



APRIL 2023 | ISSUE NO.18

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!

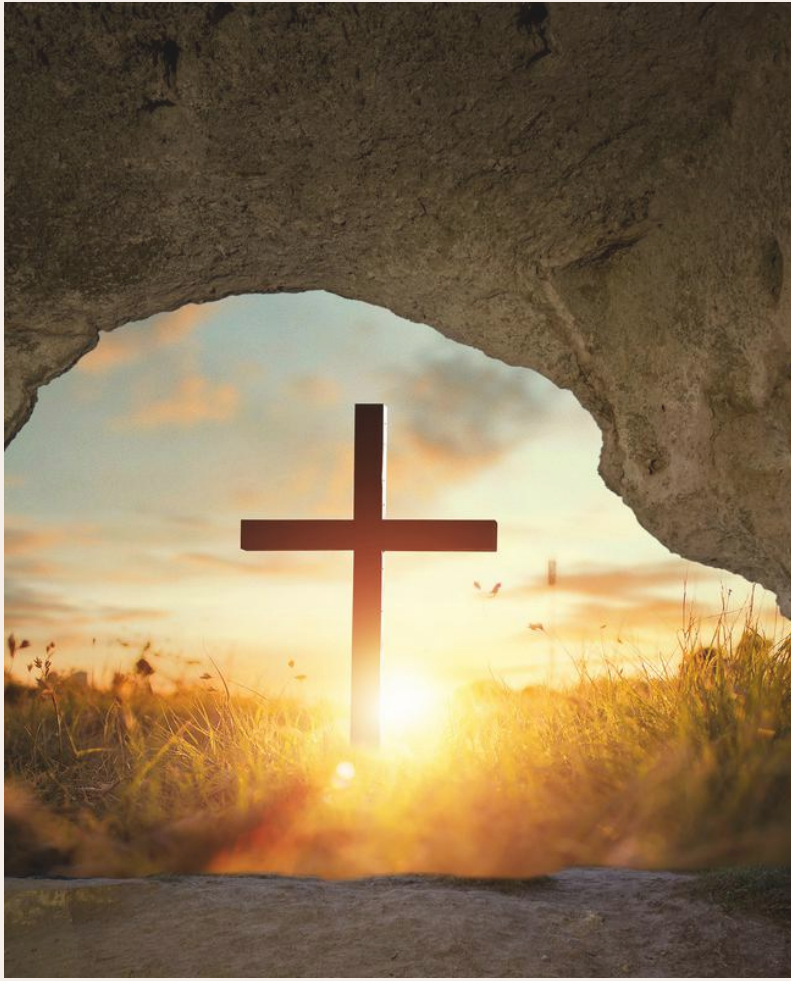
This is a monthly e-newsletter dedicated to keeping you up to date on current events within FCNC.

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 FOR Quakers

“

"THIS IS TO ME THE HOUR OF GREATEST JOY I EVER
HAD IN THIS WORLD. NO EAR CAN HEAR, NO
TONGUE CAN UTTER, AND NO HEART CAN
UNDERSTAND THE SWEET INCOMES AND THE
REFRESHINGS OF THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD, WHICH
I NOW FEEL."

~ MARY DYER, 1611-1660

”

A Word of Devotion:

"THAT GOOD,
TERRIBLE DAY"

By: Ian Walton

"For the joy set before him he
endured the cross, scorning its
shame, and sat down at the right
hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 12:2

Good Friday. The terror and the intimacy of that blood-stained cross. Despair and hope shaken together in the defining moment of all time. Love and hate colliding. Joy and victory emerging amidst the suffering.

It is fitting to think again about suffering during the season we are in—Lent and Easter. It is also fitting for the times in which we find ourselves: fallen leaders, failed peace agreements, and tragic events and circumstances all around us. And the uncertainty of the cracking twenty-first-century landscape around us.

I don't pretend to be able to truly relate to intense suffering, at least not at this point in my life. Even as I write that, I realize that this is likely to change at some point. Not because I'm pessimistic, or because I doubt God's grace, favor, and protection over me and my family, but because I have come to realize that both joy and suffering have been packaged into this gift that we all hold—life on earth.

The psalmist gives us a beautiful picture of the spiritual secret that many of us have discovered—that there is a table to feast from in the midst of the valley, prepared specially by our Father. He sets it before us and invites us to eat, in faith, despite everything crumbling or crashing around us:

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil,
for you are with me; ... You prepare a table for me in the presence
of my enemies. Psalms 23:4-5

Last year I spent some time rediscovering the Beatitudes:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit. ... Blessed are those who mourn.”

Matthew 5:3-4

Blessed means spiritually joyful, divinely favored, deeply satisfied.

What is our Lord trying to teach us with this sort of seemingly incongruous statement? In our youth, or as immature believers, we may feel that being blessed mostly looks like happiness and vacations and bonuses and miracles. Yet we call this special day

“Good Friday.”

It is the day we remember intense suffering and mourning—and yet it is also the day we remember His freedom-winning sacrifice and love for us. An intensely good day, a blessed day in the deepest sense of the word.

Peace in the midst of pain. Joy despite suffering. The choicest food in the darkest valley.

May you experience this Easter weekend as one in which you are able to truly feast at His table—illuminated by His gift of joy in the midst of whatever else is going on around and within you.



Upcoming Events:

April 1st 2023

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

April 15th 2023

Bethel Friends Meeting
"Pig Pickin"
11 AM- 6 PM

April 22nd 2023

Youth Rally
at Brandon Friends
1PM- 4PM
(see more info below)

April 29th 2023

QLC Golf Tournament
more info [HERE](#)

April 30th 2023

Mission Sundays
(see more info below)

May 20, 2023

NC USFW Spring Conference
May 20, 2023
(see flyer below)

June 11-16, 2023

Next FDS trip
more info to come

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

Quaker Lake Camp is seeking golf teams and sponsors for its annual Golf Tournament! Proceeds from the tournament provide operating and programming funds crucial to fulfilling our mission. This year's tournament will be held April 29 at Holly Ridge Golf Links in Archdale.

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

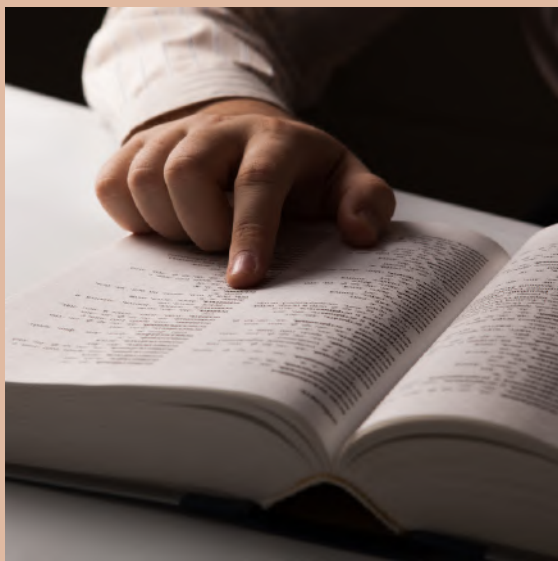
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Announcements:



REMINDER

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.

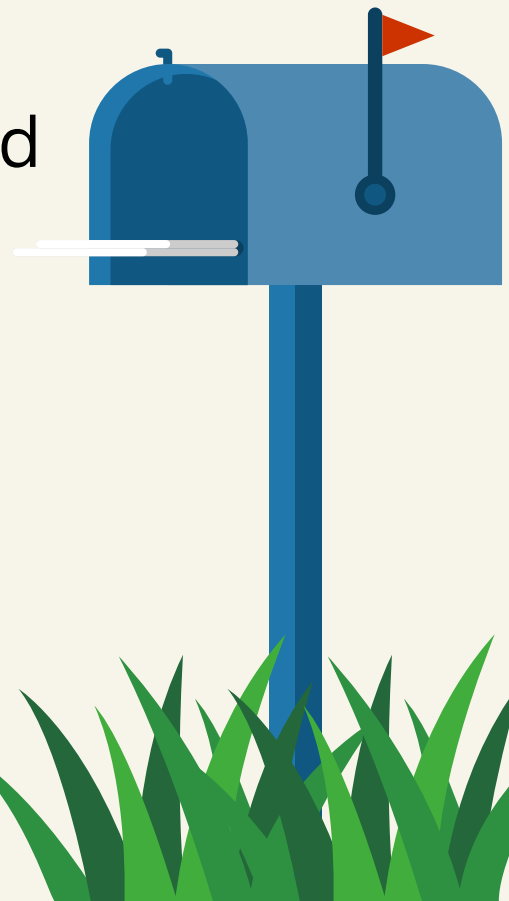
New
ADDRESS



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



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.



**DELICIOUS
BARBECUE**

**FOR OVER
50 YEARS**



**BETHEL FRIENDS MEETING
PIG PICKIN'
APRIL 15, 2023**

Serving 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

**Pulled Pork Barbecue with
Bethel's Famous BBQ Sauce
Pintos • Slaw • Hushpuppies
\$10.00 Per Plate**

2519 BETHEL FRIENDS ROAD • ASHEBORO

**DRIVE THRU
TAKE OUT ONLY**

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

FCNC Missions Sunday

The Missions Committee of Friends Church of North Carolina contributes to many ministries, including missionaries, Friends' Meetings in underprivileged areas, and the ministries of Friends United Meeting. What we do depends on you!

You can:

- Pray for the missionaries and ministries.
- Give financial support.
- Go on a mission trip, VBS, work group, etc.
- Grow your knowledge with newsletters.
- Get the word out to other Friends.

Ministries supported by N.C. Friends

- Jamaica Yearly Meeting – Vacation Bible School, Leadership Training & Building Projects
- Matamoros, Mexico Missions- Pastoral Support and Building Repairs
- Friends Center in Alabama (formerly MOWA)
- Friends Campus Ministry
- Africa – Friends Theological College, Lugulu Hospital, Turkana and Samburu missions
- Middle East – Ramallah Friends School
- Mesquakie Friends Church
- Kickapoo Friends Center
- Cuba Friends
- Bolivia-Friends International Bilingual Center
- FUM Pandemic Relief
- Quaker Lake
- FEMAP

Missionaries supported by N.C. Friends

- Bob and Hope Carter, medical and spiritual ministry in Kenya
- Oscar Mmbali, Pastor in Belize
- Nikki Holland, School Director in Belize

Any amount of money donated is appreciated. If you can't support financially, please keep these missions in your prayers.

Missions Sunday

The special collection today goes to support these ministries. As you feel led you can also send checks to FCNC, with Missions on the memo line, mail to the FCNC Yearly Meeting Office, PO Box 4240, Archdale, NC 27263.

Maybe you can't go, but you can help send others!!

MARK 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the World and preach the gospel to all creation."

Youth Rally

at Branon Friends

April 2nd 2023

1PM- 4PM



**Topics will include:
Bullying & Suicide awareness**

We will be providing hot dogs,
fries & funnel cakes!

For more information contact
Jordan Ramey at: 336-354-7789

Also, contact Jordan to let him know if you or
your Youth Group will be there in order to
prepare enough food

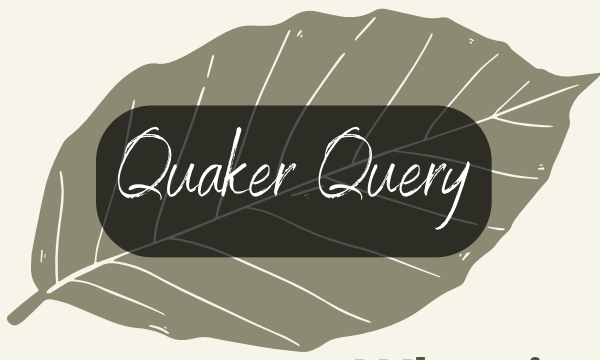
FUM
UPDATE

FUM Sustainability Project



Ground is being prepared before planting at FUM's Ambwere Farm sustainability project near Kitale, Kenya

- In late September, the Ambwere family, a Quaker family in Kenya offered to lease their 900 acre farm to FUM, an area well suited for growing corn. Several FUM staff and board visited the farm and sought advice from other farmers and met with an attorney. The FUM Executive Board approved proceeding.
- A Farm Management Committee was appointed which included several Quakers in the Kitale area with expertise in large scale agriculture. They hired a farm manager and put a plan in place to improve productivity. The land had been producing sugar cane for the last 6 years. A mill in the area has offered to purchase all the corn produced this year. Soil preparation and plowing has started and planting will begin in March with expected harvest in October.
- Giving from North American Friends is decreasing, but the ministry needs are not. The FUM General Board created the Sustainability Committee to develop business and investment projects to supplement FUM programs. This committee consists of four members from North America, four from Kenya and one from Jamaica. If successful, once all loans are repaid and operational costs accounted, this farming project is projected to net \$100,000.
- The war in Ukraine is limiting the supply of grain to Africa and food inflation is causing alarming food insecurity in Africa. By raising corn we will be able to feed hungry people.
- The first year of farming is being financed through loans. The budgeted projection is \$600,000 to lease the land, put in the crop and harvest it. FUM has secured a loan for \$450,000. FUM is willing to pay 6% interest on the loan. FUM anticipates they will begin repaying the loans after the second harvest and plan to repay the loans in full by the fifth year. To simplify bookkeeping, we request the minimum loan amount be \$5,000. The money should be sent to the FUM office in Richmond and designated as a loan for the Sustainability Project.
- Any donation will offset operational costs. Contact Lloyd Stangeland (lloyd.stangeland@gmail.com) to learn about making a loan.
- Please pray for the Ambwere Farm Project. A group of Kenyan Friends gathered on the farm to bless the land and the bountiful harvest that will grow there. There has been rain and planting started March 17. The plan is to complete planting by the end of the month when the forecast is for more rain



...for April



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...

- Why is it important that we know Jesus rose from the dead?
- This spring, what gives you hope?
- What experience has humbled you in this life?

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 Brandon Dockery, one of our pastors (currently not pastoring due to health).

Brandon is/was in Wesley Long Hospital with kidney failure and problems with his spleen.

Pray for a friend of Mike Wall's, Ben Hurley and his daughter, who were in a car accident. Ben has a fractured sternum, and his daughter has several fractures.

Praise:

Praise God for defeating death and rising again!
"The good thing about Friday, is that Sunday is coming!"