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## ALAMANCE ORANGE PRISON MINISTRY

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[www.aoprisonministry.org](http://www.aoprisonministry.org)

P.O. Box 9932

Chapel Hill, NC 27515

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### DESCRIPTION OF THE ALAMANCE ORANGE PRISON MINISTRY (AOPM) AT ORANGE CORRECTIONAL CENTER (OCC)

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**Mission Statement:** “The Ministry strives to better prepare OCC residents with skills, abilities and motivation to successfully reintegrate into their communities and families upon release and, where possible, provide support and encouragement to those receiving them. This is to be accomplished by connecting all concerned to available resources to be found at OCC and the surrounding community.”

To accomplish the above mission, the Ministry employs a full-time chaplain, Josh LeRoy. The Ministry receives no money from the state and is supported entirely by the community. The specific tasks of the Ministry include:

- Pastoral counseling of the OCC residents and families
- Distribution of clothing and hygiene items: The Ministry administers a clothing closet for residents and distributes both clothing and hygiene items donated by local groups.
- The Chaplain administers the Peace Center and allocates space for meetings of religious groups.

**Diversity and Racial Justice:** The Alamance Orange Prison Ministry serves all residents and staff of Orange Correctional Center regardless of race, color, ethnic origin, or sexual orientation. The resident population is predominantly African American or Black and reflects the statewide NC prison population. The population of all NC prisons is approximately 62% African American or Black versus North Carolina’s overall population of only 22% African American or Black. The statewide prison population of 8% Hispanics approximates the percentage of North Carolina’s Hispanic population of 10%. The single employee of the Ministry is Josh LeRoy, who is white and a Quaker.

Except for fund raising and the contribution of hygiene items such as tooth brushes and tooth paste, Chapel Hill Friends are not directly involved in the tasks of the Alamance-Orange Ministry (AOPM). However, Chapel Hill Friends do support prisoners in ways that complement the AOPM mission and in those ways are indirectly involved with AOPM.

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## FINANCES

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<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Contributions</b>	<b>Full time employees</b>
January – December 2019	\$58,988	1
January – December 2020	\$58,365	1

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## THE SUPPORT OF CHAPEL HILL FRIENDS

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Members of Chapel Hill Friends indirectly support the Alamance Orange Prison Ministry.

- Yoke Fellows: Founded by the Quaker Elton Trueblood, Yoke Fellows meets Tuesday evenings in the Peace Center for fellowship with residents and volunteers. Both the Chaplain and Chapel Hill Friends support Yoke Fellows.
- Worship First Day: Chapel Hill Friends take residents on passes for worship at Chapel Hill Friends.
- Work-Release: Chapel Hill Friends help residents apply and interview for jobs.
- Book Group: Chapel Hill Friends and prisoners read and discuss books of mutual interest. Prisoners play a large part in selecting the books, while Chapel Hill Friends help in obtaining the books.
- Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA): Friends take OCC residents to meetings in the community.
- Pre-Release Course: Designed by Friends and other members of the Pre-release Committee, the course offers sessions on topics vital for transition to community living.
- Distribution of Clothing and Hygiene Items: The Ministry administers a clothing closet for residents and distributes both clothing and hygiene items donated by local religious groups.
- Worship Services at OCC: Twice during the year CHFM has sponsored well-attended worship services in the Peace Center.
- Fathers' Day: The Pre-release Committee sponsors a day for resident fathers and their children. The program involves crafts, games, reading, and lunch prepared by the residents.

- CHFM Transition and Support Committee: The Committee supports the AOPM indirectly by supporting both current residents of Orange Correctional Center and those returning to the community.
- CHFM Returning Citizens Financial Assistance Committee: This committee works closely with the Transition and Support Committee to accept and to disburse funds to help men coming out of Orange Correctional Center and joining our community.

At the time of this writing, Orange Correctional Center is currently closed to visitors because of the COVID 19 epidemic, and many of the activities mentioned above are restricted.

**Chapel Hill Friends involved**: *Bobby Ackley, Asta Crowe, Maria Darlington, Hank Elkins, Nancy Fisher, Tim Fogarty, Rita Kaur Kuwahara, Tom McQuiston, Richard Miller, Paul and Joyce Munk, Bonnie Raphael, David Schneider, Monteze Snyder, Carolyn Stuart, and Byron Stevens participate in this prison ministry.*