

Friendly Newsletter

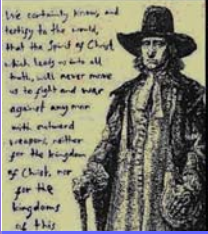
Fall 2010

North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Friends

Living in the Spirit of Peace
Present &

Past

Future



NCYM-FUM Annual Sessions 2010

September 3-6, 2010

Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain, NC

A total of 437 Friends of all ages met together for a wonderful time of worship, fellowship and business. From worship to business to workshops, all aspects of this year's Annual Sessions focused on the Peace Testimony in celebration of the 350th Anniversary of the Declaration of 1660.

Jr. Yearly Meeting



Future Young Friends!



Fellowship



Young Friends / Young Adults



Meeting for Worship and Business



A Vision for Unity and Growth

North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Friends is a faithful, passionate, growing community of Christ-followers, drawn together by God's love and truth as continually revealed through the Saving Grace and the Light of Jesus Christ and the Holy Scriptures. As Quakers, we seek God's leading, serve God's purpose, and go as God's people into the world to love, reconcile and transform through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Approved September 4, 2010
NCYM-FUM Annual Session
Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain, NC

PEACE ESSAY CONTEST

2010: Year of Peace - Celebrating George Fox's 1660 Declaration Proclaiming to King Charles II Friends as peaceful people known as Quakers.

Earlier this year, writers of all ages were invited to submit essays for the 2010 Year of Peace with the theme: Why is peace important to you? Why is the Quaker peace testimony important today?

Melva Greene, winner of the Adult Category, and Taylor Moody, winner of the Youth Category, read their essays at NCYM-FUM Annual Sessions. A brief excerpt from each are given below:

"To eliminate the occasion for war we must fight with spiritual weapons in the home and all places where there is conflict. . . .

Peace is important to me because the peace that only Christ can give us today comes from within. I believe, the Quaker Peace testimony is just as important today as at any time in history. It is our goal to live in that spirit that takes away the occasion for war and to suffer violence, if necessary to support our belief, as did our Lord, but never return evil for evil."

~ Melva Greene, Pine Hill Friends Meeting

"To achieve peace one must love God most and above all. Then one must love their neighbor as themselves, to be willing to sacrifice some of their own wants for others. . . . Self-sacrifice is an extremely important factor in the struggle for peace. . . .

Peace is something that all people will strive for until the end of time, when Jesus returns and God restores peace and purity to our sinful world. This is what makes George Fox's peace declaration so important today. . . . That is why peace is important to me."

~ Taylor Moody, Marlboro Friends Meeting

If you would like to read the complete essays, they will be available on our website at www.ncym-fum.org soon, or you may request a copy by calling the NCYM office at 336-292-6957 or 800-371-8896.

QUAKER LAKE CAMP

- SEEDS
PUMPKIN FESTIVAL
PUMPKIN PATCH



Opportunities for Fall

MORE INFORMATION ??? CONTACT: 336-674-2321 OR quakerlakecamp.org

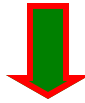


MORE ON PAGE 3

Fall at QLC
Seeds FOR CHILDREN ON THE GROW... Weekly activities for children ages 3 to 5 years old. In a small group setting, preschoolers are given the opportunity to explore, learn, and engage in nature-based, educational activities. Themes for this fall include Health and Nutrition, Animal Habitats, and Out of this World. Visit our website for registration information!
Pumpkin Festival October 23rd 3:00 - 7:00 pm Save the date for the second annual Pumpkin Festival at Quaker Lake! Enjoy activities for all ages including hayrides, pumpkin painting, games, inflatables, face painting, canoeing, pumpkin smashing, live music, and much more! A children's fishing tournament will take place from 3pm to 4pm, so be sure to bring your own fishing equipment if you would like to participate. Fill up on all of your festival favorites including hot dogs, hamburgers, pizza, funnel cakes, smores, popcorn, cotton candy and caramel apples! We hope you'll join us for an afternoon of games, music, food, fellowship and fun!
Admission: \$2 per person Food, pumpkin painting and pumpkin smashing are an additional cost.
Games Live Music & PUMPKINS!
For cost, scheduling, and more information contact: (336) 674-2321 quakerlakecamp.org

MOWA CHOCTAW FRIENDS CENTER

- THANKSGIVING BASKETS
- CHRISTMAS BOXES
- TEAM 2 TUTOR PROGRAM



More Opportunities for Fall



MOWA Choctaw Friends Center Thanksgiving Baskets

In light of the recession and Gulf crisis, MOWA Choctaw Friends Center's neighborhood families are struggling. The trickledown effect has touched many families still strained post-Katrina. This Thanksgiving we are striving to provide turkey dinner baskets to the neediest families in our community.

Your love gift of \$25.00 provides a family with:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 🍷 Turkey | 🍷 Sweet Potatoes |
| 🍷 Dressing | 🍷 Green Beans |
| 🍷 Pumpkin Pie | |
- for Thanksgiving Dinner



NEW ONLINE DONATION CAPABILITY COMING SOON

*Donations
Deadline
11/24/10*

Our staff will assemble and distribute the baskets prior to Thanksgiving. Donations may be sent to NCYM: 4811 Hilltop Road, Greensboro, NC 27407. Make checks payable to NCYM with a memo for: MOWA-Thanksgiving. Credit Card payments available by calling NCYM: 800-371-8896 or 336-292-6957. Visit www.ncym-fum.org for online donations.

If you are looking for a place to minister and make a difference, MOWA Choctaw Friends Center offers many options for service. Call 336-292-6957 / 800-371-8896 to schedule a visit or find out more ways you can help.

For Information on how you can become a sponsor, watch your mail and check our website at www.ncym-fum.org or call 336-292-6957 / 800-371-8896.

MOWA After School Care Sponsorship

DETAILS COMING SOON!

Team 2 Tutor

**PLEASE
NEW ITEMS ONLY
DEADLINE 12/15/10**

- Tonka Trucks
- K'Nex Construct Sets
- Lego Sets
- Gym Bags
- Wallets
- Sport Jerseys & Baseball Hats
- Watches for Men/Women/Children/Teens
- Christmas T-Shirts/Sweaters All Sizes
- Men's Flannel Shirts-M,L,XL
- Dry Food Goods
- Canned Meats
- Soups
- Canned Vegetables- All Sorts

**Christmas Boxes
For
MOWA-Choctaw
Families**

- Assorted Dolls
- Crafts Sets for Girls
- Artist Sets
- Manicure Sets
- Nail Polish Kits
- Makeup Sets
- Perfume
- Body Wash Sets
- White Ankle Socks - All Sizes
- Handbags
- Jewelry
- Christmas Towel Sets for Kitchen or Bath
- Covered Casserole Dishes
- Boys and Girls Underwear

Christmas - Southern Style

Please do not gift wrap since the MOWA staff will assemble and distribute the boxes. Donations may be sent to NCYM: 4811 Hilltop Road, Greensboro, NC 27407. Make checks payable to NCYM with a memo for: MOWA-Christmas. Credit Card payment is also available by calling NCYM: 800-371-8896 or 336-292-6957.



**YOUNG FRIENDS
YOUNG ADULTS
SEE PAGE 4**



YOUNG FRIENDS

TREMORS
YF ONLINE COUNSELOR TRAINING



More Opportunities for Fall

Cost: \$125
 \$25 DISCOUNT
 IF YOU REGISTER & PAY BY
 (POSTMARKED)
 DECEMBER 1, 2010

YOUTH TREMORS

Is sponsored by North Carolina Yearly Meeting Young Friends (Quakers) and is open to ANYONE in 7th to 12th grades.

We meet at Quaker Lake Camp, Climax NC.

Questions? Contact Darrin Allen
 Phone: 1-800-371-8896/1-336-292-6957
 Email: dallen@ncym-fum.org

OR

Tim Vestal - Phone: 336-847-2752
 Email: tim@prfriends.org

To register, visit www.ncym-fum.org or call 1-800-371-8896 / 1-336-292-6957.

Registration must be received (postmarked) no later than December 15, 2010

ONLINE COUNSELOR TRAINING

A new Online Training Process is required for chaperoning any Young Friends event. Visit www.ncym-fum.org for more information.

Young Adult Yearly Meeting Minute - Excerpt

We believe Jesus must be the center of our faith and our service, as well as our main cause for unification.

With Christ as our guiding light, we wish to strive to foster unity throughout the entire Christian body

We feel Friends Campus Ministries is a vital ministry of the NCYM and is so helpful for our spiritual walk. We ask that it receive more support and that it continue to grow.

In light of approval of the vision statement, it is our hope that we, the Yearly Meeting, continue to take these words and transform them into actions.

While we understand the challenges Young Adults pose to Meetings, we hope to improve communication to continue to bridge the intergenerational gap. Examples are:

Outreach to college students through cards and care packages

Maintenance of vital relationships in our home meetings

Considering alternative methods and times of worship

The Young Adults' passion lies in Christian service, especially outreach in our school and home communities. We plan to actively pursue such opportunities to spread Jesus' love.

YOUNG ADULTS NEWS

YOUNG ADULT YEARLY MEETING MINUTE
YOUNG ADULT BEACH RETREAT-45 ATTENDED!
STAFF HIRING INFORMATION ... COMING SOON:

- ◆ S.O.U.L.
- ◆ QUAKER LAKE CAMP
- ◆ INTERN PROGRAM

LOOK FOR
 APPLICATIONS FOR
 THESE MINISTRIES IN
 DECEMBER!

FRIENDS CAMPUS MINISTRIES

- ◆ FCM - Greensboro - Weekly Meetings
 Wednesday nights - UNCG Campus.
 6:30-Dinner 7:00-Bible Study
- ◆ FCM - Raleigh - Weekly Meetings
 Tuesdays 7:00 pm - Members' homes.

**CHECK FOR EVENTS FOR BOTH GROUPS
 ON FACEBOOK**

PLEASE SEND US COLLEGE ADDRESSES. AND ALL CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUR MEETING'S COLLEGE STUDENTS SO WE CAN KEEP THEM INFORMED ABOUT ALL OUR PLANS AND SEND THEM CARDS AND CARE PACKAGES.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

**Representative Body Meeting
 November 6, 2010
 Ararat Friends Meeting**

Please **RSVP** with your attendance plans to the NCYM office at ncfriends@ncym-fum.org or 336-292-6957 / 800-371-8896 so that Ararat Friends can have a number to plan for in serving lunch.

FALL EVENTS CALENDAROctober

- 16 Publication Bd. Mtg.-9:30 am-Annex
 Peace & Social Issues-10 am-Annex
- 17 Yadkin Qrt. Mtg.-3 pm-Mt. Carmel
- 19 Spiritual Life Com.-3:30 pm-Annex
- 23 Pumpkin Festival-3-7 pm-QL Camp
- 24 Contentnea Qrt.-3 pm-Hood Swamp
 Northwest Qrt.-4 pm-Mt. View
 Surry Qrt. Mtg.-12:30-Pilot Mountain
- 25 Prayer Time-10 am-Annex
- 28 Youth Pastors Prayer-11 am-Annex

November

- 4 Staff Mtg.-9:30 am-Annex
- 6 Peace AVP Workshop-9 am-Ararat
Representative Body-11 am-Ararat
- 8 Prayer Time-10 am-Annex
- 9 Recording Com.-1:30 pm-Annex

- 13 Recording Classes-TBA
 Western Qrt.-9:30 am-Liberty
 Eastern Qrt.-10 am-Newbold House
- 16 Care of Records-10:30 am-New Garden
 YFAC- 6:30 pm-Annex
- 18 YAC-6:30 pm-Annex
- 20 Ecumenical Peace Conf.-9 am-Guilford
 Southern Qrt.-9 am-Prosperity
- 21 Deep River Qrt-6 pm-Springfield
- 22 Prayer Time-10 am-Annex
- 24-26 Thanksgiving Holiday-Office Closed

December

- 2 Staff Mtg.-9:30 am-Annex
- 13 Prayer Time-10 am-Annex
- 14 Recording Com.-1:30 pm-Annex
- 24 Christmas Eve-Office Closed
- 27 Prayer Time-10 am-Annex
- 27-Jan. 1 - Youth Tremors-QL Camp

2010 Annual Sessions Reports:

2010 NCYM Minute of Advice

You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. – 1st Thessalonians 5:5-6

The Light of God can be seen in the monthly meetings of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting through their continual worship and service of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the involvement within the communities they inhabit. Each meeting that contributed spiritual condition reports this year stated that it strives to be a positive example to others to contrast the negative times the nation is currently enduring. It is because of dire circumstances, of the American economy, environment, internal and international relations, that these meetings have made a conscious effort to be proactive instead of inactive to bring a constructive change.

The 2010 Minute of Advice has been written with the input from forty-five monthly meetings and eight different quarterly meetings within North Carolina Yearly Meeting. The meetings were asked to contribute first and foremost their own individual spiritual condition, as well as their believed strengths, areas of weaknesses, potential opportunities for worship and service, and threats that may be lingering and/or emerging. The purposes for these questions are so that the meetings may be able share their joy with other meetings, how to grow spiritually mature, and to provide a forum for concerns, so that Friends may be lifted up in prayer and assistance if desired.

A great number of meetings announced that they became increasingly more sensitive to ministering to the younger generations, specifically the generations born in the 1970's and later. The main reason expressed was that they saw these younger Friends leaving their meetings to other spiritual communities because younger Friends believed that the meetings were no longer speaking to their spiritual, intellectual, and/or emotional needs. The avenues these meetings pursued were different, but all expressed improvement. The Yearly Meeting Intern program was instrumental with some meetings, so was also hiring a full or part time associate pastor to work specifically with younger Friends and their children. One meeting found success with having a Youth Appreciation Day. Another meeting reached out to the Yearly Meeting to find out what its youth could be a part of so they could learn to use their own talents and gifts. Some of the suggestions shared from the Yearly Meeting to this particular meeting were Junior Yearly Meeting, the Serenity Choir, and the MOWA Choctaw facility in Alabama. Two meetings provided the means for a sports league. Three meetings began implementing contemporary music to the existing traditional music. Three meetings began a shepherding program, where an older member or elder was matched with a younger member to mentor. One meeting also saw greater fellowship with the institution of a coffee house.

Meetings also announced that community involvement remained a strength for them. These community involvements ranged from spending time helping in homeless shelters, ministry in assisted living facilities, HIV/AIDS clinics, hospitals, and the peace efforts of the Friends Committee of National Legislation (FCNL). A large number of meetings sent volunteers to the mission field. These included: MOWA Choctaw, Jamaica, Kenya, the Middle East, and Mexico. The

Friends Disaster Service was also a ministry where many individual Friends chose to devote their vacation and retirement times, to their meetings' delight. The tragedy of the earthquake in Haiti also provided an occasion for meetings to share their financial blessings for relief.

There were also four large areas of needed improvement that meetings noted in their reports. First, meetings are noting low attendance in worship services. Meetings were honest in their reports and stated that they believed this was due to a difference of discernment in how to worship. Older Friends preferred the traditional Friends worship and young Friends preferred a more contemporary style. It is important to note that this was not simply musical in nature, but also included pastoral ministry and open worship. Some meetings have begun to incorporate various forms of worship; and in doing so, believe both older and younger Friends have found a new appreciation that was once not there.

Second, almost half of the meetings that contributed reports stated that they had a poor understanding of the Friends *Faith and Practice*. Perhaps these meetings could inquire with the Yearly Meeting on the current *Faith and Practice* curriculum that is in place, and their quarterly meeting could sponsor the *Faith and Practice* seminar that some of the quarters have already experienced.

Third, many meetings stated that they would desire a greater visitation program. These meetings believe that during times of sickness or grieving that visitations from other members and not simply the pastoral supply would bring closer connections within the meeting. In saying this, a shepherding or mentoring program could begin the process. Another way could be that Friends begin house groups for prayer and discussion.

Fourth, some meetings expressed an interest in how they could promote physical involvement in the mission field instead of simply monetary contributions. Since there are many in the Yearly Meeting that have mission experience, a suggestion could be that they be contacted to see if they would be willing to travel to these meetings and share their experience and how they could be involved.

Each meeting also provided opportunities they are pursuing that are giving them joy and could possibly be ministries other meetings could engage in the future. These include newsletters, fellowship suppers, websites, prayer rooms, Bible schools, and community renewals/revivals. During this national recession, one meeting has also created an anxiety/depression support group for members and non-members, and another has created a group that assists members and non-members in how to manage their finances better.

The threats that meetings stated were, unfortunately, numerous. The reoccurring threats were as follows: Satan, the national recession, the lack of patience across the generations, and having fruitful connections between members. Half of the meetings stated that they believed that the increased average age of membership was a threat. Finally, many meetings stated that they believed that the location of their meeting was not conducive to numerical growth.

2010 Annual Sessions Reports: ... continued

2010 Minute of Advice

How can these threats be eliminated? This is a difficult question to answer objectively since each meeting is experiencing a similar problem but for different reasons. Two simple suggestions would be for Friends to pray and wait for the Spirit to provide answers, and for Friends to love one another and try and see the best and worth in one another and how that uniqueness adds to the meeting. More detailed assistance could come from a discussion within the quarters, or meetings reaching out to the Yearly Meeting and becoming more active with its committees.

There are areas of concern for the meetings within North Carolina Yearly Meeting to pray and work through, but as also mentioned there are areas of great positivism. Quaker Lake Camp, MOWA Choctaw, Friends Disaster Service, and Yearly Meeting sponsored events continue to be sources of high spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and physical quality. At the

center of these examples and the other strengths and opportunities mentioned in this minute of advice is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is their foundation, their constant presence, and the source of authority and power. In saying this, let Friends and meetings take confidence in these words from Christ to the disciples in John 15:12-17: *"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other."*
~ Spiritual Life Commission

2010 Yearly Meeting Message

Our 313th Annual Session of North Carolina Yearly Meeting opened with this Minute: "May our commitment as Christians and Friends to peace which is in the core message of Jesus Christ and at the heart of early Quakers be renewed and enriched through our time and experiences together this weekend. May we know better from being here that 'Peacemaking' is building the kingdom of God day by day as we live for Him and have the Peace of God within."

Scott Wagoner reminded us of the importance of our Peace Testimony. It is a radical way of life. It is what Quakers are most known for. Our challenge is to appropriate what we already know. Our testimony is a spiritual reality we live out. In times like '9-11', we are not so sure of this Peace Testimony. But Jesus is very clear in Ephesians 2:13-15. The Gospel of Christ is our starting point. Our Peace Testimony begins in the heart.

John Porter spoke using the Scripture I Peter 3:18. He challenged us with this question "How can Quakers be Peacemakers today?" We claim the Peace Testimony. Let's put emphasis on the word today. '9-11' is an example of no longer loving one another. We see what anger can do. Let's see what love can do. Friends are not immune to anger. It's a human emotion. The eternal living Christ can speak to our every need. Peace begins within our hearts. Peace is patient, lives harmoniously with others and is what occurs when we see that of God in everyone. An individual probably will not end war, but we can start peace. With practice, perseverance, and patience, we can create peace. We each have the choice of that creating. How can you be a Peacemaker today?

Young Friends shared in worship by using a video and skits along with the essay that won the Essay Contest on Our Peace Testimony. Love and peace go together. It involves turning the other cheek, forgiveness, and self discipline. In John 14:27 Jesus said. "I leave you a gift, peace of mind and heart. The peace I give is not as the world gives....". Many Young Friends shared testimonies.

Program Ministries presented a video of the different areas of their work in getting the gospel out to others. Excitement and enthusiasm flows through our young people. Everything works together to produce what God wants if we will let Him work through us. So many good things are going on for our youth.

We heard good results from our work in Jamaica and

Mexico VBS. Leadership is developing there. This year they lead their own VBS and our people helped them.

Quaker Lake is year round now. They had a successful year and reached a lot of young people through camps and other programs.

Our Strategic Plan Oversight Committee reviewed our beginning of trying to establish a Vision Statement of our goals and where we want to go. They diligently worked to compose this statement and brought it to our business sessions to review several times. We approved the Vision Statement as follows:

North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Friends is a faithful, passionate, growing community of Christ-followers, drawn together by God's love and truth as continually revealed through the saving Grace and the Light of Jesus Christ and the Holy Scripture. As Quakers, we seek God's leading, serve God's purpose, and go as God's people into the world to love, reconcile, and transform through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our Mission work: Mexico, Friends Disaster Service, Campus Ministries, and MOWA Choctaw are having more opportunities to reach out further into areas of need and to minister.

Reports were received from our Friends Related Organizations.

Seven men and women came under the Recording Committee this year. Ministry and Counsel reported that Rebecca Reece Gregson has satisfactorily completed all recording requirements. They recommended that she be recorded as a Minister of North Carolina Yearly Meeting. This was approved. Three retiring ministers were recognized: Allan Bullard, J. Lloyd Pugh, and Judith Dancy.

The Minute of Advice recognizes that the Light of God can be seen in our Monthly Meetings as they continue to worship and strive to be a positive example to others in this negative time the nation is currently enduring.

There were four workshops: Small Group Ministries in the Local Meeting, Waging Peace, 50 years of Quaker Life Magazine-Friends United Meeting and North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Challenges to Peacemaking-Cotton Candy and the Kingdom of God.

As we close our 2010 session may we continue to ask ourselves "How can I be a Peacemaker today?"