

Carolina Woman

December 2020, January and February 2021

A publication of North Carolina United Society of Friends Women

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In this issue:

Officers' Reports, Birthdays of Workers and their families,
"Greensheet" projects, Advocate Subscription form

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Janet Robbins

With Christmas just around the corner, it is time for us to think about Christmas plays and special services in a different way because of COVID-19 restrictions. I have been sad when I think about not having choir practice and not hearing the annual performance of "The Messiah". I will miss singing in our Christmas cantata and will miss attending a local Moravian love feast where everyone sings as the coffee and buns are served. I have always loved music and it dates back to early Sunday mornings when I would wake up to my Mom practicing the piano for church. I also took piano lessons and played flute in the high school band. Music brings us comfort and connects us despite masks and distancing. We won't be able to sing "Joy to the World" in the usual way with our voices. Instead, we can listen to the music as we sing the words in our heart.

We have an opportunity to spread some joy and sing Christmas carols outdoors at nursing homes or houses of those who cannot get out. Maybe it will also be a time where we sing a Christmas song in our car on the way to work; that is if we are driving alone. I think this goes along with our 2020-2021 theme of *Come, Abide and Go* taken from Mathew 28:19.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Marlboro Friends for hosting our Annual Gathering on Sept 26, 2020. The boxed lunch, decorations and beautiful devotional made us grateful to be together. Even wearing our masks and distancing at the table, we felt welcome and loved. Thanks also to our wonderful speaker, Marian Beane who gave us great insight and information on Right Sharing of World Resources. Thanks to Paul Routh who worked with Marian to provide her presentation by the internet and also video our meeting on YouTube. If you haven't seen the presentation it's easy to view and you will definitely learn so much about RSWR and the wonderful way they are helping women help each other and their families. Thank you to everyone who sent in stamps. We collected over 600 stamps. Thank you to FEMAP for preparing the stamps to send on to RSWR. Our NCUSFW officers were installed and we welcome Bennie Burton as our new Scholarship Chair and Sherry Quinn as our new Stewardship Secretary. Lastly, thank you to all of our circles for your faithfulness in supporting the greensheet projects.

BIRTHDAYS OF WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

December 5 Gillian Moody
 December 14 Getry Agiza
 December 27 Kaitlyn Wilkinson

January 2 Nancy Wafula
 January 27 Catherine (Kate) Gunza

SCHOLARSHIP

Bennie Burton

I'm Bennie Burton, the new USFW Scholarship Chairperson. I live with my husband Wayne in the beautiful area of Pilot Mountain, NC, and I'm a member of White Plains Friends Meeting. We have two wonderful girls, Adriane, who lives in Austin, TX, and Casie, who lives in Mooresville, NC, and is the mother of our granddaughter, Naomi, age 7. USFW has been fortunate that Mrs. Hughes has done such a thorough job in processing and awarding its scholarships each year. I hope to measure up to the standard she has set.

Please remember to reward your members with the Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship Life Membership. This rewarding helps feed the coffers of the scholarship fund and the money is needed. Between January 1, and March 15, 2021, students can apply for this scholarship. Encourage young friends in your meeting to apply. Students are eligible to receive a scholarship for a maximum of four years. Scholarship applications are on the FCNC website: <http://friendschurchnc.org/usfw>

Remember, in order to continue to award scholarships, contributions to the Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship need to be made by the end of March 2021. One way to contribute is to recognize your USFW members with an Eliza Armstrong Cox Lifetime Fellowship membership.

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 \$25.00 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 that 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 & address of person(s) 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....

PEACE AND CHRISTIAN SOCIAL CONCERNS

Linda Kersey

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.” Mark 5:9

I’m calling on all of you as USFW members to accept the call to be PEACEMAKERS. Our Handbook for year 2019-2020 had the theme “Make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:3. Our prayer for 2019-2020 was “Let Peace begin with me.” Our entire year in USFW was centered around PEACE. We need that PEACE especially so that we can enter into our new year 2020-2021 to honor our theme, “Go and Make Disciples”. The theme is based on the verse in Matthew 28:19: “Go. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations.”

If you were blessed to attend the Fall Conference at Marlboro Meeting this year you were given a writing pen with that verse on it. We were also given a bottle of hand sanitizer with a colorful map of the world with that verse written across it. If we are to follow that theme we must have God’s PEACE in our hearts. That is the ingredient that prepares us to “Go and Make Disciples”.

I want to quote from Pat Shrock’s article: “Are We Searchers for the Lost?” in the September/October ADVOCATE. It reads as follows: “Tonight a Facebook message on a community page appeared. It said, “My two-year-old son is missing. Please help us scour the corn field. I’m Begging.” It gave the address... As people read the message, it was shared again and again... Concerned people got in their cars to head for the corn field equipped with flashlights and the urgency of the crisis. “In less than thirty minutes, this sweet boy was located and returned to his mother... Our entire community rejoiced that he was found.” The Facebook pages were full of thanks to God.

This story illustrates our theme, “Go and Make Disciples”. The searchers in this story were equipped with flashlights and a sense of urgency. We as searchers for ones to disciple are equipped with the Light of Christ and the urgency to bring the lost to Him. It reminds us of the call, the search, and the rejoicing in heaven when the lost are found.”

Pat’s article makes clear the command to Go, Search for the lost, and Make them Disciples.

I have a puzzle for you this time. First question is from THE ADVOCATE. What position does Pat Shrock hold in USFWI? Second question is from The Carolina Woman, September, October, November issue. What is the address that you send the used stamps that you have collected to?

The first five that get both answers will receive from me a subscription to THE ADVOCATE. (If you already receive THE ADVOCATE, give your subscription to someone else.) And you will get a \$20 gift to take yourself and a favorite someone to dinner. It will probably be “take away” as long as the Pandemic roars over us. Send your answers to linx5432@gmail.com.

I close with a prayer for PEACE for you and all your loved ones. Now “Go and Make Disciples”.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION

Denise E. Barnes

“You are my God and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you.” - Psalm 118:28

As we enter into the season of Thanksgiving, we need to be mindful of giving thanks and encouraging our children to give thanks as well. However, at times we forget to say “thank you”. A story from the Bible about this very thing is a good example to use with children.

“Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." and as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him - and he was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well." - Luke 17: 11-19

Because of their disease, the men could not be around anyone - not their families, their friends and not even a doctor. So, when Jesus healed them, he gave them back both their health and their lives! Jesus did this out of love; he loved each man. But only one came back to thank Him. The other men ran back to their families and their friends. I am sure that disappointed Jesus but he was happy that the one man did remember to thank him.

We have experienced something similar to this in the last eight months. We probably all know someone who has been affected by Covid-19. The people who have been sick with this virus had to be away from their families and friends. Once they were better, and reunited with them, let's hope they were like the one Samaritan and remembered to thank God for healing their bodies.

It is the season of giving thanks; not only for good health, but for all of the blessings God gives us. He does this because He loves us. He provides for us. We must always remember to thank God for everything.

"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all of my heart. I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."- Psalm 9:1

LITERATURE

Sarah Cox

Recently I heard someone talking about how many days were left until Christmas. It made me stop and think about how quickly this year is coming to an end. For many, it cannot end quickly enough! Many are ready to see it come to a close and are praying that 2021 will be a year of peace, love, and good health for our world.

As we look ahead to Christmas and a new year, let us pause and think about what each of us can do to grow in our faith, grow in our love and understanding for each other and grow in our service to God. How do we grow in our faith, our love and understanding of others and in our service?

Get involved. Get involved in your meeting and its work. Get involved in your community. Look for ways to show God's love to the people around you. Find ways to share God's blessings. He has blessed us abundantly. Find time to listen to God and then do what He leads you to do. Yes, we need to pray, but we also need to listen. Read your Bible. Read your devotion. Read books that will help you grow in your faith, in your understanding of God's word and in your knowledge.

I pray that the days ahead will be filled with God's love, mercy and blessings and you will grow in your walk with Him.

We still have available Blueprints, Calendars and books from our reading list. Please call or email me if I can help you with any of these. (Reading List books are in the March/April/May issue of Carolina Woman). Our books would make great Christmas gifts!

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Sarah Cox

336-963-2710

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North Carolina United Society of Friends Women 2021 Greensheet Projects

- Jan** ****Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship Scholarship Fund**
****FTC Scholarship Fund**
- Feb** ***Peace & Christian Social Concerns USFWI**
1- Belize: Oscar Siema Mmbali (Church Planter)
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/replacement
4- Joy Fund: Kenya-Katrina & Shawn McConaughy
- Apr** ***Christian Service USFWI**
1-N. America: Mesquakie Friends Center
2-N. America: Friends Center (formerly 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** ****Matamoros Mexico Missions**
****NCUSFW Projects**
- July** ***Children & Youth USFWI**
1- Kenya: Turkana/Samburu Girls’ Secondary Education
2- Belize: School Feeding Program
3- Ramallah: Eli & Sybil Jones Scholarship Fund (K-12)
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: Literacy Program
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 – E-Learning at Friends Theological College
- Dec** ****Friends Disaster Service**
***USFWI Projects **NC USFWI Projects**

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Judy Craven

After so many months of “staying in to stay safe”, my USFW group met together-masked and socially distant-in October. We were joined by several night moths that came in our open door (promoting better air circulation). We rejoiced as they sought the “light” of the room as we sought guidance for our USFW work. We used the first lesson in our 2020-2021 Blueprints that was taken from the 1956-1957 Blueprints. It encouraged us to “look in our own backyards” for mission opportunities to serve those in need. A poem by Miriam Teichner from that lesson is most compelling- “...God – let me be aware

Stab myself fiercely with others pain,
 Let me walk seeing horror and stain.
 Let my hands, groping find other hands.
 Give me the heart that divines, understands.
 Give me the courage, wanted to find.
 Flood me with knowledge, drench me in line.
 Please, keep me eager just to do my share.
 God – let me be aware.

It’s been hard to become aware of the needs when we can’t be out in our communities. The ladies who volunteer at FEMAP (Friends Emergency Material Assistance Program) returned to the Allen Jay House this fall. They’ve been very busy packing and distributing nearly 1,000 kits—hygiene kits to homeless shelters, farmworker kits to migrant workers across the state, infant kits to family service agencies, hygiene and school kits to school children. The result is the shelves at Allen Jay House are ALMOST BARE. The coronavirus still rages, but donations of items and gifts of money for purchasing items are much needed.

Christian Service is what we do to help and encourage others. The following prayer from the September 20, 2020 Rocky River Friends bulletin contains the very reason we strive to help those in need.

Dear Father in heaven, we thank you for sending down powers from on high into our earthly life. We thank you for sending us a higher nature in which we can live for others because we are living by what we receive from you. May we be simple, childlike, and trusting. When anyone despairs of himself, show him the way to the Savior so that he can find trust. Show to us the way of trust, trust for ourselves and for all people, because it is your will for all to receive help.

Amen

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 pass away this year. Memorials for 2020-2021 will be read at the NCUSFW 2021 Spring Conference.

Year _____ Meeting: _____

Name(s) _____

email Jan Dough – jdough@triad.rr.com

or Jan’s mailing address is: 2541 Old Lexington Road, Asheboro, NC 27205

ADULT MISSIONARY EDUCATION

Edith Shepherd

“How are you called to action?”

Nancy McCormick

When I was 14, I was in a sledding accident while on a Girl Scout outing in my home state of Minnesota. I was on a winter retreat with my scout troop at a location on one of our many lakes. That Friday evening our advisors were ever vigilant, doing grown-up stuff listening to the radio about an upcoming ice storm. As our leaders listened to the weather, they decided it would be prudent to take the cars up the hill, from the cottage, just in case they couldn't get them out the following day – so that is what they did.

In my mind that made our sledding activities better — taking away all obstacles at the bottom of the hill, allowing for smooth snow sailing late into the night — it was glorious. The following morning, we Scouts were thrilled to see our sledding hill was covered with a sheet of ice and a thin covering of frosty snow – we were truly in a winter wonderland.

After our morning obligations were completed, we were at liberty to take our breaks and enjoy ourselves. My buddy Gail and I geared up and outward we went to meet this wintry paradise. I was designated that morning to be the glider guide and Gail was the second in command on top of me, loading the sled down as a double-decker. We sailed and whizzed down that hill several times with sheer delight, it was unbelievably scary as we raced down that hill and screamed.

Our last run ended with Gail flying through the air after we hit a fence post with my body wrapping around it with a thud, a thud that took my breath away, a thud that ruptured my spleen and punctured my diaphragm.

I got up from that crash and Gail and I walked to the cottage. We were met by one of our leaders, who happened to be an RN. She took one look at me and knew I was in trouble.

After taking care of my immediate needs, and making some phone calls, this troupe of girls and women went into LEADERSHIP mode. While Someone sat with me, they took a door off its hinges, got several sleeping bags together and gathered pillows to load me up on this makeshift wooden door gurney.

The sled became my life jacket as this team pulled and pushed me up that ice packed hill. They then lifted me, door and all and loaded me in the back of a station wagon to get me to a place where I could be helped. I think of this event often.

This group was prepared. There were no debates, no hidden agendas — just God's children working together to assist one that was hurt. They lived into our motto that weekend: Be prepared and be ready to help where needed.

When I think of this event in my life I think of the group of people in scripture who carried a man on a pallet, making their way toward Jesus, “Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, Son, your sins are forgiven.” Mark 2: 1-5.

These individuals were prepared to seek the greatest kind of healing for their friend – they had his best interest in mind.

There are two guiding principles in my life, they are to love God and love my neighbor. Whenever things get blurry for me, and lately there has been a lot of blur, I am called back to these two commandments.

Actions truly do speak louder than words – and “Jesus saw their faith and the man was healed”. What are the ways God is calling you into loving action?

Nancy McCormick is Co-Pastor of Chester Friends and Springfield Friends Meetings.

Submitted by Edith Shepherd, with Nancy's permission.

STEWARDSHIP

Sherry Quinn

Stewardship comes in the form of many things. Financial, giving of one's time and talents, sacrificing for others and the list goes on. I drift my thoughts back to a time of one's funeral. We all at some point in time think about that dash on our marker. Has it been a life well lived? I guess, we as Christians hope that we have done enough here on earth to be able to hear the words, "Come in my good and faithful servant."

To get there we are told to be good stewards of God's gifts. That is what stewardship is all about. Taking care of all the gifts, not just one or two or our favorite one. All gifts. I think we have to start at home first with how we treat ourselves and others.

Matthew 25:40 *"The King will answer and say to them, 'I assure you and most solemnly say to you, to the extent that you did it for one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it for Me.'"*

Do we truly treat others the way God would want? In the world in which we live we can look around and see hatred, loathing and such uncaring. Do we put the other person down at the bottom or do we lift them up as God did the woman at the well? Or do we lend a helping hand to help lift up and show love and compassion as God did to so many?

What Does the Bible Say About How to Treat Others?

Let's take a look at the Word of God to see what truths we can discover.

Love in Deed and Truth

1 John 3:18 *"Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."*

This verse teaches us that we should be training our children to understand that love is not just a word; love is an action. Love is an act of unconditional love that Jesus showed on Calvary helps them understand who He is in their lives. By knowing God's love we can teach our children and others what love looks like and the actions to show others.

Be Kind, Compassionate, and Forgiving

Ephesians 4:32 *"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."* This verse is a wonderful reminder that we are to treat others the same way that Jesus treats us. He is always kind and compassionate toward us, even in our sin. His sacrifice on the cross sealed the forgiveness of our sin. Jesus modeled kindness, compassion, and forgiveness for all mankind to follow. And as His children, we should commit to doing the same.

Be Humble and Gentle

Ephesians 4:2 *"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."*

Jesus is the epitome of humility. He showed humility in so many circumstances where the average person would struggle. From being accused of crimes He did not commit to being accused of blasphemy, Jesus remained humble and gentle, giving us the blueprint for how we should treat others.

Build One Another Up

1 Thessalonians 5:11 *"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."* As children of God it is important that we build up not tear down our brothers and sisters through the way we speak to them and treat them. When we speak to those around us it gives God the ability to perform His Word in and around us. Again, when we treat others kindly it shows them the love of Christ, building them up when they are in need of love and encouragement.

Treat Others The Way You Want to Be Treated

Luke 6:31 *"Do to others as you would have them do to you."* When in doubt, we should never forget that God wants us to treat others the way they want to be treated. This is especially helpful when we are young to learn the way the world around us works. By teaching this early on, it helps others develop the habit of weighing their actions toward others by this truth.

God's Word is a treasure that contains all the answers we seek (and more). When you are dealing with issues we should always take time to pull out your Bible and see what God has to say about the topic; you

won't be disappointed. Not only that, but He will give you the wisdom and grace you need to model the truth of His Word in love.

God's hand is always there lifting, guiding, holding, directing even when we least expect it. We must be willing to do the same, especially in today's world. By doing this we do several things. We show that we are no better than the other person, we show God's love through us and we give hope and love to someone in need. What better way to honor God than by leading by His examples? May we be the light unto the dark world in which we live. In doing so, we will be blessed more than we could even dream.

The Advocate Subscription Form

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NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY OF FRIENDS WOMEN				
TREASURER'S REPORT				
As of October 31, 2020				
1				
2				
3				
4	January	Eliza Armstrong Cox Fellowship Scholarship Fund		\$1,520.25
5		FTC Scholarship Fund		\$940.25
6				
7	February	PEACE & CHRISTIAN SOCIAL CONCERNS USFWI 2020		
8		1- Belize: Oscar Siema Mmbali		\$758.75
9		2-Cuba: Quaker Institute of Peace		\$628.75
10		3-Right Sharing of World Resources: Samson Ababu Support		\$633.75
11		4-East Africa Friends Church Peace Team: Getry Agizah		\$658.75
12		FEMAP-Friends Emergency Materials Assistance Program		\$1,130.00
13				
14	March	FOUR FUNDS USFWI 2020		
15		1-Love Fund: Belize: Nikki Holland		\$1,112.50
16		2-Faith Fund: Kenya: Robert Wafula		\$1,107.50
17		3-Hope Fund: Ramallah: Adrian Moody		\$1,062.50
18		4-Joy Fund: Kenya: Katrina & Shawn McConaughey		\$1,062.50
19				
20	April	CHRISTIAN SERVICE USFWI 2020		
21		1- N America: Mesquakie Friends Center		\$1,107.50
22		2- N America: The Friends Center (formerly MOWA Choctaw)		\$1,935.00
23		3- N America: Kickapoo Friends Center		\$957.50
24		4- Kenya: Lugulu Hospital Adopt-a-Bed		\$987.50
25				
26	May	Friends Homes Quaker Assistance Fund		\$1,085.00
27		Spring Conference Offering - Quaker Lake		\$1,965.00
28				
29	June	NC USFW Projects		\$835.00
30		Matamoros, Mexico Missions		\$800.00
31				
32	July	CHILDREN & YOUTH USFWI 2020		
33		1- Kenya: Turkana/Samburu Girl's Secondary Education		\$1,010.00
34		2- Belize: School Feeding Program		\$891.50
35		3- Ramallah: Eli & Sybil Jones Scholarship Fund		\$791.50
36		4- Ramallah: Special Educational Needs Students at Friends Scho		\$827.00
37				
38	August	Annual Gathering Offering:		\$450.00
39		1- Friends Center: Guilford College		\$1,166.50
40		2- Special Project TBD(Campus Ministry or other)-NCFC		\$786.50
41				
42	September	80% Membership Apportionment to USFWI		\$667.00
43		20% Membership Apportionment to Scholarship Fund		\$173.00
44		NCUSFW Scholarship Fund		\$700.00
45				
46	October	KEYS TO THE KINGDOM USFWI 2020		
47		1- Belize: Adult Education		\$887.00
48		2- Triennial Overseas Travel Assistance (USFW YM Clerks)		\$227.00
49		3-The Advocate Subsidy		\$301.00
50				
51	November	UNITED THANK OFFERING USFWI 2020		
52		1-Jamaica: Pastoral Care		\$125.00
53		2-Kenya: Turkana Ministry Staff and Pastors (27 Workers)		\$125.00
54		3-Kenya: Samburu Ministry Staff and Pastors (22 Workers)		\$125.00
55		4-Kenya: FTC Faculty Support for Satellite Campuses		\$125.00
56				
57	December	Friends Disaster Service-NCYM		\$1,012.50
58				
59			Subtotal Greensheet projects	\$30,678.50
60	Other Contributions			
61		EAC Fellowship		\$575.00
62		Friends Theological College		\$450.00
63		Robert Wafula		\$200.00
64		Literature		\$2,271.35
65				
66			Subtotal Other Contributions	\$3,496.35
67				
68			Total Funds Received 2020	\$34,174.85
69				
70	Thank you to all the circles for your continued support.			
71	If not done so already please send your Membership Apportionment for 2020			
72			Alicia Sharp	
73			Treasurer	
74				
75				
76				