

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Newsletter

February, 2011



Monthly Query:

What opportunities for healthy recreations does the Meeting offer its participants of all ages?

Contents:

Upcoming Forum Schedule	2
IFC Needs	3
Crop Walk Needs Volunteers	3
New Website of Muslim Friends	3
Friends General Conference Gathering	4
One-Day Conference on Mental Illness	4
Spiritual Book Club Gathering	5
Annual Spiritual State of the Meeting	6
When “Clean Energy” Isn’t Clean	7
A Call to Conscience	10
A Brief Overview of Confucianism	11
Directory Updates.....	12
Minutes from Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.....	13
Calendar	22

From the ECC...

Compact fluorescent bulbs, batteries, computers and other electronics provide great services and convenience. However, these products are filled with heavy metals. If thrown into the garbage they breakdown in landfills and leech heavy metals into the groundwater, leading to contamination of nearby forest streams and the wells of lower income families near the landfill. So, before throwing any of these things away, remember, the true nature of that action is not a simple as it seems. Instead of putting them in the trash, take these items to be properly disposed of. Whole Foods and Weaver Street Market have dry cell battery recycling, Lowes collects old CFLs, and soon there will be a bin at our Meeting next to the lost and found. The landfill on Eubanks has a hazmat disposal station for fluorescent tubes and other household chemicals, and the recycling area offers proper disposal of old electronic devices. (<http://www.co.orange.nc.us/recycling/centers.asp>) Also, please encourage proper disposal in your homes, schools, and places of business.

Thank you, Your Environmental Committee



Upcoming Forum Schedule

- Feb. 6 Beating our Swords into Plowshares: A Conversation with David Price
- Feb. 13 "Dimensions of Light" Light is something invisible that makes everything else visible. How does our inner light make visible and help us to discern what is true for us and how to act in the world? Dirk Kelder to facilitate
- Feb. 27 Personal Sharing - Perry Martin
- Mar. 6 "The Survival of Quaker Priorities in the New Political Environment" - Nancy Milio to present

IFC Needs

The IFC collects items for its Pantry, the Community Kitchen, the Community House (men's residential facility), and Project Homestart (women's residential facility). For a complete list of items needed by each facility, visit the IFC website at www.ifcweb.org/foodneeds.html.

The IFC can always use bags. Brown bags with handles are best, but they can use other types as well. Bring your extras to Meeting any Sunday.

Crop Walk Needs Volunteers

The annual CROP Hunger Walk (which supports hunger relief efforts globally and locally) for Chapel Hill and Carrboro is planned for March 27. We are looking for a couple of people to organize walkers and sponsors within our Friends Meeting. The time commitment is not great but the rewards are many. Please contact Gwynne Pomeroy (968-0829 or pomeroyg@mindspring.com) or Dottie Heninger (918-2622) to volunteer for this. Thank you.

New Website of Muslim Friends

Submitted by Nancy Milio

Here is the link (<http://chapelhilljumaah.weebly.com/index.html>) to our Muslim friends new website describing their Juma'ah prayers at our meetinghouse on Fridays. I think it would be interesting for Friends to see how they portray us and their intentions.

Friends General Conference Gathering

July 3-9, Grinnell, IA

The annual FGC Summer Gathering is a unique opportunity to spend a week worshipping, playing, singing, and talking with over 1000 Quakers, young and old, from the United States and Canada. In particular, weeklong workshops on a wide variety of subjects provide a chance to explore a topic in depth with other committed Friends. Many Friends say that their workshop is the spiritual heart of their Gathering experience. Short descriptions of the 45 workshops offered at this year's Gathering are available online at <http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering>. Start your discernment now about which workshop to take. Long descriptions will be online by March 15. Attending the Gathering is also a great family bonding experience, with a wonderful Junior Gathering program that meets in the mornings and evenings, plus time in the afternoon for playing together. Financial assistance, particularly for first-time attenders, is available from the Meeting, from PFF, and from FGC itself. Talk to Carolyn White or Jan Hutton for more details about assistance.

One-Day Conference on Mental Illness

Friday, April 1, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, St. Thomas More in Chapel Hill

Faith Connections on Mental Illness will be sponsoring a one-day conference, "Mental Illness as a Spiritual Journey: Creating Caring Communities" with the renown Rev. Susan Gregg-Schroeder from California. This conference is targeted to members of churches and church leadership in an effort to help them become stewards of compassion among the mentally ill and their families who live in your community. Having trained congregation members and church

leaders will provide internal resources and opportunities to expand community outreach and local mission work.

Register by March 12 for the bargain rate of \$15 per person. After, the rate is \$25. Register online at www.wakeahec.org or call Jacqueline Carter at (919) 350-0461.

Spiritual Book Club Invitation

Submitted by Julia Cleaver

Greetings Friends, Since May of 2009, three folks have been meeting to discuss Catherine Whitmire's book, *Practicing Peace*. We have found the book very rich and a wonderful conduit for discussing the practice of peace in our daily lives. The book is a collection of quotes organized to explore themes starting with practicing peace through loving our selves, in our everyday lives on to practicing peace in the world with patience and non-violence. Whitmire has collected amazing stories and queries to carry you along the way.

Last month we finished the last chapter of the book. However, we decided that we want to read this book through for a second time. We feel that we will continue to grow through our readings and discussions.

We would like to open the group up for a few other friends to join if you are so moved. This year we are meeting on the third Tuesday of every month. If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact me or Mary DeCoster. There is a copy of the book in the Meeting library if you would like to take a look.

Take care, Julia (jcleaver@nc.rr.com, 968 3747)

Annual Spiritual State of the Meeting

Saturday, March 26, 9:30 to noon in the Meetinghouse

Guiding Query:

How have Quaker testimonies shaped our spiritual community for 75 years—and where do we go from here?

9:30 – 12 pm in the Meetinghouse, followed by lunch in the Schoolhouse

Our Meeting is approaching the 75th anniversary of its establishment as a Quaker community in Chapel Hill. This year's gathering to consider the spiritual state of the Meeting will therefore use a historical overview as a way to launch shared reflections on how earlier Chapel Hill Quakers have created a foundation for our Meeting's future. We'll begin with a conversation in which Lois-Ann Hobbs will discuss her memories of the Meeting's founding members and their vision for this community. Lois-Ann's connections with the Meeting go back to the late 1930s. We'll later move into small group sharings to think about how we are called in our own time to act upon Quaker testimonies and to extend the beliefs and actions of earlier Quaker generations.

All members and attenders are invited to join this special gathering on March 26.

Childcare will be provided, but people who will need childcare should sign up on a list that will be posted on the Meeting House door. Contact Dottie Heninger (918-2622) or Lloyd Kramer (968-0829) if you have questions.

(The following was published by Nick Mann, now working for FCNL, in Common Dreams. View the original version here: <http://www.commondreams.org/view/2011/01/27-1>)

When “Clean Energy” Isn’t Clean

Obama's use of the term is misleading, dangerous, and ultimately destructive. It must be challenged.

"Now, clean energy breakthroughs will only translate into clean energy jobs if businesses know there will be a market for what they're selling. So tonight, I challenge you to join me in setting a new goal: by 2035, 80% of America's electricity will come from clean energy sources. Some folks want wind and solar. Others want nuclear, clean coal, and natural gas. To meet this goal, we will need them all and I urge Democrats and Republicans to work together to make it happen." --President Barak Obama

During the State of the Union address Tuesday night, President Obama set forth an ambitious challenge that by 2035, 80% of America's electricity will come from clean energy sources. To do this Congress must eliminate the generous subsidies given to the oil industry, and use the money to invest in tomorrow's energy.

The idea behind this statement is right on. The US needs to make a fundamental shift away from dirty energy to clean sources. Leading that shift through innovation, research, and education will result in more jobs and a stronger economy to compete with a growing China and India in a changing world economy.

Yet throwing around the phrase 'clean energy' is misleading, especially in the manner it was defined last night. The notion that nuclear power, coal, and natural gas are clean is not only incorrect,

but jeopardizes our ability to achieve necessary long term reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The fashionable, yet hollow use of this so-called 'clean energy' will only continue to exacerbate our climate crisis.

What is 'clean' energy, anyway, and what is 'dirty' energy? Last night, President Obama included nuclear, clean coal, and natural gas as sources of 'clean' energy, but are they really? I would say NO. Clean energy needs to include the following characteristics:

- Does not create environmental or public health dangers in extraction or use
- Be economically feasible without large tax-payer subsidies, and able to answer a demand in the energy market
- Be renewable- able to replenish itself naturally
- Carbon free

The problems associated with energy sources that fall under the label of 'clean' are numerous. Nuclear reactors emit toxic radiation into the air and water, and cannot compete with cheaper and cleaner forms of energy without billions in government subsidies and financial assurances. Clean coal technologies such as CCS are unproven and do nothing to reduce the environmental and health impacts that result from the mining process. Natural gas releases harmful pollutants, and the extracting techniques can be extremely harmful to local communities. Clearly, these forms of energy do not meet the criteria of 'clean energy'.

By promoting these harmful energy sources as 'clean' we risk not only endangering the health and livelihood, of many Americans, but we undermine the development and deployment of truly clean renewable energy that is financially viable and technologically sound. The inclusion of nuclear, coal, and natural gas into a national energy plan will limit the maturation of wind, solar, geothermal, and other renewable sources, which are ultimately preferable because

truly clean energy is the only dependable and environmentally safe way to fuel future energy needs.

Pursuing a 'clean energy' standard may garner more political support in Congress these days, but that should not implore us to settle for less. If this is truly our generation's 'Sputnik moment' we must take the opportunity to push for policies and incentives that will promote clean renewable energy sources. If we do this we will be strengthening our security, protecting our planet, and revitalizing our economy long into the future.

Nicholas Mann is Legislative Assistant for Energy and Environment at the Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington, DC. His email: nick@fcnl.org.

A Call to Conscience

Saturday, February 19, 10 to noon, Carol Woods

Friends are invited to join State Senator Ellie Kinnaird and State Representative Verla Insko who will be the featured speakers at "A Call to Conscience: Rising to the Challenge of the 2011 NC General Assembly". The program will include presentations by the legislators, followed by discussion and action planning with statewide social justice organizers and researchers. Discussion will address: proposals by the current Legislative leadership to cut programs and staff who serve our children, our schools and universities, our families, our health and safety systems and our elderly; how to provide a budget that is not balanced on the backs of the most vulnerable of our population; and how to pursue a more just tax and revenue system to preserve essential human services required to rebuild a healthy economy and reverse the growing rolls of unemployed and underemployed.

Light refreshments will be served; the event is free and the public is invited to attend. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 10AM-12 NOON
CAROL WOODS ASSEMBLY HALL, 750 WEAVER DAIRY ROAD

Organized by the Triangle Branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Co-sponsors include Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Peace & Social Concerns Committee; Elders for Peace; Chapel/Carrboro Branch NAACP; NC Progressive Democrats; NC Peace Action; Orange County Peace Coalition
Contact Miriam Thompson (919) 370-4114 for further information.

A Brief Overview of Confucianism

By Emily Buehler

(The following is a summary of Chapter 5 of the book "What the Great Religions Believe" by Joseph Gaer, from the Meeting library. I've used masculine pronouns since that's what the author used.)

The origin of religion in China was nature-worship and ancestor worship. For thousands of years, traditions developed including rituals, temples, songs, and mystical symbols. The vast folklore needed organization and clarity.

In 551 BC, Ch'iu K'ung was born, the youngest of 12 children of humble origin. Little is recorded of him. His father died when he was three. His mother struggled to support the family and to give him a good education. He absorbed knowledge and loved the Chinese classics. Early on, perhaps due to war in his homeland, he devoted himself to the study of how peaceful and honest government might be attained; and how the ignorant and the poor could be educated and trained, so that they might live in dignity.

Ch'iu K'ung's home became a meeting place for students and scholars attracted to his vast knowledge, profound understanding, brilliant interpretation, and knack for summing up topics in pithy epigrams. They called him K'ung-fu-tse (K'ung the Philosopher), from which we get Confucius. Confucius welcomed all students, as long as they were eager (and male). His teachings included a love of poetry, sense of courage, regard for justice, and veneration for tradition. He taught to listen and observe, and to question ambiguity.

Confucius's own studies included reading ancient manuscripts and writing commentaries to make them understandable. He arranged this work into four books. The first (Yi K'ing, the Book of Changes) contained symbols made of broken and unbroken lines. Each symbol had meaning; they are revered as sacred symbols. The second (Shu K'ing, the Book of Annals) contained history. The third (K'ing Shih, the Book of Odes) contained poetry. The fourth (Li K'ing, the Book of Ceremonies) contained rituals, but Confucius warned against accepting ritual while neglecting its essence. A fifth book by Confucius attempted to update the historical record.

Confucius became a leader of his city and eagerly put his teachings into practice. Through his reforms, his city quickly became industrious and happy. The Governor of the province asked him to work on their overflowing prisons. Confucius realized the inmates were mostly ignorant and poor. He brought education and training to the poor, and honest judges. In two years, the prisons were empty, but rogues who profited from crime plotted against Confucius and corrupted the Governor. Unable to keep his reforms, Confucius wandered to other provinces searching for a just governor, and ultimately returned to his studies.

After his death, Confucius's students assembled his sayings. They did not consider him a religious leader; he never spoke of spirits or death, instead saying things like, "You have not yet learned

how to serve man well, how can I teach you to serve the spirits?” But Confucius’s fame began to wane, until 100 years after his death a child named Mang was born in his province. Mang revived interest in Confucius’s teachings and became called Mang-tze (Mang the Philosopher), from which we get Mencius. Mencius gathered the sayings Confucius’s followers had recorded and organized them into books, including the Book of Analects. The ethical teachings assumed a religious nature, with Confucius as its founder.

There were six principles: human nature is good, man has freewill, virtue is its own reward (it’s not virtuous to avoid evil for fear of punishment), what you do not want others to do to you, do not do to them, a man has five duties (to ruler, father, wife, brother, and friend), and man should strive to become a superior man. There were five virtues for rulers to follow as well. Much later, an emperor ordered an end to Confucianism, but the people loved Confucius, and his eminence grew until he was seen as a god.

Some sayings of Confucius from the Book of Analects: The superior man seeks what is right, the inferior one what is profitable; To prize the effort above the prize, that is virtue; and, Better than the one who knows what is right is he who loves what is right.

Directory Updates

Mary Gunn
mmgunn@gmail.com
23 Red Pine Road
Chapel Hill NC 27516

Jasmine McKewen
mckewen@gmail.com
1465 Moores Chapel Cemetery Road
Graham NC 27253-9198 (Saxapahaw)
(919) 357 2193

Jim Bartow’s new email: jimbartow@unc.edu

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

**Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
January 16, 2011**

(Carolyn Stuart, acting clerk; Robin Harper, acting recording clerk)

Query: Do I choose recreations that strengthen my physical, mental, and spiritual lives and avoid those that may prove harmful to myself and others?

1. Welcome, recognition of first-time attenders, and review of the Agenda
No first timers.

2. Review of minutes for Dec Meeting for Worship with Attention to Bus.
Bettie Flash should be added to the attendance list. Otherwise approved.

3. Children's Religious Education Annual Report (Leslie Rountree)
Leslie passed around photos of various CRE activities.

One Friend asked about making family potlucks known to new attenders with young children, and can they be notified via the general Meeting listserv. Leslie: Yes.

One Friend asked if Andrew Barker knows who he can contact in case he can't be here. Leslie: He should contact me.

The report (attached) was received with appreciation.

4. Approval of new queries from Ministry and Worship (Jan Hutton)
Ministry and Worship has been working on developing a new set of queries for our use for over a year, a responsibility that falls under our committee description (see Directory). We drew from a variety of queries in various Faith and Practices, meaning that we collected queries that had

already been through an extensive scrutiny and approval by yearly meetings from North Carolina to California, and slightly modified the language in some cases to suit our needs as a monthly meeting. We used many of the new queries at the State of the Meeting meeting last spring. We present them now for your approval.

As history: in the 1970s, we were part of North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Friends United Meeting, and used their queries. When we dropped our membership, we took up the practice of having Ministry and Worship develop a new query each month. In the 1990s, an ad hoc committee met over several years to develop queries, which we have been using ever since. The present Ministry and Worship committee felt that the existing set did not cover some categories well, and were so familiar in wording that we might not have been attending to them as closely as we might. Hence the impetus to search through the queries of many yearly meetings to find the wording that best spoke to our condition as a Meeting.

Discussion:

One Friend suggested we change “beliefs” to “testimonies” in this query: How do my words and actions demonstrate Friends’ principles and beliefs to people inside and outside of the Meeting?

Dottie Heninger, also of M&W, noted that only one of the queries was “made up” by the committee, and that was the one on aging, which seemed specifically appropriate to our Meeting.

One Friend asked M&W to continue exploring how the queries are used in our community to deepen our worship. Jan: This is an ongoing concern of M&W and a continuing focus of the committee.

One Friend mentioned that it is our responsibility as individuals to reflect on these queries and take it upon ourselves, in the absence of a formal, prescribed time to incorporate them, to reflect upon them and worship with them in mind.

Jan expressed her appreciation to those Friends on Ministry and Worship who joined her in the work of revising the queries. The new queries can be found on the Meeting's website and in the January 2011 newsletter. The new queries were received and approved, with the one change, above, and with appreciation for this dedicated work by M&W.

5. Request for two volunteers to serve on the Naming Committee for Nominations, to bring names forward to the February Meeting for Business (Jeff Brown)

The request was for the Meeting to form a three-person Naming Committee with the task of bringing forward two nominees to serve on the Nominations Committee. Hank Elkins and Nancy Milio volunteered, and Hank was thanked for doing this two years in a row.

There was unity on the Clerk joining them to form the Naming Committee that will report to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in Feb.

6. Update on the Chapel Hill Early School addition (Don Hopper)

The plan has now been modified to make one large room, eliminating the hallway from the original drawing. This room includes a two-foot high transom to provide some external light. There will be a pocket door to access this room from Sue's office. The new back door and the door to the addition could be half glass, to add light. The architect is still looking into the use of solar tubes over the conference room, which would be outside the scope of this project but could be added later. The exterior of the addition will be brick veneer. The slight offset of the wall of the new addition from the existing building questioned in the original presentation was added on purpose to ease the visual transition from the old to the new section (i.e., it may be hard to match the exact color of the brick).

There was thorough discussion around the question of installing solar tubes. Questions such as the cost of solar tubes, the responsibility of

paying for them, the presence or lack of natural light, and the need to make a statement for the environment, were raised and discussed.

The meeting came to unity around the idea of inviting CHES to live in the new space and to see what their needs are, and making them aware of our willingness to support the procurement and installation of solar tubes if this seems desirable.

7. Request for the Meeting to sponsor the April 1 conference of the National Alliance on Mental Illness: \$100 (Dottie Heninger)

The conference is entitled "Mental Illness as a Spiritual Journey: Creating Caring Communities." Dottie noted that it is already being supported by several other congregations, and that we would be joining our name to theirs.

One friend pointed out that this should come from a committee, rather than an individual, and that the decision to spend from the discretionary fund comes from MWAB.

One friend suggested we approve this, noting that we are not starting a precedent.

Approved.

8. Request for membership by Jasmine McKewen

This request has been sent to Ministry and Worship, and a clearness committee is underway. Friends are pleased that Jasmine is seeking membership.

9. Messages and Announcements:

a. New directory

b. Piedmont Friends Fellowship annual gathering March 18-20, 2011

c. Spiritual State of the Meeting, March 26, 9:00am to 12:00pm, "Looking back on our way to the future"

d. Hank Elkins requested that a report be given by the two representatives to PFF to a future MWAB.

We closed with worship.

Attending: Ann Kessemeier, Judy Purvis, Leslie Rountree, Jennifer Leeman, Ann Miller, James Harper, Anne Smith, Matt Drake, Lynn Drake, Nancy Elkins, Hank Elkins, Jan Hutton, Francis Coyle, Jeff Brown, Marilyn Dyer, Bettie Flash, Larry Tabor, Don Hopper, Richard Miller, Ken Grogan, Barbara Williamson

Children's Religious Education Committee Annual Report (covering the period September 2009 – January 2011)

The Children's Religious Education (CRE) Committee provides guidance for the First Day School (FDS) program for children from pre-kindergarten through the fifth grade, as well as the care for infants and toddlers in the nursery. With our teachers and FDS coordinator Lauren Hart, the committee develops the curriculum, selects materials, and monitors the overall health and progress of our First Day School. Our aims are threefold: to build a vibrant spiritual community within the First Day School for families with young children, to strengthen links between CRE and YRE youth through coordinated curriculum and activities, and to nurture First Day School's integration into the Meeting at large.

Committee Membership

In July 2010, Andrea Wuerth passed to Leslie Rountree the clerkship of the committee. In the past year, the following members rotated off or resigned from CRE: Carolyn Stuart, Nancy Martin, and Brad Schultz. We express our heartfelt appreciation for their hard work, particularly Carolyn

Stuart, who has been the de facto nursery school coordinator for many years. In their stead, Eloise Grathwohl, Meredith Tomlinson, and Kathleen McNeil joined continuing committee members Andrea Wuerth, Leslie Rountree, Bill McDonnell, and Jochen Wachter this past July.

Special thanks go to Lauren Hart, who has played a tremendous role in keeping us organized and inspired. In addition to her organizational responsibilities, she authors detailed committee minutes, maintains our FDS teacher and parent listservs, and provides support for every FDS event and activity. If we appear to be a well-oiled machine at times, it is only due to her amazing efforts.

First Day School Curriculum

Since our last official report, we have finished a complete FDS year, and commenced a second one in September. There are three classes within the First Day School: the pre-K pod for children ages 3 through 5, the K-2nd grade pod, and the 3rd-5th grade pod. We have been blessed with wonderful, dedicated teachers in each pod who provide continuity, consistency, and creative energy to our children. Current teachers include (for pre-K): Nancy Martin, Eloise Grathwohl, Jeff Brown, and Kathy Davis; (for K-2nd grade): Jochen Wachter, Wendy Richesin-Dodd, Jason Foureman, Sarah Grimme; and (for 3rd-5th grade): Margot Stern, Kathleen McNeil, Herbert Streumper, and Mark Hulbert. The committee would like to recognize past FDS teacher Jennifer Rioux and her children Evangeline and Lorenzo, for their enthusiastic participation in First Day School for many years. Jennifer and her family moved to Tucson, AZ, in July 2010 and are missed by all.

All three pods continue to follow a tried but true curriculum format throughout the academic school year: the first twelve weeks cover Quaker

testimonies and history; late November through the New Year brings community building and outreach activities revolving around the holidays; beginning in early January, twelve more weeks cover the Old or New Testament (in alternating years); lastly, in the remaining twelve weeks the children learn about world religions. Each pod tailors these themes with lessons and activities appropriate to the ages of their children. Many teachers continue to incorporate the Godly Play or Faith and Play stories in the Quaker or biblical units; we have had guest speakers from other faiths (Islam, Judaism, and Buddhism) come to talk to the children about their beliefs during the multicultural unit. In May of 2010, a large group of FDS students of all ages met with the Muslim Chaplain Abdullah Antepi and his children at Duke University Center for Muslim Life. We are extremely blessed to have met with Chaplain Antepi, whose generous spirit and spirituality is reflected in the gift of a lovely prayer rug for the children.

Holiday Activities

During the holiday season in both 2009 and 2010, FDS children delighted in making handmade ornaments for a Christmas tree in the multipurpose room. We also made and wrote cards to shut-ins, inmates, and political prisoners, and rehearsed and presented a Nativity play for the Meeting's annual holiday party. Last month, as a way to get to know other members of Meeting, the children went caroling at Carol Woods Retirement Community on December 19. We sang to resident Meeting members, staff, and anyone who wanted to stop and listen. Kudos go to teen Michael Grathwohl, who accompanied us on guitar the entire morning. We had a wonderful time, and plan to add it to our annual holiday activities. Additionally, in the spring we held our annual Easter egg hunt, which pairs older and younger children in both dyeing eggs and hiding them from one another.

Summer Activities

In June of 2010, we wrapped up the FDS year by taking an overnight camping trip to Falls Lake in Wake County. Six adults and eleven children attended. We swam in the lake, grilled veggie burgers and hamburgers, made s'mores, played games, and told stories around the campfire. In other words, we had a messy but marvelous time. We are planning a return trip this spring, as this activity greatly solidified the bonds of friendship among many of the children and teachers present.

During the summer, Friends who are not FDS teachers are invited to lead classes for children of all ages. The purpose is twofold: it gives our regular FDS teachers a much-needed break, and it introduces to Meeting members an opportunity to share their passions and interests, and to have fun with our wonderful children. Last summer, volunteer teachers offered game playing, nature walks, crafts, cooking, and storytelling. Thanks to Lauren's organizational efforts, we were able to find plenty of volunteers to lead these classes. We are extremely grateful to all Friends who participated.

Nursery Care

Andrew Barker provides loving childcare to the youngest Meeting attenders in our nursery. We continue to work on improving childcare availability to these young children and their parents during Forum and Meeting for Business, and have taken recent steps to ensure consistent coverage.

Additionally, FDS continues a series of sporadic family potlucks hosted by various members, and open to the Meeting at large. These potlucks give families a chance to get to know each other better in a kid-friendly (and

often extremely noisy) atmosphere. Other activities we organize include a kick-off family picnic after the rise of Meeting at the return of FDS classes in the fall. CRE feels that these gatherings encourage a sense of belonging to the Meeting community for both young and old.

The Year Ahead

While our elementary and middle school groups are healthy in number and vibrancy, we see a challenge in the small numbers currently attending our pre-K pod. This is by no means a reflection on our teachers; rather, it reflects the ebb and flow of the young families in our midst. CRE will focus its efforts to attract more little ones in 2011.

An additional goal is to refresh and reenergize our dedicated First Day School teachers, many of whom have been volunteering for years. Hence, CRE is planning an FDS teacher half-day retreat in February 2011, to give teachers an opportunity to share their best ideas and learn about available resources within our curriculum library.

In summary, the Children's Religious Education Committee strives to foster spiritual nourishment, friendship and fellowship among our Meeting's children and members, and to deepen the connection and sense of belonging between these young attenders, their families, and the Meeting at large. We look forward to the joy the children bring to the Meeting, and to the lessons they teach us.

Respectfully submitted by the CRE committee:

Eloise Grathwohl, Lauren Hart (ex officio), Bill McDonnell, Kathleen McNeil, Leslie Rountree (clerk), Meredith Tomlinson, Jochen Wachter, and Andrea Wuerth

Calendar

(All events at Meetinghouse unless otherwise indicated.)

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|------------------|-------------|---|
| Sun. 2/6 | 8:30am | Meeting for Worship (Early) |
| | 9:30am | Forum: Beating Our Swords into Plowshares |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship (Late) |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods |
| | 12:30pm | Potluck & IFC donations |
| Tue. 2/8 | 7–8pm | Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation – Call Hank Elkins |
| Fri. 2/11 | 4:30–5:30pm | Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd |
| Sun. 2/13 | 8:30am | Meeting for Worship (Early) |
| | 9:30am | Forum: Dimensions of Light |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship (Late) |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods |
| | 12:30pm | Peace & Social Concerns Com. – Schoolhouse |
| Tue. 2/15 | 7–8pm | Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation – Call Hank Elkins |
| Wed. 2/16 | 10am | Quaker Women’s Gathering – Bettie Flash Home |
| | 7pm | YRE Committee – Meetinghouse |
| Fri. 2/18 | 4:30–5:30pm | Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd |
| Sat. 2/19 | 10am–noon | A Call to Conscience – Carol Woods |
| Sun. 2/20 | 8:30am | Meeting for Worship (Early) |
| | 9:30am | Meeting for Worship w/Attention to Business |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship (Late) |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods |
| Fri. 2/25 | 4:30–5:30pm | Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd |
| Sun. 2/27 | 8:30am | Meeting for Worship (Early) |
| | 9:30am | Forum: Perry Martin Personal Sharing |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship (Late) |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods |
| | 12:30pm | Environmental Concerns Com. – Schoolhouse |
| | 10pm | Deadline To Turn In Items For Newsletter! |
| Tue. 3/1 | 7–8pm | Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation – Call Hank Elkins |
| Wed. 3/2 | 10am–12pm | Quaker Women’s Gathering – Bettie Flash Home |
| Thur.3/3 | 9am–1pm | CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter |

Fri. 3/4 4:30–5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd

Sun. 3/6 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)
9:30am Forum: The Survival of Quaker Priorities
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)
11am Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods
12:30pm **Potluck & IFC donations – Schoolhouse**



**Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious
Society of Friends**

531 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514
929.5377

Meetings for Worship at 8:30 and 11:00am
Forum at 9:45am

Child Care from 9:30am–12:15pm

First Day School from 11:15am–12:00pm

Clerk of the Meeting: Carolyn White (967.4926)

Resident: John Hite (929.5377)

This newsletter is published every first Sunday under the care of the Publications and Records Committee. The deadline for submissions is evening, last Sunday of the month. Please email submissions to news@chapelhillfriends.org, or call Emily Buehler at 475.5756.

To send Meeting News and In The Light announcements via email, or to get your name on our listserv, contact news@chapelhillfriends.org.

This and past issues of the newsletter are available online at www.chapelhillfriends.org. To get items posted on our website, send the information to news@chapelhillfriends.org.