

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Newsletter: Fourth Month, 2024



Monthly Query: *"We have it within our power to begin the world over again" (Thomas Paine)*
How do I change the world in my daily practices?

Monthly Worship Tip from the M&W Committee: *Not all vocal ministry will be equally meaningful to all present. Remember, ministry that does not speak to your condition may nevertheless be valuable to others. Be patient. Take care to separate the message from the minister.*

Contents

Upcoming Zoom Fora	1
Upcoming Events	2
Piedmont Friends Spring Gathering, Sat, April 6, 11-3	2
Book Talk at Duke on Quaker History, Thurs, April 11, 3pm	2
Panel Discussion on Reentry Reform Legislation, Fri, April 12, 12:30pm	3
A Conversation with Jose Antonio Vargas, Fri, April 12, 7pm	3
Conceptualizing Peace Forum Guilford College, Fri, April 12	4
"The Smell of Money" Film at Chelsea Theater, Mon, April 15, 7pm	4
Reimagining Community – Sat, April 13, 1:30pm	5
First Day Meeting for Worship – Sun, April 14, 11:00am	5
"The Smell of Money" Film at Chelsea Theater, Mon, April 22, 7pm	5
Announcements	6
Board of Education Run-Off Election, May 14	6
Suicide Rate Among the Formerly Incarcerated	6
Good Book on Conditions in Gaza	6
Update From AFSC's Staff in Rafah	7
Consider Sponsoring Someone to the Bolivian Study Tour!	7
Why Can't the Shotts Committee Give Away Money?	8
Adult Enrichment Experiences at Carolina Friends School	8
Recurring Announcements	9

InterFath Council Committee Is Seeking Volunteers	9
Zoom Tech Hosts Wanted	9
Inter-Faith Council Pantry Needs Donated Food Items	9
Visiting the Meetinghouse During Covid	9
Newsletter & eNews Reminder	10
Recurring Events	10
Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light, 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 7-8:30 pm	10
Worship with Attention to Gaza, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12-12:30pm	11
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Peace in Palestine, Thursdays, 5:30pm	11
Pendle Hill Worship via Zoom, Daily, 8:30-9:10am	11
Pray for Peace - From Friends House Moscow, Daily	12
Personals	12
Help Wanted: Companion Care – Room and Board Provided Plus Stipend	12
Business Meeting Minutes	13



Upcoming Zoom Fora

<https://www.chapelhillfriends.org/forums.html>

April 7: Forum will be an opportunity for our Meeting to discuss their impressions, thoughts and feelings arising from the presentation last Sunday by Brian of the American Friends Service Committee about the work of AFSC. Astra Titus will clerk the discussion.

April 14: Norman (Ned) Donahue talks about his book, Prisoners of Congress: Philadelphia's Quakers in Exile, 1777-1778, published by Penn State University Press, 2023. (Kate facilitating)

April 21: MFWB

April 28: Karen Cumberbatch - Carolina Friends School



Upcoming Events

Piedmont Friends Spring Gathering, Sat, April 6, 11-3

Piedmont Friends Spring Gathering is Saturday, April 6th at the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Historic Site in Gibsonville. A great opportunity to meet Friends from other meetings, share in a learning experience, and enjoy the beauty of North Carolina in the springtime.

We'll be gathering at 11:00am at the picnic shelter for fellowship and games. We'll play a getting-to-know you game of "Find a Friend who ...," and have time for small group conversations.

Bring your own picnic and enjoy the company of Friends before we have a guided tour of the museum to learn about the fascinating Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown and the many contributions of African Americans to North Carolina. The tour will last about an hour and is appropriate for all ages. Register here: <https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/AfcieQnPKXgsFz>.

More information is available on the Piedmont Friends website:
<https://www.piedmontfriends.org/piedmont-friends-spring-gathering/>

Book Talk at Duke on Quaker History, Thurs, April 11, 3pm

Sean Chen shares with Friends:

A Primer on How Quaker Pacifists Became Among the USA's First Political Prisoners, Prisoners of Congress: Philadelphia's Quakers in Exile, 1777-1778

- Thursday, April 11, 2024
- 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- Rubenstein Library Holsti-Anderson Family Assembly Room 153

Please join us for a thought-provoking discussion of Prisoners of Congress with author Norman E. Donoghue II (JD '69). Mr. Donoghue, an independent scholar of 18th Century Quakers, will share the little-known story of the 17 Quakers who in 1777 were arrested by the Continental Congress and Pennsylvania authorities who made no criminal allegations, denied the men any hearing to defend themselves and stripped them of the sacred rights of habeas corpus. Please check this link (<https://www.prisonersofcongress.com/>) for additional details about the book and

the author. This event concludes with a reception. For those that cannot attend in person, the event will also be available on Zoom at <https://duke.is/8/2rab>.

This event is co-sponsored by the Duke University Libraries and Goodson Law Library. Please contact Professor Alex Zhang at zhang@law.duke.edu for more information.

Calendar description link at:

<https://calendar.duke.edu/show?fq=id%3ACAL-8a0292fd-8d13410f-018d-b346f83b-00000961demobedework%40mysite.edu>

Panel Discussion on Reentry Reform Legislation, Fri, April 12, 12:30pm

Tom McQuiston shares with Friends:

Panelists include N.C. Reps. Marcia Morey, Vernetta Alston, Renee Price and Lindsey Prather. Moderated by Carrboro Mayor Barbara Foushee. A free lunch from Mercato will be provided to the first 45 RSVPs. Others still welcome.

Date: April 12, 2024

Time: 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Location: Carrboro Century Center - Century Hall

Address: 100 N. Greensboro Street. Carrboro

Link: [Registration](#)

A Conversation with Jose Antonio Vargas, Fri, April 12, 7pm

Betsy Brinson shares with Friends:

The American Friends Service Committee is delighted to host Jose Antonio Vargas as our keynote speaker for the 2024 Corporation Program. Jose is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, Emmy-nominated filmmaker, Tony-nominated theatrical producer, and a leading voice for the human rights of immigrants. He is the founder of Define American, an organization that promotes diverse and nuanced storytelling about immigrant experiences across a variety of different media. [Register here](#).

Conceptualizing Peace Forum Guilford College, Fri, April 12

Guilford College President Kyle Farmbry has invited Piedmont Friends to participate in this one-day forum at Guilford College in Greensboro: [5800 W. Friendly Avenue](#), for members of the education, faith and business communities regionally to explore long-term education and activity on matters of peace. In the wake of increased conflict in the Middle East and in Europe and increased violence in communities across the United States, attendees will discuss strategies for investing in and sustaining peace. The program is free. Register [here](#).

Francisco Burgos will be in town from Pendle Hill, and will be a presenter/conversationalist at the forum.

A schedule for the forum including information about various panels and additional speakers will be announced soon.

“The Smell of Money” Film at Chelsea Theater, Mon, April 15, 7pm

Buzz Borchardt and Annette Broadwell share with Friends (this film is heartwrenching and what it shows is happening here and now):

The Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL) invites you to a free film showing on the impact of hog waste management on North Carolina communities. With this event, the FCNCL Policy Committee seeks to raise awareness and motivate political action to improve NC state regulations governing the impact on communities of hog waste management by factory farms. Currently, these businesses badly damage our environment and adversely affect the health and well-being of those who live near them— many of whom are Black, Indigenous, or other persons of color.

The award-winning documentary will be screened at the non-profit Chelsea Theater in Chapel Hill on Monday, April 15 at 7 pm and Monday, April 22 also at 7. [Watch the trailer here](#).

A discussion led by a panel of environmental justice experts and an FCNCL representative will follow the 84-minute film. This is a free event. To reserve tickets, call Chelsea Reservations at (919) 929-8428 during their hours of operation: Tuesday: 3:30 PM - 10 PM; Wed - Sun: 12:30 PM - 10 PM.

Reimagining Community – Sat, April 13, 1:30pm

Francisco Burgos, Executive Director of Pendle Hill, a Quaker study and retreat center in Pennsylvania, will speak to residents and guests of Friends Homes on ways we might create and sustain community within and beyond the bounds of place.

Friends Homes West Living Room, [6100 W. Friendly AV, Greensboro.](#)

First Day Meeting for Worship – Sun, April 14, 11:00am

New Garden Friends Meeting, [801 New Garden RD, Greensboro NC](#)

Francisco Burgos will conclude the weekend exploration of peace and community as he delivers a prepared message at the semi-programmed meeting for worship among F/friends. Visitors are welcome.

“The Smell of Money” Film at Chelsea Theater, Mon, April 22, 7pm

Buzz Borchardt and Annette Broadwell share with Friends (this film is very impactful and what it shows is happening here and now):

The Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL) invites you to a free film showing on the impact of hog waste management on North Carolina communities. With this event, the FCNCL Policy Committee seeks to raise awareness and motivate political action to improve NC state regulations governing the impact on communities of hog waste management by factory farms. Currently, these businesses badly damage our environment and adversely affect the health and well-being of those who live near them— many of whom are Black, Indigenous, or other persons of color.

The award-winning documentary will be screened at the non-profit Chelsea Theater in Chapel Hill on Monday, April 15 at 7 pm and Monday, April 22 also at 7. [Watch the trailer here.](#)

A discussion led by a panel of environmental justice experts and an FCNCL representative will follow the 84-minute film. This is a free event. To reserve tickets, call Chelsea Reservations at (919) 929-8428 during their hours of operation: Tuesday: 3:30 PM - 10 PM; Wed - Sun: 12:30 PM - 10 PM.



Announcements

Board of Education Run-Off Election, May 14

Deborah Wallace of Eno Friends shares with Friends:

There's a run-off election on May 14th. Early voting starts April 25th. It's for a seat on the Orange County Board of Education. ALL voters, 18 and older, in the Orange County School District will be eligible to vote in the runoff election regardless of their registered party or unaffiliated status.

It's billed as a "Republican Second Primary". I'm concerned that many of us won't know about it &/or won't show up to vote in the Orange County Board of Education run-off.

I'm posting a few links here with background.

<https://chapelboro.com/town-square/viewpoints-school-board-runoff-is-voter-suppression>

<https://www.orangecountync.gov/1116/Early-Voting>

Suicide Rate Among the Formerly Incarcerated

Kate Fitch shares with Friends:

NC Health News covered my research about post-incarceration suicide, which may be of interest to Friends.

<https://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2024/03/21/formerly-incarcerated-at-higher-risk-of-suicide-even-years-after-prison-release-study-finds/>

Good Book on Conditions in Gaza

Betsy Brinson shares with Friends:

[Light in Gaza: Writings Born of Fire](#), published in 2022 by Haymarket Books and edited by AFSC staff Jennifer Bing and Jihad Abulsalim. An anthology of 16 essays plus poetry about long standing conditions in Gaza under Israeli control. Chapel Hill Public Library has a copy. Can be purchased from Haymarket Books, Flyleaf Books and Amazon.

Update From AFSC's Staff in Rafah

Betsy Brinson shares with Friends:

Over 1.5 million people are currently displaced in Rafah as Israel plans for a ground invasion of the small border city. Despite being displaced themselves, American Friends Service Committee staff in Rafah have helped to distribute aid to more than 250,000 people in the area. [Read more](#) from Gaza staff member Serena Awad. Pendle Hill's Executive Director Francisco Javier Burgos dedicated this poem to AFSC's staff living and working in Gaza. Francisco's poem is a reminder of the meaning of solidarity and the importance of standing together in the face of injustice. With our voices united in a call for peace, we will continue to advocate for the rights and freedoms of Palestinians. [Read the full poem here.](#)

Consider Sponsoring Someone to the Bolivian Study Tour!

Pam Schwingl shares with Friends:

The Bolivian Quaker Education Fund is reaching out to meetings and yearly meetings to invite you to sponsor a young person to travel with us to Bolivia this July. There will be several opportunities in Bolivia to meet with our college-age sponsorship students while we explore the theme of climate change.

Our study focus will be grounded in the work of U.S. Quaker Dr. Jennie Ratcliffe, author of *Nothing Lowly in the Universe: An Integral Approach to the Ecological Crisis and Integrity, Ecology, and Community*. Drawing on Quaker testimonies and wisdom from other traditions and visionaries, the texts explore the spiritual principles that underpin an integrated deep ecology.

We will explore attainable paths to long-term sustainability and a more peaceful and just world by weaving these principles into discussions throughout the trip.

The overall approximate cost including airfare would be \$3500.

Please read the following information to learn more and let us know if your meeting or yearly meeting is interested in sponsoring a young person. July is just around the corner.

Email gst.bolivia@gmail.com ASAP so we can save a spot and help you register. [Download the information packet.](#)

Why Can't the Shotts Committee Give Away Money?

The Shotts Memorial and Leadership Development funds are available to help you grow as a Quaker and as a leader. It's true! We are willing to offer grants, helping to grow your gifts and provide service opportunities, after our committee discerns a brief application. Are you ready to participate in a program/project/training of your choosing that will enhance your gifts as a Quaker and/or as a leader? Funds are available for Adults and teenagers in our meeting family.

To prime the pump, following are suggested possibilities, among many others. Please contact us with other leadings and your questions: shotts-leadershipfunds@chapelhillfriends.org

- Friends General Conference 2024, Haverford College in Haverford, PA: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/>
- School of the Spirit: <https://www.schoolofthespirit.org>
- Racial Equity Training Workshops: <https://racialequityinstitute.org/public-trainings/>
- Community Service Projects....

Money from the Shotts and Leadership Development funds can help cover some of your expenses as you explore leadings. If you are ready to continue growing as a Quaker, and a human being, please consider applying for a grant so you can share your gifts with the meeting, the community, and the world - pay it forward! This is not a charity, but the opportunity for the meeting to assist in your growth as a Quaker and/or as a leader.

For more information about this committee and applying:

<https://www.chapelhillfriends.org/committees.html> and scroll down to Shotts and Leadership Funds.

Adult Enrichment Experiences at Carolina Friends School

Carolina Friends School invites Chapel Hill Friends members to join other F/friends for these Adult Enrichment experiences.

THE QUAKER JOURNEY

Explore the early history of Quakerism, retracing the steps of George Fox and Margaret Fell, in the beautiful Lake District of northern England. June 23-30, 2024

Please find details at cfsnc.org/AdultEnrichment, spread the word, and join us for adventure, learning, and reflection together in community.



Recurring Announcements

InterFath Council Committee Is Seeking Volunteers

We invite anyone interested in becoming, or knowing more about being an IFC Committee Member to please contact Carolyn White.

We welcome volunteers to help with food preparation and service at ICF every second Thursday for lunch: 10a - 1p, and/or every second Friday for dinner 4p-6:30p. Volunteers are welcome for part of the shift, or the full shift.

Zoom Tech Hosts Wanted

Support Chapel Hill Friends Meeting's Zoom worship and forums by becoming a tech host. The role is much more simple than you would imagine. Trust us! We need your help and will train you. Please contact the Zoom Subcommittee if interested, or have questions: zoom@chapelhillfriends.org.

Inter-Faith Council Pantry Needs Donated Food Items

Please consider IFC's needs when doing your shopping. There is a basket in the meetinghouse foyer for food donations. IFC has requested the following food items: coffee, hot chocolate, canned protein, canned pork and beans, canned soup (not vegetable), boxed cereal, cake mixes, instant foods, ramen noodles. Thank you!

Visiting the Meetinghouse During Covid

Building and Grounds shares with Friends:

As you know we've curtailed use of the meeting house during the pandemic. Occasionally, people have, and needed to, gone into the meeting house to support the few essential tasks of the meeting. We appreciate that those visits have been brief and infrequent. We do ask though that anyone that needs to go into the meeting house to please notify John Hite, by phone or text, prior to going. Thank you.

Newsletter & eNews Reminder

Please send items for the weekly eNews email and the monthly print Newsletter to news@chapelhillfriends.org.

- The deadline for weekly eNews is *Wednesday* 6 pm.
- The deadline for the monthly print Newsletter is on the *last day of the month*.

To unsubscribe, email to news@chapelhillfriends.org with the subject line, Unsubscribe.

Note: If you think that you haven't received your weekly enews or monthly newsletter, it helps to add news@chapelhillfriends.org to your contacts. Otherwise it might go to your Spam folder (and likewise for other chapelhillfriends.org mailing lists such as pfym@chapelhillfriends.org).



Recurring Events

Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light, 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 7-8:30 pm

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN Virtual Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Join us when you can for as long as you wish - from your own home.

Do you have a name or a group of people to add to - or remove from - the list of those we will hold in our hearts and prayers? If so, please send to: prayers@chapelhillfriends.org. The list of names to be held in the Light will be renewed each month. Names must be resubmitted each month to be maintained on the list. We'll send an updated list on Wednesday afternoons. Thank you for joining us!

This virtual prayer service continues under the care of the Care and Counsel Committee and each week, a committee member will collect and post the names that are submitted and will read them aloud during the time of the service.

Worship with Attention to Gaza, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12-12:30pm

Staff from Quaker Voluntary Service are holding space every Tuesday and Thursday at 12-12:30pm on Zoom for Worship with Attention to Gaza. It is a really lovely space to worship alongside other concerned Friends of all ages to hold in tenderness the war, its impact, and our relationship to it. There is a query offered at the beginning of each worship space with time for introductions and fellowship after. All are welcome, here is the link to register:

<https://lu.ma/qvsworshipwithattentiontogaza>

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Peace in Palestine. Thursdays, 5:30pm

Betsy Brinson shares with Friends:

You are invited to join Meeting for Worship with Attention to Peace in Palestine and Israel at 5:30 p.m. ET / 2:30 p.m. PT. We will continue to meet weekly on Thursdays at this time, at least through the months of January and February, or until a permanent ceasefire is reached.

Join on Zoom:

<https://afsc-org.zoom.us/j/85831333364?pwd=VEtPTUZuYk5hTHV2OGs1VzRkY0ZKUT09>

Meeting ID: 858 3133 3364

Passcode: 759311

Pendle Hill Worship via Zoom, Daily, 8:30-9:10am

Pendle Hill Quaker Study, Retreat, and Conference Center is now opening their daily morning worship to everyone, by way of Zoom or phone. A lovely opportunity for gathered worship every morning. "A handful of Pendle Hill residents continue to gather daily in the Barn – from 8:30am to 9:10am Eastern Time – expanding the 90-year-long tradition of daily worship here on campus. Beginning the week of March 16, 2020, we started an experiment of opening the circle of worship to YOU in your home. You can join us here via Zoom."

<https://pendlehill.org/explore/worship/join-us-online-for-worship-in-the-barn/?bblinkid=210290749&bbemailid=19903873&bbejrid=1408822779>

Note: The above link takes you *not* to the meeting but to a page of general instructions. Look for the sentence "You can join us via Zoom **here**, or by clicking on the image below."

Pray for Peace - From Friends House Moscow, Daily

Link to the Daily Meeting for Worship for Peace sponsored by FHM/FHMSA: (Friends House Moscow)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4165005614?pwd=NUtieEtqbDBYbjBrcGdMMzBKQ3drQT09>

Meeting ID: 416 500 5614

Passcode: 182805

The room opens at 8:45am Pacific time (10:45 EST); worship begins on the hour and ends an hour later. After worship there will be time to share brief thoughts that did not rise to the level of ministry. You may also want to rename yourself indicating your geographic location. There will be no audible indicator when one enters or leaves, and everyone will be muted on entry. Please leave yourself muted unless giving ministry.

Ministry may also be shared in the chat, but it is not the place for private conversations. If you are new to Quaker unprogrammed worship and wish to talk with someone about it, send a message to the host and someone can join you in a breakout room.



Personals

Help Wanted: Companion Care – Room and Board Provided Plus Stipend

Beginning around June 1, 2024

Companion Caregiver needed for a 75-year-old man with early-stage dementia/Alzheimer's who is no longer able to safely live alone. Live in a 2 BR apartment in Hillsborough, (tobacco and alcohol free). Exact location TBD. Food allowance and monthly stipend.

Jim is extremely social, physically fit, loves baseball, exercise, live music, and pets. He has no mobility issues. He has lived in the Hillsborough/Chapel Hill area for over 40 years and has many friends in the area. We are looking for someone to live with him, specifically to be with him in the early evening through dinner and bedtime and again in the morning before his daily activities. Other caregivers/companions will be a part of this plan.

Job duties (approximately 20 hours per week: 2-3 hours per day in addition to living in the apartment)

- Assist with daily meal preparation
- Dispense daily medication
- Order groceries – monthly budget directed by family
- Assist with personal laundry
- Occasional help with personal hygiene
- Light housekeeping
- Run errands, if needed
- Coordinate visits from friends thru use of google calendar.
- Provide transportation if needed
- Assist with operation of digital devices including phone and television.
- Communicate with family members and other care team professionals.
- Background check and references required.
- Minimum commitment: 6 months

Final scope of duties, exact schedule and rate of pay are negotiable.

Interested parties please contact Elizabeth Taylor (etlodo@gmail.com: 919-605-2145) for more information.



Business Meeting Minutes

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Minutes
9 am Sunday March 17, 2024
Online via Zoom
Ann Miller, Clerk, and Susan Inglis, Recording Clerk

In attendance: Jeff Brown, Tom Ludlow, Carolyn White, Lynn Drake, Matt Drake, John Pilgrim, Buzz Borchardt, Wendy Michener, David Waterman, Joe Groves, Ellen O'Brien, Monteze Snyder, Sean Chen, Allie Scales, Susan Newcomer, Nancy Milio, Benjamin McAvoy-Bickford, Tom Munk, Tori Toles, Julia Cleaver, Carolyn Stuart, Alice Carlton, Dave Curtin, Peter Malone, Hart Pillow, Dottie Henninger, Betsy Brinson, Ken Grogan, Billie Grogan, Linda Patterson, Calaway, Jan Hutton, John Hite, Jennifer Leeman, Kate Fitch, Colleen Fey, Emilie Condon, Paul Munk, Joyce Munk, Hank Elkins, Ann Miller, Susan Inglis

1. Ann Miller, Clerk, opened our Meeting with worship and presented the query:

Query: In what ways do I support the Meeting's encouragement of spiritual growth, the work of its committees, the upkeep of its property and its ministries beyond the Meeting?

2. Ann welcomed Friends and reviewed the agenda. There were no first-time attenders.

3. Susan had prepared the Minutes of the February 2024 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB). They were considered and approved.

4. Sean Chen, for the Publications and Communications Committee, described the plan to move our domain and emails to the Google for Non-profits platform. We are legally a tax-exempt non-profit in the state of NC as clarified recently by Monteze Snyder. With this status we have access to Google Workspace, a useful suite of services and collaboration tools, at no cost. Currently, our domain is self-managed, which is cumbersome. Our 25+ year old email system has also become cumbersome. Using Google will be much more efficient. Sean has begun the migration to Google, including Google Mail and Google Groups, so we make best use of Google Workspace. Google Workspace aligns with important industry standards, and also includes standard privacy and security standards. During the migration process Friends may hear from Sean about a meeting email they access. We are asked to respond promptly if we do so we can all help the migration go well. Friends appreciated Monteze's effort in clarifying our status and all that Sean and the Committee are doing to make our communications more efficient.

5. Quaker Harmon presented the Hospitality Committee annual report. It is attached here as Appendix 1. Friends expressed appreciation for Quaker's expert management of emails and all that the committee contributes to our Meeting, and joy at the revival of fellowship in this last year. The report was accepted.

6. Jeff Brown and Dottie Heninger for the Ministry and Worship Committee reported on the spring retreat and made a recommendation for Chapel Hill Friends Meeting to become a member of the Orange County Community Remembrance Coalition (OCCRC). The Summary report is attached here as Appendix 2. Friends considered, commented on their support for the recommendation and approved the minute to request joining the coalition. Ministry & Worship will reach out to OCCRC

7. Ann Miller, as Clerk, provided an update from Buildings & Grounds about ventilation work. Peter Malone had written the following:

We have the engineers at work, and as early as [March 16] you can expect to see demolition in the upstairs bathroom closet and right rear corner of Library, where new return air duct is to be fitted. Following on that is a modification of the Lobby supply air duct, and work on roof to fit the intake and exhaust flanges and terminals.

As it stands, we are setting a deadline of 30 April to completion of Phase 1, barring complications; perhaps earlier.

8. Jeff Brown presented Ministry and Worship Committee proposed benevolences:

The Ministry and Worship Committee oversees some of the meeting's annual expenditures on affiliations, services, and benevolences. This year M&W recommends expenditures of

- \$200 to Friends Journal for listing CHFM among monthly meetings in North America and support of QuakerSpeak video production,
- \$350 to the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting and Fellowship (not including leadership development support for attendance at in-person events), and
- \$600 to Friends General Conference as a monthly meeting affiliation contribution.

For benevolences, M&W recommends a gift to one organization:

- \$100 to Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC, <https://flgbtqc.herokuapp.com/>), is a North American Quaker faith community that affirms that of God in all people. Though the contribution is small, it affirms CHFM's practice of joyfully embracing the Light within all, made visible through the participation of all people, no exceptions.

The total amount recommended is \$1,250.

With discussion, and an understanding that if we do not make our budget the amounts will be cut, Friends approved.

9. Ann as Clerk presented the Legacy benevolences for FY 23-24.

MWAB Legacy Benevolences FY 2023-24	Percent	Proposed amount	Contact information/address
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	5.0%	\$1,231.25	1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102
Carolina Friends School (CFS)	17.5%	\$4,309.38	4809 Friends School Road Durham, NC 27705
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)	7.4%	\$1,822.25	245 2nd St. NE, Washington, DC 20002
Interfaith Council for Social Service (IFC)	22.3%	\$5,491.38	110 W Main St, Carrboro, NC 27510
Quaker House	26.8%	\$6,599.50	223 Hillside Ave., Fayetteville, NC 28301
	79.0%	\$19,453.75	
Total Legacy + P&J		\$24,625.00	

These benevolences were approved.

10. Wendy Michener for Peace and Justice Committee brought a minute on the war in Gaza. It is attached here as Appendix 3, with Context. She also brought information about FCNL priorities discussion. Only 2 took part in the [survey on FCNL Legislative Priorities](#), and P&J does not feel comfortable making a decision based on only 2 responses. Friends were encouraged to respond to the survey and to attend a forum to discuss on March 24. Wendy also reminded Friends that our guidance comes from the silence. She noted that all are encouraged to access and follow their own leadings. The minute was proposed and discussed. Wendy clarified that it will be sent to legislators, the White House and to other Meetings.

Consistent with our Quaker Peace Testimony, Chapel Hill Friends Meeting (Quaker) calls for an end of all military aid to Israel, an immediate and long-term ceasefire, the release of all hostages, and a massive international humanitarian relief effort for the refugees in Gaza.

The minute was approved.

11. Due to a lack of time Carolyn White's update on involvement with Triangle Interfaith Reproductive Justice Coalition and request to publish our minute on abortion and FCNL's minute on the Coalition website was held over.

12. Ann held over hearing other concerns of members, reminded Friends that the newsletter is full of good information and other announcements, and closed the meeting with worship.

Announcements:

- Piedmont Friends Spring Gathering, Saturday, 4/6/24 at the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum in Gibbsonville, NC
- Nancy Milio announced that she has been on the FCNL policy Board, leading work on policy priorities for 21 years, and is the longest serving and oldest member. FCNL wants the committee to be younger so she has asked not to be nominated again. She is grateful to have been able to serve. It was her dream job, and she thanks the meeting for making it possible, especially starting so early in her attendance at our meeting. Friends appreciated Nancy's service.
- The Donate button on our website has a new arrangement. Friends may be asked to re-submit their bank info for regular monthly donations.
- The next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is planned for 9:00 AM on 4/21/2024.

Appendix 1

Hospitality Committee Annual Report 2024 Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

The Hospitality Committee strives to make visitors feel welcomed and to foster community within the meeting. Specifically the committee serves to:

- greet attenders and welcome visitors to meeting, including sending a welcome note to visitors
- manage monthly potluck
- provide fellowship and refreshments at the rise of meeting
- assists with special occasions such as the mid-December Christmas party, new attender teas, memorials and weddings
- serve as first responder for emails to friends@chapelhillfriends.org

We were pleased to restart all hospitality events in person since our last report.

Active members of the committee:

This year Buzz Borchardt and Jennifer Leeman completed their terms on the committee, we thank them for their service. We welcomed Whitney Fry to the committee. Active members also include Evelyn Fendler-Lee, Hart Pillow, Pam Schwingle, Andrea Wood and Susan Peterson. The committee would also like to recognize John Hite as an honorary member who provides support to Hospitality activities. We also appreciated the help of Susan Newcomer and John Bell who filled in as greeters when there were no hospitality members available, and John Bell, Mark Toles and many others who have helped with set-up and clean-up for Potluck.

Greet attenders and welcome visitors to meeting:

We continue to greet attenders and welcome visitors to the meeting.

Along with greeting visitors, the Hospitality Committee sends a welcome email to those who sign our guestbook. Hart Pillow carefully crafts a personal email to every newcomer welcoming them to the Meeting and offering additional resources or an in-person meeting as desired. We are grateful for Hart's service and acknowledge her valuable role in making newcomers feel welcome. Recently Annalee Harkins has been helping with welcome letters and emails. We also thank Matt Drake who has met one-on-one outside of Meeting with interested newcomers.

Since our last report at least 40 people have signed the guestbook. We also continue to use the online guestbook. We have had 10 people complete the online guestbook over the last year. The guestbook is available through the [Visit and Learn](#) and the [Online Meeting](#) pages of our website. A link to the guestbook is entered into the chat at the rise of the online meeting on zoom.

Provide opportunities for fellowship

We were pleased to expand our fellowship activities this year. We continued to provide Fellowship with Food under the magnolia tree at the rise of Meeting on the first First Day of the month. Starting in December we restarted Potluck on the first First Day of the month. The return of Potluck has been a welcome opportunity for Fellowship, we thank everyone who has contributed food and service to make Potlucks a success.

Support special events

Hospitality supported a number of events this year including “We are the Garden” a celebration of renewal hosted by Ministry and Worship (April 2023), the welcome of new members during Fellowship under the Magnolia (April and October 2023), the clerk’s retreat (October 2023) and the Spring Retreat (February 2024) in the Schoolhouse. In November 2023 we supported memorial services for Cindy Bowen and Bonnie Ludlow.

First Day School presented the Nativity this year. Hospitality provided hot cider and treats in the Schoolhouse following the play. We are grateful to everyone who baked and helped make the event special.

Serve as first responder for emails to friends@chapelhillfriends.org:

Since August of 2020, the Hospitality Committee has been the first responder for emails to friends@chapelhillfriends.org. The idea being that the response represents the point of view of the meeting at large. The clerk of Hospitality triages emails and sends the email on to the most relevant Meeting Committee with follow-up as necessary. Most of the email received is spam or generic newsletters. More relevant emails include inquiries about visiting the Meeting as well as requests for more information about the Meeting.

Respectfully submitted: Quaker Harmon, Evelyn Fendler-Lee, Hart Pillow, Pam Schwingle, Andrea Wood, Susan Peterson, Whitney Fry

Appendix 2
**Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, Spring Retreat, February 17, 2024
Summary**

Chapel Hill Friends gathered in the Meeting House for worship and a program with a theme of racial justice. Lloyd Kramer led a review of historical perspectives on Quakers and the struggle for racial justice in the United States from the time of enslavement and the Civil War to the modern Civil Rights movement. He presented a timeline beginning with a George Fox letter in 1657, proceeding with highlights of Quaker actions through the following centuries and into the 2000s (see attachment 1). Friends read quotes from George Fox, John Woolman, Anthony Benezet, Elias Hicks, Lucretia Mott, Bayard Rustin, and others (see attachment 2).

The next segment of the program brought to life Freedom Songs from slavery to Civil Rights, led by Mary D. Williams, Performer and Adjunct Professor, Duke Center for Documentary Studies. She explained the role music played from enslavement through the Civil Rights Movement, with discussion of how music helps us understand the struggle for social justice. With her powerful voice, Mary led us in song that was moving and inspiring. Freedom songs bring people together, help process deep sorrow, anguish, and grief, as well as express hope and deepen unity on what to do about injustice. Mary noted the key roles of churches, preachers, choirs and hymn as foundations for freedom songs that inspire activists within and outside religious organizations.

During lunch, Friends discussed what they learned from Mary Williams that morning. Comments included a wish to sing toward the end of meetings for worship. Other thoughts related to community building, learning from watching and discussing films (e.g., “Rustin” and “Origin”), curriculum at our First Day School and Carolina Friends School, the role of economic inequity, and ways to learn more freedom songs.

The afternoon program was a discussion of how our Meeting can build relationships with Black communities and collaborate in ways that provide useful support, facilitated by Danita Mason-Hogans, Community leader and Activist, Project Coordinator, Critical Oral Histories, Center for Documentary Studies at Duke, and member of “UNC Commission on History, Race, and a Way Forward.” She shared her relationship to the Mason Plantation and her family history as an example of racial injustice for descendants of the enslaved in Chapel Hill.

Danita emphasized the value of “repair,” not charity. She offered and explained resources centered on local Black experience. Foremost is Danita’s nonprofit organization, Bridging the Gap: “Our mission is to cultivate our capacities and brighten our communities through educational opportunities for descendants of the enslaved in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.” Programs include after school tutoring and other reparative work in support of local Black students such as E3 Camp (Empowering Excellence through Exploration). EMPOWERment, Inc. is a Community Development Organization focused on community organizing, affordable housing and grassroots economic development.

Chapel Hill Friends were inspired by the retreat. What might be our next steps? First, the Ministry & Worship Committee plans to collaborate with our Anti-Racism Committee to meet with Danita Mason-Hogans to learn ways we might be involved with Bridging the Gap specifically.

Second, another community organization related to equal justice is the Orange County Community Remembrance Coalition (OCCRC), which held a dedication of the historical marker for Manley McCauley on February 18 at Carrboro Town Hall. On October 30, 1898, a mob of white men lynched a young Black man named Manley McCauley a few miles west of Chapel Hill. Several Chapel Hill Friends attended the dedication. Danita Mason-Hogans was there as well. We learned that the Eno Friends Meeting of Hillsborough is a member of the coalition and we spoke with Sally Freeman who led Eno Friends to membership as a member and a co-chair of the coalition.

The OCCRC Memorandum of Understanding states its goals and vision:

The work of the Coalition is to disrupt and overcome the detrimental systems and mindsets that have plagued America for generations and to help usher forth a future of humanity, equity and justice for all of us. OCCRC will recognize victims of racial terror lynching in Orange County, NC.

To accomplish that goal, the Coalition envisions a collaborative effort and process with many individuals and organizations. The key undertakings that OCCRC intends to accomplish in partnership with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) are a soil collection event pertaining to the sites of lynchings; an essay contest for high school students with scholarship prizes; installation of historical markers about each person who was lynched and about the history of lynching in Orange County; and lastly, installation of the EJI duplicate monument in Orange County.

As stated in the Memorandum of Understanding, organizations or individuals who join OCCRC are expected to:

- Participate in as many as possible of the regularly scheduled Coalition meetings
- Make financial or in-kind contributions to the Coalition
- Promote Coalition activities within their organizations and networks
- Attend Coalition events
- Encourage other organizations and individuals to join and support the Coalition

Sally Freeman explained the communication approach.

There are two email lists for participation. One, is a google group of OCCRC members for communication and reminders about upcoming coalition meetings. Coalition meetings are held every other month via Zoom. The next meeting is March 25th at 5:30 PM. The other email list is for a wider community for promotion of events. Friends may sign up on our website:

<https://occrcoalition.org/contact-us/>.

Joining the coalition would be a practical, meaningful, low-cost or no-cost way to connect with local community organizations and individuals working for racial justice. The Ministry & Worship Committee proposes the following minute for discernment.

The Ministry & Worship Committee recommends that Chapel Hill Friends Meeting join as an organization with the Orange County Community Remembrance Coalition.

Appendix 3

The Peace and Justice Committee of Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Proposes the following minute:

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting calls for an end of all military aid to Israel, an immediate and long-term ceasefire, the release of all hostages, and a massive international humanitarian relief effort for the refugees in Gaza.

The Context:

In 1660, early Friends wrote to British monarch Charles II, stating:

“All bloody principles and practices we do utterly deny... with all outward wars, and strife, and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretence whatsoever, and this is our testimony to the whole world.”

In 2012, The Church of Reconciliation of Chapel Hill placed the following statement on the sides of the Chapel Hill Transit buses:

“Build Peace with Justice and Equality. End U.S. Military aid to Israel.” Against furious protests, the ACLU defended the Church’s advertisement as free speech.

This year, 2024, [The African Methodist Episcopal Church \(AME\) Council of Bishops calls for the Immediate Withdrawal of Financial Support from Israel.](#)

“Israel has trapped 1.6 million desperate Palestinians in the southern Gaza city called Rafah. Most of them are women and children. They have denied them access to food, water, shelter, and health care. After this torture, they plan to murder them. The United States of America will have likely paid for the weapons they use. This must not be allowed to happen.

The Council of Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church calls on the United States Government to immediately withdraw all funding and other support from Israel. Since 1954, Israel has shown a willful disregard for the human dignity of Palestinians. Since October 7, 2023, in retaliation for the brutal murder of 1139 Israeli citizens by Hamas, Israel has murdered over 28,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children. The United States is supporting this mass genocide. This must not be allowed to continue.”

[The Leahy Law](#): Originally introduced in 1997 by Senator Patrick Leahy, since 1999 the Leahy Law is part of the annual appropriations act. The Leahy Law ensures that aid stops when gross violations of human rights (GVHR) occur. The U.S. government considers torture, extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance, and rape under color of law as gross violations of human rights – many of which the *New York Times* and other publications have reported that Israel has committed in Gaza. The Leahy Law says aid to Israel must stop, period. ((H.R.1249 - Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, 112th Congress (2011-2012)

[Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act](#): Mr. Netanyahu’s actions violate the terms of American military aid as set forth in the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act (H.R. 942 and S. 230, part of the foreign

assistance law). The blocking or restricting of the delivery of American humanitarian aid is cause for the President immediately to end U.S. military aid.

Council of Bishops Calls for Immediate Withdrawal of Financial Support from Israel

Today as we celebrate the birth of Richard Allen, the apostle of freedom, Israel has trapped 1.6 million desperate Palestinians in the southern Gaza city called Rafah. Most of them are women and children. They have denied them access to food, water, shelter, and health care. After this torture, they plan to murder them. The United States of America will have likely paid for the weapons they use. This must not be allowed to happen.

The Council of Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church calls on the United States Government to immediately withdraw all funding and other support from Israel. Since 1954, Israel has shown a willful disregard for the human dignity of Palestinians. Since October 7, 2023, in retaliation for the brutal murder of 1139 Israeli citizens by Hamas, Israel has murdered over 28,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children. The United States is supporting this mass genocide. This must not be allowed to continue.

There must be an immediate and permanent ceasefire between these two communities. We call for a solution to be negotiated by genuine representatives of the people of Israel and Palestine and condemn all violence as a means of resolving this conflict. Surely there is a grassroots solution that affirms the dignity and humanity of all God's people in Palestine and Israel. The tools of empire, colonialism, and domination will not solve the problems they created. The cycle of violence between historically wounded peoples will not be dissolved by the creation of more wounds or through weapons of war. We remain in solidarity with Jesus Christ of Nazareth, a Palestinian Jew, and the Prince of Peace.

We weep for the suffering being inflicted upon the children of God in the Holy Land and all the earth. We cry for freedom and implore those who say they love God to demonstrate a tangible love for their neighbors. We will travail in prayer and pursue justice until freedom reigns for all.

Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Senior Bishop
Bishop Stafford J. N. Wicker, President, Council of Bishops
Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield, Chair of Social Action
Bishop Francine A Brookins, Co-Chair of Social Action

Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
531 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Resident: John Hite (919) 929-5377