

Carolina Woman

March, April, May 2019

A publication of North Carolina United Society of Friends Women

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Spring Conference Saturday, May 18, 2019 at Quaker Lake

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jan Dough

"Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble, and prayerful always." Romans 12:12 The Living Bible

I feel like I've been on my knees praying a lot lately. Well, not always on my knees but in constant conversation with God. Maybe it's because of my age that I'm more aware of the problems that surround me but there seems to be so many things that need my prayers. I have family and friends to pray for but with the many forms of social media available to us there are also people I've never met that need my prayer. It can sometimes be overwhelming.

I learned at an early age the power of prayer. As a child I stayed at my grandparents' home while my parents were at work as did my siblings and my cousins. It was a wonderful childhood. My brother was the first grandchild and I was the second, the first granddaughter of 14 grandchildren.

My grandmother took me everywhere with her. Shopping, running errands, to meetings – I was her tag-a-long and I loved it! But after a while I longed for a girl to play with as after me grandchild #3, #4, and #5 were boys. My Barbie had GI Joe as a boyfriend not the cute Ken! I wanted more than anything to have a girl cousin.

When I was seven, we were blessed with another grandchild in the family. I spent months before the birth praying that the child would be a girl. I just knew that God would grant me this simple prayer. I'll never forget the day of the birth. I waited with excitement for word of my new (girl) cousin. Finally, the news arrived – another boy!

What?!? I felt betrayed! I had prayed earnestly for what seemed forever that a girl would be joining our family. How could God let me down? I was heartbroken. A few months later I confessed to my Grandmother that I was done with prayer! Praying had not sent me the girl cousin I so desired. God did not listen or care about my prayers. My Grandmother smiled, held me in her arms and explained

prayer to me. We don't always get *what* we pray for or *when* we want it, but God does hear our prayers and he does care. He has a plan for us. She encouraged me to continue to pray.

So, I did. I continued to pray and play with my brother and boy cousins. My prayers were answered the very next year when not one, not two, but three baby girls were born into our family. God does answers prayers. I also learned another important truth about prayer.... Be careful what you pray for - you just might get it!

I'm praying now that we get nice weather for our Spring Conference, May 18 at Quaker Lake! I've really missed seeing everyone. Our Speaker will be Pam Ferguson and registration for Spring Conference is in this issue of our Carolina Woman. Please encourage your USFW members and friends to join us for a day of fellowship. In our business meeting I will be asking for a small adjustment to our by-laws. The USFWI and Quaker Men Triennial will change this next time to align with FUM's Triennial. We need to adjust our officer terms to reflect this change. Our new and current officers will serve a one time 4-year term instead of a 3-year term so that our officers change the same as Triennial. After this, a term will be for 3 years. Make your plans now to attend our Spring Conference. I will be praying for safe travels, good weather and a day of fellowship sharing God's love.

PEACE AND CHRISTIAN SOCIAL CONCERNS

Linda Kersey

Let me start with my favorite verse: Mark 5:9 "*Blessed are the Peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*" What a magnificent honor to be called the CHILDREN OF GOD. That is our goal for 2019. Let's get it done by first looking through each person we see until all we see is a beating heart and an undying soul. We will see each soul on the same journey as ourselves; the journey through this life seeking to find meaning, purpose and peace as we move closer to our Maker. Once we do this, we will lay aside feelings of inferiority, superiority, jealousy, envy, and any ugly stuff that weighs us down and limits our ability to seek PEACE. Let's begin each day reminding ourselves that we have a chance to seek PEACE for ALL and when we reach the gates of heaven St. Peter will know us because we will wear a label that reads, CHILD OF GOD.

Last writing I made you know that we have an extraordinary president and she is willing to come to your circle meeting (with 2-50 members) to encourage you. To give you information about coming events or just inspire you to do a better job of meeting the needs of the weak, poor, uneducated and hurting people in our world. She has already spoken to the circles at Concord and Marlboro about her volunteer week feeding VB Schoolers at the MOWA CHOCTAW WORK near Mobile, Alabama. She spoke to Bethel Meeting about USFW in general. (For more about the MOWA CHOCTAW WORK please see the article on pages 20&21 of the January-February 2018 ADVOCATE. Pat Cheadle, a member of Winston Salem Meeting is featured in this delightful article about her volunteer work.)

Contact information:

Jan Dough email: jdough@triad.rr.com

snail mail: 2541 Old Lexington Rd., Asheboro, NC 27205

Cell: 336 953 3465

I want to call your attention to another article in the January-February 2019 ADVOCATE. (in case you may not know already, I LOVE THE ADVOCATE.) On pages 24-26 you will find the account of Marian Baker's travels in Tanzania, East Africa. She makes yearly trips to minister to Friends April 18

Del Livingston

April 25 John Muhanji

Meetings in East Africa on her own with funds raised from those who appreciate her work among our African Friends.

She wrote, "Judith Nandikove from Nairobi and Pamela Ngoya from Nakuru travelled with me down to Tarime, Tanzania. We were greeted with sad news...that Borega Friends Church had blown down

and Tarime Church still had no roof.” They held the meetings that these 3 ladies came to hold in the church with no roof. Marian said the 3 ladies joined the dancing choir from Kisangura and had a jolly ole time getting exercise between sessions. During a rain storm the tarp draped over the top of the church sagged and collapsed on top of the people. At the end of these sessions 5 of the church leaders, counting Marian were to make a 3 day trip to the Malawi border. She said they were facing a very difficult and expensive journey and that she recommended they cancel the trip and use her travel money, donated to her in the USA, to build a roof over the church in Tarime. This suggestion was accepted unanimously. Marian’s entire article is fascinating, get your own ADVOCATE and read.

I want to give one of your leaders a subscription to the Advocate. Simply choose who would best use it to keep the entire USFW group informed. Then send the name, address, USFW group name and meeting name to me. My information is:

Linda Kersey email: linx5432@gmail.com

Snail mail: 5432 Graystone Ct., Greensboro, N.C. 27406

cell 336 402 6020

The more your circle uses The Carolina Woman and the ADVOCATE, the more interesting and knowledgeable your circle meetings will be. SPREAD PEACE!!!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION

Denise E. Barnes

“What is Love”?

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” - Matthew 22: 36-39 (NIV) I don’t know about you, but when I see a heart, the first thing I think of is love. We think and talk a lot about love. There are probably more songs written about love than any other subject.

A group of professionals asked some children (ages 4 to 8), “What does love mean?” Here are their responses:

*”Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving lotion and they go out and smell each other.” - Kari, 5.

*”Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, and then he wears it every day.” - Noelle, 7.

*”Love is when your puppy licks your face, even after you left him alone all day.” - Mary Ann, 4.

*”Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is ok.” - Danny, 7.

From these responses, you can see that children pay attention to the behaviors of others and they develop their own opinions of what love is. Therefore, we should demonstrate our love of one another as much and as often as possible! We can share the stories of love from the Scriptures, sing songs about love with them (my personal favorite is “Jesus Loves Me”), and show love through our actions and words.

The Bible says, “God showed how much he loved us by sending Jesus to die for us, even though we were sinful.” God could have said “magic words” to make the nails fall off the cross, but He didn’t. That shows us what true love really is!

“Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” -

Romans 5:5-7 (NIV)

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Judy Craven

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”
Hebrews 13:16 NIV

Scripture encourages us to stay busy, giving of our resources and our time, supplying the necessities of life for many in our neighborhoods. Here are four reports from USFW presidents about projects at their local meetings/churches.

Sheila Vogler, president of Forbush Friends USFW, reports Christmas gifts for ten residents of Pinebrook Adult Care Center are donated each year. Another annual activity is IMPACT YADKIN. This local community service program gathers teenagers from area churches for a week of work projects, fellowship, and worship. The ladies at Forbush Friends Meeting provide lunch each day for the workers as they meet the needs of local residents.

Judy Ritter at Winthrop Friends Meeting told about their annual participation in Samaritan’s Purse Christmas Shoeboxes. An annual fund-raiser for the meeting is a silent auction held in the spring. USFW ladies have enlarged the occasion with a hot dog and hamburger meal, outdoor games, and activities for the whole family.

Susie Jones, president of Deep River Friends, shared their Secret Pal project in which each member chooses a Shut-In to contact monthly with a call or card, sometimes a small gift, all to keep these folks in touch with the meeting. Twice a year the Deep River ladies make and sell chicken pies to raise funds to provide scholarships for children to attend Quaker Lake Camp. Quarterly donations and a monthly meal are given to Leslie’s House, a home for battered women. They also support “Hand to Hand Pantry” where needy families find help with food, clothing and household items.

One meeting has a program for collecting items for Femap that involves the entire congregation. Here’s their story as told by Centre Friends USFW president, Lindsay Shore-Wright.

“Greetings from Centre Friends Meeting! This summer at our VBS we tried a service project of supporting Friends Emergency Material Assistance Program (FEMAP.) We asked meeting members to donate supplies for school kits and farmworker kits. One VBS station was our FEMAP room. The first day the kids discussed needs and helping others. The second day, they packaged the kits. Kids as young as four were able to help. The kids seemed to enjoy physically doing something useful. The generous donations combined with the efforts of the kids produced 37 complete school kits and 11 farmworker kits!

The VBS experience was so successful we have continued to include the youth on monthly collections of highly needed items. Each month we target 2 items FEMAP is in need of. We have older youth announce the items during worship. Then our younger youth go pew to pew and collect items at the end of the month with their “FEMAP Express” wagon. Involving our youth has increased donations dramatically and the kids are excited to see all the materials add up. FEMAP is near and dear to many. We are including the younger generations in bringing attention and continuing support to this important Quaker mission

NCUSFW ladies are busy “doing good and sharing with others.” I hope to share more stories from many of you. Please call or email me with your news.

Reminder: Most-needed items for FEMAP (Friends Emergency Material Assistance Program) are posted weekly on Facebook.

BIRTHDAYS OF WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

April 18 Del Livingston

April 25 John Muhanji

ADULT MISSIONARY EDUCATION

Edith Shepherd



One of the NCUSFW projects for February was the Cuba Quaker Peace Institute. The conference center in Gibara not only serves as the meetinghouse for Gibara Meeting and the Cuba Quaker Peace Institute. It also serves as the central location for the training of pastors, leaders and individuals. Meet this group of students from Friends Meetings in Holguín, Cuba and Gibara, Cuba. They are attending the new session of the course on Quaker History led by Ramon González Longoria, director of the Cuban Quaker Peace Institute.

NOTE FROM HISTORIAN

Adis Beeson

MEMORIALS

As a way to remember those who have passed on, we take time at our Spring Conference each year to thank God for their service and faithfulness. We also remember those members who have left the Yearly Meeting but were members prior to the separation, as well as the members who may have left their meeting due to retirement or relocation in their last years. Please list names below of members who have passed away this year. Memorials will be read at the next NCUSFW Spring Conference.

Year _____ Meeting: _____

Name(s) _____

Mail or email Adis Beeson, Historian - 4305 Beeson Farm Road, Sophia, NC 27350
abee123@northstate.net

Copy this form as needed, thank you

NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY OF FRIENDS WOMEN TREASURER'S REPORT

Jean Christy, Treasurer

January 2018	Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship Scholarship Fund		\$1,965.25
	Interest Earned Mollie Cooper Fund CD (Jan-Dec)		\$31.66
	Interest Earned EAC Fellowship Scholarship Fund		\$2.10
	International Students Scholarship Fund		\$1,370.25
	Interest Earned International Scholarship Fund		\$2.11
February	Peace and Social Concerns USFWI 2018		
	1-Cuba: Quaker Institute of Peace		\$715.00
	2-Right Sharing of World Resources: Samson Ababu Support		\$715.00
	3-East Africa: Friends Church Peace Team: Getry Agizah		\$1,047.50
	4-Ramallah: Friends School Quaker Coordinator		\$432.50
	FEMAP-Friends Emergency Materials Assistance Program		\$945.00
March	Four Funds USFWI 2018		
	1-Love Fund: Belize Church Planter.Pastor: Oscar Siema Mmbali		\$1,155.09
	2-Faith Fund: Kenya - Robert Wafula		\$1,155.09
	3-Hope Fund: Ramallah - Adrian Mody		\$1,155.09
	4-Joy Fund: USA - Native American Center Workers (3 centers)		\$1,719.73
April	Christian Service USFWI 2018		
	1-Belize: Friends School Student Services		\$1,060.28
	2-Ramallah: Eli & Sybil Jones's Scholarships (K-12)		\$1,134.17
	3-Turkana/Samburu Missions		\$960.28
	4-Lugulu Adopt-A-Bed		\$910.27
May	Friends Homes Assistance Fund		\$1,537.50
	Spring Conference Offering - Quaker Lake		\$4,048.50
June	NC USFW Projects		\$1,405.00
July 2018	Jamaica Building Fund-NCYM		\$400.00
	Children & Youth USFWI 2018		
	1- Ramallah: Amari Play Center Feeding Program		\$1,157.00
	2-Native American Children and Youth Programs (3 centers)		\$1,439.00

	3-Kenya: Turkana/Samburu Girls' Secondary Education		\$1,057.00
	4-Belize Friends School Feeding Program		\$1,057.00
August	Annual Gathering Offering		\$1,725.00
September	80% Membership Apportionment to USFWI		\$1,180.00
	20% Membership Apportionment to Scholarship Fund		\$295.00
	Yearly Meeting Offering-EAC Fellowship Scholarship Fund		\$1,445.00
October	Keys to the Kingdom USFWI 2018		
	1-FTC Teacher's Salaries/Extension Program		\$1,091.90
	2-Triennial Travel Assistance		\$1,383.80
	3- <i>The Advocate</i> subsidy		\$916.90
	4-Adult Education in Belize		\$941.90
November	United Thank Offering USFWI 2018		
	1-Jamaica: Pastoral Care		\$1,150.60
	2-Belize: Director of Friends Center		\$1,014.50
	3-Kenya: Turkana/Samburu Pastors (32 pastors)		\$1,695.40
	4-African Ministries Office Director		\$889.50
December 2018	MOWA Choctaw-NCYM		\$1,890.00
	Friends Disaster Service-NCYM		\$2,190.00
Other Contributions			
	Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship (50% USFWI, 50% Scholarship)		\$375.00
	Friends Theological College		\$540.00
	Robert Wafula		\$240.00
	Adopt-a-Nurse		\$150.00
	Quaker Lake to Jamaica Camp		\$90.00
	Summer Missions - Cuba		\$200.00
			\$47,981.87

Jean Christy, NCUSFW treasurer 2549 Cottage Place Greensboro, NC 27455

North Carolina United Society of Friends Women 2019 Greensheet Projects

March *Four Funds USFWI 2019

- 1- Love Fund: Belize – Oscar Siema Mmbali
- 2- Faith Fund: Kenya – Robert Wafula
- 3- Hope Fund: Ramallah – Adrian Moody
- 4- Joy Fund: Kenya – Katrina & Shawn McConaughey

April *Christian Service USFWI 2019

- 1- N. America: Mesquakie Friends Center
- 2- N. America: MOWA Choctaw Friends Center
- 3- N. America: Kickapoo Friends Center
- 4- Kenya – Lugulu Hospital Adopt-A-Bed

**May **Friends Homes Quaker Assistance Fund
Spring Conference Offering – Quaker Lake**June **NCUSFW Projects (Including printing of the Handbook and *Carolina Woman* Newsletter expenses)
** Matamoros, Mexico Missions****July *Children & Youth USFWI 2019**

- 1- Ramallah: Amari Play Center
- 2- Kenya: Turkana/Samburu Girls' Secondary Education
- 3- Belize: Feeding Program
- 4- Ramallah: Eli & Sybil Jones Scholarship Fund

Aug **Annual Gathering Offering

- 1 - Friends Center: Guilford College
- 2 – Special Project TBD (Campus Ministry or other)

Sept *Membership Apportionment

- \$5.00 per active member
** NCUSFW Scholarship fund

Oct *Keys to the Kingdom USFWI 2019

- 1- Belize: Student Services
- 2- Triennial Travel Assistance (USFW YM Clerks)
- 3- The *Advocate* subsidy
- 4- Adult Education in Belize

Nov *United Thank Offering USFWI 2019

- 1-Jamaica: Pastoral Care
- 2-Kenya – Turkana/Samburu Missions
- 3-Kenya - Turkana/Samburu Pastors (32 Pastors)
- 4-Kenya – Friends Theological College Extension Program

**Dec **MOWA Choctaw
Friends Disaster Service

**USFWI Projects **NC USFWI Projects*

LITERATURE

Darla Anderson

Hi Ladies! I am writing this on a cold and cloudy January day, while awaiting more possible “winter weather.” We know what that means! On the positive side, however, it’s a good day to stay inside, wrap up, and read a good book. In fact it would be a good time to read something from our 2018/2019 reading list. There’s still plenty of time to finish up before the new books are available.

Speaking of the new books, it looks like Mary Anna McCullen, our International Literature Secretary, has put together another great selection of books for our 2019/2020 reading list. The new books will be available at Spring Conference on May 18th at Quaker Lake.

If you are needing anything from the 2018/2019 list, I still have a good number of books available as well as a few blueprints and calendars. Just let me know and I will send them to you. They will also be available at Spring Conference.

Happy Reading!

2019-2020 United Society of Friends Women Reading List

“Unity of the Spirit” Ephesians 4:3 NIV

FICTION

Minding the Light by Suzanne Woods Fisher. Captain Reynolds Macy returns to his home on Nantucket Island with a ship’s hold full of whale oil and discovers that everything has changed. Unlike most islanders, bold and spirited Daphne Coffin doesn’t defer to Ren as an authoritative whalemaster, but sees through his aloofness and encourages him to return to his Quaker roots and “mind the Light” find solace in God and community. **\$16.00**

The Road Home by Beverly Lewis. Grieving the death of her Amish parents and separation from her nine close-knit siblings, Lena Ross Schwartz consoles herself that her new life in Lancaster County won’t be forever. Even as she holds on to hope for a reunion with those she love most, she discovers that Lancaster holds charms of its own. **\$16.00**

The Bridge by Karen Kingsbury. A love story by everyone’s favorite author, this book is set against the struggle of the American bookstore, you will never forget. In the face of desperate brokenness and lost opportunities, could the miracle of a second chance really unfold. **\$16.00**

Hurricane Season, by Lauren K. Denton. When Hurricane Ingrid aims a steady eye at the Alabama coast, a family must make decisions that will change their family’s future. A story of one family’s unconventional journey to healing and the relationships that must be mended along the way. **\$16.00**

GROWTH AND CHALLENGE

Made Like Martha by Katie M. Reid. Are you a Martha who feels guilty for not being a Mary? In this book (one of my favorite on the list) the author invites you to exchange try-hard striving for hope-filled freedom without abandoning your doer’s heart in the process. **\$16.00**

Bus to Corinth by Ladine Housholder. Five of the original “*Well Women*” journey through Greece to honor the memory of a friend and retrace the footsteps of Paul the Apostle during his ministry in Athens and Corinth. Like Paul’s vision of Jesus, their experience explodes into their lives, empowering and transforming them forever. **\$16.00**

Plain and Plenty, A Quaker Cookbook, by Trish Edwards-Konic. Delicious recipes all compiled by Quakers. There is everything from appetizers and breads to main dishes of beef, pork or poultry. I thought you might like to bring this back after 16 years and it is still available. **\$14.00**

BIOGRAPHY

Taking Back My Life by Rebekah Gregory. On April 15, 2013, Rebekah Gregory and her five year old son waiting at the finish line of the Boston Marathon to support a friend who was running. A terrorist’s

homemade bombs destroyed her life by injuring her leg so badly it later had to be amputated. This is a true inspirational story of how life is hard, but with God all things are possible. **\$16.00**

Hiding in the Light by Rifqa Bary. A true story about how a teenage girl, a native of Sri Lanka, risked everything to leave Islam and follow Jesus. The author recounts in riveting detail the events leading up to her decisions to leave home and the chain of events that followed. **\$16.00**

I'll Push You, by Patrick Gray and Justin Skeesuck. This is a true story of a journey of 500 miles two best friends and one wheelchair. After Justin was diagnosed with a progressive neuromuscular disease his life time friend, Patrick offered to help him fulfill his dream of traveling the famous Camino de Santiago by pushing him in his wheelchair. This book tells what a true friendship is meant to be. **\$16.00**

BY AND ABOUT QUAKERS

Seeds that Change the World, by Debbie L. Humphries. Growing up Mormon, the author came to Quakerism in the early 1990's. Debbie shares her experiences as she has travelled in the ministry among Quakers under the care Hartford Monthly Meeting, carrying a concern for the spiritual health and vitality of the Religious Society of Friends. **\$15.00**

Lessons from Cross-Cultural Collaboration, by Eloise Hockett and John Mahanji. In this book, the authors share their unique experiences of cross-cultural collaboration using the principles of cultural humility, primarily in Kenya. From Mt. Elgon, to a village in rural Kenya, to working with teachers in schools, they describe each project through the lens and perspective of an American and a Kenyan. This book is especially meaningful to USFWI since the next triennial is coming up in 2020 in Kenya. **\$21.00**

Primitive Quakerism Revived, by Paul Buckley. This book challenges contemporary Friends in each of the Society's branches to reexamine their fundamental beliefs and practices. It is a plea to reclaim the essential Quaker principles and mission by modeling a joyfully faithful community of God. **\$15.00**

Going the Extra Mile, Norval Hadley. Dr. Hadley tells the story of how his decision to follow God no matter what took him into seventy-five countries and on a lifetime of adventure. Join him on his adventures. **\$14.00**

The Advocate Subscription Form

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202 Community Bldg Rd.
Belvidere, NC 27919-9666

SCHOLARSHIP

Lee Van Hughes

The Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship Scholarship applications for 2019-2020 must be postmarked no later than March 15, 2019. They can be folded and sent by regular mail. ALL candidates must be participating members of a Friends meeting that is an active member of the North Carolina United Society of Friends Women (NCUSFW).

For new applicants, this should include an application form, a brief personal information letter, and three reference forms. Students who are reapplying need to send an application form which is one page only and a college transcript. All forms are online at Friends Church of North Carolina <http://friendschurchnc.org/> and North Carolina Fellowship of Friends <https://www.ncfriends.org/> .

NEW applicants need to fill out an updated application form, write a brief personal information Letter **and** send three reference forms. Application form: <https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/ncymwebsitefiles/USFW/Scholarship-Application.pdf>

PRESENT/Continuing recipients need send only the one page application form and a college transcript. Scholarship renewal application form: <https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/ncymwebsitefiles/USFW/Scholarship-renewal-Info.pdf>

Scholarships are awarded for a maximum of four (4) years.

Any of the forms may be folded and must be postmarked on or before March 15, 2019. All should be **mailed to**: Mrs. Lee Van Hughes, 1470 Pinefield Drive, Sophia, NC 27350.

ELIZA ARMSTRONG COX LIFETIME FELLOWSHIP MEMBER.

The Eliza Armstrong Cox Lifetime Fellowship membership is an honor and a recognition for service and dedication to the meeting and NCUSFW. Circles will submit \$25 per nomination. (\$12.50 goes to USFWI and \$12.50 goes to the Eliza Armstrong Cox Scholarship Fund). A certificate signed by the USFWI President as well as the NC USFW President is sent to the Circle who submits the name(s) for recognition. Nominations can be made at any time of the year but members are recognized at the Annual Gathering in the fall each year.

Member(s) to be recognized:

Meeting : _____

Name and Address of person to receive Certificate(s): _____

Date: _____

Enclose \$25.00 **per nominee** payable to NCUSFW and send to the NCUSFW Treasurer with your check. Add \$7.00 if a pin is also requested. Thank you for your support of the Eliza Armstrong Cox Scholarship Fund.

Copy this form as needed, thank you

STEWARDSHIP

Linda Anderson

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1 Peter 4:10).

What is “the manifold grace of God, and what does it have to do with Christian stewardship? This is a phrase that appears in the bible only in Peter’s first epistle. The Greek word translated “manifold” is *poikilos*, and it means “many colored” or “of various colors or sorts”. As such, Peter is saying because God has bestowed His grace upon us in many different ways, we are to use those gifts to enrich the lives of others.

The USFW group in our Meeting has “adopted” three residents of a local nursing facility who have no relatives, and as such, few visitors. As we plan our visits to these residents, it is easy to see the good stewardship of the manifold grace of God in these wonderful Christian ladies. Their varied spiritual gifts are put into action; cookies are baked, singing is planned, small gifts and snacks are purchased and the visit is much anticipated.

To the average person, these activities may sound rather pointless. It may seem that these simple acts of kindness and love cannot really make a difference. However, the look of pleasure, and the gratitude on the faces of these folks who know that we are there for them and only them... affirms the relevance of our work. Sometimes the simple things in life are the things that matter most. To these precious souls; these unique children of God, our visits matter. Our devotions matter. Our prayers matter. Our love matters. As we “minister our gifts to one another”, we need to remember that the gift doesn’t need to be large or costly; it just needs to be from the heart.

I often have difficulty deciding who is blessed the most by our nursing home visits; the patients, or those of us who make the visit. When I consider that more than 50% of nursing home residents have no close relatives to visit them, and a whopping 90% of nursing homes in the U.S. have staff levels too low for adequate care¹, I feel blessed just for the opportunity to spend these precious few moments of time with our adopted residents. I know my sisters in Christ feel the same.

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

NC USFW Spring Conference at Quaker Lake

Saturday May 18, 2019



Pam Ferguson is copastor with her husband, Ron, at Winchester (Indiana) Friends Meeting. Before moving to Indiana, they spent nine years in South Sudan, Uganda and Kenya doing development and peace work with the Mennonite Central Committee. She also serves on the board of Friends Committee on National Legislation and the board of Friends Fellowship Retirement Community in Richmond, Indiana.

Mark your Calendars now

for our NC USFW Spring Conference at Quaker Lake on May 18, 2019

- 9:00 – 10:00 am Registration, Bookstore, light morning refreshments
- 10:00 am – 12 noon Welcome, Music, Business and Program
- 12:00 noon Luncheon

If you have questions please contact Jan Dough (336) 629-1689

If you would like to stay overnight at Quaker Lake, please call Quaker Lake. (336) 674-2321

Deadline is May 10, 2019 (Preregistration is requested).
The cost of the meal is \$12.00 per person.

NC USFW Spring Conference at Quaker Lake Registration

Please clip and send to the address below by May 10, 2019

Name(s) _____

Meeting _____

Number of Lunches at \$12.00 each _____ Total \$ _____

Please mail with check (written to NC USFW) to:
Jean Christy
2549 Cottage Place
Greensboro, NC 27455