

Carolina Woman

June, July, August 2020

A publication of North Carolina United Society of Friends Women

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Janet Robbins

For the last 2 months I have kept a log of my thoughts during the pandemic. I had asked our NC USFW Board to share challenges as well as blessings and to also reach out to someone else.

My son told my grandchildren that there have been silver linings during the pandemic. Then he had to explain what a silver lining was to them. He told them that he had been able to work from home and enjoy more time with the family. There have been challenges for teachers and how to teach using Zoom on the Internet. We have stayed home with our family but this has kept us safe. Whoever thought Zoom would mean more than a car racing down the road!

April - Easter was very different this year but also very meaningful. This year I watched our Easter service on line while still in my pajamas. I didn't have to get up early for sunrise service and cook sunrise breakfast as well as family meals. I enjoyed the quiet as I drank my coffee and took in the true meaning of Easter. The sermon focused on the empty cross for my sin and the empty grave for eternal life.

So I realized how sheltered I had been tonight after listening to Entertainment Tonight. They talked about farmers who have lost thousands of dollars and are having to destroy their crops and pour out milk after milking their cows because restaurants and schools are closed. So many people are out of work and so many others are suffering because of the virus.

May - I have cleaned closets and organized drawers finding small treasures along the way. In taking time to read an article I had saved, it talked about social closeness is something we need in this scary time. That means calling friends, doing nice things for someone, praying and volunteering. The article said it doesn't happen automatically. We have to seize the opportunity without fear. Donna Terrell has used Facebook during the pandemic where she posts only her hands as she plays a beautiful song on the piano each day. I think this is seizing the opportunity to spread joy amidst trial and how we can use our hands to serve.

Cooking has been something that we have all done more of

during the pandemic. I got 2 calls that related to cooking and my Mom. The first was a call from a friend telling me how much her family had enjoyed chicken salad sandwiches using my Mom's recipe. The next call wanted Mom's honeybun cake recipe because it was the best. To be remembered for goodness and good food is a blessing!

I have found that I have read more during this pandemic and one article I read in the Newspaper talked about a 15 yr. old that lobbied to get the 2-bag restriction changed for the Winston Salem Transit Authority. It made me think about how easy we have it with getting groceries and putting all 10 or more bags in our car. There are many who rely on this transportation as their only way to get food.

If I could sum it all up, I would have to say that I am grateful for my faith and the hope that our Heavenly Father gives us in good times and bad. I have valued my family and friends even though we have not been together in person. I walked to church on Sunday last week to give our drive by offering. Since it was a 45-minute walk one way, I had lots of time to enjoy the beauty of the earth, but it also made me appreciate my car and my health. We have been blessed and we pray for those who have lost loved ones. We also want to say thank you to those who are in healthcare and who have taken risks helping others.

News from Belize

Although I have not been able to speak with Nikki Holland who is the Director of Belize Friends Ministries, I want to share excerpts from "The Advocate." She started her article talking about filling bags of food to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. The bags of food are vital to many families and a few students have been hired to help with this task and therefore provide some income for their family. Even though the school is closed, they have kept in touch with a messaging phone app provided by Smart and FUM's COVID-19 Solidarity Fund. This has enabled them to do homework, tutor, share music and feel togetherness during a time of isolation. Nikki ends her article by saying that she is grateful even though she feels tired and overwhelmed at times. Nikki says, "I am constantly blessed by how well our staff team is working together. We are looking out for each other, reaching out digitally, staying away physically as much as possible, and coming together to accomplish really amazing work."

Annual Gathering September 26, 2020 Marlboro Friends Meeting

It is our hope that Nikki Holland will be our speaker for the fall Annual Gathering to be held Sat, Sept 26th at Marlboro Friends in Sophia, NC. We will also recognize our memorials at this meeting since we were not able to do this at our Spring Conference. Please see the Memorials form in this edition. More information will be coming in July.

NC USFW Business update:

Since we usually ask for approval of our Nominating Committee Report at the Spring Conference, Sherry Hilton (Vice President, Chair of the Nominating Committee) and I would like your approval of the new Executive Board members that will be installed in the fall. At this time I am also very grateful to those who have served in these positions and given so generously of their time to NC USFW.

Christian Service – Judy Craven

Judy is serving on the Board for a 2nd term as our Christian Service Secretary. Judy has inspired us with her stories about FEMAP and reading bears for Siler City Schools. Judy attends Rocky River Friends.

Adult Missionary Education – Edith Shepherd

This will be Edith's 2nd term and we are so appreciative of her talents, her humor and her faithfulness. Edith attends First Friends in Greensboro and also teaches classes at Guilford College.

Stewardship – Sherry Quinn

Sherry will be joining the Executive Board as a new member from Goldsboro Friends. We are so excited to work with her and share our mission. **We want to thank Linda Anderson** from Westfield

Friends for her service and leadership as our past Stewardship Secretary from 2017-2020.

Scholarship – Bennie Burton

Bennie will be joining us as a new member to the Executive Board. She attends White Plains Friends Meeting and has been active in NCUSFW for many years. Also, a huge note of appreciation and thanks goes to Lee Van Hughes who has been our Scholarship Chair for the past 17 years. She has been a wonderful asset to the NC USFW Board as she has organized information and met with committees over the years to support our students in obtaining the Eliza Armstrong Cox Scholarship and International Scholarship. She has looked at a lot of letters and applications over these past 17 years. I'm estimating that she has reviewed over 350 applications and letters! **Thank you Lee Van Hughes for your leadership and commitment!**

Quaker Lake Update and Information from Heather Varner

This spring, due to COVID-19, Quaker Lake Camp missed out on the opportunity to hold Spring Camp or the Flashlight Egg Hunt, plus lost thousands in rental revenue from numerous cancelled events. At the time of this writing, it is unclear if any Summer Camp activities will take place or whether there will be opportunities to fulfill our mission or generate revenue this fall.

Quaker Lake Camp appreciates continued support from USFW and its members, and is counting on you and others who love QLC to help sustain it through this difficult time. Staff have worked hard to pare down the budget to the minimum needed to maintain facilities and sustain operations through the end of the year. Contributions are needed to help minimize the revenue shortfall and ensure there are funds available to provide ministry opportunities when it is safe to do so.

Help us support Quaker Lake

Please send your May Spring Conference offering to Alicia Sharp, NC USFW Treasurer. Our Spring Conference offering always goes to Quaker Lake and Friends Home. Last year, we were able to give \$2,564 to Quaker Lake and \$1,200 to Friends Home Quaker Assistance Fund. Please specify where you want your offering to go. After talking to Heather, there is a tremendous shortfall and funds are needed to meet the Operations Budget. With the uncertainty of when and how to have camp as well as an increased need for PPE and more on site nursing staff, she has asked us to pray for guidance and support. At this time Alicia has only received \$700. Thank you for your support of Quaker Lake Camp.

Gifts can also be made by mail (payable to QLC Foundation and mailed to 1503 N.C. Highway 62 East, Climax, NC 27233) or online at www.quakerlakecamp.org/qlc-foundation

FROM THE CLASS OF 2020

Thank you Edith Shepherd for sending this message to be included in our Carolina Woman

Anna Gilbert will graduate from Davidson College on May 17. She majored in biology and plans to attend medical school after working for two years with the MedServe program of Americorps at a family practice near Wilmington, NC. Anna is the daughter of Margaret Rowlett and David Gilbert. She was born into New Garden Friends Meeting, and her family now attends First Friends Meeting.

Graduating from college in the year 2020 felt auspicious. The allusion to perfect vision seemed like a good omen for what would come after my fellow seniors and I departed from Davidson's campus and began our lives in the so-called "real world." During our time at college, my friends and I had developed increasingly clear visions of how we were going to use our skills and interests to contribute to

the world. The intangible goals we had dreamed of during our first few years as undergrads no longer seemed out of reach as we began applying to jobs, fellowships, and graduate schools.

As senior year unfolded, our plans became concrete. One of my friends secured a research position with the NIH to pursue her interest in biochemistry; another friend's knack for coding landed her a job with Google on the West Coast. As for me, I learned in January that I would be heading to the Wilmington area to work in a primary care clinic as part of a two-year AmeriCorps program. Leaving college in the year 2020 felt like an affirmation of the clarity my classmates and I had finally gained on how to achieve the futures we wanted for ourselves.

In early March, those clear lenses fell from our eyes. The rapid and violent spread of COVID-19 has left us with a distorted version of the world we formerly lived in and hazy predictions of what the future holds. The virus has already altered the landscape of our society, claiming the lives of over 60,000 people in the US alone. We are wondering who else will be affected and how many lives will ultimately be lost.

We are also wondering what it will mean to leave college during the worst economic recession since the Great Depression, and grasping for the possibility that it will not be as dismal as it sounds. As far as I know, my AmeriCorps position is still waiting, but frozen hiring processes have left many of my friends panicked about the prospect of finding jobs.

With our final two months of college being spent at home, we are also struggling to find a sense of closure for this period of our lives. Our last few days on campus were a blurry mix of tearful goodbyes, desperate attempts to cross off bucket list items, and periods of intense grieving for the loss of our final months of college. We continue to grieve at home. My friends and I see each other during our weekly trivia and game nights on Zoom, which creates some semblance of normalcy. We have started a virtual book club and watch our favorite TV shows together while video chatting. We even mail each other handwritten letters.

These ways of staying connected help us feel better, but we know we are missing out on a lot. The last months of senior year were supposed to bring thesis defenses, senior recitals, awards ceremonies, and other celebrations of what we had accomplished during our undergraduate years. On May 17, my classmates and I were supposed to walk across the stage and shake hands with Davidson President Carol Quillen, receiving physical proof of our readiness for adult life in the form of a diploma. Now that ceremony will happen online, with an in-person event being planned for a future date. While I am grateful that Davidson has postponed rather than altogether cancelled Commencement, I can't help but feel discouraged at the thought of spending May 17 apart from my friends, classmates, and professors. I feel like we had been running a marathon and got stopped at mile 25. My friends and I joke that we should rename ourselves the Class of 2019.75.

Not only is our graduation ceremony being postponed, but we are receiving one final test: how will we respond to this upheaval? Will we prove our resilience, bouncing back from this catastrophe with strength and solidarity? Or will we let it get the best of us, using anger and cynicism to mask the fear and vulnerability this crisis has generated?

These are intimidating questions. Fortunately, this is not an individual exam; we can work together to answer them. Our 2020 vision of what the future holds has been taken away from us, but we still have many resources on which to rely, including compassion, creativity, and adaptability. Life will never go back to what it was before the pandemic, and we have a chance to define the new normal.

My hope is that we band together and become stronger in the face of adversity and uncertainty, that we intentionally re-introduce the parts of our pre-COVID reality that made life better, and that we do away with the things that perpetuate selfishness, intolerance, and consumerism. We can move forward placing higher value on our relationships and prioritizing the wellbeing of our planet and all its inhabitants. We are experiencing a collective trauma, but we have the opportunity to build a better world in the wake of this disaster. Class of 2020, let's make that our legacy.

PEACE AND CHRISTIAN SOCIAL CONCERNS

Linda Kersey

Here goes: I am working hard to bring you critical information, so read this report and live abundantly.

VERSES FIRST: *“Blessed are the Peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God”*. Mark 5:9
How do we get peace in order to be peacemakers? Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you, MY Peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.....” St. John 14:27

Now my USFW Sisters, Jesus is depending on us to spread the peace. Today, I’m going to show you two ways to make that happen. # 1. COLLECT USED STAMPS (and New ones if someone wants to get rid of some) Quoting from our President’s Message in CAROLINA WOMAN, March, April, May 2020.....”Marian Beane who has dedicated many years of service to Right Sharing of World Resources gives us this information about RSWR. It is over 50 years old and was started as an initiative at an international conference at Guilford College. RSWR’s mission is, “the right sharing of world resources, being called from the burdens of poverty into the abundance of God’s love and a calling to work for equity through partnership with our brothers and sisters.” Marian told me how grants from RSWR have made a difference and changed lives. Women in India, Kenya and Serra Leone apply for a loan and are trained in business skills. They help other women by loaning them money to purchase seeds or farm animals. The money loaned to these women is paid back with interest. No money is paid back to RSWR. Marian said that she was truly humbled by the gratitude of the women who received the loans.

I asked Marian what we could do to help. Money is raised mostly from Quakers but a simple act that we can do is to collect stamps (used and new). In 2009-2017, used stamps were collected and sold for 11,000 to support RSWR. Please bring your used stamps to your local USFW meetings. Your NCUSFW representative will bring them to FEMAP where they will cut off the envelope and send to RSWR. Send in the envelope or at least ½ of the envelope with the stamp. Your circle or FEMAP will cut them off leaving the exact desired margins around each stamp. THE SYMBOL FOR RSWR IS A HAND WITH 3 SEEDS. This represents the seed money that can be used to sow gratitude and help others find a way.” From CAROLINA WOMAN

I wanted to repeat this information because so many USFW women have asked about the stamp collecting, how it is used and who is in charge. FEMAP sends the stamps to the proper person at FUM.

I had a second MISSION to report on, but I will introduce it, and find some way to send your USFW President a News Letter from THE MESQUAKIE FRIENDS. I have had a great, informative interview with Berny McDonald, who is the wife of the Pastor Team there in Iowa. The couple in leadership there are Mac and Berny McDonald. (Mac is the son of Lloyd and Martha (deceased) McDonald who served at High Point Friends some years ago.) I have a lot to tell you about this Quaker Ministry. It will wait till next time.

I can’t quit without giving you your quiz. It is super easy this time.

#1. Who is the current president of the NCUSFW?

#2. Who is the current editor of THE ADVOCATE?

The first five persons to send me, Linda Kersey, linx5432@gmail.com the 2 correct answers will receive a \$20 gift certificate to take away to your favorite Restaurant and a year’s subscription to THE ADVOCATE.

I close with a prayer for PEACE for you and all your loved ones. PEACE is a God-Given symphony

CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION

Denise E. Barnes

It was suggested that we write about our experiences during “COVID-19 Sheltering In”. I am going to share my children’s experiences.

My oldest son, Jeremy, and his family live in Tampa, Florida. I visited with them in late February-early March. The concerns over the virus had just begun. They had signed a contract to sell their house the week before I arrived and signed another contract to buy a new house the day after I left. I had planned to fly back in mid-April to help with the grandchildren during the move. Obviously, that didn’t occur. My grandchildren’s school closed in late March so besides packing up a house, my son and daughter-in-law had to provide daily supervision for them during their online classes. They tried to pack as much as they could on their own in order to keep contamination to a minimum. The week before Easter, they moved to their new home in Lithia, Florida, thirty minutes southeast of Tampa. The children are out of school for the remainder of the year. My daughter-in-law, a stay-at-home mom, has found many ways to keep the children on task, with their online learning as well as providing many experiences out in nature and in the kitchen, as cooking is her passion. My granddaughter had her sixth birthday, via Zoom. It was quite an experience! They have all been healthy and the adjustment to a new home, even during the pandemic, has gone very well.

My younger son, Luke, lives in Charleston. His lease on his apartment was up for renewal in mid-April. He decided to move to a house in West Ashley. Unfortunately, I was unable to make that trip either! He is single, with a dog named Scout. He, too, packed his belongings himself and had a company to move him. He has remained healthy and has adjusted to his new home. One of his favorite things to do is taking Scout to Sullivan’s Island to run on the beach on weekends. They had to find an alternative as the beaches were closed.

Both of my sons work for Ferguson Heating and Cooling. Business in their respective states and areas have not been affected. They are as busy as ever, since construction continues and everyone needs heat and air conditioning! However, since other Ferguson locations, particularly in the Northeast, have been affected, a corporate decision was made to cut the hours of the store operations. This has affected my younger son, but hopefully is temporary. My older son travels throughout the state of Florida with his position so his job has been affected in that respect. Throughout this time, we have all remained closely in touch with one another, to provide encouragement and support. God has provided for every need and kept everyone safe and healthy. God is undaunted by this virus. We must look to Him as our Source of strength, courage and patience, knowing that He will continue to speak to our conditions and meet our every need.

BIRTHDAYS OF WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

June 1 Katrina McConaughey
13 Shawn McConaughey
15 Oscar Mmbali
25 Suzanne Livingston

July 30 Christine Wood

August 5 Rose Afanda
20 Leah Sitonik
21 Samson Ababu
27 Ken Saina

ADULT MISSIONARY EDUCATION

Edith Shepherd

Cuban Friends and Covid-19

As we deal with the Coronavirus in the US, Friends around the world have been having the same experiences. Here is what I learned from an online conversation with Jorge Luis Peña Reyes, a Friend from Puerto Padre Friends Meeting and the Clerk of Cuba YM.

Friends in Cuba are very aware that their seniors represent their most vulnerable population. From the beginning of the pandemic, the Cuba Yearly Meeting, along with the Cuba USFW, made plans to support around 90 senior citizens.

Cuban Friends bought vegetables, powdered milk and other items to provide to senior citizens, since all of their activities have been suspended. They also donated leftover supplies they had saved for yearly YM gatherings such as cooking oil, rice and sausages. Thanks to other contributions, they were also able to add beans, cans of tuna and soup to the care packages. These items have been distributed to those in dire need.



In-person meeting activities have been cancelled, but Friends are still able to be in contact with each other through telephone calls and limited use of the internet. Friends have common times for daily meditations, reflections and brief messages. This is part of their daily routine.

Cuba Yearly Meeting's main emphasis at this time is to bring hope to the members who are unable to be together. There have been many cases of Covid-19 among Friends, and many are at home in self-isolation. Elena, a member of Banes Friends Meeting, died last month of the virus.

Friends in Cuba are struggling during these trying times. Jorge Luis expressed to me the concern that it is very hard to buy groceries and other provisions for both personal use and for sharing with others. Prices are high, necessary goods are hard to find, and when items arrive at the stores, people wait outside for a long time, only to discover that the item they need is already gone by the time they are able to enter the store. Construction in Puerto Padre has almost completely stopped due to lack of materials and health restrictions.

Friends, let us hold in the Light our Cuban Friends and Friends around the world who are, like us here in the US, experiencing uncertainty and illness. May God continue to bring hope in this time of darkness.

"I saw, also, that there was an ocean of darkness and death; but an infinite ocean of light and love, which flowed over the ocean of darkness. In that also I saw the infinite love of God, and I had great openings." - George Fox

STEWARDSHIP

Linda Anderson

For this issue of Carolina Woman we have been tasked with providing a personal message about the pandemic we are currently facing. It goes without saying that most everyone in the entire world has been affected on some level by the COVID-19 virus, but certainly our own personal experiences vary greatly.

In the early days of the COVID crisis, I must admit that I naively assumed this would be under control in a short amount of time. I thought of the Ebola crisis of 2014 which devastated West Africa and threatened more widespread destruction. I remembered how the world came together in such an unprecedented way at that time. Having brought Ebola under control, I was confident that the World Health Organization and others such as our own CDC and public health organizations would nip this corona virus in the bud in no time at all. However, several weeks later, and hundreds of thousands of lives lost, we remain in “shelter in place” mode in an effort to halt the spread of this silent killer.

On a personal level, while feeling very blessed that my family, friends and my congregation have been spared from the illness thus far, we are still greatly affected in that we have missed many things because of this: Easter Sunrise service, Sunday worship, graduation celebrations for our high school and college seniors, in-home visits from extended family and friends, inability to visit friends and loved ones in the hospital, hugs from grandchildren...I could go on and on.

However, I have made the choice not to dwell on those things which we have had to temporarily set aside. I have chosen instead to focus on the fact that God has been with me throughout every moment of this pandemic, and He has been true to His word: “He will never leave you nor forsake you.” I find the “forced” quietness has taken away many distractions that might otherwise prevent close communion with the Savior. I find myself leaning more on the strength of His word in passages such as:

Joshua 1:9: “...*Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*”

Isaiah 41:10: “*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.*”

Deuteronomy 31:6: “*Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.*”

Zephaniah 3:17: “*The LORD your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.*”

These passages, plus many others, reveal to me that there is no crisis, not even a worldwide pandemic that God cannot handle. His word gives me confidence that He will bring us through this stronger and better than before. My prayer is that people will be able to see God’s hand in these events, and will see Him at work in our lives and in the lives of others. I pray that many will heed the psalmist’s words in Psalm 46:10: “*Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!*”

North Carolina United Society of Friends Women 2020 Greensheet Projects

- Jan** ****Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship Scholarship Fund**
****FTC Scholarship Fund**
- Feb** ***Peace & Christian Social Concerns USFWI**
1- Belize: Oscar Siema Mmbali
2- Cuba: Quaker Institute of Peace
3- Right Sharing of World Resources: Samson Ababu Support
4- East Africa: Friends Church Peace Team: Getry Agizah Support
**** FEMAP (Friends Emergency Material Assistance)**
- Mar** ***Four Funds USFWI**
1-Love Fund: Belize – Nikki Holland
2-Faith Fund: Kenya- Robert Wafula
3-Hope Fund: Ramallah-Adrian Moody
4- Joy Fund: Kenya-Katrina & Shawn McConaughey
- Apr** ***Christian Service USFWI**
1-USA: Mesquakie Friends Center
2-USA: Friends Center (formerly MOWA Choctaw Friends Center)
3-USA: Kickapoo Friends Center
4-Kenya: Lugulu Hospital Adopt-a-Bed
- May** ****Friends Homes Quaker Assistance Fund**
****Spring Conference Offering – Quaker Lake**
- June** ****Matamoros Mexico Missions**
****NCUSFW Projects**
- July** ***Children & Youth USFWI**
1- Kenya: Turkana/Samburu Girls’ Secondary Education
2- Belize: Feeding Program
3- Ramallah: Eli & Sybil Jones Scholarship Fund
4. Ramallah: Special Education Needs Students at Ramallah Friends Schools
- Aug** ****Annual Gathering Offering**
1-Friends Center: Guilford College
2-Special project (Campus Ministry)
- Sept** ***Membership Apportionment**
\$5.00 per active member
**** NCUSFW Scholarship Fund**
- Oct** ***Keys to the Kingdom USFWI**
1- Belize: Adult Education
2- Triennial Travel Assistance (USFW YM Clerks)
3- The *Advocate* subsidy
- Nov** ***United Thank Offering USFWI**
1-Jamaica: Pastoral Care
2-Kenya – Turkana Ministry Staff and Pastors (27 workers)
3-Kenya - Samburu Ministry Staff and Pastors (22 workers)
4-Kenya – Friends Theological College Faculty Support for Satellite Campus
- Dec** ****USA: Friends Center (formerly MOWA Choctaw Friends Center)**
****Friends Disaster Service** **USFWI Projects **NC USFWI Projects*

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Judy Craven

As many words keep floating through my mind... “uncertainty”, “overwhelming our normal”, “feeling incomplete without gathered worship”, “facing problems too great for us to solve ourselves”, the following scripture brings us HOPE. **Lamentations 3:19-24.** *“I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. I say to myself, “the Lord is my portion, therefore I will wait for him.””*

Dr. Robert Wafula’s monthly newsletter keeps us informed—and amazed—at the wonderful progress that’s being made for the Kenyan Quakers. The worldwide pandemic has dramatically affected the work at Friends Theological College, not unlike the total disruption in our own lives here in America. The following is his March, 2020 report.

Friends,

Have you felt a moment when words fail you on how to express yourself, especially when a serious situation unexpectedly hits you, and imposes a different lifestyle on your community? As it probably did to other institutions of higher learning globally, here at Friends Theological College (FTC), the novel COVID-19 really impinged on our academic programs and left us in the lurch. Campus is literally quiet. The only place on campus with vivacity, oblivious of the pandemic conundrum against humanity is the nascent Dr. Wafula Park for Recreation, Meditation, and Solitude. After spending my morning hours watching depressing COVID-19 news updates on TV, I decided to take a transect walk from my house to the dining hall through the park. As I walked through the park, I sensed an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. I heard weaver birds singing, saw a grey tailed manakin sucking nectar from a beautiful hibiscus as the black and white hornbill flapped her giant wings and perched on branches of an indigenous tree above my head. Then I realized that this was the best place I could spend the rest of my afternoon. After tea with staff in the dining hall, I walked back to the house, put my black book bag on my shoulders and grabbed the sling of my Canon camera bag. Mwalimu and Little Professor (my two, 8 and 6-year old grandchildren respectively) asked me, “Where are you going Kuka (Luhya name for grandfather)?” Then I said, “To the park. I am going to the park to read and relax.” Little Professor was somewhat curious, “Are there monkeys in the park, Kuka?” And Mwalimu opened his big eyes and looked at me. “Well, not really”, I replied. “The park is still young for the monkeys to come over there, but you never know...” Phillip, one of our staff helped to carry a table as we each grabbed a sky blue plastic chair from the dining hall and my grandkids and I had the best of our moments that afternoon in the park.

News about Coronavirus from the media hit us at a time when our residential students were gearing up for their one month recess to give way for the modular program students to come in for their April 2020 module. We dismissed our residential students on March 20th following the government’s directive to close all educational and social institutions. We requested all non-essential staff and faculty to work from home until further notice. FTC programs operate on fee collections from students, but as of now, we are standing with staring eyes like a deer in the spotlight. Please pray with us for God’s providence so that we are able to meet staff salaries and other needs for the next four months -- April, May, June and July.

Here at FTC, we operate only one mode of learning---Face-to-Face lecturers. Since we recently have somewhat reliable internet, we are seriously thinking and praying about launching the online teaching mode. Running an online program alongside the traditional face-to-face will be a great impetus to increase student enrollment in all of our satellite campuses. Please pray for us that this dream is achieved.

Dr. Robert J. Wafula, Principal Friends Theological College Kaimosi, Kenya, East Africa

LITERATURE

Sarah Cox

In the last few months, we have experienced so many new things. Homes have become schools and worksites. Our high school and college seniors are trying to figure out how they will receive their diplomas for which they have worked so hard. Usually bustling cities have become virtual ghost towns. Stores are closed or are only providing pick up service. Many offices are empty. Very few cars are on the streets or in parking lots. Restaurants are practically empty, except for those that are serving takeout meals. The chairs are stacked on the tables to remind customers that dining in the restaurant is not allowed. Families have been segmented. Grandparents must visit their grandkids and children by phone, computer or at a distance. Those in hospitals and care facilities are not allowed to have visitors. We have been denied our usual displays of affection and friendship. No handshakes. No high fives. No hugs. Many doctor visits are being done on the phone or iPad. As for all the sports enthusiast, they are resigned to watching reruns of past events and trying to figure out how they will safely attend future sporting events. Meeting houses, churches, synagogues are empty, with each group of worshipers trying to find a new way to continue to study and worship and fellowship. We have learned how to properly wear a mask to cover our nose and mouth, how to wait, with personal distancing, in a line and how to take the time to wash our hands properly, while singing “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”. Our world has been turned upside down!

Yes, there have been many changes in our lives. Some good. Some not so good. One thing is for sure, it has made us think! It has made us look at our lives and think about what is important, what is necessary and what we do with the time that God has given us on this earth. The effects of this virus have gone beyond the physical symptoms. It has touched every corner of our lives. It has reminded people that we are a part of God’s family and that we need to care for everyone in that family. We need to place God first, then others and lastly, ourselves. Be thankful for everything in your life. Do not take people for granted. Love and appreciate the members of your family and your church family and your friends. Appreciate our school staffs, our medical community, grocery store employees and our first responders. Be thankful for all of those that have helped us to navigate through this new way of life. Will things get back to “normal”? I am not sure, but whatever the future holds, I hope we have learned some lessons about being thankful, about caring and about living our lives closer to God.

Prayers for your good health and safety,
Sarah Cox

If you are participating in the reading program, please send your information to me by July 30 for the 2019-2020 reading program. The certificates will be given out at our USFW meeting in September.

The 2020-2021 Reading list is attached. Our new books have arrived! I am taking orders by phone. Books can be mailed, or I can make arrangements to get them to you if you live close to Asheboro.

I also have Program Books and calendars and I can take your order and send them to you.

Sarah Cox

336-963-2710 Mailing address: 136 Ridgecrest Rd, Asheboro, NC 27203

**North Carolina United Society of Friends Women
Reading Report Form**

Name _____

Date _____

Local Meeting _____

Books read this year:

(1) Fiction _____

(2) Growth and Challenge _____

(3) Biography _____

(4) By and about Quakers _____

One of the following may take the place of one category:

_____ I regularly read The Advocate

_____ I heard the following FUM or NC Missionary speak _____

_____ I attended Spring Conference or Annual Gathering

**UNITED SOCIETY OF FRIENDS WOMEN INTERNATIONAL
READING LIST 2020 - 2021
“MAKING DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS” Matthew 28:19**

FICTION

Amish Front Porch Stories, Wanda Brunstetter. As many of you have requested an Amish book each year, this is a wonderful book of 18 short tales of simple faith and wisdom. Each story stands alone and will be easy to read, put it down and come later for another story of inspiration accompanied by a scripture verse. **\$16.00**

These Healing Hills, Ann Gabhart. Francine Howard has her life all mapped out until the soldier she planned to marry at WWII's end writes to tell her he's in love with a woman in England. Devastated, Francine seeks a fresh start in the Appalachian Mountains, training to be nurse midwife for the Frontier Nursing Service. Will adventure and new love follow? **\$16.00**

When You Are Near, Tracie Peterson. Another inspiring story from a favorite Christian fiction author. A trick rider of the all-female Brookstone Wild West Extravaganza Lizzy loses interest in the show. After learning that her brother has been killed, she and two other women work together to discover how he died, while Lizzy strives to hold the show together. **\$16.00**

Out of the Ruins Karen Barnett. This is a fictional story that takes place during the mighty San Francisco earthquake. Abby Fisher prays for God to heal her sister who is dying of Leukemia. Her family moves temporarily to San Francisco to seek risky treatments and Abby meets the handsome Dr. Robert King. Her life is shattered when her sister dies and when the tragedy strikes shortly after, she flees into the burning streets where Dr. King is the one whose love saves her. This book is hard to put down until you finish. **\$16.00**

GROWTH AND CHALLENGE

Bury Me With My Pearls, Jane Jenkins Herlong. With a Spiritual Twist, this book uses humor and biblical principles to address the importance of guarding our spiritual gifts and doing the right thing. This book encourages us to develop our pearls, protect our jewels, carefully wear them next to our hearts and share them with others. A wonderful book. **\$13.00**

Beating Guns, Shane Clairborne & Michael Martin. Hope for people who are weary of violence. This book is not about gun control or ownership rights. The world doesn't have to be this way and this book shows how we can all be part of the solution. Inspired by the prophetic image of beating swords into plows, the authors off a clarion call to change our hearts regarding one of the most significant moral issues of our time. Well worth the price. **\$20.00**

Beauty, Truth, Life and Love, J. Brent Bill. The latest book by this Quaker author brings us four essentials for the Abundant Life. This is what life and following Jesus are all about. When these essentials weave throughout your life, you will see a difference in your relationships, vocational direction, and life choices. **\$17.00**

Glory Happening, Kaitlin B. Curtise. Finding the divine in everyday places, this book challenges us to accept the invitation to invest in the glory that surrounds you. She tells us to open our eyes to the Kingdom as it comes every day through stories and prayers, observances and divine revelations. **\$17.00**

BIOGRAPHY

Breakthrough, Joyce Smith. When the author's fourteen year old son fell through an icy Missouri Lake one winter morning, she and her family seemingly lost everything. This book is about a profound truth: prayer really does work. God uses it to remind us that He is always with us, and when we combine it with unshakable faith, nothing is impossible. **\$15.00**

Sally Wister's Journal, Sally Wister. A true narrative and a Quaker maiden's account of her experiences with officers of the Continental Army, 1777-1778. This is a real diary of a 16 year old girl used to keep a friend up-to-date of her life during this perilous time, originally published in 1902. **\$10.00**

50 Women Every Christian Should Know, Michelle DeRusha. Inspiring stories of the women who helped to shape our faith from Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila, Anne Hutchinson, Susanna Wesley, Harriet Tubman, Corrie ten Boon and many more. These engaging narratives are a potent reminder to us that we are not alone. **\$19.00**

BY AND ABOUT QUAKERS

The Fearless Benjamin Lay, Marcus Rediker. The Quaker dwarf who became the first revolutionary abolitionist. Benjamin Lay (1682-1759) was and unusual man in statue and actions. A visionary who practiced the ideals of democracy and equality over 300 years insisting that human bondage violated the principles of Christianity. His revolutionary life across two continents embodied the proclamation "no justice, no peace." **\$18.00**

The Essential Writings of Rufus Jones, Rufus Jones If you don't already have a copy of this book, this is your change to own one. No one has articulated or lived Quaker sensibilities ore deeply than Rufus Jones. **\$18.00**

Tales from the New Garden Friends Graveyard, M. Gertrude Beal & Max Carter. In 1757, two decades before the birth of the United States, the Quaker community of New Garden, North Carolina, established it burial Ground. The brief essays in this book offer a glimpse into the lives of the peaceful people who rest there and the remarkable contributions they made to the country and the world. This is a remarkable book. **\$10.00**

In the Stillness, Elizabeth Mills. The author is an ecumenical Christian and member of the Religious Society of Friends and she is actively involved in her local meeting. Full of poems, prayers and reflections, you will find this book helpful whenever you wish to sit in the stillness and meditate or share with others. **\$13.00**

SCHOLARSHIP

Lee Van Hughes

The Scholarship Committee had a conference call and approved the following students to receive money from the Eliza Armstrong Cox Scholarship Fund. The committee included Lee Van Hughes - Chair, Alicia Sharp Treasurer, Sherry Hylton, Pat Davis and Janet Robbins.

New applicants- We awarded scholarships to 7 of the 10 applicants. We all agreed that we wanted to be consistent with requirements for past recipients. A personal letter is required and this as well as some other information was missing for 3 of the applicants. The following students will receive \$150: Will Coltrane (Centre), Steven Dillon (Cedar Square), Spencer Hayes (Cedar Square), McLaine Holder (Cedar Square), August Little (Springfield), Alexandria Long (Forbush), and Kaylee Shore (Deep Creek).

Returning applicants - All information was received and we awarded 7 scholarships to returning applicants. The following students will receive \$315: Jacob Brendle (Deep Creek), Trevor Collins (Deep Creek), Kara Beth Frazier (Cedar Square), Jarrett Hall (Forbush), Rhett Steelman (Deep Creek), Bailey Strider (Cedar Square), Chesney Strider (Cedar Square)

We also approved \$1000 for the **International Scholarship for Friends Theological College.**

Thank you Lee Van for all of your hard work on reviewing the scholarship information and mailing the summary to us. We really appreciate your 17 years of service and your dedication to NCUSFW.

ELIZA ARMSTRONG COX LIFETIME FELLOWSHIP MEMBER

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 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 / Address of person to receive Certificate(s):

Date: _____

Enclose \$25.00 per nominee payable to NCUSFW and send to the 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.

MEMORIALS

As a way to remember those who have passed on, we want to take time each year to thank God for their service and faithfulness. Please list names below of members who have passed away. Memorials for 2020 will be read at the NCUSFW Fall Annual Gathering at Marlboro on Sept 26,2020.

Year _____

Meeting: _____

Name(s) _____

Bring this memorial form to the 2020 Fall Conference or email Jan Dough – jdough@triad.rr.com.
Jan’s mailing address is: 2541 Old Lexington Road, Asheboro, NC 27205

The Advocate Subscription Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + four _____

Email _____

Subscription Rate as of 1/1/2017 New Subscription _____ Renew _____

1 yearUS \$15.00 2 year.....30.00 3 years...40.00

Email _____

Subscription Rate as of 1/1/2017 New Subscription _____ Renew _____

1 yearUS \$15.00 2 year.....30.00 3 years...40.00

Make check payable to
THE ADVOCATE – USFWI

Mail to

Etta Florence Winslow
202 Community Bldg Rd.
Belvidere, NC 27919-9666

NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY OF FRIENDS WOMEN		
TREASURER'S REPORT As of May 15,2020		
January	Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship Scholarship Fund	\$1,395.25
	FTC Scholarship Fund	\$840.25
February	PEACE & CHRISTIAN SOCIAL CONCERNS USFWI 2020	
	1-Belize: Oscar Siema Mmbali	\$658.75
	2-Cuba: Quaker Institute of Peace	\$528.75
	3-Right Sharing of World Resources: Samson Ababu Su	\$533.75
	4-East Africa Friends Church Peace Team: Getry Agizah	\$558.75
	FEMAP-Friends Emergency Materials Assistance Progra	\$1,130.00
March	FOUR FUNDS USFWI 2020	
	1-Love Fund: Belize: Nikki Holland	\$787.50
	2-Faith Fund: Kenya: Robert Wafula	\$782.50
	3-Hope Fund: Ramallah: Adrian Moody	\$737.50
	4-Joy Fund: Kenya: Katrina & Shawn McConaughey	\$737.50
April	CHRISTIAN SERVICE USFWI 2020	
	1-USA: Mesquakie Friends Center	\$406.25
	2- USA: The Friends Center (formerly MDWA Choctaw)	\$1,383.75
	3- USA: Kickapoo Friends Center	\$406.25
	4- Kenya: Lugulu Hospital Adopt-a-Bed	\$406.25
May	Friends Homes Quaker Assistance Fund	\$450.00
	Spring Conference Offering - Quaker Lake	\$700.00
June	NC USFW Projects	\$25.00
	Matamoros, Mexico Missions	\$50.00
July	CHILDREN & YOUTH USFWI 2020	
	1- Kenya: Turkana/Samburu Girl's Secondary Education	
	2- Belize: School Feeding Program	
	3- Ramallah: Eli & Sybil Jones Scholarship Fund	
	4- Ramallah: Special Educational Needs Students at Friends School	
August	Annual Gathering Offering:	
	1- Friends Center: Guilford College	
	2- Special Project TBD(Campus Ministry or other)-NCFC	
September	80% Membership Apportionment to USFWI	
	20% Membership Apportionment to Scholarship Fund	
	NCUSFW Scholarship Fund	
October	KEYS TO THE KINGDOM USFWI 2020	
	1- Belize: Adult Education	
	2- Triennial Overseas Travel Assistance (USFWYM Clerks)	
	3- <i>The Advocate</i> Subsidy	
November	UNITED THANK OFFERING USFWI 2020	
	1-Jamaica: Pastoral Care	\$25.00
	2-Kenya: Turkana Ministry Staff and Pastors (27 Workers)	\$25.00
	3-Kenya: Samburu Ministry Staff and Pastors (22 Worker	\$25.00
	4-Kenya: FTC Faculty Support for Satellite Campuses	\$25.00
December	Friends Disaster Service-NCYM	\$887.50
	Subtotal Greensheet proje	\$13,505.50
Other Contributions		
	EAC Fellowship	\$32.00
	Friends Theological College	\$225.00
	Robert Wafula	\$100.00
	Literature	\$147.00
	Subtotal Other Contributio	\$504.00
	Total Funds Received 2020	\$14,009.50

Thank You everybody, in this difficult time is so important to stay connected with every one I am blessed to leave at a senior retirement facility that has not seen any virius outbreak due to a great management team that implemented security measures in mid March. I miss very much going to FEMAP every Wednesday but we will go back when it is safe to due so.

Alicia Sharp

NORTH CAROLINA UNITED SOCIETY OF FRIENDS WOMEN
2020 CHECK TRANSMITTAL FORM

MEETING: _____ **TREASURER NAME:** _____ **PHONE #:** _____

DATE: _____ **CHECK #:** _____ **AMOUNT:** _____

	<u>Undesignated</u>	<u>Designated</u>		<u>Undesignated</u>	<u>Designated</u>
*USFWI Projects					
*Peace & Christian Social Concerns USFWI 2020(FEB)	\$			\$	
1-Belize-Oscar Siema Mimbali		\$			
2-Cuba: Quaker Institute of Peace		\$			
3-RSWR: Samson Ababu Support		\$			
4-East Africa Friends Church Peace Team: Getry Agziah		\$			
*Four Funds USFWI 2020(MARCH)					
1-Love Fund: Belize: Nikki Holland		\$			
2-Faith Fund: Kenya: Robert Watfala		\$			
3-Hope Fund: Ramallah: Adrian Moody		\$			
4-Joy Fund: Kenya: Katrina & Shawn McConaughy		\$			
*Christian Service USFWI 2020(APRIL)					
1-USA: Mesquakie Friends Center		\$			
2-USA: The Friends Center (formerly MOWA Choctaw)		\$			
3-USA: Kickapoo Friends Center		\$			
4-Kenya: Lugulu Hospital Adopt-a-Bed		\$			
*Children & Youth USFWI 2020(JULY)					
1-Kenya: Turkana/Samburu Girl's Secondary Education		\$			
2-Belize: School Feeding Program		\$			
3-Ramallah: Eli & Sybil Jones Scholarship Fund		\$			
4-Ramallah: Special Educational Needs Students at Friends School		\$			
*Membership Apportionment 2020(SEPT)					
\$5.00 per active member		\$			
*USFWI Projects					
*Keys to the Kingdom USFWI 2020(OCT)				\$	
1-Belize: Adult Education				\$	
2-Triennial Overseas Travel Assistance (USFW YMI Clerks)				\$	
3-The Advocate Subsidy				\$	
*United Thank Offering USFWI 2020(NOV)					
1-Jamaica: Pastoral Care				\$	
2-Kenya: Turkana Ministry Staff and Pastors (27 Workers)				\$	
3-Kenya: Samburu Ministry Staff and Pastors (22 Workers)				\$	
4-Kenya: FTC Faculty Support for Satellite Campuses				\$	
**NC USFW Projects					
			Amount		
**Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship Scholarship Fund-JAN		\$			
**FTC Scholarship Fund-JAN		\$			
**FEMAP (Friends Emergency Material Assistance)-FEB		\$			
**Friends Homes Quaker Assistance Fund-MAY		\$			
**Spring Conference Offering - Quaker Lake-MAY		\$			
**Matamoros, Mexico Missions-JUNE		\$			
**NCUSFW Projects-JUNE		\$			
** Annual Gathering Offering-AUG		\$			
1 - Friends Center: Guilford College		\$			
2 - Special Project TBD (Campus Ministry or other)		\$			
**NCUSFW Scholarship Fund-SEPT		\$			
**Friends Disaster Service-DEC		\$			
**Friends Center (formally MOWA Choctaw)-DEC		\$			

USFW I Program contributions will be allocated based on designated % unless otherwise specified

MAIL TO: ALICIA SHARP 6-H FRATERNITY DRIVE, GREENSBORO NC 27407

**NORTH CAROLINA UNITED SOCIETY OF FRIENDS WOMEN
ANNUAL REPORT
2020 - 2021**

Monthly Meeting _____
Member of FCNC _____ Friends Fellowship _____ Independent _____
Number of active NC USFW members _____
Number of ADVOCATE subscribers _____

Please complete separate forms if you have more than 1 circle.

If applicable : Circle name _____

President

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
E-mail address _____

Treasurer

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
E-mail address _____

Names and Addresses of Department Secretaries

Christian Service

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
E-mail address _____

Literature and Reading

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
E-mail address _____

Adult Missionary Education

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
E-mail address _____

Children and Youth Missionary Education

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
E-mail address _____

Peace and Christian Social Concerns

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Stewardship

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____

ON THIS SHEET OR ON A SEPARATE SHEET, PLEASE LIST PROJECTS, OTHER THAN GREENSHEET PROJECTS, IN WHICH YOUR SOCIETY PARTICIPATES OR SPONSORS.

The information in the annual report is used to update the handbook each year. We need this report completed by each Meeting, even if there are no changes in your society. Information about your society cannot be included in the handbook unless you return this report. **I will need this information by the 10th of September to be able to print the new handbooks. If you have any questions or prefer an electronic copy, please call - Sherry Hylton 336-685-9344.**

Please return this report as listed below or e-mail : sbhylton3@yahoo.com

Thank you for your help and support of NC USFW.

**Sherry Hylton
2407 Providence Church Road
Pleasant Garden, NC 27313**