



JANUARY 2024 | ISSUE NO.27

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!

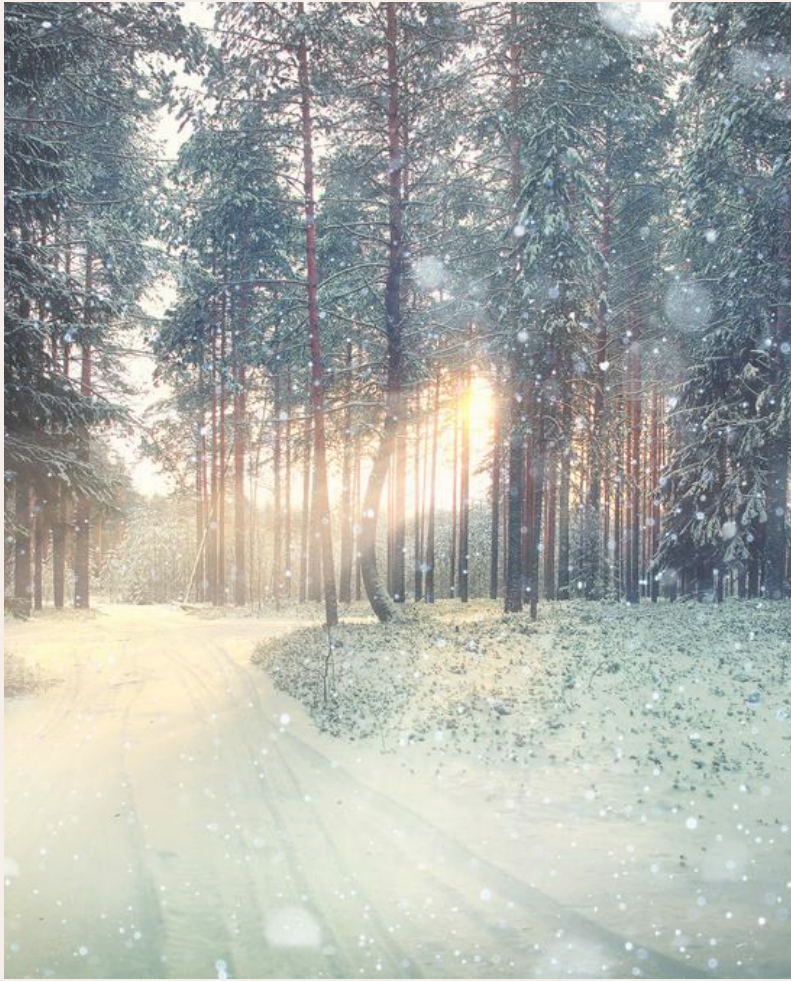
This is a monthly e-newsletter dedicated to keeping you up to date on current events within FCNC.

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



Quotes by Quakers

“

“I SHALL PASS THIS WAY BUT ONCE;
ANY GOOD THAT I CAN DO OR ANY
KINDNESS I CAN SHOW TO ANY
HUMAN BEING; LET ME DO IT NOW.
LET ME NOT DEFER NOR NEGLECT IT,
FOR I SHALL NOT PASS THIS WAY
AGAIN.”

STEPHEN GRELLET

NOVEMBER 2, 1773 - NOVEMBER 16, 1855

FRENCH-BORN AMERICAN QUAKER MISSIONARY

”

A Word of Devotion:

COURAGE FOR THE DAYS AHEAD

By: Anonymous

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and
courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be
discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you
wherever you go. -Joshua 1:9

Each year at this time, thousands of people stand in the cold in Times Square, New York. No big event beckons them. No ballgame is being played. No rock concert is getting underway. It's simply a huge, lighted ball that drops from a tall building. And within a few seconds, hardly worth fighting traffic and crowd pushing for, it descends marking a new year.

Why has this nonevent turned into a huge, money-making holiday? Most other holidays celebrate a reputable person, famous birthdays, document signings, or a noted event. But New Year's Eve only celebrates the passage of time—something that most of us would rather not recognize. We make a huge deal out of it because it signals the end of an old era and the start of a new one.

The old year's problems, heartaches, and struggles seem to vanish and become a faded memory when we think of getting the chance of a new year and a new start. It must have been the same way for the Israelites when they stood with Joshua looking forward to a new era ahead of them. They had wandered for 40 years in the desert, and finally they could see land flowing with milk and honey ahead. Better yet, they had God's promise that He would never leave or forsake them.

As you stand with your back to the old year and look forward to the new one, you can have hope in the promises of God. You will certainly face both trying and joyful times ahead, but you can rest assured that He "will never leave you nor forsake you" (Joshua 1:5).

That promise is enough to celebrate the new year ahead!

Ask God to give you courage, strength, and faith in Him to face the days ahead. Thank Him for being faithful and for never leaving your side.





Upcoming Events:

January 30th 2024

Quaker Trustees Training Series
(See flyer below)

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

Although January & February are often slower months as we all recover from the festive Holiday season, don't forget to let us know about things that may be going on in your Meetings or within committees!

Help us get the word out.



****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

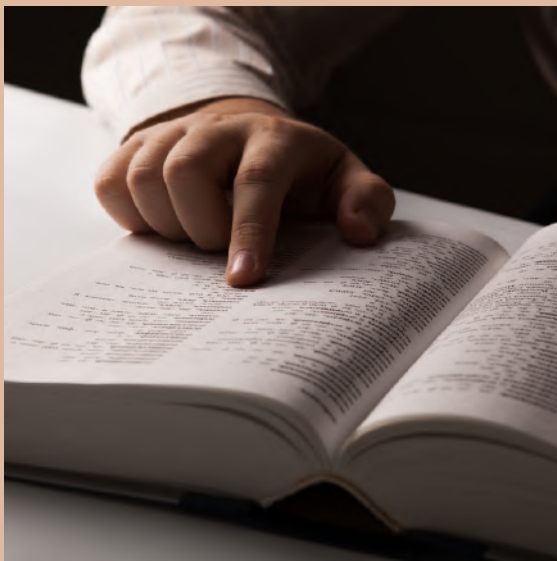
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Announcements:



REMINDER

Directory *still available!*



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

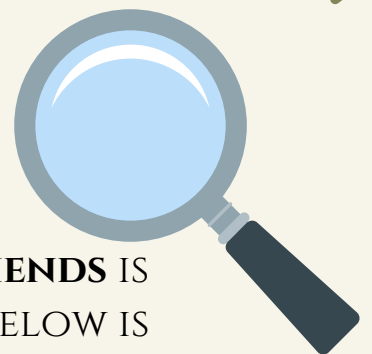
Access to the directory will require a password.

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.

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**





Job Posting

Part- Time Pastor
Goldsboro Friends Meeting
700 Guilford Street
Goldsboro, NC 27530

Goldsboro Friends Meeting is seeking to fill the position of Part-Time Pastor. We are a member of Contentnea Quarterly Meeting, Friends Church of North Carolina and Friends United Meeting. We are a small Quaker Church established in 1906 with 32 members and an average attendance of 14 including members' families and a few visitors from the community at worship services on Sunday morning.

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 Friends Church of NC Faith and Practice
- Previous training and/or experience as a pastor
- Recorded as a Quaker minister is desired
- Good communications skills are a must

Responsibilities

- Conduct and bring prepared message at Sunday morning worship services in the manner of Friends and have presence at church functions
- Perform funerals or weddings if requested
- Visit a few shut-ins, hospital, nursing homes and other crisis situations
- Seek to help grow our church

Compensation

- Compensation will be commensurate with the individual's education and experience.

A more detailed job description is available if requested.

If interested please contact: W.E. Bud Andrews, Clerk of Ministry & Counsel
717 Crescent Drive
Smithfield, NC 27577
919-934-3388
webarea73@gmail.com



NEW
UPDATE

New **ADDRESSES**

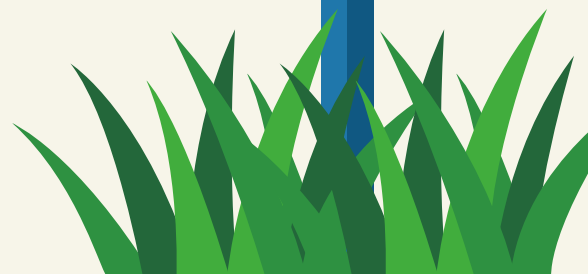


**FCNC
P.O. Box 4240,
Archdale, NC 27263**

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.



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Recycle and help others

This was sent in by a Bearing Fruit subscriber.

This is a fun and simple way to get involved and help others!

Those who work with children's ministries and youth work may want to make this a project to work on with your kids.

Check out the link below for a 3rd option to help the Ronald McDonald House by collecting pop can tabs!

[CLICK HERE](#)

1) Save **amber medicine bottles with the label removed** for **FAME** (Fellowship of Associates of Medical Evangelism). FAME began in 1970 in Columbus, IN as the result of a dream by Judge Milford Anness to start a Christian medical mission organization. FAME has grown from a group struggling to build one hospital in India, to an organization that has helped build 70 facilities in 29 countries around the world – hospitals, clinics, feeding centers, church buildings, housing for medical staff, and mobile medical units. FAME is now located in a warehouse on Southeastern Avenue in Indianapolis. For more information Google FAME Partners in Medical Evangelism.

2) As of December 2021: The **Right Sharing of World Resources Stamp Program** accepts stamps of all issue dates and countries, both used and unused stamps, sheets of stamps, albums, boxed collections of stamps, envelopes, and postcards. With foreign stamps, if they are still on the envelope or postcard, leave them there. If they are already removed, they are still welcome. If there are special markings on any envelopes, leave the stamp on the envelope. If there are not, leave 1/8 – 1/4 around the edge so the **ENTIRE** stamp is preserved. PLEASE LEAVE PEELABLE STAMPS ON THE ENVELOPES AS THEY STICK TO OTHER STAMPS WHEN PEELED OFF. These stamps are purchased by stamp collectors and proceeds benefit RSWR (Right Sharing of World Resources). **Any stamps are acceptable; however, NONPROFIT and PRESORTED ones have very little value.** You can Google Right Sharing Stamp Program for more information.



Dear Friends,

As I hope you have heard already, a gathering for Young Adult Friends from around the world will be held from 1 – 5 August 2024, immediately before the FWCC World Plenary Meeting, from the 5 - 12 August 2024 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Inspired by the Southern African word ubuntu, the theme will be based on Galatians 3:28 : “There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

The event is intended to improve mutual understanding of Quaker diversity amongst Young Adult Friends worldwide, to reinforce international Quaker identity, and to re-establish the Young Adult Friends global network, leading to joint actions and plans. The event is planned by an international team consisting principally of Young Friends from Africa, with some representation from elsewhere, supported by elders from Southern Africa Yearly Meeting and the Africa Section.

This letter is to encourage young adult Friends, ages 18-35, to attend both conferences. Registration is open now at FWCC World Plenary Meeting. The cost for both conferences, all 12 days including room, board, and program, is \$1300 for Friends from higher income countries like the US and Canada. For lower income countries, the cost is \$130. Airfare and other expenses are separate.

Direct any questions to: travelingministry@fwccamericas.org

In Friendship,

Robin Mohr

Executive Secretary

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

By: Bennie Burton

Now is a good time to reward your members with the Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship Life Membership which helps fund our scholarships. Also, it is important to begin talking to the high school seniors in your congregation about applying for the Cox Scholarship between January 1 and March 15, 2024. Students are eligible to receive a scholarship for a maximum of four years and must be a participating member of a meeting that actively participates in NC USFW.

Scholarship applications are on the following website,

<https://www.friendschurchnc.org/usfw>



All contributions to the scholarship fund need to be made by the end of March 2024.

One of the ways to contribute is to recognize your circle's members with an Eliza Armstrong Cox Lifetime Fellowship membership.

ELIZA ARMSTRONG COX LIFETIME FELLOWSHIP MEMBER

Eliza Armstrong Cox Lifetime Fellowship membership is an honor and recognition for service and dedication to the meeting and NC-USFW. Circles will submit \$25 per nomination, (\$12.50 to USFWI and \$12.50 to the EAC Scholarship Fund). A certificate signed by the USFWI President and the NC- USFW President is sent to the circle that submits the name for recognition. Nominations can be made at any time of the year.

Members are recognized at the Annual Gathering in the fall each year.

MEMBER(S) TO BE RECOGNIZED: _____

NAME & ADDRESS OF PERSON(S) TO RECEIVE CERTIFICATE(S):

DATE _____

Enclose \$25 per nominee payable to NC-USFW and send the check to the USFW-NC Treasurer. Contact the Treasurer to see if pins are available if one is desired.

Thank you for supporting the E.A. Cox Scholarship Fund.



Patches, My Quaker Kitty

We have one children's book that we are offering for \$15. It is written by **Joy Britt Reavis** (our Stewardship Secretary). It is a precious story about her two cats and how one cat, Patches, displays many of our core Quaker values (SPICES). Beautifully written and illustrated, it would make a great gift for your child or grandchild. The title of the book is Patches, My Quaker Kitty. Joy has graciously donated the proceeds from these books to the Eliza Armstrong Cox Scholarship Fund.



"I am Joy Britt Reavis, a ninth generation Quaker. Many mornings while I prepared my morning coffee, my cat, Patches, would sit and wait patiently at my feet to be fed. In contrast, the other cat, Bella, would meow loudly and demand to be fed. I became inspired to write about Patches when I realized how well she exemplified the Quaker core values or "SPICES." This book is appropriate for children of all ages, whether Quaker or not. If you are interested in having more copies, you can reach me at:

joyreavis@gmail.com

The Quaker Leadership Center (QLC) is a resource for Friends across the branches of American Quakerism. It is a ministry of the Earlham School of Religion. In this time of rapid cultural and congregational change, the Quaker Leadership Center (QLC) equips Quaker leaders to faithfully adapt and innovate by:

- cultivating new connections among diverse Quaker expressions
- collaborating with existing partners to revitalize leaders and their Meetings & churches
- curating relevant resources
- creating spaces for Friends leaders and congregations to discern their unique vital future

In January the QLC will be offering a series for Quaker Trustees, facilitated by Emily Provance.

Quaker Trustees Training Series



Do you serve as a Quaker trustee or have another role with particular responsibility for the financial, property-related, or legal concerns of a Friends group?

This new online series from the Quaker Leadership Center, facilitated by Emily Provance, is designed to weave together practical tips, spiritual conversation, guest experts, and networking to help Friends who are working through some commonly held concerns.

Each Zoom gathering is free and 90 minutes long and will include lots of opportunities for you to ask questions and receive resources.

January 30 (1:00 PM ET): *Quaker Trustees*

February 27 (1:00 PM ET): *Policies*

March 26 (1:00 PM ET): *Legal Structure*

April 30 (1:00 PM ET): *Rentals*

May 28 (1:00 PM ET): *Investments*



Ambwere Farm sustainability Project Update



After the maize harvest, the Ambwere Farm sustainability project near Kitale, Kenya, has been planted in canola.

A one-of-a-kind harvest celebration was held on 7 December 2023 at Friends United Meeting's Ambwere Farm in Trans-Nzoia County, Kenya. The event celebrated the hard work of the FUM team and its Ambwere farm staff, as everyone gave thanks for a bountiful harvest. As the team prepares for another season, the community celebrated its successful year with on-site visits, prayers, speeches of appreciation and encouragement, and songs of praise. The day concluded with a shared meal.

To read the full article [CLICK HERE](#).



A letter was sent out toward the end of December, along with the FUM newsletter, from Kelly Kellum. It is posted below. Pictured is a Christmas Display at Ramallah City Hall.



Dear Friends,

I am in a small “WhatsApp” group with three dear friends. I am the only non-Palestinian member of this group, and it is a safe and confidential place to discuss thoughts, express rage, voice injustices, and admit fears relating to the war in Palestine and Israel. This week my friends are trying to work out how to commemorate Christmas given their experiences as Palestinian Christians.

To date, over 18,000 people in Gaza have been killed, many of them children. The humanitarian disaster is worsening by the hour with most of its 2.3 million people homeless, trapped in a tiny, embattled coastal enclave, with little food, water, medical care, fuel, or secure shelter. Increasingly, world leaders are referring to what is happening as genocide.

My friends were discussing a meme portraying a Christmas tree against the backdrop of a bombed-out building in Gaza. I share this conversation with their permission.

One friend stated, “What’s happening is beyond words, and people should not get used to what’s happening in Gaza as if it’s normal.”

Continued on next page

A friend responded, “They should not get used to it, but they should conflate Christmas with oppression. Christmas is our hope against oppression!”

To which a friend answered, “I think the backdrop makes the typical joy and lights of Christmas challenging to embrace this season...We especially need to remember the birth of Jesus Christ this year, born in Palestine under Roman occupation, and shortly thereafter fleeing to Egypt as a refugee with his family. This context resonates strongly with our current reality and adds a poignant layer of meaning to our observance of Christmas in these trying times.”

Unspeakable loss, tremendous grief, and moral damage are experienced by people on all sides of this horrific war. This includes the rising tide of hatred that appears respectable during times of war in all nations, and masquerades under the guise of patriotism. Beyond the Holy Land, people are experiencing exorbitant costs of living, extreme climate changes, the sharp increase of mass shootings and gun violence, the worry of food scarcity, deep political divisions, the growing pandemic of loneliness, and an endless list of anxieties as they contemplate the future.

Appropriately, Christmas festivities across the region, and even in Bethlehem, are cancelled this year. While much of the world may not be in the mood for merrymaking, I encourage Friends everywhere to remember the birth of Jesus Christ and reflect on the graces of this season.

For unto us...oh people of Palestine, Kenya, Jamaica, Canada, Uganda, Cuba,
Zambia, South Sudan
...a child is born,
unto us...oh people of Belize, Tanzania, Congo, Guatemala, Malawi, Mexico, and
the United States
...a son is given,
and the government shall be upon his shoulder.
His name shall be called:
Wonderful,
Counsellor,
The mighty God,
The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6

In the Peace of Christ Jesus,
Kelly Kellum
General Secretary

QUAKERS IN HISTORY

Elizabeth Fry
1780-1845



Elizabeth Fry was a British Quaker philanthropist and social reformer known for her pioneering work in prison reform and her advocacy for the rights and welfare of prisoners.

She was born Elizabeth Gurney into a prominent Quaker family in Norwich, England. Fry's interest in prison reform began in 1813 when she visited Newgate Prison in London and was deeply moved by the deplorable conditions and mistreatment of female prisoners.

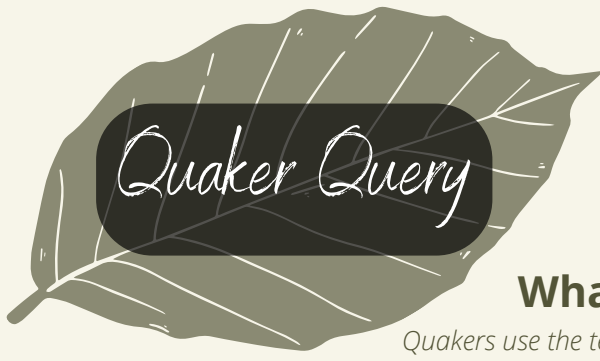
Determined to make a difference, she began visiting prisons regularly. She was providing practical support, such as clothing, food and educational opportunities to improve the lives of prisoners.

Fry believed in the importance of treating prisoners with compassion and dignity and she worked to introduce various reforms. She established schools within prisons, advocated for the separation of prisoners by gender and age and introduced systematic and humane approaches to healthcare and rehabilitation.

Her efforts were instrumental in transforming the treatment of prisoners and raising public awareness about the need for prison reform.

In addition to her work in prison reform, Fry was also active in other social causes. She played a key role in improving conditions for the mentally ill and worked towards the abolition of slavery. Fry's commitment to social justice was rooted in her Quaker faith, which emphasized equality, compassion and the belief in the inherent worth and dignity of all individuals.

Fry's work attracted widespread attention and admiration, and she became an influential figure in British society. She used her platform to raise awareness about social issues and to advocate for legislative changes. Her efforts paved the way for future generations of activists and reformers and her legacy continues to inspire humanitarian work around the world.



...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 you make time, in private retirement, for meditation, prayer and thanksgiving, and do you take opportunities for reading and understanding the Bible and other writings which reveal the ways of God?

-Do you encourage these practices in members of your family, individually, together and in other groups?

Taken from the Quakers in Ireland, Religious Society of Friends

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

Social Media

Comm-Tech Committee



**DON'T
FORGET!**

You are invited!!

We have created invitations!

These invitations can be customized by your meeting and made available to all members to give out as they see fit. Have you ever wanted to invite someone to church but weren't sure what to say? Maybe you wanted to show someone what "Friends" were all about but couldn't find the words. That's where the invitations come in!

Not only are these invitations, but on the back, there's a simple explanation for WHO the Friends are, with a "QR code" to scan for more information.

There are three formats. Youth/teen, young adult/adult and traditional adult. Below you will find all three formats. There are links that you can follow to download and get them printed at your local Staples.

If you are unable to do that, I can have them made and shipped straight to your meeting.

Simply e-mail me at: jenny@friendschurchnc.org

To go to Canva and download these designs

Youth/Teen: [Click HERE](#)

Young adult/Adult: [Click HERE](#)

Traditional Adult: [Click HERE](#)



Front

YOU'RE INVITED TO



Where:

When:

Additional Info:

Back

Friends are: Christ Followers. Community leaders.
They are people who love others just as
they are.

Friends are NOT: Amish. The Quaker Oats guy.
And no... they're not a cult.



**Friends/Quakers are similar to other Protestant denominations
but offer these unique differences:**

Centering: Our lives are busy. That's why we find it important to stop and "center" ourselves.

No Sacraments: We believe in a direct communion with God. And baptism is not physical but rather a baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Open Worship: During worship, we give others a chance to share

Core Values: We attempt to live a life of **SPICES!**

Simplicity-**P**eace-**I**ntegrity-**C**ommunity-**E**quality-**S**tewardship

For more information visit: www.friendschurchnc.org/discover

Front



YOU ARE INVITED TO

WORSHIP WITH US

Where:

What Time:

Additional info:

WHO ARE "THE FRIENDS"?

We're so glad you asked!

Back

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Back

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Simplicity-Peace-Integrity-Community-Equality-Stewardship

For more information visit: www.friendschurchnc.org/discover

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.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Cuba!



Prayer **CORNER**

How can we pray for you?

Prayer:

Pray for all of those suffering in the Middle East during this time of war and violence.

Praise:

Praise God for a New Year in which to seek him, to share him with others and to love others like he does.

Thank God that he makes all things new.



DECEMBER RECAP

Friends Home Anniversary

To see the full post on Friends Home Facebook page,
[CLICK HERE](#)



Young Friends Logo Contest

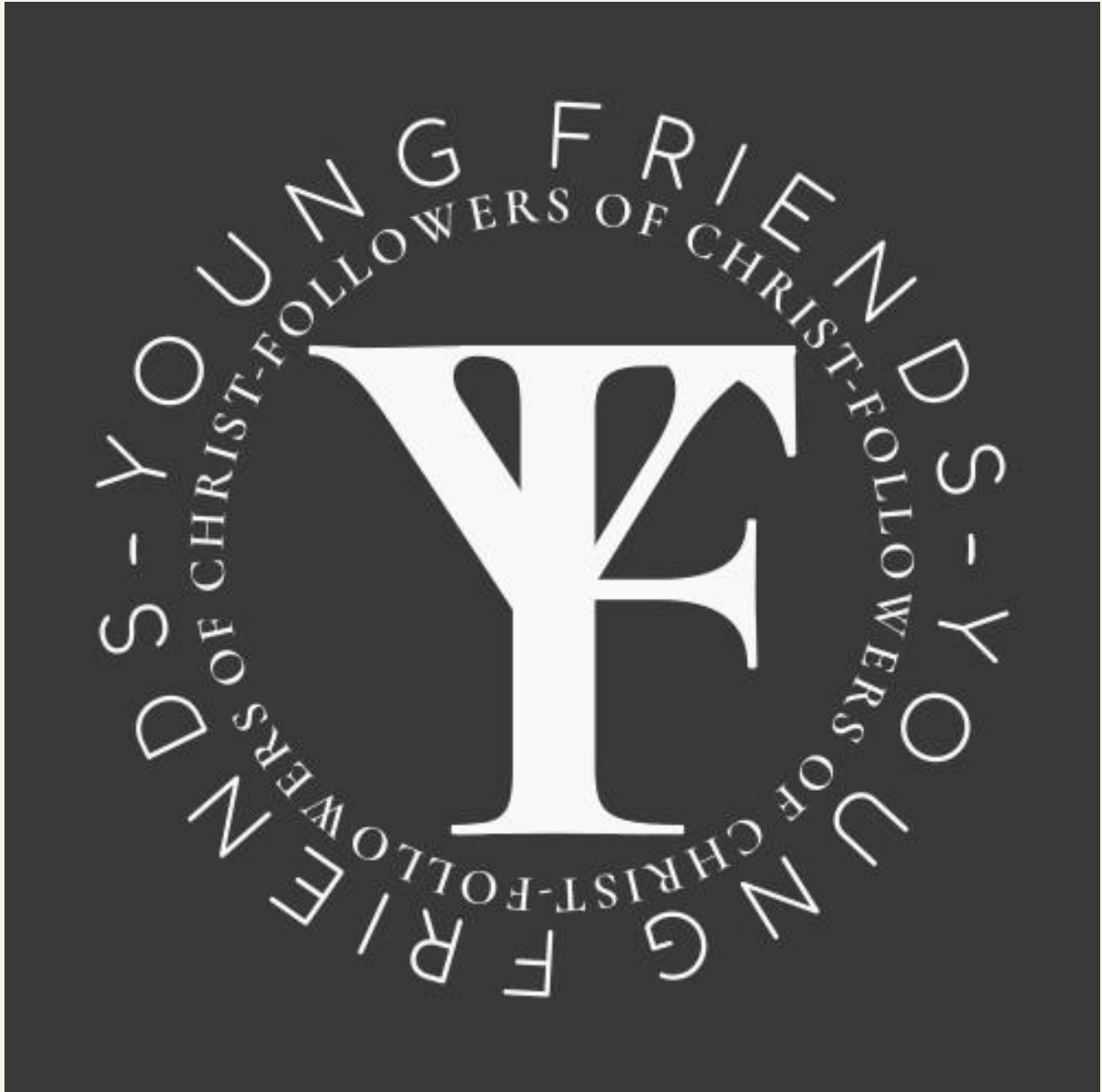
Thank you to all who submitted a logo! We want to announce that our winner was

Ethan Hulin

with the youth choosing his design over all the others.

A One Hundred Dollar Gift Card will be able to be picked up by Ethan as soon as we can get it to him.

Congratulations to all youth who submitted a logo! They were wonderful and we hope you are as proud of our youth as we are! Congratulations to Ethan for the winning logo contest.



White Plains Drive-thru Nativity

Thanks to all who attended our Drive-Thru Living Nativity! We had to end a few minutes early due to rain, but we had a wonderful time sharing the story of the birth of Jesus!

-To follow WPFM on Facebook [CLICK HERE](#)



White Plains Christmas Play

"Our children and youth did a fantastic job presenting the play "The Night Shift Before Christmas". It was an evening full of music and laughs and a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas. We enjoyed a time of fellowship afterwards with cookies and hot chocolate. Thanks to all who attended and to all who worked so hard to make this evening possible!"

-Taken from WPFM Facebook page. To see more posts like this one, follow WPFM on Facebook

[CLICK HERE](#)



Centre Friends Meeting Live Nativity





Photo credit: David Coltrane and Rhonda Kirkman

Concord Friends Christmas Play

Concord Friends "Bible Adventure Club Kids" performed 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, a play about a curious mouse who learns the real meaning of Christmas. The adult choir also performed the cantata, "I'll Be Home for Christmas" on December 17th.

The congregation enjoyed light refreshments following the program.



Cantata
2023



Concord Friends Christmas Project

Concord members donated gifts for five families from a local elementary school this Christmas. The Quaker Men's group provided a delicious pork dinner to the families as well.



A Visit to Harmony Grove Friends

Mike Wall was able to visit with Harmony Grove Friends Meeting on December 17th 2023. Nelson Puffenbarger spoke. His wife, Kathy, was present along with 5 others.

