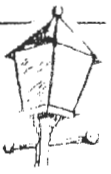


# Lamplighter

Let your light so shine  
before others . . .  
Matthew 5:16



Up River Friends Meeting, Belvidere, NC 27919 -- Vol. XXXIX- No. 8

August 2016

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR:

DEAR FRIENDS:

### IN MOSES' SANDALS:

Last month we discussed Moses and the five excuses he made to God when God called him to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. This month, I want to put myself in Moses' sandals and look at the five excuses in perspective of excuses I have made to God. The first excuse Moses made sounded genuine. *God, I am not qualified to do what You are asking.* The next three excuses were me centered. *God, what if they doubt me? God, what if they ask me? God, I do not speak well.* Finally, Moses states: *God, send someone else.*

I can parallel this to my life. Many years back I received a call to serve as the director of a boarding school for at-risk and troubled teens. First, I was pastoring a church, and very comfortable and happy. Second, at that time, I had no formal training in education—I felt like an impostor, serving as the director of any school. Third, I had not experienced the life choices many of these teens—I was reared in a happy, Christ-honoring, law abiding home. Fourth, I would give up my privacy, living and working the majority of the year at the boarding school. Fifth, like Moses, I wanted God to send someone other than my wife and me.

Here is what God taught me at the boarding school. The lives of all humans matter. He used my wife and me to communicate Biblical truth to those teens. Some of the teens began a relationship with Christ while in our care and have not only grown spiritually but have maintained friendships with us over the years. God always put quality, qualified people around me to answer my questions and help me with reports I had to perform for the state. God was able to use me because I was willing to let Him use me. I was not qualified, I was willing, yet I was apprehensive, not wanting to step outside my comfort zone. Had we not stepped outside our comfort zone and answered God's call, there would have been several teens who would have served time in adult prison, at least one attempted suicide, and at least ten lives that might not now know Christ.

Perhaps Moses felt like an impostor? He was Hebrew by birth, yet he had lived a life of privilege. Moses never knew the whip on his back, the forced slave labor, or the atrocities of slave life; he only knew privilege. Perhaps his feelings of being an *impostor* were the reasons he wanted God to send someone else?

The more I put myself in Moses' sandals, the more I understand I make the same excuses. Sure, the situation I face are different than the ones Moses faced, but I believe the primary excuses are the same. *I am not qualified; suppose I am asked questions I cannot answer; what if the people You send me to doubt me; I get tongue-tied; and please send someone else.*

The lesson to take from Moses' life is this: move when God asks. Even though Moses made excuses, even though he may have felt unqualified, doubted his ability; and wanted God to send someone else, Moses moved when God asked. God did not use Moses because he was qualified, but God qualified Moses as he continued to submit himself to God. The same applies to us, the more we submit ourselves to God the more usable we become in His hands. Christians must remember God's strength is made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).

BLESSINGS, Chuck

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**SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY & WEEKLY SERVICES**

10:00 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Worship Service  
 Nursery and Junior Church  
 \* \* \* \* \*

03<sup>rd</sup> 6:30 pm Light Meal  
 7:30 pm Adult Bible Study with Julane  
 7:30 pm Jr. Youth – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
 7:30 pm Building Blocks –K- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

07<sup>th</sup> **HOMECOMING CELEBRATION**  
**10:00 am Registration**  
**10:30 am Worship**  
**Dinner at rise of Worship**  
**2:00 pm Fellowship through Music**

08<sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm Elizabeth White Miss. Meeting  
 7:00 pm Meeting on Ministry & Counsel

10<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm Light Meal  
 7:30 pm Monthly Meeting  
 7:30 pm Adult Bible Study with Julane  
 7:30 pm Jr. Youth – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
 7:30 pm Building Blocks –K- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

17<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm Light Meal  
 7:30 pm Adult Bible Study with Julane  
 7:30 pm Jr. Youth – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
 7:30 pm Building Blocks –K- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

24<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm Light Meal  
 7:30 pm Adult Bible Study with Julane  
 7:30 pm Jr. Youth – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
 7:30 pm Building Blocks –K- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

31<sup>st</sup> 6:30 pm Light Meal  
 7:30 pm Adult Bible Study with Julane  
 7:30 pm Jr. Youth – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
 7:30 pm Building Blocks –K- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

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**UP RIVER FRIENDS MEETING’S MISSION STATEMENT:**

To know Christ and to make Him known.

\* \* \* \* \*

**FLOWERS:**

07<sup>th</sup> Homecoming  
 14<sup>th</sup> Eula Mae Forbes

21<sup>st</sup> Sandra Parks  
 28<sup>th</sup> Would you like to have flowers this Sunday?  
 If so, please contact Catherine

\* \* \* \* \*

**BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES**

01<sup>st</sup> **CHARLES & LYNETTE BAKER**  
 Carter Winslow

04<sup>th</sup> Darlene Benton

05<sup>th</sup> LouAnn Winslow

06<sup>th</sup> **STEVE & JOY RIDDICK**

07<sup>th</sup> **VIRGIL & RUTH WINSLOW**  
 Jacque Pagels

08<sup>th</sup> Gloria Wissman

09<sup>th</sup> Trevor Benton

10<sup>th</sup> Herbert Williams, Julian Baker  
 Ray Rountree

11<sup>th</sup> **REGGIE & ANN BAKER**  
**LOT & TERESA WINSLOW**  
 Jenna L. Caldwell

12<sup>th</sup> Arland Winslow

13<sup>th</sup> **Affie Spivey**

14<sup>th</sup> **MATT & SARAH R. PRICE**

15<sup>th</sup> **JESSE & VERONICA ROUNTREE**

16<sup>th</sup> Doug Copley

17<sup>th</sup> **LESTER & CAROLYN BAKER**  
 Nicole Boblit

18<sup>th</sup> Lois Faye White, Sandy Winslow

19<sup>th</sup> Lester Baker

22<sup>nd</sup> Tom McClaren, Claudia Rawlings

23<sup>rd</sup> Lisa W. Klinger, Sydni Baker

24<sup>th</sup> Mike White, Angela A. Crain

25<sup>th</sup> **WALDO & NANCY WINSLOW**  
**THOMAS & ROSE RIDDICK**  
**WAYNE & SANDY WINSLOW**  
 Eula Mae Forbes, Chealse Winslow

26<sup>th</sup> Jimmy Riddick, Earline Riddick  
 Sonya Winslow, T. Lancelot Winslow

30<sup>th</sup> Donald Lane

31<sup>st</sup> **ERIC & MARSHA WOODS**



HEBREWS 13:1, NIV

**PRAYER REQUESTS;** World leaders and those working to bring world peace. Our elders and leadership of our meeting, Baby Cash and family, Carolyn & Lester Baker, Judy W. Riddick, Archie Creed, Everett Egan (Anna Spivey's son-in-law), Chanelle Davis, Patrick Bass, Herbert Williams, Baby Carter, Tony Key, Carlton Rountree, Jason Warren, Dale Hunter, Tanner Sprague (Billy & Janice Winslow's grandson), Lacy Bunch, Mike Goodwin, Cecil & Ann Brown (friends of Jacque in Kernersville), Melody L. White, Riki McGee, Garland Anderson, Lela Bundy, Iona Baker, Ralph Hartley, Peggy Wilcox (Richard's mother), Jackie Wiley, Tommy Chappell, Kathy Turner, Reby Stallings, Linda Givens, Tommy Stallings, Jean Pressley (Sonya's mother), Leah Jonson, Conna Gessler, Alan Corprew, Aubrey Burgess, Sid Stallings, Robert Hall (cousin of Rose Riddick), Kay Boyce, Talynn Gurganus, Lois Faye, Paul White and family, Mary Frances Twiddy, Chad Winslow, Quincy Riddick, Lewis Stallings, Karen & Freddie Boblit, Beulah Phthisic, Faye Lassiter, Anna Wrae Smith, C. F. Stallings, Abby Baker, Anna Spivey, Carey Guyer and her best friend Erica, Bill Jones, the families of Virginia Ripperger, Earline C. White, Kathy Stallings, Della Faye Allen, Mary Burke, Elliott Copeland (Willard's grandson), and Rene Hunter Kuzniar, our care-givers, youth, and missionaries. If you know of anyone who needs to be added to our prayer list, please contact Pastor Chuck or Catherine. Thank you.

**(Unless we know their needs or you make us aware of their needs, after 30 days the name will rotate off).**

\* \* \* \* \*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### **150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING AUGUST 7 - RSVP NEEDED SOON:**

Up River will hold a special day of praise and thanksgiving in observance of 150 years of worship and ministry "up the river" on Sunday, August 7. The day will begin with registration at 10:00 am. Sunday School will be laid down for this special day, and worship service will begin at 10:30 a.m. Worship will include a look back at our history, special recognitions, music, a message from our pastor, and, of course, a time of open worship. The Hospitality Committee is planning for lunch in the fellowship hall, after which we will gather back in the meetingroom for an afternoon program of music.

So that we can plan for this very special day, and provide plenty for all who come, please RSVP by July 24 to Lynwood Winslow at \_\_\_\_\_, 252-297-6532, or 1209 Belvidere Road, Belvidere, NC 27919.

Please mark your calendars, share this information with your family and others who have a tie to Up River, and plan to join us as we thank God for the opportunities to worship and serve He has provided in the past, and seek the leading of the Spirit in moving forward.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **UP RIVER MISSIONARY CIRCLE :**

The Elizabeth White Missionary Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 2 o'clock. Rose Riddick will bring the program centered around ***Counting My Blessings*** with scripture from I Thessalonians 5: 16-18 and Psalms 100 and 103. We hope you will join us at that time, visitors always welcome.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **REPORT FROM THE UNITED SOCIETY of FRIENDS WOMEN INTERNATIONAL:**

The United Society of Friends Women International was held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, July 7-10, 2016. The theme of the conference was "Joy in His Presence". There were "Glimpses of Joy" every day.

It was joyful to see 111 Friends attend, of which 40+ men and women from Africa made the long journey to share in the activities. Many hours have been spent developing a curriculum on "Conflict Resolution which is being taught to help reduce the violence and warring between the tribes in Africa.

The principal from the Lower School Campus at Ramallah Friends was in attendance and presented a workshop titled "Joyfully Teaching Peace". Quaker values are an important part of the everyday curriculum at

the Friends School. They also teach "Conflict Resolution " to all grade levels and are witnessing those values being carried over into the students homes.

It was encouraging to hear of the working of the Lord in the United States, Belize, Cuba, Jamaica, Kenya, Ramallah, Samburu, Tanzania, and Turkana.

Friends are planting churches in Kyla Tanzania, Samburu, South Sudan, and Turkana.

Please be in prayer for all the men, women, and their families who are carrying the Word of God forward.

Three ladies from Somerton and Up River were able to attend this inspiring Conference.

\* \* \* \* \*

**FAITH PROMISE PROJECT:**

Jacque Pagels will be spending the first six months of 2017 as Friend in Residence at the Friends School in Ramallah, just outside Jerusalem. Friends will have the opportunity to invest in this ministry through Faith Promise Giving to support Jacque and her work for God among the students, faculty, and community there. More information on Faith Promise, dates for the project, and the Friend in Residence program will be made available soon, so be in prayer that God will lead you to step out in faith and be ready to support Jacque.

\* \* \* \* \*

**VAN/MINI-BUS SEARCH:**

At the March Monthly Meeting , it was approved to begin searching for a van/Mini bus. At the April Monthly Meeting the committee of three asked for guidelines to begin their search. The Meeting approved \$15,000 for a down payment when a used vehicle is found that will fit the needs of our youth and aging members. Russell Lassiter, Mike White, and Jacque Pagels have begun the search. They will welcome comments and input from our congregation. Please be in prayer for God's Guiding Hand to lead this committee in their search. Blessings & Peace to all.

\* \* \* \* \*

**OPPORTUNITY FOR BAKES by HANNAH:**

Hi everyone! For those of you who don't know, I want to open a bakery after I graduate college in two years. I decided back in December that I wanted to go ahead and make a business that would prepare me for true business ownership, complete with a physical location: Bakes by Hannah came into fruition. This has been my job this summer, and I've had several cake/cupcake orders from people here at Up River. I truly feel that making people happy through desserts is my calling, and I want to spread the love that sweets bring to people all over North Carolina. The plan is to try and continue this when I go back to Greensboro next month for my junior year. You can see all updates on my Facebook page (Bakes by Hannah), Instagram (@bakesbyhannahnc), website ( ), and email for orders at . For the time being, I will be selling goods at Scott's Store in Belvidere every Saturday until I have to return to school. I can take orders from now until August 17. If you need a birthday cake, occasion cake, cupcakes, pie, or cookies, please contact me! Much love, Hannah

\* \* \* \* \*

**THE QUERIES:** *Please take time to consider these thoughts and hopefully our meeting will grow both spiritually and numerically.*

**PEACE:** Do you consistently practice the Christian principles of love and good will toward all men? Do you work actively for peace and for the removal of the causes of war? Do you observe the testimony of Friends against military training and service? Do you endeavor to make clear to all whom you can influence, that war is inconsistent with the spirit and teaching of Jesus?

\* \* \* \* \*

*To each of you who contributed to this newsletter, **THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH.** If you would like to share in upcoming newsletters, please feel free to do so – just give me a call at 297-2485 or e-mail me at . Also if you have a loved one or a friend whom you think would like to receive our newsletter – please let me know; or if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, let me know. Thank you very much. Catherine G. Winslow*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2016

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 EXCEPT K-2 CLASS WILL BEGIN AUGUST 28.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

#### SUPERINTENDENT

RODNEY LASSITER      ROBERT WINSLOW

#### NURSERY

1ST SUNDAY	BRENDA LASSITER	JENNA CALDWELL
2ND SUNDAY	LOIS DAIL	FAITH DAIL
3RD SUNDAY	JOVAN WARD	
4TH SUNDAY	CHERYL WHITE	TIFFANY RHODES
5TH SUNDAY	LOIS DAIL	

#### PRESCHOOL (AGES 3 AND 4)

1ST SUNDAY	JAMIE SALVATORE	MIKE SALVATORE
2ND SUNDAY	CHERYL WHITE	
3RD SUNDAY	DENA RICHARDSON	
4TH SUNDAY	AMANDA WINSLOW	
5TH SUNDAY	AMANDA WINSLOW	

#### BEGINNERS (GRADES K-2)

1ST SUNDAY	CONNIE BAKER
2ND SUNDAY	JULANE BELCHER
3RD SUNDAY	HILLARY LASSITER
4TH SUNDAY	JENNA CALDWELL
5TH SUNDAY	SUSAN HARRIS

#### ELEMENTARY (GRADES 3-5)

1ST SUNDAY	KIM HARRIS
2ND SUNDAY	JENNIFER BERRY
3RD SUNDAY	HOLLY LASSITER
4TH SUNDAY	EULA MAE FORBES
5TH SUNDAY	SONYA HARTMAN

#### YOUTH (GRADES 6-12)

1ST, 3RD, 5TH	MATT WINSLOW	JASON SWEENEY
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#### YOUNG ADULTS

1ST, 3RD, 5TH	LYNETTE BAKER	ASHLEY JETHRO
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#### OPEN CLASS

1ST, 3RD, 5TH	MARK BAKER	SCOTT WINSLOW
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#### SENIOR ADULTS

1ST SUNDAY	LYNN LASSITER
2ND SUNDAY	ROBERT WINSLOW
3RD SUNDAY	JOHN LASSITER
4TH SUNDAY	LYN WINSLOW
5TH SUNDAY	ROTATE

**PRAISE & WORSHIP 2ND AND 4TH SUNDAYS FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS.**

**SUBSTITUTE**

**TEACHERS**

NURSERY SUNDAY SCHOOL 1, 3, 5-BRENDA LASSITER

JACQUE PAGELS

SUSAN HARRIS

YOUTH-HILLARY LASSITER

ASHLEY WINSLOW

TERRY SWEENEY

ASHLEY BERRY

**WORSHIP**

**NURSERY**

1ST SUNDAY

JOVAN WARD

TERRY SWEENEY

2ND SUNDAY

JASON SWEENEY

CAROLINE SWEENEY

3RD SUNDAY

CHRIS BAKER

TABATHA BAKER

4TH SUNDAY

JIMMY RHODES

TIFFANY RHODES

5TH SUNDAY

JOVAN WARD

CHERYL WHITE

**TODDLER NURSERY**

1ST SUNDAY

ASHLEY JETHRO

LOUANN WINSLOW

2ND SUNDAY

AUSTIN, LACEY WINSLOW

SCOTT, SONYA WINSLOW

3RD SUNDAY

SYDNI BAKER

KELLY WINSLOW

4TH SUNDAY

BRANDON BELCHER

JULANE BELCHER

5TH SUNDAY

RUSTY SWEENEY

TERRY SWEENEY

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH (GRADES K-5)**

1ST SUNDAY

LYNETTE BAKER

TABATHA BAKER

2ND SUNDAY

JOSH LASSITER

GABBY LASSITER

3RD SUNDAY

HOLLY LASSITER

4TH SUNDAY

MATT WINSLOW

AMANDA WINSLOW

5TH SUNDAY

JOIN WORSHIP

**BIBLE SCHOOL**

DIRECTOR: HILLARY LASSITER

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: ASHLEY JETHRO

**YOUTH GROUP TEAM CONTACTS/COORDINATORS**

Ashley Jethro

Chuck Hartman

**JUNIOR YOUTH LEADER**

Sonya Hartman

**BUILDING BLOCKS LEADER**

Chuck Hartman

**IF YOU CANNOT BE THERE ON YOUR SUNDAY, PLEASE TRY TO SWITCH WITH SOMEONE ON YOUR TEAM OR SOMEONE ON THE SUB LIST. EMAIL ASHLEY JETHRO OR SUSAN HARRIS FOR ASSISTANCE.**

The following article was shared by Shelby Shore, wife of Wiley Shore, in their Newsletter. They are members of Deep Creek Friends Meeting in Yadkinville, N. C.



**Somerton Friends Meeting  
Religious Society of Friends  
Richard J. Wilcox, Pastor  
Historical Marker Dedication,  
June 11, 2016**

*Wiley and I were invited to a celebration recognizing Somerton Friends Meeting as the oldest in Virginia. They are a member of North Carolina Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. At this Independence Day, it seems appropriate to remember the beginning when we did not have religious freedom. We, and other friends present felt Richard Wilcox' message of this history should be shared so that we better appreciate what our forefathers did for us. (You can compare this to Deep Creek Meeting established in 1793.) Shelby*

Somerton is located a short distance across the North Carolina line and about an hour or less from Virginia Beach and near the Dismal Swamp that early settlers would have crossed.



I guess the primary reason we are here today is because we are part of an institution that is old. Not too many organizations survive to see their 344<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The historical marker recognizes that Somerton was one of the firsts, and is the only Quaker Meeting in Virginia from the 1600's that is still an active congregation. Written minutes from monthly meetings are preserved on microfilm and date from the 1680's and go continuously up to our business meeting last month. What the marker doesn't say is that Somerton is also the oldest active Friends congregation in North Carolina or Maryland, and we believe may be the oldest continuously-worshipping Christian congregation in the City of Suffolk. Somerton is over a century older than the United States of America, and was over 70 years old when the town of Suffolk was founded at Constant's Wharf. There are a few active congregations in America that can trace their founding to Colonial Days, and very few of those can say they were founded by their denomination's founder.

We were one of the firsts, one of the oldest, and we survived to today, so we get a sign on a four-lane highway to celebrate that we are old. However, that isn't what I really want to celebrate today. In of itself, it could just mean that we are a stubborn organization, an irrelevant archaic antique leftover from the Colonies that just refused to die. That isn't what I want to celebrate today.

In the 1600's, England was being torn apart by religious conflict; it was a new Protestant country with one faction supporting small reforms in the Church of England and the Monarchy, with another faction wishing to purify the English Church of anything seen as Catholic and wanting a more democratic form of government. Each side had armies, and the power struggle would eventually pull the nation into Civil War and take the head of the King. Not all English wanted to choose between the Anglicans and the Puritans. A group of seekers—spiritual followers of Jesus—many of them in their teens and twenties—saw the choice between The Church of England and the Puritans as a false choice. They saw that both sides controlled armies that ravaged the countryside, and saw this war and violence and striving for political power as completely against Jesus' teachings of love and forgiveness. They envisioned an opportunity to restore Christianity back to what it was supposed to be all along.

They taught that all of God's people were equal in God's eyes, and that it was wrong to recognize distinctions in class, in title, as well as gender and race. They refused to remove their hats or bow for Lords and Ladies, they refused to change their pronouns, as was the custom of the day, and instead referred to all human beings as "thee", and they did not want to hear sermons from university-trained scholars that the Anglicans and Puritans used, but instead wished to hear anyone who was anointed by the Holy Spirit, young or old, male or female. In fact, the first Quaker missionaries to reach the American colonies were two women, arriving in Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1656, only 16 years before Somerton was founded.

The Quakers refused to take oaths, since Jesus said not to swear. They refused to join the armies. They refused to participate in the rituals of the State Church, and were reluctant to pay tithes to support Anglican priests. The Government responded, in force. Parliament passed the Quaker Act, or the Act of Uniformity, in 1662 requiring all Christians to only use the Book of Common Prayer, and that worship had to follow the



established rituals approved by the State. Two years later, Parliament went further by passing the Conventicle Act which prohibited groups of more than 5 who were not of the same household from worshipping in a manner unauthorized by the Government. Please remember that, as a British colony, Virginia is governed by Parliament at this time, and the Quaker Act and Conventicle Act were enforced in Virginia. Quakers were jailed in Williamsburg and in Norfolk. Quakers were publicly whipped; Quaker women were stripped naked and hauled through town.

In 1672 when George Fox, one of the primary founders of Friends, made his way back from Carolina Colony to Virginia, and preached to a gathering of sympathizers and spiritual seekers in Sommertown, he was breaking the law. When Friends officially organized a meeting to regularly worship on Sundays, and conduct business as a Monthly Meeting, they did so illegally. They also did so where, as I might say, out in the boondocks. For the Sherriff and the Magistrates would seek out and arrest Quakers found in Williamsburg or Norfolk, but they were not as likely to walk out to Southern Nansemond County past the Dismal Swamp to worry about some illegal worshippers. Illegal or not, Quakerism thrived out in the swamps and woods of Nansemond.

Quakers purchased lands from Native American tribes, at market value, and aimed to live peaceably among Native Americans as neighbors. When a young Tuscarora male was accused of murder just across the border in Quaker-controlled Carolina, the Quaker Governor insisted that he be tried by a Native American jury, not an English one. Quakers counties had women magistrates and elected women to the general assembly, and once the Carolina government switched to the Anglicans from the Quakers it would be centuries before women would hold elected office again.

They may not have had roads or internet, but the Quakers of Nansemond were not isolated. Letters from Friends would travel from Yearly Meetings and Monthly Meetings on both sides of the Atlantic, and traveling ministers would visit and bring news and the Gospel. John Woolman, a traveling Quaker preacher from New Jersey traveled down the thirteen Colonies preaching that slavery was incompatible with Christianity. He noted the resistance that he got among other Christians in Virginia, how scripture was quoted to him to “prove” that God had ordained Africans to be enslaved, even heard the arguments about how Virginians were actually helping Africans by bringing them to America as slaves, and he preached to anyone who would listen about how the Gospel of Christ cannot allow one human to hold another in bondage against his or her will. Minutes show Friends from Somerton were present to hear Woolman preach. Remember that was before the Revolutionary War, and was 115 years before the Civil War.

The preaching of equality, of integrity, of peace, of simplicity, and of community led to life being different depending on what part of Nansemond County you were living. It has been noted that Suffolk Parish of the Church of England hired out slaves to support the education of white children, while lower Nansemond was known as a “Quaker Asylum” where many free Blacks and people listed as Mulattos owned land. A book called the “Negro in Nansemond County” notes that before the Civil War there were more Free Blacks that owned property in the Holy Neck District of Nansemond County than any other magisterial district in all of Virginia. In the 1670’s the Quakers had found some sanctuary in the boondocks from the magistrates in Williamsburg and Norfolk, and now they were providing sanctuary for others.

After the Civil War ended, Somerton Friends built a school to educate the children of freed slaves, quite possibly one of the first in Virginia, but in 1866 under the cover of darkness, both the meetinghouse and the school were burned. The meetinghouse that Friends rebuilt is the one you are sitting in now.

For almost three and half centuries, Quakers have been striving to preach and to be witness to the Gospel of Jesus in what is now the City of Suffolk. That Gospel, which emphasized equality of gender and race, led them into conflicts with their neighbors, with other churches, and with the State. Yet they sought to

hold the faith and fight the good fight. Their message was relevant to the people of Suffolk in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, in the 18<sup>th</sup>, the 19<sup>th</sup>, the 20<sup>th</sup>, and I believe remains as relevant as ever to Americans in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. That is what we celebrate today: that the Risen Christ is among us in 2016, and has come to teach us how to live in peace with one another.





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## Answering God's call

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During a 2010 trip to report on famine-relief efforts in Kenya, Kristen Welch observed conditions unfit for living. "How can you allow so much suffering?" she asked God. In return, he asked her the same question.

That prompted Welch to put her faith into action by launching Mercy House, a nonprofit organization that rescues pregnant young women and their babies. The impact of Mercy House in Kenya — plus now in 19 other countries — is "miraculous proof that God is made perfect in our weakness," Welch says. "Who would have thought a 'yes' in 2010 would make us the poster children that [prove] God can do anything with anyone?"

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## The 'art' of forgiveness

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An interesting legend is associated with the painting "The Last Supper." Some say Leonardo da Vinci used a rival's face for Judas. Then when the painter tried to create Jesus' face, all he could see was that of his enemy. Supposedly, da Vinci was able to complete Jesus' face — and the entire masterpiece — only after making peace with his enemy and repainting Judas.

This tale shows the necessity of forgiving other people so we can accept Jesus' forgiveness for ourselves. As Jesus says in Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV), "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

—adapted from *Hot Illustrations for Youth Talks*  
by Wayne Rice

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## Raise your praise

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Let praise — not merely thanksgiving, but praise — always form an ingredient of thy prayers. We thank God for what he is to us, for the benefits which he confers and the blessings with which he visits us. But we praise him for what he is in himself, for his glorious excellences and perfections, independently of their bearing on the welfare of the creature. ... When thou singest praise, all creation (in a manner) sings in thee and with thee.

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## My purpose

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God has created me to do him some definite service ...  
I have my mission ... he has not created me for naught.  
I shall do good; I shall do his work ...  
I will trust him, whatever I am,  
I can never be thrown away.  
If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve him,  
in perplexity, my perplexity may serve him.  
If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve him.  
He does nothing in vain ...  
He knows what he is about.

—John Henry Newman

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## Bible Quiz

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Under what circumstances did strongman Samson become weak?

- A. When a curse was spoken against him
- B. When he slacked off on his weight-lifting exercises
- C. When his hair was cut
- D. When he was bound with ropes that had never been used



Answer: C (See Judges 16:17-19.)

[image above: SAMSON\_14332, SAMSON\_14332C,  
quiz above: QUIZ0816, QUIZ0816C]

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## Beautiful brokenness

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We are bodies of broken bones. I guess I'd always known but never fully considered that being broken is what makes us human. We all have our reasons. Sometimes we're fractured by the choices we make; sometimes we're shattered by things we would never have chosen.

But our brokenness is also the source of our common humanity, the basis for our shared search for comfort, meaning and healing. Our shared vulnerability and imperfection nurtures and sustains our capacity for compassion.

—Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy*

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## What's up?

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Ever wonder what God is doing in your life, or what — if anything — he's accomplishing through you? You aren't alone! Many people in the Bible surely felt the same way, from Joseph as a prisoner in Egypt to Mary as a young, unwed expectant mother.

Answers may come in time ... or may need to wait until we get to heaven. Meanwhile, like missionary Elisabeth Elliot, we can take comfort in this truth: "God is God. Because he is God, he is worthy of my trust and obedience." Elliot proclaimed, "I will find rest nowhere but in his holy will that is unspeakably beyond my largest notions of what he is up to."

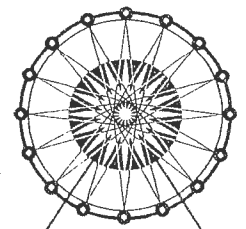
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## The tiptop

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The first week of August hangs at the very top of summer, the top of the live-long year, like the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses in its turning.

—Natalie Babbitt, *Tuck Everlasting*



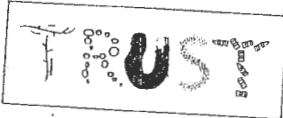
**QUERIES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS:**

(Prepared by New England Junior Yearly Meeting)

**Do you try to realize what it would be like to live as others do who are less comfortably cared for than you are, and do you try to make their lives happier?**

**TRUST  
POSTER**

No matter what you face, God is with you. Make this poster as a reminder to always trust God.



**What you need:**

- Cardstock
- Glue
- Twigs (a 3" piece and a 2" piece)
- Pebbles
- Black paint
- Paintbrush
- Sand or glitter
- Broken crayons (2 or 3)

**What you do:**

1. On the left side of the cardstock, trace a 3"-high letter T with glue. Place twigs on the glue lines.
2. Trace an R of the same size. Place pebbles on that glue.
3. Use black paint to make a U.
4. Trace an S in glue. Pour sand (or glitter) on top.
5. Make another T with glue. Place the crayons on top.
6. After the poster dries, shake off the excess sand (or glitter) into a trash can.



**NEVER FEAR!**

The Psalms are full of inspiring prayers to God, who always looks after you.

*Directions: Use the clues to fill in each missing letter. Then use those letters to complete Psalm 13:5, NIV.*

- What plants grow in ..... DIR <sub>1</sub>
- The opposite of play ..... WO <sub>2</sub> K
- One-of-a-kind ..... <sub>3</sub> NI QUE
- A hug and a ..... KI <sub>4</sub> S
- Sour ..... TAR <sub>5</sub>
- To speak very loudly ..... YE <sub>6</sub> L
- Immediately ..... N <sub>7</sub> W
- Bees live in a ..... HI <sub>8</sub> E
- A dandelion is this ..... W <sub>9</sub> ED

I \_\_\_\_\_ in your unfailing \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
 my heart rejoices in your salvation. Psalm 13:5, NIV

Answers: dirt, work, mudque, kiss, fart, yell, now, hive, weed;  
 I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. Psalm 13:5, NIV

**LAMPLIGHTER**

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