

Friends Campus Ministries

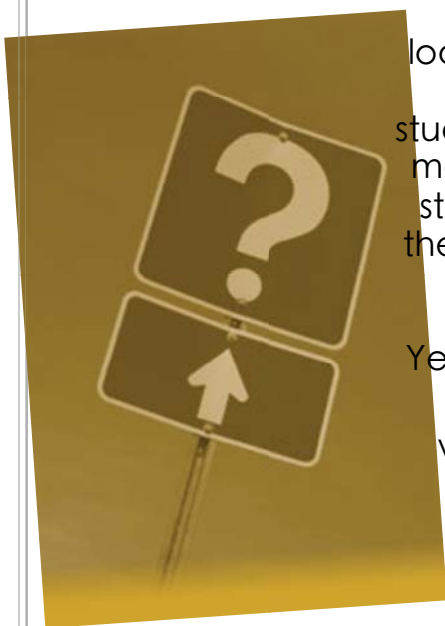
SUMMER 2011

NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING



Who are your Young Adults & College Students?

The Young Adult Committee is looking once again for all names and addresses of the college students and young adults in your meeting. We want to be able to stay connected with them while they are in college and get them involved in our current events. Please send your list to the NC Yearly Meeting Office before the end of the summer. We don't want them to miss out on some great opportunities coming up this Fall.



Would your Meeting like to help support a campus ministry?

The Friends Campus Ministries are looking for meetings who have a passion to see our campus ministries continue to grow. We need Meetings who are willing to give monthly sponsorships that would financially keep our ministry going.

God has blessed us with an amazing way to reach our young adults. Do you have young adults in your meeting who are growing spiritually because of FCM? Consider partnering with this ministry through your financial contributions and ensure that FCM continues to grow!



Greensboro

Raleigh

Western

Charlotte

North Carolina Yearly Meeting
 Friends Campus Ministries
 4811 Hilltop Rd
 Greensboro, NC 27407

Twentysomethings Struggle to Find Their Place in Christian Churches

The Barna Group, Ltd, 2009



From The Barna Research Group:

From age 20 to 29, most individuals face many life-shaping decisions: whether to finish college; what career to pursue; where to live; whether or not to get married; who to marry; if and when to have children – among many other crucial choices. In our culture of hyper-individualism, those decisions are being increasingly shaped by people's desire to determine their own personal fulfillment and purpose in life. For many twentysomethings, allegiance to Christian churches is a casualty of their efforts to "create their own version of fulfillment."

A new study from the Barna Research Group of Ventura, California shows that millions of twentysomething Americans – many of whom were active in churches during their teens – pass through their most formative adult decade while putting Christianity on the backburner. The research, conducted with 2,660 twentysomethings, shows that Americans in their twenties are significantly less likely than any other age group to attend church services, to donate to churches, to be absolutely committed to Christianity, to read the Bible, or to serve as a volunteer or lay leader in churches.

Church-Going Softens

Perhaps the most striking reality of twentysomething's faith is their relative absence from Christian churches. Only 3 out of 10 twentysomethings (31%) attend church in a typical week, compared to 4 out of 10 of those in their 30s (42%) and nearly half of all adults age 40 and older (49%).

The low level of twentysomething church attendance is not just due to the "college years," when many young adults may not have easy access to a church. The research shows that church attendance bottoms out during the late 20s when the vast majority of students have transitioned from education to the workforce. Just 22% of those ages 25 to 29 attended church in the last week.

Many twentysomethings are reversing course after having been active church attenders during their teenage years. As teenagers, more than half attended church each week and more than 4 out of 5 (81%) had ever gone to a Christian church. That means that from high school graduation to age 25 there is a 42% drop in weekly church attendance and a 58% decline from age 18 to age 29. That represents about 8,000,000 twentysomethings alive today who were active church-goers as teenagers but who will no longer be active in a church by their 30th birthday.

Twentysomething Spirituality

While young adults are re-thinking their allegiance to the Christian faith, those in their 20s have certainly not discarded all traces of spirituality and faith. Instead, personal faith is but one of multiple sources of input which young people combine to create their own definition of personal fulfillment and meaning.

More than 8 out of 10 twentysomethings (80%) said that their religious faith is very important in their life and nearly 6 out of 10 (57%) claimed to have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in their life.

The study also showed that young adults are only slightly less likely than older adults to pray, which reflects their appetite for personal spiritual experience. Three-quarters of young adults in their 20s (75%) said they had prayed to God in the past week.

Missing Leadership Link?

One of the reasons that many twentysomethings struggle to find their place in churches is that many young people may feel overlooked as potential leaders. The study showed that just 4% of young adults currently serve as a lay leader at their church; only 12% have been a leader at any time in the past two years. Older adults are three to four times more likely to serve as church leaders. The age group with the greatest number of church leaders are those in their 50s.

Despite that, young people do not lack confidence in their leadership capabilities. The study showed that people in their 20s and early 30s are actually more likely than are older adults to think of themselves as leaders – and they are much more likely than mature generations to want additional training to become better leaders. Yet, young leaders were also the least aware of any leadership training opportunities provided by their congregation. Nevertheless, young leaders are a challenging target for leadership preparation since they are busy, skeptical of churches, and often unwilling to commit to such development, especially to classroom-style training without hands-on leadership opportunities. The research points out that mentoring is the most appealing form of leadership development for young adults.

FCM @ Greensboro

Spring Garden Friends to partner with FCM-Greensboro!

The Friends Campus Ministry of Greensboro that has been meeting on the campus of UNCG has found a new home. It has been great to meet at the University but Spring Garden Friends Meeting has offered FCM - Greensboro their old "youth hut" as a place for full-time ministry. The students will begin meeting there in August as soon as classes resume.

The students are very excited about this opportunity to have a central location right next to campus that will help them reach other students throughout the year. This is going to be a great place for students to come during the day to study, relax, and fellowship with one another.

FCM-Greensboro will continue having their weekly Bible Study and worship at 7pm on Wednesday evenings. Dinner will be served at 6:30pm for any students who would like to join us.

Throughout the summer we will be working on "remodeling" the space that Spring Garden Friends has provided. If you would like to donate financially to this project please send checks to NCYM office (marked FCM-G project). We are also looking for monthly sponsors to help pay for utilities.

Thanks again to Spring Garden for their generosity and to everyone else who supports our Campus Ministries!

-Sarah Vestal,
Campus Pastor



Top 10 Ways for Meetings to Maintain a Connection with College Students

#10 - MAILINGS - Send your monthly newsletter and/or weekly bulletin to your students.

#9 - VISITATION - Take a group from the meeting to visit your students at their schools.

#8 - DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES - Offer a Sunday School class or small group for students when they are home for the summer or on break that not only teaches the Bible, but also teaches how they can apply Biblical truth to their everyday lives.

#7 - CARDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT - Send out birthday cards and personal invitations to events at the meeting such as Homecoming, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter Services.

#6 - WEBSITE - If your meeting has a website, make sure your students know about it. If you want to really get their attention, put an article up about them that tells how they are doing and what is going on in their lives (information that could go into a newsletter as well).

#5 - CD/DVD MINISTRY - If your meeting makes a recording of the worship service, maybe to send to shut-ins or just have on file, consider expanding that ministry to your college students.

#4 - LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES - Providing college students with opportunities to take active role in leadership in your meeting allows them to feel invested in the life of your community. It will strengthen their tie to the Meeting and can provide you with a source of help and energy that is overlooked. Some roles that a college student might fill might be: SS teacher, committee member, nursery worker, choir member, youth leader or assistant, or in some cases even a member of Ministry & Counsel.

#3 - ASK FOR THEIR INPUT; THEN DO SOMETHING WITH IT! - College students and young adults in general often feel that their input and opinions are overlooked in the life of a meeting. Actively seeking their input and taking their suggestions seriously shows that you value them as a part of your body.

#2 - YOUNG ADULT COMMITTEE - The Yearly Meeting YA Committee has several ministries geared toward college students and other YAs. Pass on the names and addresses of your students so that they can take advantage of the opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth available through the Yearly Meeting!

#1 - CARE PACKAGES! - Send an exam care package in December and another in May. Inside, put cards of encouragement, devotionals, candy, popcorn, coffee, pencils, & anything else that your meeting feels might help out a college student during their toughest times of the year.

FCM @ Raleigh

"FCM has been such a wonderful experience for me. The passion and growth that I have seen in my students amazes me. I have also seen God move in ways beyond anything I could ever imagine. Our graduating students have gone out to serve the Lord in many ways. Some have gone to the mission fields, Quaker Lake, and to serve as a new campus pastor. God is so good and so faithful in our young adults. go pack!"
-Stefanie Johnson, Campus Pastor

"When I think about FCM I think about a comfortable and open place not only to discuss God's word openly and freely, but a place to do so in a firm Quaker environment. FCM provides a network of friends that I am able to confide in and share my struggles while at the same time hearing their struggles and we are able to support one another to a degree that is rare to find anywhere else. I value this organization to the point that not only would I be missing out on such a wonderful ministry, but I can honestly say I would not be as strong in my faith without it!"

- Devin Bobbitt, NC State '11



FCM @ Western Carolina

"Well the FCM group at Western Carolina University is going great. Since the middle of January we have met every week for a weekly Bible study and dinner. Lyndsey is doing a great job leading the group and really helping us develop our faith. She asks some very thought provoking questions which really make us reflect on how we are living our lives, but it is definitely what we need to hear. The group took a skiing/ snowboarding trip to Wolf Mountain in February. It was so much fun and everyone really enjoyed it. FCM at Western Carolina has truly been a great joy to start. The group has truly been a blessing to those who are a part of it and God is definitely doing some great work in the mountains."

- Ethan King, Western '13



"FCM has taken off at Western Carolina and I am so blessed to be a part of it! I have had the chance to meet some amazing followers of Christ who hunger and thirst for God and His Word. We have been going through a series about God's ongoing will in our lives, and it's exciting to see the way God is constantly working in and through our group."

- Lyndsey Wall, Campus Pastor



Ministries

Campus life Holy service

Friends services

Jesus fellowship support active

retreats coffee pastors individuals among prayer

Christians compassion strengthen Quakers college students help

love Bible study projects focused food Spirit

FCM @ Charlotte

"FCM continues to blow my mind. Going from being a part of State's FCM to laying the foundation in the Queen City, God has shown me how MIGHTY He is. We might be relatively small but things are falling into place and the impact that we can and will have on Charlotte is going to be EPIC! I love the people and the community that we are building; it surely is a blessing! Jesus Party. Go pack!"

-Thomas Wensil, Campus Pastor Intern



WORSHIP

"I am so excited that FCM is starting up in Charlotte. I am looking forward to FCM being a place of fellowship and spiritual growth that most college students miss out on. I can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for us and the impact that we will have on the Charlotte community."

- Christian Allen, Queens '13

