

# Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Newsletter

## April, 2015



### Monthly Query:

*How does my life reflect the joy of living in the spirit? In what ways does my daily life demonstrate Friends' testimonies so that others might want to follow them?*

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### Upcoming Forum Schedule

**April 5: "Resurrection, Rebirth . . . Easter"** Description: A presentation of varying spiritual understandings and leadings from three Friends: Robert Lee, Wendy Michener, and Naveed Moeed, followed by open sharing. This will take place in the schoolhouse. Moderator: Catherine Alguire

**April 12: "The Promise of an Ecological Civilization"** Description: Herman Greene, President of the Center for Ecozoic Societies in Chapel Hill, will tell us about seven important international ecological events coming up this year and lead a discussion about their import for local environmental action. Moderator: Carolyn White

**April 26: "Why Does the Israel-Palestine Violence Keep Returning?"** Presented by Ruth Zalph. Description: Ruth will share experiences and observations from her participation in a peace delegation's trip last spring to Palestine and Israel. Moderator: Dirk Kelder

**May 3: "Worship Sharing with Attention to Animals"** (see page 2)

# Chapel Hill-Carrboro CROP Walk

Sunday, April 19

The 29th annual CROP Walk will raise funds for our local Interfaith Council (IFC) and for the Church World Service's global programs to alleviate poverty and hunger as well as to promote peace and social justice. All proceeds of the T-shirt sales go to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro IFC which supports 2 homeless shelters, the Community Kitchen, and the food pantry. Of the proceeds from the walk, 75% go to the Church World Service and 25% go to IFC, which depends upon these funds for its annual budget. According to Executive Director, John Dorward, IFC gets \$18,000–\$19,000 annually from the CROP Walk.

We will sell T-shirts several Sundays before the walk and on the day of the walk for a minimum donation of \$5. A table will be set up in the lobby of the Meeting house for you to sign up, pick up a packet to use when signing up walk sponsors, and to purchase T-shirts. We will have packets available before that date for those who wish to start signing up walk sponsors early. You can go ahead now and register on line:

[www.crophungerwalk.org/chapelhillnc](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/chapelhillnc)

Click on DONATE, then on I WANT TO SUPPORT A TEAM. Scroll down to CH Friends Meeting, and you can either click Donate Now, or you can click Join and sign up as a member of the team. Donations can be made with credit card or PAYPAL. It should be self explanatory but you can contact Asta Crowe ([astacrowe@gmail.com](mailto:astacrowe@gmail.com)) for further information. It's a quick and easy way to donate.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro CROP Walk is the fifth largest in the Southeast, and the year before last year raised about \$49,000, not including T-shirt sales. CHFM raised \$3,953 in 2014. Let's try to do even better in 2015.

Please help by being a walker, buying T-shirts (\$5 minimum donation), or by supporting our walkers with a donation.

## Ride-Sharing for the FGC Gathering in NC This Summer

Friends are beginning to discuss ride-sharing for the July 5-11, 2014 FGC Gathering in Cullowhee, NC. Would someone be willing to serve as the repository for those willing to give rides and those who are in need of rides? Having a central location for ride-sharing would greatly simplify the process for those who would like to attend and would reduce costs for all and sundry. You would just share the list of rides offered, or rides needed, with those who contact you. Please contact [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org) if you're interested in offering this gift to the meeting.

## **Newcomers' Lunch**

The Hospitality Committee will host a lunch for newcomers to Meeting on Sunday, April 19 at the rise of the 11 am meeting for worship and before the start of the CROP Walk. We invite newcomers and CROP Walkers to join us in the school house. Questions? Alice Carlton: [amberalice47@gmail.com](mailto:amberalice47@gmail.com) or 919-641-5507.

## **Worship Sharing with Attention to Animals**

All Friends are invited to attend Chapel Hill Friends Meeting's first-ever Worship Sharing with Attention to Animals, Sunday, May 3, at 9:45am (during Forum time).

"Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, especially for animals who are suffering; for any that are hunted or lost, deserted, frightened, or hungry; and for all that will be put to death. We entreat for them all Thy mercy and pity; and for those who deal with them, we ask a heart of compassion, gentle hands, and kindly words. Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals, and so to share the blessings of the merciful."  
-- Albert Schweitzer

Animals enrich our lives in many ways – as part of nature, as pets, as helpers, as research subjects, as food. How often do we take time to acknowledge this enrichment and give thanks? Do we notice the suffering, mistreatment and endangerment of all kinds of creatures? Do we act to stop it? Are there any creatures on this earth unworthy of love?

All well-mannered animals and their humans are invited to this special worship sharing meeting. Feel free to bring photos if bringing your animal companion is not practical. You are also very welcome to come if you have no pets at all! We hope Friends will also give thought to the other kinds of creatures that affect their lives. We especially hope children will attend and share their messages. We will be seated on chairs in the playground (feel free to bring a mat if you'd rather sit on the ground with your pet). We will begin with silent worship and hope Friends, as they are moved, will speak to the blessings of the animals in their lives. We will have treats and water available before and after the worship sharing.

This is a worship tradition that is observed by many congregations, from Duke Chapel to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.

Some guidelines:

Please consider the wisdom of bringing aggressive animals.

Please be considerate of other people and their animals by curbing your animal with a leash, harness, or appropriate carrier.

Be prepared to clean up after your animal.

Remember to ask before petting or giving food to any animals unknown to you.

Remember that animals must FEEL safe, not just BE safe, in order to be comfortable.

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Robin Harper.

## **“Being Met at Meeting”: Dirk Kelder’s March Forum**

In a meeting of the Adult Religious Education Committee early in 2015, committee member Dirk Kelder mentioned that he had been thinking about a topic ever since he joined the committee six years ago. He observed that Friends use the word "meeting" often, and Dirk wondered, what does "to be met" really mean? The committee agreed that the topic and question were worth exploring and asked Dirk if he would explore them in a forum. Dirk presented the forum on March 8, 2015. This article captures his thoughtful presentation. Enjoy. From Matt Drake

See the full article at <http://www.chapelhillfriends.org/PDF/BeingMetAtMeeting.pdf>

## **Financial Aid for FGC Gathering**

Summer camp for Quakers! Please consider attending Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering in NC, July 5-11, 2015

The Shotts/Leadership Development Committee wants to help support first-time participants, as well as those who have previously attended, in going to the FGC Gathering this year. What is FGC Gathering? It's a wonderful summer "camp" for the spirit, hearts, and minds of Quakers of ALL ages - meeting in NC this year. "Taste the vibrancy and the variety that is available by immersing yourself in this community of Friends for a week."

Experience the larger Quaker world, joining more than 1200 others from all over the country. Friends of all ages are welcome, childcare for young ones, daily programming for children through 8th grade, for teens, for YAF's (Young Adult Friends.) Parents may attend their own chosen daily workshops, worship, etc. while children and teens are engaged in their own programming. Concerts, fun, impromptu gatherings.....many worship opportunities. "We eagerly look forward to welcoming you—in person—at Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC, July 5-11, 2015. Theme for 2015: Seeking Wholeness." Online registration: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>

There are 3 available options for financial support:

1. The Shotts/Leadership Development Committee "provides financial assistance to enrich and develop the lives of individuals with a relationship to the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting." You can be a regular attender of the meeting but need not be a member: <http://www.chapelhillfriends.org/ShottsLeadershipFunds.html>
2. Piedmont Friends Fellowship is another financial resource. First, an applicant for the Gathering seeks funding from the Shotts/Leadership Development Committee. When funding is approved and if additional assistance is needed, the applicant contacts a PFF Representative (Jeff Brown or Margot Stern) who will send a request to the treasurer of

PFF. The standard amounts from PFF are \$150 for an individual and \$200 for a family. For more information contact [PFF@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:PFF@chapelhillfriends.org)

3. FGC also provides scholarships and other options to support attendance:  
<https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/registration-details/financial-aid>

## News from Quaker House

For the first time in its history, Quaker House was invited to Ft. Bragg to give a presentation. Lynn and Steve presented a program on moral injury for a group of social workers, counselors, and psychologists who work with our service members. This came about after several connections were made over the course of the two years that we've been at Quaker House. A chaplain met Lynn at a Minister's Fair and was excited about our work with moral injury. He made arrangements for us to give our presentation to his entire battalion (about 700 service members), but at the last minute, his commanders canceled it. Consequently, he approached the director of this group about our having the presentation for them. The director remembered Lynn from the Military Spiritual Resilience committee that a chaplain invited her to not long after she had begun work at Quaker House.

We were welcomed warmly and the group expressed a great deal of gratitude for the information that we shared. The chaplain videotaped the entire presentation in order to show it to his commanders. He hopes that, once they see it, they will allow me to give it to his battalion. We are so grateful that we can, at last, work together with the folks at Ft. Bragg to help heal our wounded victims of these long wars.

## FDS Updates

### **Sunday, April 5: Easter, Potluck Sunday and Hopper baby welcoming**

It's time for our annual egg dyeing and hunt eggstravaganza! Each year we pair the wee-est of the wee ones to the taller-than-trees ones, then the kids work together to dye Easter eggs and hide them from their partner. Parents are welcomed to stay and help (cameras are encouraged). This Easter falls on a potluck Sunday, so plan on staying for a glorious meal with Friends. Also, at the close of Meeting for Worship, we will welcome Alice Drust, Marie Hopper's baby, into our community.

### **Sunday, April 12: Multicultural/World Religions unit begins**

This week marks the beginning of the last unit of the FDS year, when we focus on learning about other world religions. Please consult with your child's pod teachers if you have any questions, comments or ideas of topics to be covered. We will visit a faith community on a FDS-wide field trip next month. Details to come...

## **Registration Open for Faith Connections Annual Conference**

Faith Connections, an ecumenical group concerned with mental health, will have its annual conference on Friday, April 10. Amy Simpson, author of *Troubled Minds: Mental Illness and the Church's Mission* will be the keynote speaker. Other speakers include Alan Johnson, MDiv, co-founder of the Interfaith Network on Mental Illness, John Gilmore, MD, director of the UNC Schizophrenia Research Center, and Shelly Danser, LCSW, program coordinator of the ProBono Counseling Network through Mental Health America of the Triangle. Registration cost includes lunch. Register online at [www.faithconnectionsmentalillness.org](http://www.faithconnectionsmentalillness.org). Questions: Contact Alice Carlton at [amberalice47@gmail.com](mailto:amberalice47@gmail.com) or 919-641-5507.

## ***Testament of Devotion* discussion in Hillsborough**

Please join the Hillsborough Friends worship group for an exploration of the book, *A Testament of Devotion*. Published in 1941, this inspirational collection of essays was written by Thomas Kelly, and is considered one of the great books on devotion and Quaker mysticism.

We meet at Carolina Wellness Institute (formerly Hillsborough Yoga), 121 W. Margaret Lane, next to the Orange County Library. All are welcome. We've added one more meeting time for this series. We'll gather on Sunday, April 26 at 10:00, when we will discuss ""The Simplification of Life."

## **NHC Fellow and Wife Looking for Sabbatical Rental**

Jennifer Kraar and Mark Possanza attended our Meeting in the 1980's and 90's before moving to Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. They are looking for a rental from September 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016:

"We are a Professor and a Librarian from Pittsburgh looking for a furnished 1–2 bedroom apartment or house in Durham or Chapel Hill-Carrboro. We are a quiet couple who would treat your house like our own. Mowgli is our small, well-behaved cat. We are non-smokers. Contact us if you have any questions or if you wish to discuss any housing possibilities. 412 225-8472, [kraarster@gmail.com](mailto:kraarster@gmail.com)."

## **Want to live in a co-housing community?**

Friends, a small (600 sq ft), one-bedroom second-floor condo is currently for sale in Pacifica, a community organized around principles of sustainability, diversity, affordability and community. Sound vaguely familiar? Price is under \$150k and includes wonderful shared resources and space. I am happy to provide more information if you're interested. Deborah, [GibbsDeborah@gmail.com](mailto:GibbsDeborah@gmail.com).

## **Tending the Heart of Relationship: A Contemplative Retreat for Couples**

**April 24-26**

Come away and rest a while with your beloved in beautiful Montreat (near Asheville), NC. This is a time to renew, restore, and refresh your precious relationship for you, for your community, and for the world.

The weekend is a retreat, not a workshop, with invitations to explore your relationship with your partner. Opportunities will be offered to share in the group. For some meals we will hold the silence. There will be times to rejuvenate in the beauty of a mountain setting whether through walking or simply sitting on the porch in a rocking chair.

The intent is to deepen intimacy, hone our capacity to listen to one another and to the Spirit which enlivens our relationships, and to identify growing edges

This program is offered under the care of Friends General Conference Couple Enrichment Program. It will be facilitated by Mike and Marsha Green, members of the Durham Friends Meeting and trained leaders in the FGC-CE program since 1998. The retreat is open to any couple in a committed relationship, regardless of legal status.

The workshop costs \$290 per couple and includes lodging at a house in Montreat and six meals (Friday dinner through Sunday lunch). Register online at [http://bit.ly/CERetreat\\_2015](http://bit.ly/CERetreat_2015).

Contact Mike and Marsha Green at [mikequaker@gmail.com](mailto:mikequaker@gmail.com) or 919-929-2339. Some financial assistance may be available. For more about FGC-Couple Enrichment, visit [www.fgcquaker.org/services/participate-couple-enrichment-event](http://www.fgcquaker.org/services/participate-couple-enrichment-event).

## **This I Believe, Quaker Style**

**April 9, May 14**

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting is a gathering of people who have diverse beliefs, practices, and experiences about what is spiritual, about "God," and about the "Light." However, most of us can only guess, or really don't know much, about the spiritual beliefs and practices of one another. We are creating an opportunity to begin conversations with each other in a safe and non-judgmental environment in the Meetinghouse. We will begin with worship, then a Query, which those attending can discuss in small groups and end with worship sharing, leaving space for any vocal ministry resulting from your time in groups. We hope you can join us for this ongoing journey, gathering the 2nd Thursday of each month in the Meetingroom, from 7:00-8:30 pm.

Contact Jan Hutton (919-967-1959), Pat Mann (919-489-1802) or Robin Harper (919-606-4574) if you have questions.

# Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

## Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

March 15, 2015

### Minutes

Tom Munk, clerk; Robin Harper, recording clerk

**Worship and query:** *How do I resolve conflicts with others in ways that are loving and constructive? How does our Meeting help members and attenders resolve conflicts in loving and constructive ways? How do we extend this help to people and communities outside the meeting?*

#### 1. Welcome, recognition of first time attenders, review of agenda—Clerk

We welcomed first-time attender Keegan Durovich.

#### 2. Approval of February minutes—Clerk

*Approved.*

#### 3. Peace and Justice Committee Annual Report—Naveed Moeed (ATTACHED)

Friends expressed gratitude for the all the good work this committee does.

*The report was accepted with thanks.*

#### 4. Conscientious Objector letter—Keegan Durovich (ATTACHED)

Many Friends spoke after hearing Keegan's letter. Below is just a sampling of their comments:

*In this country we have the mistaken notion that war and violence take courage. I would suggest that what this young Friend has just shared takes infinitely more courage, and is loving at the same time.*

*You've spoken from the heart; I hope our other young Friends will be encouraged by you, and others in the world. You have the power to speak the truth.*

*You are doing a courageous thing, and I shared your struggle and effort to show this courage when I was your age.*

*I wish you luck on your journey. You may have some hard times. You may want to keep that letter with you, to give you strength in your future endeavors.*

*I stand as a veteran of WWII. I'm not proud of that, but I'm not ashamed of it either. There was a draft then. We may not be in a shooting war in another country, but we are in a declared war here—the "war on drugs." It's doing immense damage and we are all implicit in it.*

*I want to ask you to consider taking it another step, by sharing it with our Senators Burr and Tillis. Right now in the Senate there are a couple of bills that will make a difference as to how much war we will face in the future. If they could hear you, it might give them pause.*

*Thank you for your eloquent statement. It reminds me of my own service. It calls each one of us to look at our own actions in day-to-day situations, and ask if we are conscientious objectors to aggression and violence.*

Curt Torell reminded us to witness Keegan's Selective Service registration form. Keegan's letter was signed by Tom and will be kept in our lock box. Some of our Trustees stepped out to sign Keegan's letter and form. James Harper asked about posting this letter on our website, and Keegan gave approval for this.

#### 5. Teen Haiti trip: request for Meeting financial support—Haiti Planning Group: Kathleen McNeil, Grace Schneider, Finn James, Milena Wuerth, Emma Hulbert

The planning group presented us with updated details of their trip, and a request for financial support. They requested that the Meeting support the teen Haiti service trip by contributing \$4,000 to the total cost of the trip.



The total cost of the project is \$14,621, which includes all travel, insurance, room, and board for all 11 participants—seven teens and four chaperones. It also includes a small donation to the organization. Currently, the group has \$2800, between the service fund and money raised so far. Looking at each teen's individual need, in a confidential manner with their families and with M&W co-clerks Jan Hutton and Lynn Drake, it was determined that \$4000 would bridge the gap between what they have now and what the teens and their families can contribute.

Another way to look at the \$4000 request is that it will cover the cost of the chaperones, who are taking time away from their jobs and families for this trip. The chaperones all bring unique and pertinent skills to this venture. Catherine Alguire is an occupational therapist, Will Stanley lived and worked in Haiti for several years, Lauren Hart works in international reproductive health, and Kathleen McNeill works in UNC's Study Abroad office and has worked in Pakistan for human rights organizations. This number of chaperones is necessary to meet the requirements of our new safety policy and would allow our group to break up into separate projects as requested by our Haitian hosts.

In response to questions, the teens explained that they will be insured by the company that was recommended by Matt Drake, Church Mutual, which includes repatriation and other emergency events. The teens have expressed interest in doing whatever work the organization itself finds most useful—some needs that have been mentioned include painting and computer assistance. They are trying to remain open to finding out what needs to be done when they get there. The school they will be helping will be out of session when they arrive, but there are still many ways they can work with them and assist them. Most Haitians speak Creole, and about 5-10% speak French. The teens are currently taking Creole lessons with Will.

The group will be in Lamadelle, Haiti, from June 28-July 5. They will be working with Fondation Enfant Jesus, an organization that includes a primary school, adoption program, trade school, and other training programs that focus on women.

Friends remarked that this trip will help shape who our teens become in the future. We owe it to them to support this effort as much as possible. This experience will plant seeds in them that will grow in the future and have effects that will not be seen til down the road.

Maura Murphy, Treasurer, stated that Finance Committee supports this gift and sees it as an investment in the future "infrastructure" of our Meeting—the adults that will one day be leading our Meeting.

*Friends approved spending \$4000 to support the teens' trip to Haiti.*

## **6. Buildings & Grounds' downstairs renovation configuration—Don Hopper (ATTACHED)**

Don began by expressing Buildings & Grounds' hope that the Meeting accept the plan they presented previously that includes a contiguous resident's quarters. If accepted, B&G would like to begin collecting bids from tradespeople. He reminded us that the cost for the less aggressive renovation would be about \$36,000; \$72,000 is the estimate for the version that included the contiguous resident's quarters. The \$72,000 does not include lighting or furniture; \$80,000 would probably be a good estimate that would include those items.

Don then responded to questions and comments from Friends.

*What about geothermal power?*

DH: We looked into geothermal. The fact that we are built on a landfill means that we don't have the compact, dense earth needed for the use of geothermal.

*The Friend asked that this be re-examined, based on going below the landfill.*

*Was sealing the building considered to be the most important thing to do?*

DH: Sealing the building, improving insulation, and making it more thermally efficient are primary.

*Will the new plan make it possible for the resident to heat just his area?*

DH: We are hoping to have two systems. In the past, very little cooling has been needed in the basement, which means that we have not been keeping it dry. Two smaller systems would run for longer,

which would heat and cool as well as dry. We are also hoping for two water heaters—one for the Sunday demand and one for the resident’s use during the week.

*Can you tell me about the measurement devices on the walls in the basement?*

DH: Those were installed after some abatement measures were taken in the recent past. The devices are there to see how those abatements are working and what’s happened since.

In response to requests from some Friends to investigate other options, Don asked us to remember that this is not a house, except for our resident. It is occupied and used in a very different way than most homes, and we need to plan and spend accordingly. Also, the spaces need to be flexible to be used in many different ways and for disparate groups.

Several Friends encouraged us to remember that B&G shares our values of sustainability but also must think about what can be maintained in the future. Also, the committee has answered our charge at great and painstaking length—let’s trust the work they’ve done and trust that they have explored every reasonable possibility. Let’s support them and remember our testimony of simplicity.

Treasurer Maura Murphy asked for a ball park figure for the entire project, including upstairs.

DH: A very rough estimate would be \$90k.

The clerk asked if we were in unity to ask B&G to move ahead, in their own time, in collecting more specific price estimates for the comprehensive renovation plan.

*Approved.*

## **7. Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting Representatives—Clerk**

Two interim representatives have been chosen by Nominations Committee: Alice Carlton and Naveed Moeed. Permanent representatives will be presented on Nomination’s comprehensive slate of nominations in May.

## **8. Report from March 21 PFYM meeting**

The Clerk asked Naveed Moeed to give a brief report from yesterday’s PFYM meeting.

NM: The first meeting of the Annual Session of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, marking also the incorporation of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, was held on Saturday 15th, third month, 2015 at New Garden Friends Meeting House. We approved the core elements and the organizational structure. There was some discussion around what their work should be for the coming year, and there is strong energy in CHFM to do this work. This was a joyous occasion, bringing together many Friends, old and new, from North Carolina and beyond. Our joy was the culmination of a journey which has taken many years; the desire to join spiritually with Friends who believe there are multiple ways of approaching the Light. Friends felt a sense of history in the making as well as an affirmation of Quaker values and the spiritual renewal which Piedmont Friends Fellowship has upheld. Chapel Hill Friends were strong in number and felt at home in our new family of Friends. The interim clerks are Marian Bean from Charlotte, interim clerk; John Calderelli from Winston-Salem, assistant interim clerk; and Julie Stafford from Charlotte, recording clerk.

## **9. Announcements from listserv—Clerk**

Check the listserv for details about any of the below:

- The Spiritual State of the Meeting meeting will be held on Saturday, March 21, at 8:30am. A sign-up sheet is on the door. The query will be “How does it feel to be part of a greater Quaker world?”
- The IFC Crop Walk will be on Sunday, April 19.
- Tending the Heart of Relationship, A Contemplative Retreat for Couples, facilitated by Mike and Marsha Green, will be held in Montreat, NC, April 24-26.
- FGC Gathering is July 5-11, registration begins April 1. Strong attendance is encouraged and financial assistance is available. A forum about the Gathering will be held March 22.
- Oil and gas exploration will soon begin on the coast of NC, and the comment period is only until March 31. A sheet is available in the foyer.

- Buildings & Grounds will hold a work morning on March 28, from 9:00am-12:00pm. Come for any part of that that you can.

## **We closed with worship.**

**Attendance:** Dirk Spruyt, Perry Martin, Max Drake, Marilyn Dyer, Ruth Zalph, Bettie Flash, James Harper, Dottie Heninger, Herbert Struemper, Milena Wuerth, Curt Torell, Nancy Milio, Ken Grogan, Maura Murphy, Ben Ray, John Hite, Asta Crowe, Jan Hutton, Richard Miller, Richard Shepherd, Emma Hulbert, Donald Hopper, Lynn Drake, Julia Clever, Karen Durovich, Keegan Durovich, Finn James, Kathleen Ann McNeil, Hank Elkins, Nancy Elkins, Tom Ludlow, Paul Munk, Joyce Munk, Emilie Condon, Tom McQuiston, Naveed Moeed, Bob Durovich, David Schneider, Grace Schneider, Henry Schneider, David Clayton, Joseph Daniel, William Elmore, Jerond Best

## PEACE AND JUSTICE ANNUAL REPORT MARCH 2015

Our previous report was given in May 2014. This report covers the 10 months to March 2015.

Benevolences: A major work of Peace and Justice again this year was to prepare a report for the Meeting on the current mission, financial condition, and recommendation for funding for selected benevolences for our wider ministry. The Meeting was asked to consider in particular the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund (BQEF). The Meeting's funds for BQEF are undesignated and go to help fifty Quaker students in Bolivia pursue their university education. Among those students, Miriam Alave Condori, a dentistry student, wrote to the Meeting to express her gratitude for being able to complete her entire course of study in 2014.

This year's benevolences are currently under consideration for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in April.

Mental Health Initiative: One of our largest activities this year has been in supporting NAMI by purchasing silver pins to raise consciousness for mental health and in highlighting the concerns of those who do not have access to mental health resources. So great was this concern that our meeting decided to support an ad-hoc committee Initiatives for Mental Health consisting of members of Peace and Justice and other committees so that we may further pursue this.

Ferguson, MO and Black Lives Matter campaign: Our meeting was rocked by the events in Ferguson, MO and the subsequent unveiling of systemic racism in the increasingly militarized Police and other institutions. In response to this our meeting fully supported and endorsed a Statement of Conscience from NYYM. We also issued our own shorter statement to the local press. Additionally a number of Friends from our meeting have been very active in the Black Lives Matter campaign working with the local NAACP and other groups to continually raise awareness of this issue and keep it at the forefront of the local conscience.

FCNL: Once again our meeting funded a representative to go to FCNL's annual meeting in Washington DC. We scrutinized with care the priorities sent to us by FNCL for the coming year. Our meeting was supportive around issues of arms and endless war, the Middle East, Iran, mass incarceration and police militarization. After weighing and seasoning these we recommended a set of priorities which reflected the interests and concerns of the Meeting.

Orange County Justice United (aka Orange JUICE): We continued our deep involvement with Justice United in particular by supporting their very successful activities around affordable housing. Members of our meeting were active in campaigns to redress the management at two affordable communities (Landings at Winmore and Gateway Village) where low income tenants suffered appalling conditions and abusive management as top issues. Through Justice United, teams of lay leaders and residents were able

to hold the management and HUD accountable in addressing conditions. We attended a celebration of these achievements at a meeting on the 8th of March.

Abrahamic Initiative for the Middle East (AIME), Coalition for Peace with Justice: At least three members of our committee have been actively involved with AIME this year (one of our members chairs AIME), attending events and also sitting on the AIME organizing committees. We have also strongly supported Coalition for Peace with Justice events. In particular, the screening of a documentary at Raleigh Friends Meeting on non-violent protest in the West Bank and the workshop “No Way to Treat a Child” on the military detention of Palestinian children.

Muslims for Social Justice: With the rise in Islamophobia within North Carolina our Meeting has supported the concerns of local Muslim groups through the progressive Muslims for Social Justice organization. We attend meetings and are assisting in co-ordinating petitions and supporting forums against Islamophobia. We also supported the Interfaith Alliance dinner where the key speaker was Imam Khalid Griggs, a victim of such attacks.

Moral Mondays and HK on J: Our meeting again provided good support to Moral Mondays and HK on J are two different projects started by the NAACP. Chapel Hill Friends Meeting remains a coalition Partner with HK ON J (Thousands On Jones Street) with over 100 other triangle groups. This year the march was on February 14th and had good participation from our meeting.

Orange County Peace Coalition: Members of our committee have been actively supporting OCPC on behalf of the Meeting. OCPC successfully petitioned the Orange County Commissioners, the towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro, and the Chapel Hill/School Board to ask federal officials to reduce military expenditures and bring the war dollars home for education, health, infrastructure and other local expenses.

Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness: One of committee members participates in the leadership team of the OCPEH and serves on the Employment subcommittee. P&J have found this interaction to be highly rewarding especially in light of the hard work that our Meeting and its committees do supporting returning citizens.

Initiatives for 2014-15: With the large number of social concerns and peace activities “in flight” and a challenge for resources, The Peace and Justice Committee is looking to take on a larger co-ordinating role for 2015-16. This role is currently under discussion with related bodies in CHFM (including the Clerk and Nominations) and any proposed new structure will be brought forward to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. It is clear there is a strong need to maintain our social witness and to co-ordinate the activities we do with the wider world of Peace and Justice – both Quaker and non-Quaker. We also wish to be able to increase participation of CHFM and support our members in current as well as new efforts. In an era of social media where events move quickly this is a new and evolving paradigm; we need to respond accordingly and we rise to the challenge of fashioning a new Peace and Justice to meet the fresh demands on our time and energy.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR LETTER—KEEGAN DUROVICH  
SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2015

On March 19, 2015 I will turn 18. As a male in the United States of America I am required to register for the Selective Service. Because there is not a draft in effect it is not possible for me to declare myself as a Conscientious Objector, but I am writing this letter now as a symbol that I have and will be opposed to warfare in any form. I am asking the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting to save a copy of this letter and support me in my stance against war.

I was born into and have grown up in a Quaker family, and because of this, Quaker values have become the basis of my moral code. Among these religious beliefs are Peace, the opposite of violence, and Community, something that war tends to tear apart. These moral codes are so embedded in my everyday life that when I was given the opportunity to shoot a gun, at a target, it sent shivers down my

back, and I refused to shoot it, even though the target was just a bandana. In fact I would willingly be shot before I would shoot another person, even just to injure. On the same note, I find it very disturbing that people could bring themselves to shoot anyone, this is just not natural for humans. Even just wishing for someone to die is morally wrong.

In general war is not the way to solve our conflicts, violence only escalates the problem, peaceful ways will always be the best. I have grown up in a time when we live in fear of others, if we would just confront that by asking questions like why? Violence only increases fear and thus we find ourselves in a vicious circle. Not only that but our wars seem to be centered around greed, this is not a cause that I will support in any way or form. Even just being in a non-violent position that supports the armed forces is something that I could and will not take a part in. I grew up not being willing to kill cockroaches, and to this day to see any living creature in pain is distressing to me. And one last time I will reiterate that war, and other forms of violence, is not the answer and will only increase our problems.

Sincerely,  
Keegan Jackson Durovich

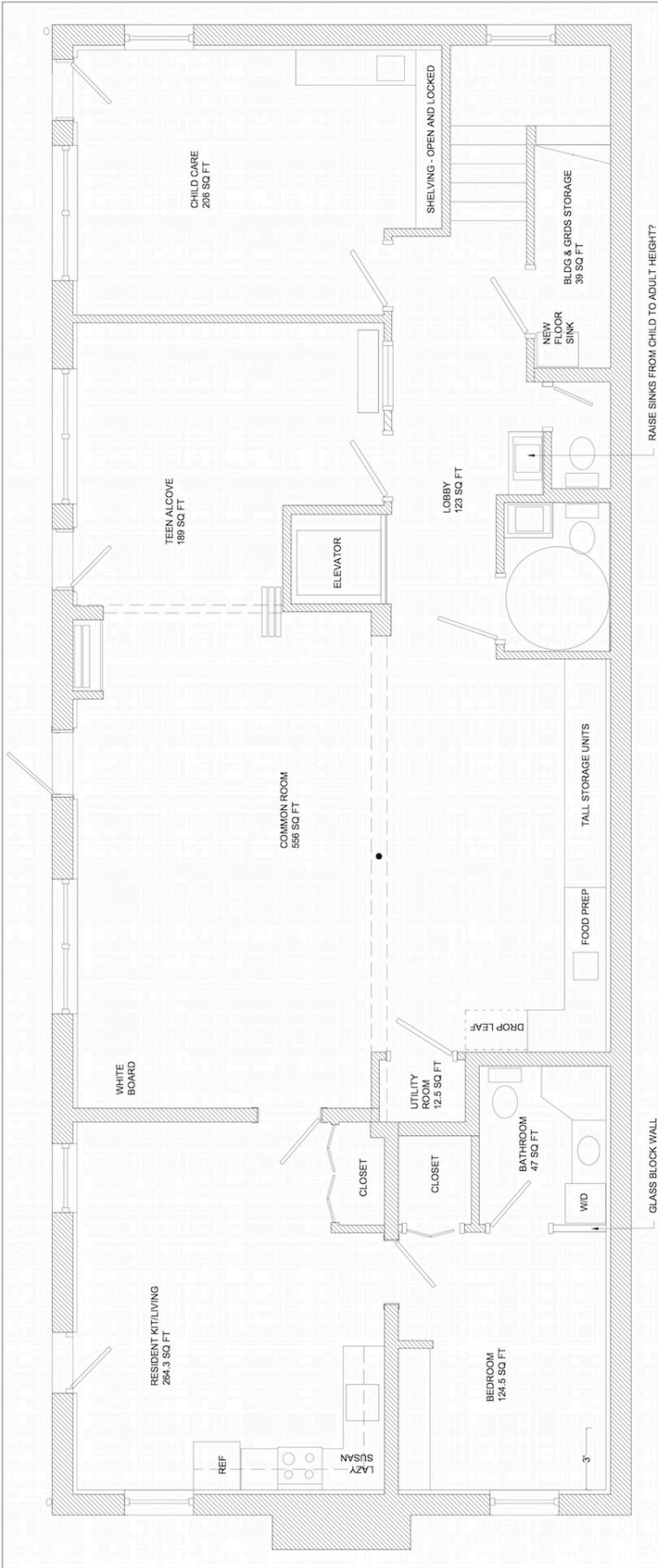
FROM MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS  
FEBRUARY 15, 2015:  
MINUTE ON THE CONSIDERATION OF JOINING PIEDMONT FRIENDS YEARLY MEETING  
MINISTRY AND WORSHIP  
FEBRUARY 5, 2015

Ministry and Worship has considered the deliberations of the ad-hoc working group assigned to look at the nascent PFYM and if we might be called to join. It was clear to the committee that the findings of the group required greater consideration by Chapel Hill Friends Meeting at large. These considerations included the inclusive nature of PFYM and its desire to be a framework in which a number of meetings could grow together spiritually.

The gathering on the 10th of January was regarded as a deepening of our understanding of who we are at CHFM as a religious and likeminded group of Friends. Our reasoning with one another was tested as we discussed the questions which PFYM brought forth: are we ready to join a larger group? Will this enhance the energy in our meeting? Are our gifts for ourselves or for a larger Quaker community?

In discussing these questions and testing the Vision Statement and Core Elements of the new PFYM, the Ministry and Worship Committee believes we reached new clarity on January 10th and that we are now called to join this new Yearly Meeting in North Carolina. That we are, as a meeting, more ready than we have been in the past to join with others and share in the fellowship that this brings. We are humble to the needs of our meeting first and realize that there will be change, albeit subtle and transitory, as a committee, and as a meeting as a whole, we should embrace all the souls in our family with the adventure this brings.

Therefore Ministry and Worship recommend that the Chapel Hill Meeting of Friends joins with Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting.



JANUARY 2015  
SCALE 3/8" = 1'-0"

CHAPEL HILL MEETING HOUSE RENOVATION  
OPTION #1 WITH NEW RESIDENT APARTMENT

# Calendar

*(All events at Meetinghouse unless otherwise indicated.)*

<b>Sun. 4/5</b>	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: Resurrection, Rebirth ... Easter
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Potluck & IFC donations, Eggstravaganza (see page 5)
Tue. 4/7	7-8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Thurs. 4/9	7-8:30pm	This I Believe, Quaker Style - Meetinghouse (see page 7)
Fri. 4/10		Faith Connections Annual Conference (see page 6)
	5-6pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
<b>Sun. 4/12</b>	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: The Promise of an Ecological Civilization
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
Tue. 4/14	7-8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Fri. 4/17	5-6pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
<b>Sun. 4/19</b>	8am	Meetinghouse open for worship
	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Meeting for Worship w/Attention to Business</b>
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	noon	Newcomers' Lunch (see page 3)
		CROP Walk (see page 2)
Tue. 4/21	7-8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Fri. 4/24	5-6pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
	7pm	Intergenerational Games - Schoolhouse
<b>Sun. 4/26</b>	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: Why Does the Israel-Palestine Violence Keep Returning?
	10am	Testament of Devotion discussion in Hillsborough (see page 6)
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	noon	Families and Friends Affected by Mental Illness - Schoolhouse
	10pm	Deadline To Turn In Items For Newsletter!
Fri. 5/1	5-6pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
<b>Sun. 5/3</b>	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: Worship Sharing with Attention to Animals (see page 3)
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Potluck & IFC donations – Schoolhouse

Tue. 5/5	7-8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Thur. 5/7	9am-1pm	CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter
Fri. 5/8	5-6pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd

**Chapel Hill Friends Meeting**  
**Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**  
531 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514 (919) 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: Tom Munk (919) 537-9203  
Resident: John Hite (919) 929-5377

- Newsletter. This newsletter is published every first Sunday under the care of the Publications and Records Committee. Paper copies are available at the Meetinghouse and a PDF is posted on the Meeting website, [www.chapelhillfriends.org](http://www.chapelhillfriends.org). The deadline for submissions is 10pm on the last Sunday of the month. Email submissions to [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org) or call Emily Buehler, (919) 475-5756. Please include "newsletter" in the subject line.
- Listserv. To send a news or "In the Light" announcement on the Meeting listserv, contact [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org). Please include "listserv" or "in the light" in the subject line. This listserv goes to about 280 people. Do not submit personal information about someone else unless you know he/she wants to share. Subscribe to the listserv at [www.chapelhillfriends.org/contact.html](http://www.chapelhillfriends.org/contact.html).
- Website. To get items posted on our website, send them to [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org).