

BEARING FRUIT

The Official Newsletter of Friends Church North Carolina

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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: <u>jenny@friendschurchnc.org</u>





Quotes by Quakers

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"DON'T ASK YOURSELF WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS, ASK YOURSELF WHAT MAKES YOU COME ALIVE. AND THEN GO AND DO THAT. BECAUSE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS IS PEOPLE WHO HAVE COME ALIVE."

-HOWARD WASHINGTON THURMAN

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A Word of Devotion:

"WORLD Quaker Day 2023

> Living the Spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with Hope to God's Call to Cherish Creation and one-another.

World Quaker Day – 1 October 2023 – will be an opportunity to learn, reflect and act, as we prepare to come together as a global family of Friends at the "World Plenary Meeting" in South Africa and online next year, themed Living the Spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with Hope to God's Call to Cherish Creation and one-another. The word ubuntu emphasises shared humanity, deep connection, and care for creation and one-another. It is translated sometimes as 'I am because you are' or 'we are because you are'. It refers to the deeply held belief, morality and custom that every person is worthy of being recognised, respected and heard, and that we as human beings are all interdependent. It is centrally important to the faith and practice of Quakers in Southern Africa.

The following prayer has been prepared by the worship group for the World Plenary Meeting, as follows:

Even when we feel overwhelmed
By the fear of tomorrow
The uncertainty of this degenerating world
And the cruelty of human beings.
The refuge is in you, God.
Forgive our offenses,
Restore our soul,
Restore humanity.
We glorify your name
We preserve the love of our neighbors
We are because they are
We are because you are

We are because your spirit guides us

Dear God

Amen

Check out the <u>FWCC website</u> to learn more.



Click on the picture or **HERE** to access video

Show the above video in your Quaker Meeting or Friends Church, about what the word "ubuntu" means to Friends in Southern Africa. After watching it consider the Quaker Queries on page 17 for personal contemplation or together with others.





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

Upcoming Events:

September 24-29 2023 FDS trip to New Bern

*October 1st 2023
World Quaker Day

October 6th 2023

Registration deadline for NCYM inc Annual Meeting

October 21, 2023
QLC Pumpkin Festival

October 18th 2023
FEMAP business meeting
(see pg 12)

November 4th 2023
NCYM inc Annual Meeting

*World Quaker Day is an annual event where we celebrate the diversity of Quakerism around the world, and build connections to make our community stronger.

World Quaker Day 2023 will take place on Sunday October 1st with the theme 'Living the spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with hope to God's call to cherish creation – and one another'. This is also the theme of the next World Plenary Meeting which is taking place in South Africa and online in August 2024.



Announcements:



REMINDER

2022 Directory

still available!



Log in HERE

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: Directory2021!

password to view, download or print.

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

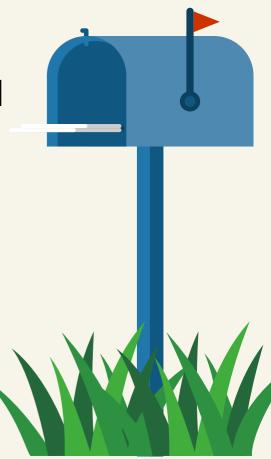




FCNC has a new mailing address!

P.O. Box 4240, Archdale, NC 27263

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





North Carolina Friends Disaster Service

AN OUTREACH MINISTRY OF N.C. FRIENDS

Gary Dodson, Co-Coordinator 2476 Beckerite Rd Sophia n.c. 27350 Phone 336-495-6790 Walter Shore, Co-Coordinator 2324 Shore Rd. Yadkinville, N.C. 27055 Phone 336-244-0527

Allen Gibson, Co-Coordinator 8225 Charlbert Ct. Apex N.C. 27539 Phone 919-656-9030

Eastern N.C. Disaster Relief Sept 24th - 29th , 2023 New Bern, North Carolina

This September trip to New Bern will be a special trip. We will be rebuilding a house for a couple who has had to endure multiple tragedies. They lost the roof of their house during hurricane Florence and they did not have any homeowners insurance. The home owner fell and broke his back while trying to do the repairs himself. Another disaster relief organization was able to repair the roof. Tragedy struck again in June 2023 when their house was destroyed by fire and the homeowner received third degree burns. He had to be sent to the UNC burn center in Chapel Hill. Now they are homeless. The Craven County Disaster Recovery and the Baptist on Missions have asked us to help. This September trip will truly change these peoples lives forever. I have attached a file with their complete story.

As we have done in the past we will be working with the Baptists On Missions Disaster Group. We will be staying at their New Bern Rebuild Center. The accommodations will be dormitory style with women in one area and men in the other. If you would like to participate, please contact one of the Co-Coordinators listed above as soon as possible.

Lodging: Baptists on Missions – New Bern Rebuild Center 2108 Old Cherry Point Rd.

New Bern N.C. 252-571-6347

Meals will be provided by the Baptist on Missions group.

(Prepared by our wonderful cooks !!!!!)

Plan on meeting Sunday afternoon, June 11th at 5:00 PM at Moore's BBQ 3621 MLK Blvd New Bern NC for a group meal.

Please share this information with everyone at your meeting/church.

? Thank You for your continued support of the

North Carolina Friends Disaster Service



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 RECOGNIZE	ED:		
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

FEMAP - Friends Emergency Material Assistance Program

FEMAP volunteers gather at the Allen Jay House in High Point every Wednesday (10am-2pm) to assemble donated items into the various kits—Hygiene, Infant, School and Farmworkers. School kit items are needed as school begins this fall, especially spiral bound notebooks and rulers.

Once each quarter FEMAP holds a business meeting where reports of kit distributions are given along with sharing of sewing projects for producing baby blankets, youth and adult quilts, and making small bears. Interesting programs are enjoyed by all in attendance, like the recent presentation by Brenda Haworth. She told the history of The Model Farm, a project of the Baltimore Association from Maryland Quakers concerned for the Quakers in North Carolina following the Civil War. She put us right there in the late 1860s, speaking about the destruction of farmland, loss of all farm animals and no schools for many years. The next FEMAP business meeting is scheduled for Oct. 18, 2023 at 10:30 am. We meet in the fellowship hall at Springfield Friends Meeting. Everyone is welcome, ladies and gents! Come join us and enjoy a carry-in lunch together.

Update about the fire at the Allen Jay House (where FEMAP assembles kits, etc.)

In the early morning hours of July 31, 2023 there was fire that seriously damaged the Allen Jay house, a post-and-beam frame house built in the 1840s. The main area where the materials and assembly for the FEMAP kits was done was destroyed. Already assembled kits in the bags had to be repackaged; but all of the other supplies, yarn, fabric for quilts, storage boxes, etc. could not be salvaged.

We are very thankful for the firefighters at High Point Station 6 and the other two companies which responded. FEMAP continues their work; they have moved temporarily into the old Fellowship Hall (under the chapel) at Springfield Friends Meeting which is across the street from the Allen Jay house.

History: Allen Jay (1831-1910) lived here from 1868 to 1877 as superintendent during the rebuilding of the Southern Quaker community following the Civil War. His impact on the area was so great that the whole neighborhood in High Point is named after him. (source: Max Carter)

The last page of this issue of the <u>Carolina Woman</u> has the types of items needed for the kits, yarn, fabric, etc. Any and all of the items of all kits are needed; yarn can be "small balls" or skeins, fabric can be remnants, small safety pins and one- and two-GALLON plastic zip lock bags! THANKS FOR ANY DONATIONS







FEMAP KITS

Friends Emergency Material Assistance Program

Any

HYGIENE KITS

- 1 Tube toothpaste
- 1 Adult toothbrush
- 1 Bottle shampoo
- 1 Bar bath soap
- 1 Wide-toothed comb
- 1 Hand towel
- 1 Washcloth
- 1 Deodorant

FARMERWORKER'S KIT

- 1Tube toothpaste
- 1 Adult toothbrush
- 2 Disposable razors
- 1 Deodorant
- 1 Wide-toothed comb
- 1 Foot fungus powder or cream
- 1 Band-Aids (assorted bag or box)
- 1 Hand towel
- 1 Washcloth
- 1 Bandana or Sweat band
- 1 Tylenol or other OTC pain killer
- 1 Pair work gloves
- 1 Shaving cream
- 1 Bar bath soap

INFANT KITS

- 2 Receiving blankets
- 4 Baby washcloths
- 1 Baby towel
- 1 Bar baby soup (Ivory)
- 1 Bottle baby shampoo
- Small tube or jar petroleum jelly
- 2 Pairs infant socks

SCHOOL KITS

- 4 Unsharpened pencils
- 1 Ruler (plastic or wood)
- 1 Block eraser
- 1 Small pencil sharpener
- 2 Spiral wide ruled composition books

PLEASE PACK EACH KIT IN A 2-GALLON PLASTIC ZIP-LOCK BAG

WE CAN ALSO USE (to replace what lost in fire)

YARN any weight, (little/leftover balls too!)

FABRIC FOR QUILTS: small remnants, too!!

SMALL SAFETY PINS

1 & 2 GALLON PLASTIC ZIP LOCK BAGS



WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT REGISTRATION FOR OUR UPCOMING FRIENDS SUMMIT YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE IS NOW LIVE!

This conference only happens every four years (unless there's a global pandemic) and is an opportunity for leaders both young and old within the evangelical Friends Movement to come together and have conversations about the Kingdom, Mission, and Passion of the Friends Church and each other. Plan on joining us no matter your age and be a part of a conversation that could change your life.

To learn more details <u>CLICK HERE</u>
TO REGISTER <u>CLICK HERE</u>

QUAKER ARCHIVES GUILFORD COLLEGE



By: Gwen and Beth

Newsletter, please donate them to the Quaker Archives at Guilford College. We are trying to fill gaps in our collection and are especially missing issues from the early 2000s. Contact us at archives@guilford.edu for more information.





Letter From Belize By: Oscar Mmbali

After the FUM/QMI/USFWI Triennial in July, we travelled home to visit family. We returned to Belize safely two weeks ago. We were grateful that Noa slept all the way across the Atlantic and while we found extreme heat in Belize, it has rained over the last couple of days...

In early September, just before the commencement of the new school year, we receive a lot of requests to help with school resources. We find that this time is an opportunity to engage with our neighbors about the work we do. On 2 September 2023, we are inviting parents to bring their children to Belize City Friends Center to learn about the work of Belize Friends Center, Church, and School. Boys who attend the event will receive a haircut, while girls will have hair braiding. Every student that attends will receive a package of school supplies, like a school bag, exercise books, textbooks, pens, and pencils. This event will be an opportunity for members of the community to learn about the work of the school and the center, as well as to know that they are welcome to join us on Sunday for worship at Belize City Friends Church. We also hope this event can be an opportunity to recruit prospective students. So far, fifty students have signed up to attend. Some of our partners in this project are Belize Port Authority, which has donated school bags, books, and pens, and Angelus Press, which has donated textbooks. Ladyville

Read all of Oscar's newsletter here.

Highlights Media will cover and broadcast the event.

OUAKER MEETINGS IN HISTORY

"Great Friends Meeting House"

Built: 1699

Newport, Rhode Island



The Religious Society of Friends, more commonly known as the Quakers, began to establish communities in New England as early as the mid-17th century. Not particularly welcome in the less tolerant Congregationalist-Puritan colonies of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, many Quakers settled in Rhode Island. One of the largest Quaker communities became established in Newport in 1657.

They constructed the Great Friends Meeting House in 1699.

This meetinghouse was one of the largest in the colonies at the time, and only grew bigger with several expansions over the next two centuries. It was here that the Religious Society of Friends had their national meeting every year until 1905, when it was moved to Massachusetts. The Quaker community of Newport has since dwindled, and its Meetinghouse turned over to the Newport Historic Society as part of that city's National Historic District and is run as a museum. There are so many fascinating photos and facts about this beautiful and historic

building, so go check it out!

CLICK HERE to read the full story!



...for September

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...

-How would you express the concept of ubuntu in the language or culture you are most familiar with?

-What would the effects be if our global Quaker community were to follow the precepts of ubuntu more closely, and how can we go about this?
-From where does hope come?

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 <u>HERE</u>)
- 2) follow FCNC's Facebook Page (click HERE)
- 3) join FCNC's Facebook group (click <u>HERE</u>)

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





An idea was submitted to the Comm-Tech Committee and we love it!

The idea is an invitation; one side blank, for your Meeting's address and contact info, and the other side introducing Friends/Quakers.

We will have 3 different formats.

- -Traditional
- -Contemporary
 - -Youth/Teen
- This is something that each Meeting can have printed at Staples and be made available for members to pass out at their discretion.
- Think neighbor, friend, coworker, employee, the bag boy at the grocery store...

Lord willing, we will have a PDF for these invitations in the October newsletter. Stay tuned!!



CLICK HERE

to learn more!

To watch a video all about the Samburu Mission

CLICK HERE



The Samburu people are nomadic pastoralists who keep cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys. Recently, huge swaths of collectively-held range land in the Samburu region have been privatized, leading to extreme disruption of grazing and migration patterns. This, in turn, has led to an increase in violent conflict with neighboring communities. Education and literacy training for the Samburu are crucial at this time, as capable leadership is needed in negotiating these conflicts, and only 6% of Samburu adults have a secondary school education.

Building the Friends Church in Samburu involves building communities, not building buildings. As early Friends knew, it is the body of Christ that matters, not the building in which Christ is housed. Worship is often shared under a tree with indigenous songs, spirited dancing, and readings from the Bible.

The Friends Mission in Samburu, started in 1995, is an outgrowth of Turkana Friends Mission. Sammy Letoole is Director of the Samburu Friends Mission, under the direction of the Samburu Friends Mission Board.

Current priorities of the Mission include evangelism, church planting, discipleship, a medical clinic, girl-child education, biosand water filters, nursery and primary schools, women's self-help groups, peace building, night school for shepherd children, adult literacy, and, in partnership with Friends Theological College, pastors' training.



Le How can we pray for you?

Prayer:

Pray for people affected by the various natural disasters happening around the world. Many fires, hurricanes and drought have been reported.

Pray that we will bless others as we have been blessed.

Praise:

Praise God for the gift of community!
Whether it is across the world, or in our neighborhood a Christ centered community is such a blessing.



Group Mission Trip 2023 Pittsburgh PA

Thank you to all those that helped with our individual and collective fundraisers. We know that because of the support of our local meetings and members, this summer was possible!

A huge thank you to The River Community Church for not only hosting us the week of July 16th-22nd but opening their doors to many all summer long.

Cedar Square Friends youth, Marlboro Friends youth, Forbush Friends youth, Deep Creek Friends youth and Union Cross Friends youth. They came together and decided to go on the same mission trip hosted by Group Mission. They believed this would be suitable for our Yearly Meeting Youth and create friendships, memories and more participation in our Yearly Meeting events. We've noticed that since we are no longer hosting long events (Black Mountain, Serenity, and Tremors) teenagers do not have adequate time and space to meet other Quakers outside their local meeting/school. We want our youth to bond with others outside their youth/school, that way they will be excited for upcoming Yearly Meeting events and other opportunities to serve with each other.

The local projects were Knead Community Café, World Vision and The Tree of Life Church.

The Knead Community Café: Knead Community Café is a unique gathering place that nourishes body and soul, offering meals that are pay-what-you-can/pay-it-forward. They provide fresh, wholesome food seasoned with love, where all are welcome.

They like the play on words with their name; that it is helping to serve a need in the community. Also, They associate the word kneading with bread, and as Christians, we acknowledge Jesus as the Bread of Life. Knead Community hopes to honor His teachings by loving thy neighbor one meal at a time.

World Vision: World Vision is an international partnership of Christians whose mission is to follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in working with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice and witness the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

We pursue this mission through integrated, holistic commitment to:

Transformational development that is community-based and sustainable, focused primarily on the needs of children.

Emergency relief assists people afflicted by conflict or disaster.

Promotion of justice that seeks to change unjust structures affecting people with low incomes among whom we work.

Partnerships with churches to contribute to spiritual and social transformation.
Public awareness leads to informed understanding, giving, involvement, and prayer.
Witness to Jesus Christ by life, deed, word, and sign that encourages people to respond to the Gospel.

Tree of Life Church: We provide a variety of community initiatives and social welfare programming. We provide our community access to free food and clothing through our Brookline Christian Food Pantry and Clothing Room. We provide high-quality childcare through Brookline Sprouts Preschool. We offer daily after-school programming for kids in 3rd grade through high school graduation. We provide a free dinner to children every Tuesday at 5 pm.

We host an Easter Egg Hunt, Breezefest Kid Zone, and Festival of Trees each year. These events are free for the community!

At Tree of Life, we want to be REAL in everything we do. And not only does that mean being authentic to Christ and each other, but to Restore, Activating, empowering, and loving. Furthermore, we try to create a safe, encouraging fellowship of people who urge each other toward Christ and His likeness.



















Concord School Supply Drive

The members of Concord Friends Meeting collected school supplies for 400 students at Sumner Elementary. The members assembled the pencil pouches with supplies after church and then distributed them at open house. This is the third year Concord has sponsored this project!









USFW Fall Gathering

Fall Annual Meeting August 19, 2023 at Cedar Square





Registration Table

Book table



Morning refreshments and greeting friends



Devotions: Being rooted and established In Love.



Program: Brenda McKinney and Rita Mintmier reported on the FUM-USFWI-QMI Triennial held in Kenya in July 2023

More pictures from Fall Annual Meeting August 19, 2023 at Cedar Square

Officer Installation:
"Going on a Safari with Jan Dough"











THANK YOU also to Erin Mintmier and Paul Routh!!



This was 'taped live' and can be found on YouTube ... under "Paul Routh"



"and don't forget to subscribe to <u>The</u> <u>Advocate</u>"Linda Kersey