**Friends United Meeting**

Report to NC Fellowship of Friends

The highlight of the year for FUM has been the calling of Kelly Kellum as the new general secretary. His service has recently begun following seven years of service by Colin Saxton. Our prayers of thanksgiving for Colin’s work mingle with the prayers of joy at Kelly’s arrival.

Work continues in many areas. Ben Snyder is the new North American ministries coordinator. He will work with a variety of relatively new initiative. The FUM Press is more active than in recent years as Kristna Evans is now managing editor.

Ramallah Friends School head of school Adrian Moody is well on board now and programs, some staff changes including a new advancement officer, and governance matters continue to move forward at the school. (Prince William of the United Kingdom visited to lower school campus in June as a part of his visit to Palestine and Israel.) Next year, 2019, will be the 150th anniversary of the school.

Exciting work in Belize continues. Oscar Mmbali is serving as pastoral minister, the new school property is occupied and proving vital to expanding ministry. Dale Graves, who did so much for the Belize ministry, remains quite ill and prayers continue to be needed.

In East Africa, Shawn and Katrina McConaughey are at work in the Africa Ministries Programme Office. Established staff lead work at Friends Theological College in Kaimosi, with several satellite locations. FUM’s presence has spread beyond Kenya to Tanzania , Uganda, South Sudan, and beyond. The leadership of various African ministries continues to shift from North America to Africans in Africa. Kenyan Friends are looking forward to hosting the next Triennial in 2020.

NC Fellowship of Friends continues active involvement in the business and service of FUM.

Bill Eagles

**2018 FCNL Annual Minute**

Undeterred by the formidable conservative forces in Washington D.C. the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) continues to maintain its effective presence as an advocate for those Quaker values and issues you deem important. In July the House of Representatives passed the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act with overwhelming bipartisan support! The North Carolina FCNL delegation played a pivotal role in getting Congress to act on this legislation. The Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act is the product of nearly a decade of work by FCNL and a broad coalition of organizations seeking to move the U.S. from fighting wars to preventing them. This is a major step forward for the peaceful prevention of deadly conflict. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee already passed a similar bill and final passage awaits a full Senate vote.

Last year FCNL opened its Quaker Welcome Center located across the street from the U.S. Senate to function as a place for dialogue and the promotion of peace, justice, and environmental sustainability. The Quaker Welcome Center hosts programs and events that equip people to engage in dialogue to change policy, nurture integrity in governance, and collaborate across political differences.

In May 2018 FCNL recently celebrated its 75th anniversary at Earlham College in Richmond, IN. In June 1943, Friends gathering in Richmond founded the Friends Committee on National Legislation to bring Quakers' concerns to bear on public policy. Seventy-five years later FCNL returned to those roots to remember the work of those Friends and look forward to FCNL's continued advocacy for peace, justice, and a sustainable planet in the decades to come.

# In November 2017, your NCFF delegation along with members of the North Carolina Quaker Conservative delegation actively lobbied Congress to limit the defense budget. As a result, many members of Congress are supporting Pentagon audit legislation and hearing hard questions about Pentagon spending increases. Many of us will be returning this fall for the Annual Meeting and Quaker Public Policy Institute 2018 to continue lobbying for those issues that you in your monthly meeting have discerned as necessary to promote traditional Quaker values of peace, justice, and sustainability.

# Remember, FCNL's legislative priorities are determined by your monthly meeting's input. Thank you to those meetings that engage in the process. If your meeting has not participated please encourage your FCNL rep to get you involved.

# Respectfully submitted,

# Jack Ciancio, NCFF FCNL Representative

**Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas**

Annual Report 2017-2018

I am new to the executive committee of the FWCC section of the Americas and have found things to be in good order with the mission seeming clear and shared. There is no immunity from the financial issues that are visited upon Friends work and the larger Church, but spirits seem strong and work progresses.

The FWCC Traveling Ministry Corps has been up and running for one year now and the initial visits have been made across the whole Section of the Americas, from Seattle to Winston-Salem, from Jamaica to Bolivia. The second year’s ministers have joined the original cohort and are ready to visit Friends meetings and churches who seek an enriching and revitalizing opportunity to share their spiritual experiences with Friends who are deeply gifted and committed to supporting other Friends to deepen their own ministry. To invite a member of the TMC to visit your church, please find more information and the request form at [www.fwccamericas.org/traveling-ministry](http://www.fwccamericas.org/traveling-ministry)

World Quaker Day, always the first Sunday in October, is an opportunity to remember that we are, each of us, and each of our churches, part of a world-wide body of Friends. In 2017, the fourth year this event was sponsored by FWCC, more meetings observed the day around the world. To see touching stories from 2017 and find resources to help you celebrate in 2018, visit [www.worldquakerday.org](http://www.worldquakerday.org) I encourage Friends to consider participation.

The 2019 Section Meeting of the FWCC Section of the Americas will be held March 21-24, 2019 at Lake Doniphan Conference and Retreat Center, in Excelsior Springs, Missouri, just outside Kansas City, MO, in the heartland of the United States. The theme will be ¡Come and See! (John 1:46) with explorations of “who is my neighbor?” and “how can we all be Friends?” Additional related Biblical texts include Luke 10:36-37, 1 Timothy 3:16, and John 4:33. We hold as a main purpose of the Section Meeting to facilitate an experience of the power of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, the Inward Christ, the Light Within. We seek a personal encounter and transformative experience in worship and in workshops, with Scripture, through the ministry of the Traveling Ministry Corps, in the midst of changing times and conflict. Registration will open in November 2018. [www.fwccamericas.org/events](http://www.fwccamericas.org/events)

Submitted by Bill Eagles to North Carolina Fellowship of Friends

**Report on North Carolina Council of Churches**

Deborah Suess

I appreciate being named as the representative for NCFF. Interestingly enough – for the time being - I am also considered to be a representative for all Quakers in N.C. So… I will be encouraging other yearly meetings in NC to consider sending a representative. I have attended so far one of their quarterly meetings and am trying to keep up with their various reports etc. I encourage Friends to sign up for their weekly newsletter if you are interested in knowing and/or participating in their various outreach/ social justice actions. Go to the website listed below for further information. The following is a recent report on their work from the director, Jennifer Copeland.

**NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

With 18 denominations representing over 6,200 congregations in NC, the Council provides incarnational evidence of Christian Unity. By creating unity without expecting uniformity, member bodies collaborate on matters that contribute to the flourishing of God’s creation..

Currently our staffed program areas are:

* Religious Coalition for Justice for Immigrants includes education and advocacy for immigrants in our state through webinars, teach-ins, and online resources. The Council also coordinates the NC Sanctuary Coalition, a collection of faith communities across NC who offer public sanctuary sites or collaborating support for immigrants at risk of deportation. If your congregation is interested in becoming such a site, please contact us.
* NC Interfaith Power and Light is the only NC based statewide organization that works on addressing the ecological and justice issues of climate change as a faith-based initiative. Efforts include energy efficiency and conservation, increased renewable energy use, and collective low-carbon lifestyle changes. NCIPL programs encourage congregations, clergy, and denominations to know about and speak to the moral dimensions of climate change and environmental justice from a faith perspective.
* Partners in Health and Wholeness provides tools to help faith communities form healthy habits including exercise, healthy eating, mental health awareness, and smoking cessation. Staff members in Asheville and Charlotte are available to help your congregation. We also have a staff member dedicated to education and advocacy around the opioid epidemic.
* Legislative advocacy and interfaith outreach helps faith communities connect the needs of their local communities with state policies and laws and, when necessary, empower communities to advocate for positive change.

Over the course of this year, the Governing Board approved the following policy statements which can be found on our website:

* Statement Affirming the Ministry of Sanctuary by Congregations (March 6, 2018)
* Statement on the Public Schools (December 5, 2017)
* Confederate-themed monuments: Time to reassess (September 12, 2017)
* Statement Opposing Fracked Gas Pipelines (September 12, 2017)

We craft these statements in keeping with our interpretation of the prophetic witness of the Old Testament and the gospel message of the New Testament.

Currently, other areas of emphasis include public education, gun violence prevention, living wage promotion, criminal justice reform, and Medicaid expansion. Resources are available online and our dedicated staff are available to help your congregation address any of the myriad concerns that arise in our contemporary setting.

Jennifer E. Copeland, Executive Director

www.ncchurches.org

**Palestine/Israel Study Tour: “Living Letters”**

Fourteen participants formed the 2018 Friends United Meeting "Living Letters" service-learning group in Palestine and Ramallah from the 22nd of Sixth Month to the 10th of Seventh Month. Led by Max and Jane Carter of New Garden Friends Meeting, the group spent the first week painting at the upper school campus of the Ramallah Friends School and cleaning and gardening at the Friends meetinghouse. Funds from a $750 grant from NCFF were used to purchase paint and cleaning supplies and provide housing for group numbers that exceeded the capacity of the School to offer.

After the week of work, the group traveled through Palestinian villages, learning about their nonviolent resistance to the encroachment of Israeli settlements on their land; journeyed into Israel to meet with Jewish and Arab Israelis to learn about challenges to coexistence and a just peace; and visited Bethlehem and Hebron, again to meet with and learn from both Jews and Palestinian Muslims and Christians about efforts to use "beautiful resistance" in efforts to end the military occupation and bring a lasting and just peace to the region.

The group had opportunity to worship with Ramallah Friends on three First-days, and we met with staff of the Friends School to learn about Quaker education in Palestine. Time encountering the religious aspect of the region included a day in Jerusalem, a day in the Galilee, a visit to the Dead Sea Scrolls community of Qumran, and Sixth-day prayers at a mosque. Speakers who met with the group included leading political, business, religious, and civic leaders in Palestine and settlers, kibbutzniks, bereaved parents, former soldiers, educators, and religious leaders in Israel. A highlight was almost nightly meals hosted for the group by families of students who have studied at Guilford College.

We are grateful for the support and encouragement given us through the NCFF and welcome participation on our next FUM "Living Letters" delegation in the summer of 2019.

Sincerely,

Max and Jane Carter

**Quaker Archives Report**

After 28 years, the Friends Historical Collection name is retiring this summer as we rebrand the unit as Quaker Archives. We’ve increasingly noticed that many already refer to us by that name informally, especially as we were known as the “Quaker Room” prior to 1980. We also noted that many are confused about the differences between several very similar organizations that have shared but distinct goals. The name “Quaker Archives” more readily distinguishes us from other campus units and also non-Guilford related organizations. More importantly for this particular time, this name change signals that we are a dynamic learning environment providing opportunities to engage in research and to learn more about history through our rich Quaker primary resources. The archives are not simply a static collection of documents. We hold many stories and continue to grow and adapt as we utilize new technologies and collaborate through arising opportunities.

Historically, a core piece of financial support, including provision of a part-time staff position, has been provided by North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Friends United Meeting). The changing landscape of North Carolina Quakerism is shifting how we work with meeting records as we recommit to longtime relationships and work with a growing number of different groups. The former part-time yearly meeting position is now a part-time college position so we are able to continue the same level of service at this time. However, our ability to maintain these service levels is dependent upon generous support from the meetings and organizations that use us as their archive.

After a major shift in our storage spaces last year, we were able to organize large North Carolina Yearly Meeting deposits, including committees, plus files recently cleaned out from the NCYM office. We encourage your members who were active in NCYM prior to 2017 to deposit records that are still in homes or trapped in computer hard drives. We continue to process new deposits from individual monthly meetings, especially minutes.

We are launching a new online database this month that shows what records we have for each meeting. We are also launching an online guide to Quaker cemeteries, including historical sites that were part of extinct meetings. Our website can be reached at[library.guilford.edu/archives](http://library.guilford.edu/archives). We can be reached directly by e-mail (archives@guilford.edu) or phone (336-316-2264) with questions about depositing records or how to use our growing online resources. Note that we continue to limit access to recent meeting records to those within the meeting so the general public only have access to older records unless your meeting provide written permission overriding our default policies.

The Quaker Archives appreciates spiritual support from your association to assist us in this work and encourages each of your meetings, as well individuals within your group, to consider providing financial support through your annual budgets. We value this partnership and opportunities to assist those seeking to explore and understand a variety of human experiences across time through the North Carolina Quaker records and other resources in the archives.

Gwen Gosney Erickson

Quaker Librarian and College Archivist, Quaker Archives, Guilford College

 July 2017 – July 2018

Dear North Carolina Fellowship of Friends,

I am looking forward to joining you for your first annual session. This is an exciting time for NCFF!

Many of you are familiar with Quaker House and support our work. We thank you for that support and for holding us in the Light as we work for a more peaceful world and to heal the invisible wounds of war.

Quaker House navigated its own transition this past year with the retirement of our former directors, Lynn and Steve Newsom. I have stepped into their shoes, buoyed by faith, hope, and knowledge of the support of so many people. Our full mission statement is in the footer of this page, and my report is presented using subheadings that correspond with sections of that mission statement.

**Mission: Counseling/Support to Service Members and Their Families and Education**

 **GI Rights Hotline:** Quaker House provides two counselors, Steve and Lenore, each with 17 years of experience, to the Hotline, taking calls from anywhere service members are stationed in the world. As we continue in unabated war and conflict since 2001, calls to the Hotline have been increasing, including calls for help with discharge as conscientious objectors. This year, our two counselors answered an average of **255 calls/month**. When our counselors have permission from the service members they help, their moving and courageous stories of moral conviction are shared in our newsletters. These articles can also be found on our web site as blog posts.

 **Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Moral Injury Counseling:** We continue our one-on-one mental health counseling program at Quaker House with Joanna, a licensed clinical social work therapist. She works with members of the military and their families, and we rely on donations to continue providing this important service free of charge. Working part time, Joanna has spent **1,860 hours with clients** over the past four years. In March of this year, Joanna was recognized as a leader in the community and selected as one of Fayetteville 40 Under 40. We receive referrals from the GI Rights Hotline, community organizations, and from Ft. Bragg victim advocates. Quaker House has participated, by invitation, in several mental health and victim advocate summits on Ft. Bragg.

 **Moral Injury Education:** Quaker House continues to provide educational presentations on moral injury and insights into methods that help with its healing. On August 3, Joanna (Quaker House counselor mentioned in preceding paragraph) and I will be the plenary closing speakers, talking about moral injury, at the summer conference of the NC Foundation for Alcohol and Drug studies. Approximately 300 mental health providers are expected to be in attendance.

 **Bowe Bergdahl:** Bowe Bergdahl is the soldier who left his post in Afghanistan in an attempt to report problems he saw in his chain of command. He was immediately captured by a hostile group and tortured for almost five years. After his return to the United States, he was court-martialed and faced the possibility of life in prison. Quaker House was at his sentencing hearings on Ft. Bragg as a presence of compassion for Bowe amid widespread hate and condemnation, as well as to witness and share the proceedings with the rest of the world. Please see the newsletter article and blog posts for more detailed accounts, found on our web site.

**Mission: A More Peaceful World**

 **Conscientious Objection Education and Support:** Quaker House continues to conduct workshops geared toward youth, parents, and meetings about conscientious objection, and an article written by Board Member, Curt Torell, on the topic was published in the October *Friends Journal*. On March 16, we hosted a play at Guilford College, *This Evil Thing*, that was on tour from England and which portrayed the experiences of WWI conscientious objector. Thank you to those who were able to attend the performance!

 **Peace Advocacy:** In February, I attended the first public listening session of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service. I spoke to that Commission about Quaker House’s concerns regarding the Selective Service, any potential draft, the need for a registration option for claiming conscientious objection, and the courage and service of many pacifists. Quaker House encourages everyone to make their thoughts and concerns known during the public comment period (ends September 30, 2018). You can submit your comments through the Commission’s web site at inspire2serve.gov under the “Share Your Thoughts” tab.

 In the past year, I also attended and reported on the public hearings in Raleigh of the North Carolina Commission of Inquiry on Torture (NCCIT) that presented evidence of North Carolina’s connection to the CIA torture program after 9/11. We also attended the Johnston County Commissioners meeting in March, supporting members of NCCIT in asking commissioners to pursue an investigation into the involvement of the Johnston County Airport in extraordinary rendition flights. In May, I and another board member represented Quaker House at the Poor People’s Campaign in Raleigh, North Carolina, during the week on Militarism and the Proliferation of Gun Violence.

**Quaker House’s 50th Anniversary in 2019!** We hope you will join with us in our commemoration activities in the coming year and that you will support the work of Quaker House. This work began in 1969 when a young soldier named Dean Holland asked for help with his conscientious objector application. Soldiers still ask for our help, and we still work for peace.

Kindra Bradley, 223 Hillside Ave, Fayetteville, NC 28301 (910) 323-3912

Email: qpr@quaker.org Web Site: quakerhouse.org

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***Our quarterly newsletter has a new format for its emailed version!***

***Let us know if you’d like to be on the email distribution list.***

**The Snow Camp Outdoor Theatre – 2018**

The Snow Camp Outdoor Drama, which is one of the most unique Quaker-influenced landmarks in North Carolina (& really the whole country) entered the summer of 2018 in a situation of crisis. Its two classic original dramas, “The Sword of Peace,” and “Pathway to Freedom,” both of which highlight actual Quaker history & witness, have run since 1974 & 1994 (respectively). But in late March the 2018 summer season had to be canceled. The Drama was founded as a non-profit in 1971 by the late James & Bobby Wilson. The plays, which deal with Quaker peace witness in the Revolution and work with the Underground Railroad, have pleased and informed many thousands from many lands. But with the Wilson brothers’ passing, much of the expertise built up to operate and finance the project went with them. The transition to a sustainable future has been difficult, and by the end of 2017 came to a crunch.Now the Drama Board and (one-person temporary) staff have set out to find a renewed base of support for the project. We expect to build this base of support from businesses, individual donors, foundations -- and Friends.
Support from Quakers & meetings could well be the determining factor in this future. Are these plays a part of North Carolina Friends’ witness and outreach? (We believe they are!) If so, can Friends & meetings consider “investing” in them, by helping sponsor the return to annual performances? (And by planning to organize groups to see the plays too!)There is more going on at the Drama site than the summer plays: we recently put on a highly successful Juneteenth performance before a large, multi-racial audience. (The Drama has long been a site for integrated cultural work, plus the plays feature strong roles for women.) We are also working to develop educational history programs for school outings. Our site can be rented by community groups too.In these troubled times, the Snow Camp Outdoor Dramas have become more relevant and timely than ever. The project is a unique outpost of Quaker history and witness. I hope the NCFF and its meetings can become a lifeline of support for this witness.--Chuck Fager, President, Snow Camp Drama Board www.snowcampoutdoortheatre.com