toward Mercy, Justice and Peace, "because they need me first and foremost. Without me they cannot go forward. When I am found, I set people free."

"Sister Truth," I interjected hesitantly, not wanting to question her integrity, "You know I have been around a lot of conflict in my life and there is one thing that I am always curious about. When I talk to one side, like these people over here, they say that you are with them. When I talk to the others, like our friends over there, they claim you are on their side. Yet in the middle of all this pain, you seem to come and go. Is there only one Truth?"

"There is only one Truth, but I can be experienced in many different ways. I reside within each person yet nobody owns me."

"If discovering you is so crucial," I asked Sister Truth, "why are you so hard to find?"

She thought for a while, and then said. "I can only appear where the search is genuine and authentic. I come forward only when each person shares with others what they know of me and each respects the other's voice. Where I am strutted before others, like a hand puppet on a child's stage, I am abused, shattered and disappear."

"Of these three friends," I pointed to the three colleagues seated around her, "Whom do you fear the most?" Without hesitation she pointed to Mercy. "I fear him," she said quietly. "In his haste to heal he covers my light and clouds my clarity. He forgets," she concluded, "that forgiveness is our child, not his."

I then turned to Mercy. "I am sure you have things to say. What concerns you?"

Mercy rose slowly and spoke, "I am Mercy." He seemed to begin with a plea, as though he knew that he, among them all, was under tight scrutiny. "And I am the new beginning. I am concerned with people and their relationships. Acceptance, compassion and support stand with me. I know the frailty of the human condition. Who among them is perfect?" He turned to Truth and continued with his eyes on her. "She knows that her light can bring clarity but too often it blinds and burns. What freedom is there without life and relationship? Forgiveness is indeed our child, but not when people are arrogantly clubbed to humiliation and agony with their imperfections and weaknesses. Our child was birthed to provide for the healing." "But Brother Mercy," I could not resist the immediacy of the question. "In your rush to accept, support, and move ahead do you not abort the child?" "I do not cover Truth's light," he reacted quickly. "You must understand. I am Mercy. I am built of steadfast love that undergirds life itself. It is my purpose in life to bring forward the eternal grace of new beginnings."

"And whom do you fear most?" I asked. Mercy turned and faced Justice. "My brother Justice," he said in a clear voice. "In his haste to change and make things right, he forgets that his roots lie in real people and relationships."

"So Brother Justice," I said, "what do you have to say?"

"I am Justice," he said as he rose to his feet. His strong voice accompanied by a deep smile. "And Mercy is correct, I am concerned about making things right. I consider myself a person who looks beyond the surface and the issues about which people seem to fight. What lies at the root of most conflicts are inequality, greed, and wrongdoing. I stand with Truth who sheds her light on the paths of wrongdoing. My task is to make sure that something is done to restore the damage that has been wreaked, particularly on the victims and the downtrodden. We must restore the relationship, but never at the expense of acknowledging and rectifying what broke the relationship in the first place."

"But Brother Justice," I just had to find out, "everybody in this room feels they have been wronged. And most are willing to justify their actions, even violent action, on the basis of doing your bidding. Is this not true?"

"It is indeed," he responded. "And most do not understand." He paused as he thought for a minute. "You see, I am most concerned about accountability. Too often we think that any and everything is acceptable. True and committed relationships are those characterized by honest accounting and steadfast love. Love without accountability is nothing but words. Love with accountability is changed behavior and action. This is the real meaning of restoration. My purpose is to bring action and accountability to the words."

"Then whom do you fear?" I inquired.

"My children," he chuckled with the irony of experienced years. "I fear that my children, Mercy and Peace, see themselves as parents," his voice carried a hint of gentle provocation, "when, in fact, they are the fruit of my labor."

Peace burst into an irrepressible smile. Before I could speak she stepped forward. "I am Peace, and I agree with all three," she began. "I am the child to whom they give birth, the mother who labors to give them life, and the spouse who accompanies them on the way. I hold the community together, with the encouragement of security, respect and well-being."

Truth and Justice began to protest. "That is precisely the problem," Truth said in a frustrated voice. "You see yourself as greater and bigger than the rest."

"It is this arrogance," Justice's finger pointed toward Peace. "You do not place yourself where you belong. You follow us. You do not precede us."

"This is true my dear Brother and Sister," Peace responded. "I am more fully expressed through and after you both. But it is also true that without me there is no space for Truth to be heard," she said as she turned toward Justice. "And without me there is no respite from the vicious cycle of accusation, bitterness, and bloodshed.

You, yourself Justice cannot be fully embodied without my presence. I am before and after. There is no way to reach me except that I am the way."

Silence fell for a moment. "And whom do you fear?"

"Not who, but what and when," Peace said. "I fear manipulation. I fear the manipulation of people who use Sister Truth for their purposes. Some ignore her, some use her as a whip, and some claim to own her. I fear the times when for the sake of Brother Mercy, Brother Justice is sacrificed. I fear the blind manipulation that for the ideal of Brother Justice some will sacrifice life itself. When manipulation such as these take place, I am violated and rendered a meaningless empty shell."

I turned my attention and addressed all four.

"How would it ever be possible for you to meet together? What would you need from each other?"

Truth looked first at Mercy. "You must slow down. Give me space to emerge. Our child cannot be born without the slow development in the womb of the Mother."

He nodded, and then added. "Shine bright dear sister, but please take care not to blind and burn. Remember that each person is a child of God, that each is weak and needs support to grow."

Justice came in straightaway. "I have been partially reassured by the words of sister Peace. I need a clear statement that she gives a place for accountability and action. Remember when Micah spoke of us. Love Mercy and do Justice he wrote. You must give place for me to come forward or truly you will not be fully born."

Peace responded on the heels of his last words. "Brother Justice, our lips will meet if we recognize that we need one another. Let not your heart of compassion fall into a bitterness that rages without purpose, and I will provide the soil for you to work and bear fruit."

The four were now huddled in a small circle. "And what," I asked, "is this place called where you now stand together?"

"This place," they responded in a single voice, "is reconciliation."

Then, suddenly without signal, they touched hands and danced. It was as if the dance came only rarely, like the weaving of lines and bodies around a Maypole. You could hardly distinguish one from the other as they swung from the room. No one said a word. No music was in the air, only the images of the interwoven bodies of Truth, Mercy, Justice and Peace.



## Upcoming Events:

### **June**

2022 Annual Sessions Promo & registration  
(see page 9 for more info)

### **June 5-10**

Impact Yadkin

### **June 12-17**

Deep Creek VBS

### **June 14**

Pray for QLC as  
summer Camp begins

### **June 19**

Fathers Day

### **June 21**

Summer begins

### **June 26-30**

Concord Friends VBS

### **July 10-13**

White Plains Friends  
VBS

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

### **WHITE PLAINS FRIENDS MEETING**

849 OLD HWY 601 MT. AIRY



### **JULY 10-13**

6-8 pm Sunday through Tuesday nights  
6:30 pm Wednesday: Cookout and Program



Light supper served Sunday, Monday, Tuesday  
Information: Call Brenda 336-374-4472

**\*\*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



**NEW**

## Announcements:

USFW Fall Annual Meeting  
Saturday, September 17, 2022  
to be held at Centre Friends Meeting.  
Look for more information and registration to  
come in the following months!

## Southern Quarter Revival

July 10-13 2022 More info to come!



[Log in HERE](#)

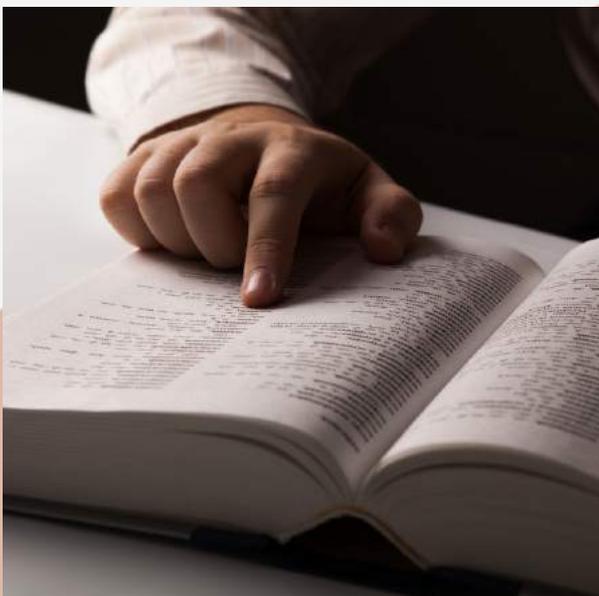
## 2022 Directory *Now available!*

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!**





# Art Contest

*"Rooted In Love—More Than We Can Imagine"*

Sponsored by USFWI Executive Committee

## One Grand Prize:

\$100 and art will be used as cover for  
2023-2024 Blueprints

## Prizes for each age group:

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

## Contest Rules:

- ◆ Artist must attend a Friends Meeting
- ◆ Two age groups: 5-12 & 13-18 years of age
- ◆ Artwork should be 8.5"x11" portrait orientation
- ◆ Markers or watercolor preferred
- ◆ Only one entry per participant

**\* Design the cover for the  
2023-2024 Blueprints  
using Ephesians 3:17b-21  
as inspiration**



**Entries must be received by August 30, 2022**

Mail or hand deliver to any Executive Committee member or mail to :  
Rita Mintmier, 6354 Lewis Davis Rd., Randleman, NC 27317

# FCNC 5th Annual Sessions

**August 12 & 13, 2022  
at Quaker Lake Camp**

**Guest Speakers:**

**Bob & Hope Carter, M.D. & Kenyan Missionary**

**Diane Faison-McKinzie**

featuring her monologue of  
**“The Spirit of Harriet Tubman”**

*“Be Thou My Vision”*

Philippians 3:14

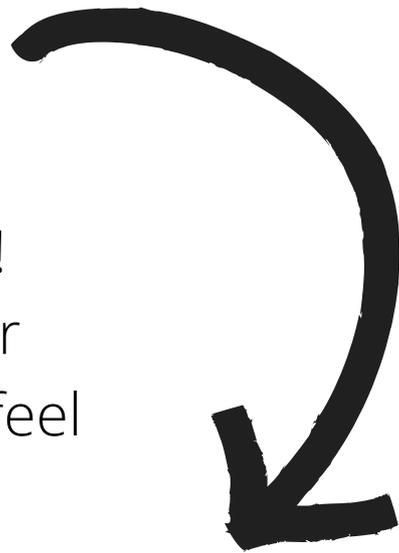
YFAC, Nursery,  
Children's Program,  
Camp Activities,  
Adult Workshops,  
Shaded Rocking Chairs.  
Young or Seasoned,  
we have something planned  
for Friends of ALL ages!

\*Visit FCNC website :  
<https://www.friendschurchnc.org>  
for more info & Registration

# INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Keep in mind our Intern Program!  
If you know of any young adults or  
older youth in your Meeting that feel  
called to ministry, reach out.

Terry Linthicum is overseeing this  
program and would be happy to talk  
with those who are interested!



If you have questions or are interested in applying, email  
Terry at [tlinthicum@northstate.net](mailto:tlinthicum@northstate.net)





## 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...

-Is every aspect of your life open to the transforming power of God?  
What stands in the way?

-Do you recognize divinely inspired insight? Can you distinguish between divine leadings and your own needs or desires?

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*Below are excerpts from a letter received from FUM. More details will be available soon for ways you can participate in giving.*

**“With the passing of our dear friend, Billy Britt, FUM launched the Billy Britt North American Ministries fund as a way to expand our capacity to serve this region of the world building on Billy Britt’s Legacy of leadership development, practical service, and encouraging vibrant fellowships, we have and will use this fund to promote North American ministries.”**



“ over the past several months, we have raised around \$25,000 from Billy’s family and friends. Our goal for this year is to raise a total of \$100,000-\$150,000 an initial funding, which will allow us to implement new programs at a sustainable pace for the next few years. We will continue to build the fund during this time and have a longer-term goal of endowing it through estate and bequest gifts. We believe there will be broad interest in supporting this effort across our North American yearly meeting and associations.”

“As we continue to establish a strong foundation for the Britt fund, we have appreciated the interest of the friends in North Carolina. So many of you were touched by Billy’s ministry and resonate with the concerns he and FUM Carry for friends’ future. We are grateful for the support we have received from individuals and congregations.”

# Social Media

did you know?

Below is a graph that reflects data on the numbers of various age groups and their participation on Facebook. Sometimes we make assumptions about who our audience actually is or how many we can truly reach.

We may assume that certain age groups or genders are more or less active on Facebook, but the data is here!

As a general rule, consistency is rewarded on social media.

That means you may not see results immediately, but **if** you continue to show up, and have something genuine to offer, you will see results.

You've heard it before, but you're about to hear it again....

Have your Social Media/outreach team at your Meeting watch the video series provided on FCNC website that will give you ALL the insight on how to make social media work for you and your Meeting.

Tap [HERE](#) to get started!

JAN  
2021

## PROFILE OF FACEBOOK'S ADVERTISING AUDIENCE

SHARE OF FACEBOOK'S GLOBAL ADVERTISING AUDIENCE\* BY AGE GROUP AND GENDER\*



SOURCE: EXTRAPOLATIONS OF DATA PUBLISHED IN FACEBOOK'S SELF-SERVICE ADVERTISING TOOLS (JAN 2021). \*NOTES: FACEBOOK'S TOOLS DO NOT PUBLISH AUDIENCE DATA FOR GENDERS OTHER THAN 'MALE' OR 'FEMALE'. \*ADVISORY: DATA ON THIS CHART REPRESENT FACEBOOK'S ADVERTISING AUDIENCE ONLY, AND MAY NOT CORRELATE WITH RESPECTIVE SHARES OF TOTAL MONTHLY ACTIVE USERS. ♦ COMPARABILITY ADVISORY: BASE CHANGES.

# Concord Friends Meeting

Chicken Pies for Mission work

*Below is an excerpt from Concord Friends Newsletter about a very successful chicken pie fund raiser they held in May! We can rejoice in their initiative, and gain some insight on some fundraising ideas!*

## USFW CIRCLE

Our circle had a successful chicken pie sale. We sold over \$2,874 of pies and we thank everyone who bought them or sold them for this fundraising project. We are discussing at our May meeting what projects we can take on in our church such as helping with the renovation of the parlor, etc. and other missionary and needed projects in our community as well as outside our community. At our May meeting we also discussed giving gifts to our shut-ins in and around the community. Each lady took a name of a shut-in to get a gift of their choosing and deliver it to the shut-in and visit with them. Valli got an email from our African Missionaries and we will share it at our June meeting. Sharing it together we will realize why giving to our Greensheet project each month is so important and what it means to them that we support their work. For a small circle of ladies we certainly see a lot of good coming from our labors in our service to God and to those in need.



(Picture of USFW Group taken in 2019 (before pandemic), in loving memory of Barbara Muir)



# May RECAP

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## Quaker Lake Golf Tournament

*A note from QLC concerning their recent golf tournament:*

"Thanks to everyone who made the 2022 QLC Golf Tournament a success! Your support generated approximately \$27,000 for Quaker Lake Camp. Proceeds from the Golf Tournament and other contributions to the QLC Foundation allow us to keep fees for Summer Camp and other activities affordable."

Check out QLC Facebook page [HERE](#)





# CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of the 2022 QLC Golf Tournament

1st Place  
Professional Solutions USA Inc. - 55

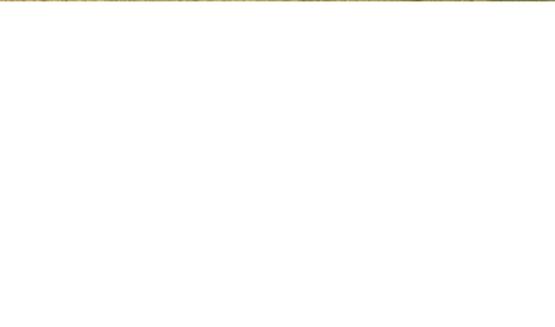
2nd Place  
Pin Busters - 58

3rd Place  
Birdie Bandits - 58



Ladies Longest Drive  
Michelle See

Closest to the Pin #3  
Matt Harrison



# Youth Gathering at Cedar Square

On Sunday, 5/22/22, FCNC young friends gathered at Cedar Square Friends Meeting. Four churches were there; Forbush Friends, Deep Creek Friends, Marlboro Friends, and of course Cedar Square Friends. It was a fun evening, got some good food, played a couple of games, and ended the night with a good message from God. A theme these last couple of days has been community, and that was no different from Sterling Brown, youth pastor at Cedar Square, message for the youth on Sunday Night. The message was wrapped around the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, John 4:1-42. The points that Sterling had for us were, looking for the outcast people in our schools, and not being afraid to go talk to the outcast people. We never like it when people start rumors about us, or we never like being separated from our friends. As Christians, we should never start rumors about other people, and should always try to include everybody, and make them feel special. Sterling also talked about Jesus being the living water, and if we follow Christ, we will never go thirsty anymore. To close, Sterling challenged us to find the outcast people in our schools and talk to them this week.

Kyle Widlicka (Forbush Youth Leader)

Please reach out to a member of Young Friends Activities or visit the FCNC website for more information.





# USFW Spring Conference

Enjoy a few pictures from the USFW Spring Conference!





# Home Coming for Concord Friends

On May 15, 2022 Concord Friends enjoyed a homecoming service where Mike Wall was invited to be the preacher for the special occasion. Here are a few pictures from that day:



