

Chapel Hill

Friends Meeting Newsletter

Second Month, 2018

Monthly Query:

~ How do I affirm and support the Divine presence in the process of discernment and reaching a decision?



Monthly Worship Tip from the M&W Committee

~ Is the hour of meeting for worship the only time in the week you seek to nourish your spiritual life?

Contents:

Page 2 – PFF/PFYM Annual Weekend Retreat

Page 3 – Finn James CO Letter

Page 4 – Book Collection Drive for Refugee Support Center; Handcrafters

Pp 4 – 6 – Sharing on Racial Equity Institute Training

Pp 7-10 – Tips on Writing Letters to the Editor

Pp 10 -11- Care and Counsel 2017 Annual Report

Pp 11-12 - Carolina Friends School Trustee Report

Pp 13-15 – 2017 Financial Report

Pp 15-16 – Letter Nominating Claire Bates

Pp 16-19 – Quaker House Report

Page 19 - Workshop on Conscientious Objection at PFF Retreat

Pp 19-20 – UNC/Duke Animal Law Symposium

Pp 20-22 – Minutes of 01/21/2018 MFWWAB

Page 23 – Help For Knee Pain Announcement

Upcoming Forum Schedule

2/4 - Seeking Carolina Quakerism *Outside the Bubble*

Chuck Fager examines what he has learned since leaving 45 years of unprogrammed Quakerism & worshipping in a semi-programmed meeting far out in the middle of rural Alamance County, where Neo-Confederates & right-wing evangelicals abound. Moderator: Dirk Kelder

2/11 -Building and Grounds Update Don Hopper. Moderator: Max Drake

2/18 - NO FORUM: Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (9am)

2/25 - Personal Sharing: Perry Martin. Moderator: Carolyn White

PFF/PFYM Annual Weekend Retreat

Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Yearly Meeting Annual Retreat will take place March 30 – April 1, 2018 at Carolina Friends School in Durham. The theme of the weekend is peace and alternatives to violence.

This year activities begin Friday afternoon March 30th, featuring presentations by Quaker organizations with updates of recent work. Friday evening, a potluck dinner will be followed by ice breaking activities led by Raleigh Friends Meeting.

Saturday, March 31 includes an adult program and a combined adult/teen session.

1. John Shuford and Deborah Bromiley will lead a 90-minute workshop on the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). The project is an enjoyable, engaging and empowering experiential training model that reveals people's own innate health; transforming how they see and relate to themselves and others. This life changing model is easily learned and adapted to a myriad of situations and has been experienced by over 300,000 people worldwide in its 42-year history. Deborah and John will describe AVP and share their experiences establishing AVP in North Carolina, their recent trip to Nepal for the AVP World Gathering and session attendees will experience some of the exercises.
2. Quaker House will present a session on Conscientious Objection (for teens, adults and Meetings), led by Curt Torell. Selective Service registration, conscientious objection claims, and the Quaker peace testimony continue to be largely hidden and neglected in our national discourse. Despite our government's attempt to make this difficult, this workshop will help Friends be better informed and inspired to think about, nurture, articulate, and document a claim for conscientious objection when our teens, both men and women, turn 18 years old. The workshop will give plenty of handouts for in-depth reference as well as a panel of young adults to react and contribute to this narrative.

Saturday afternoon will continue youth programming with the theme of peacemaking. Afternoon multi-generational activities include group songwriting with special guest Steve Deasy. Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting sessions will take place in two sessions on Saturday afternoon.

Quaker organizations will be available for information and participation in the Yearly Meeting and the Friends General Conference book table will be open during breaks. Fellowship break-out sessions, and dinner will round out the afternoon. Saturday evening, singer/songwriter Steve Deasy will perform a concert as he has done for Friends General Conference.

Easter Sunday, April 1st includes Worship, youth programming and the PFF Annual Meeting.

More information on registration will be available soon.

Finn James Conscientious Objection Letter

To the Meeting and all whom it may concern,

As it stands, I am now registered for the United States Selective Service. As is required by law, if my country decides that it needs me in the armed forces, I have no choice but to comply. Although I respect those who have made the choice to join the military, following my own moral rules as influenced by Quaker values and the Christian teaching to love my neighbor I cannot intentionally harm another human being regardless of the purpose. I believe that there is no situation where it is justifiable to kill another person, no matter the circumstance. As such, I am requesting status as a conscientious objector.

Quakerism has been an integral part of my life, and I draw my values and moral guidance from our Quaker testimonies and from the Meeting. Due to conflicts between the desire to right wrongs and the desire to protect life, the question of a 'just war' or similar is one steeped in controversy. I recognize that throughout history there are many atrocities that lend themselves to the justification of war; however, the concept of a just war relies on the idea that it is sometimes justifiable to take someone's life from them. It is not. All people have a spark of the divine within them, and I refuse to extinguish that sacred light for any reason. Therefore, I am a committed pacifist. I have heard many counter arguments to pacifism: if there are atrocities being committed, is it not moral to intervene? The real life significance of pacifism hinges on considering a broader picture. Violence begets more violence, and the only successful way of preventing atrocities is not to kill those committing them but to create an environment where people are not pushed to a state of desperation where they would consider those atrocities justifiable.

To say that a war is 'just' requires one side to have the moral high ground, yet once the first life is damaged beyond repair from one's actions all claim to moral superiority is forfeit. The lesser of two evils is still evil, and, indeed, the choice never comes down to such a stark binary; there is always another way. Perhaps a more fitting analogy would be this: if you saw a liferaft where one person is attacking another for their meager food, would you kill the attacker so that the other could survive just a few days more, or would you rescue them both? The core of pacifism is simple: all people have but one life, and it is not morally defensible to take that from anyone.

The most trying yet crucial part of Quakerism and Christian teachings is to love not just your friends but also your enemies. It is difficult to follow at times because it is antithetical to the concept of an enemy. And yet there is no one that is so evil that they do not deserve love in some degree; they may be dangerous or despicable but ultimately it is not justifiable to kill or hurt them. People always point to Hitler as the epitome of an evil human being—surely there is no case to be made that Hitler should not have been shot on sight? However, to say that one would shoot Hitler if they had the chance ignores a tragic but omnipresent fact: any act of violence—even before WWII—would not solve the systematic and debilitating socioeconomic problems facing post-WWI Germany. If a time machine is ever built, perhaps instead of vowing to kill Hitler it would be more wise to go back and to help the people of Germany rebuild instead of letting them wallow in poverty? Desperate people are dangerous people, and so to remove the danger it is unhelpful to attack and make them fear for their lives but rather to help them be secure and no longer feel the need to instate fascist regimes or commit horrible acts for their own security.

The fact that war exists is a symptom of a larger, flawed whole that has roots in inequality and thrives on strife and violence. The only way to stop the cycle of suffering is to exhibit compassion and to acknowledge that it is not justifiable to kill and that there is always another way. I affirm my faith that if we all choose to love our enemies, war and violence would cease and we would move closer to when the lion would lie next to the lamb. As such, I request that I be recognized as a conscientious objector.

Respectfully,
Finn James

Book Collection for Refugee Support Center

Emilie Condon asks of Friends:

If you have gently used children's books for grades 3, 4 and 5, please consider bringing them to the Meeting House through March 18th. A plastic container marked for Refugee Support Center will be near the front door where you can leave them.

I (Emilie Condon) volunteer at RSC and grades 3 through 5 books are what have been requested by RSC's Exec Dir Flicka Bateman to fill a big need.

Helping with this Book Collection is also Chapel Hill Service League members, where I also volunteer.

Please and thank you, Friends,

Handcrafters are Gathering

Do you do some type of handcrafting? Would you enjoy some companionship while you sew/knit/felt/crochet/etc? A group has been meeting monthly on the third Thursday evening at the home of Lynn and Matt Drake. Please join us! If you would prefer to gather in the afternoon, we will start another group. Please contact Lynn Drake and let her know of your interest. Email her at lindadotdrake100atgmaildotcom. Or speak to her after Meeting for Worship.

Racial Equity Institute Training - Sharing by Emily Buehler

In September 2016, the Shotts and Leadership Development funds helped me attend a Racial Equity Institute (REI) training, organized by Organizing Against Racism (OAR). I found the training valuable and have noticed changes in myself in the year since. This is a short summary of the experience. (I have a longer summary if anyone wants to read it.)

About 70 people participated, with about five trainers, sitting in a circle. The trainers told us that the focus of the training was not racism at a personal level, but institutionalized racism. The goal was to open people's eyes to the privilege and institutionalized racism that exists. If enough people understood the structural racism in the US, they'd be able to change it. They noted that many racist systems are filled with good people who don't realize their system is racist.

The trainers gave a few examples of structural racism in America, such as a study in which 5000 resumes were sent to job openings, in pairs with only the name changed (Emily or Lakisha, Greg or Jamal). The white-sounding names received 50% more callbacks. Often people explain the gap between races by reasoning that black people "do things wrong," such as "Black people have poor health because of their diet," but really, our systems cause the problems.

We discussed how the brain works and the difference between implicit and explicit beliefs. We would like to live by well-informed explicit beliefs, but implicit beliefs override explicit ones. Our brains store up information that they see (on television, in the news, etc.) and apply it to people we know nothing about. We did several exercises to examine our implicit biases.

Then we applied this to poverty in the US. The cause of poverty is contentious; some say it is the system's fault, while others say it is the individual's fault. We listed problems with systems (like education, justice); many of us recognized that these problems cause poverty. But when the trainers presented us with a scenario (a rude woman with lots of kids buying a bunch of stuff at Walmart, then using an EBT card) and asked us to answer "Why is she poor?", we had made assumptions about her, like that she is poor because she has too many kids and buys stuff she doesn't need. Lots of money is wasted trying to fix individuals when instead we should fix the broken systems. We talked in more detail about education and how the system is biased against people of color: Many white people fled public schools and took resources with

them. White culture and values are the norm in public school, which disadvantages black students. For example, the curriculum is about white leaders, and Africa is portrayed as uneducated; kids of color lose interest because they are being lied to.

We talked about where the power lies within systems; the power is always outside the black community, even if it is trying to help the community. Two government programs in particular disadvantaged people of color: (1) highway building and (2) housing. We looked at the example of Durham's thriving (but poor) black Hayti community, which the government destroyed by building Hwy 147 through it. There were supposed to be improvements (like better housing), but instead the end result was a ghetto. The money could have been spent to revitalize the neighborhood with input from the community. The government's 1950s-era programs to help people buy homes moved whites only to suburbs, and also took economic development out of cities. This went hand-in-hand with the construction of more highways (with public money). Highways imposed by white governments ruined black communities across the US.

Another example of a solution that did not fix a problem because there was no understanding of the problem was the "ban the box" campaign to allow ex-felons to apply for jobs without stating first thing that they'd been in prison. When not given criminal data, employers were more likely to call back white men, but the racial gap (which already existed) increased because employers assumed that all black-sounding people might have criminal records. So the rule didn't help black ex-felons and hurt other black job seekers.

We learned the origin of the concept of race: In the 1600s, indentured servants from Europe and later Africans were used as a cheap labor force in Virginia, and there were many more servants than land owners. Many servants ran away, and there was ultimately rebellion. The Virginia government began giving harsher sentences to Africans, and then began punishing Europeans who helped Africans. They started using "white" in the 1680s, and white people (with no African or Native American ancestry) had privileges. So, people in power developed race to divide and control the working class.

When the US formed in 1776, the founders had a problem, because slavery clashed with the ideals of democracy. They turned to science, which was at the time classifying animals, and a 1775 scientist who classified humans based on phrenology (a pseudoscience based on skull shape). The Caucasoid race is named for the Caucasus Mountains in western Asia because the people there had the most perfectly proportioned skulls, and therefore that is where the race originated. Mongoloid originated in Mongolia. But Negroid is not based on a location; the Negroid race has no history, culture, or home. By removing them from the family of humanity, they could be left out of democracy.

We looked at over a dozen US policies that advantaged whites. In the 1600s and 1700s, free or cheap land was given to whites via many acts, and ownership by non-whites was not honored. (The one attempt to give "40 acres and a mule" to ex-slaves was overturned.) When the Emancipation Proclamation ended slavery, "convict leasing" was established to provide a cheap labor source; new laws allowed the arbitrary arrest of black people, including offenses such as speaking loudly near a white woman, being unemployed, and walking near RR tracks. (Convict labor is still in practice.) The 1935 Social Security Act excluded domestics and agricultural workers, and therefore $\frac{3}{4}$ of blacks were excluded. The Hill Burton Act to build/fund hospitals spent billions on 10490 projects; only 33 were at black hospitals. The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act made loans to small businesses, but eligibility included a 30-year track record of profit, and black businesses were unlikely in 1979.

The advantage given to whites makes Americans want to be classified as white. What counts as white is applied inconsistently. Courts ruled that Takao Ozawa was not white because he was not Caucasian (regardless of appearance); Asian people were not white. But then, courts ruled that Thind from India was not white even though he was Caucasian because of his appearance. South Asians, Japanese, and Indian-Americans had their land taken, and this land was sold to white farmers.

The 1944 GI Bill gave education, job training, and home ownership to returning soldiers and created the middle class. Blacks were often not able to benefit, however. Only black universities would accept blacks, and there were not enough spaces; in 1946, only 1/5 of blacks who had applied had been registered. Job

training matched the jobs the soldier had had in the military, so whites were pilots and engineers, while blacks were cooks and cleaners and therefore became domestics. Most skilled jobs (86%) went to white vets, while unskilled jobs (92%) went to black vets. Technically housing was available to black vets, but the feds endorsed the use of racially restrictive covenants until 1950. No loans were given that would send blacks into a white neighborhood, the reason given being that this would lower the property value; 98% of federal loans went to whites. The GI Bill affects our generation: there is often enough advantage in white families to pay for college, avoid debt, and provide healthcare for parents, thus benefitting descendants, while in black families, any potential inheritance is spent on these items.

Midway through the second day of the training, we stopped and went around the room to share how we were feeling. Some people were angry at how their government had treated their ancestors or the ancestors of others. Some people felt guilty or ashamed. Many black participants resented what they saw as the additional burden of keeping whites comfortable and educating them about racism. Some people admonished others for the idea that “we have to fix things” because there is not a quick fix.

I felt guilty for not immediately accepting everything I had heard. But I recognized that I am often skeptical when I learn new things. I want to be open-minded but not brainwashed. I appreciated the items that had documentation behind them and wanted to look up other items to find such proof. I was interested in exploring the defensiveness I felt about some of what I had heard, because understanding it might help me approach others without making them defensive. For example, I felt defensive when someone said my success is due to white privilege. I realized that what upset me was the implication that my hard work had not contributed; really, both privilege and hard work contributed to my success.

I felt sad because I wanted to share what I had learned but felt scared that talking about it would make me lose friends/family. I recognized that learning the truth is upsetting, and some people don't want to be upset and therefore will avoid the truth.

We discussed what to do next. Some people were very frustrated that there was no checklist of items to pursue. The trainers said that seeking such a list is an attempt to be made comfortable. If you really understand the situation, you will know what to do. They showed a wheel of activity that cycles from gaining awareness to gathering information, analyzing it, planning, taking action, evaluating, and then gaining more awareness.

The white people in the room answered the question, What do I like about being white? The answers were all about advantage, such as “I don't worry about harassment by police.” Then, the people of color answered the question. The answers were about the culture of their race: history, food, music. The white people all wished to change their answers; they saw their list as “boring,” but the items on the list seemed great to the people of color. The only problem with the white list is that not all people have it. Everyone can have the items on the white list without anyone losing anything.

White culture demands that people let go of their ethnic identity and assimilate. The Italian, Irish, and Jewish communities were the most recent groups to be considered white. When the white population needs more people to stay in power, and the group size becomes more important than having a cheap labor source labor, new groups of people are added to “white.” Who's next? Probably “white Hispanic” as more and more Latinos come to the US. No person does this; racism operates on its own. White people don't have to try to get others to acclimate; other races want the good stuff associated with being white.

There was additional discussion about how people internalize racism and deal with it. Representatives from OAR NC told us about further opportunities. There are race-based groups that meet monthly. They are intended as a safe space for conversations and support. Participants can also re-attend REI trainings to listen in.

Since taking the training, I have noticed some changes in myself. I used to try not to see color when I met a person, but now I know it is important to recognize that a person's skin color might affect his or her situation. Skin color also might affect my reaction to the person because of implicit bias. So, when I encounter a person, it is like time slows a tiny bit and I examine any prejudices I might have. I also now notice things I

can get away with because I am white, like walking on the (closed) Riverwalk at night without fear of the police. I wish that everyone in America would have this training. To me, the most hopeful statement was that everyone could have the list of “white advantages” without anyone losing anything.

TIPS for Writing a Letter to the Editor (LTE) or Editorial (OpEd)

Reasons for Writing

The Editorial section of the newspaper is one of the most widely read parts of a newspaper. Letters can raise awareness of issues, change opinions and outlooks, influence public policy, energize supporters, and mobilize action.

Letters are often printed within a day or two of receiving them making them one of the most effective actions when trying to respond quickly to an issue, event, or public opinion.

Letters reach three audiences:

- a. **Editors.** Whether the LTE is published or not, everything submitted influences them about what people are concerned about.
- b. **Legislators and other government officials.** They and their aides read the papers because they know where the writers are from, unlike social media.
- c. **The wider public.** Newspapers are as close as the peace and other movements get to mainstream thinking and to a broader, wide-spectrum of readers.

Letters send a message to unsupportive lawmakers that their constituents care passionately about an issue and will hold them accountable OR to supportive lawmakers that voters will have their backs when they take a lead on controversial positions.

Choose a TOPIC

Follow your energy and passion. Write on what you care about most.

Be timely and use a hook or peg. Mention something that appeared very recently in the paper. Cite the title and author if possible. Alternately, relate your LTE to an upcoming holiday or anniversary.

Engage the reader. Don't be afraid to address controversial topics. Newspapers might welcome the chance to publish your viewpoint, because it can be voiced through you without their appearing to endorse it and possibly be accused of bias.

Stay focused. Write on a single issue and one or two reasons to support your point.

EDIT Carefully

Be original. Don't plagiarize. Borrow ideas, but not precise language unless quoted with a citation.

Cite a source, statistic, or respected public figure if it strengthens your point. If space is limited, send your source as an accompanying Editor's Note.

Use simple language, not academic or “high-falutin.” Picture the folks next door and appeal to their concerns. What can you say that might make them more open to hear your point of view?

Use parentheses and quotations sparingly.

Use a moderate tone but don't be afraid to use powerful language, especially with strong verbs and descriptive nouns. Let your feelings be known, but avoid being shrill, belligerent, or sarcastic. Write short, punchy sentences. Vary their length. Use paragraphs plentifully.

Make sure your LTE is well written and free from errors. Get feedback from others. Ask a trusted friend to edit it. We simply cannot see our own typos or recognize when we haven't made our point clearly.

PERSONALIZE

Speak from personal experience, if possible. How does the issue affect you, your group, or your community?

Be strategic to broaden your impact. If there's a policy angle, mention an elected official(s). This will trigger Internet alerts that will be seen by their staff. (Google Alerts)

Make a call to action. End your letter with a specific recommendation to contact your local legislator or community member.

Always include your full name, home address, and a phone number where you can be reached during business hours. Also include a title or affiliation if that's relevant.

CONTACT with your Newspaper

Check the publication's web site and observe their word limit and deadlines. Research topics the paper highlights in its "Our Views" section, but do not let this restrict what you write about.

Send your LTE in the publication's preferred format, usually filling out a form on their web site or emailing to a contact. Most don't accept e-mail attachments.

If you don't hear from the paper within five days, resend in an email with a note to the editor. You can ask whether it was received and whether they plan to publish it. This calls attention to your letter. Consider sending a revised version.

NOTE: Don't be disheartened if your LTE does not appear. Every letter – published or not – heightens the editor's sensitivity to the issue.

Get Support

Form a letter-writing support group or pair up with another person. Meet regularly in person.

Set goals, for example one letter each month.

Share ideas, information, sample articles, internet sites, or anything else that might inform or spark creativity.

Support each other, offer assistance, lend expertise, give feedback, copy-edit and proofread, boost morale, send congratulations and encouragement, share final letters with other friends.

From Writing Dissent: Taking radical ideas from the margins to the mainstream.

Robert Jensen. Peter Lang, New York. 2005

Some Definitions and the Layout of the Editorial Section of a Newspaper

1. Most daily newspapers have two pages for opinion writing, most often called the editorial page and the OpEd page.
2. Typically the editorial page contains several short, unsigned pieces that are presented as the institutional voice of the paper. These are what journalists call an editorial. This page usually also contains an editorial cartoon and letters to the editor—the responses from readers to articles in the paper (usually no more than 200 words).

3. “OpEd” stands for “*opposite the editorial page*” and is used to describe the opinion pieces that are on the page facing the newspaper’s editorials.
4. Three general types of articles run on the OpEd page: syndicated columns, signed columns by newspaper staff members, and pieces by people outside the newspaper. Those pieces that come from syndicated and staff writers are commonly referred to as “columns,” while the pieces by nonstaff are usually call “OpEds,” which run from 400 to 800 words.

General Practices

5. Most editors feel an obligation to run critiques of stories that have appeared in their paper, though they won’t (and can’t because of space limitations) run every letter they get.
6. Most editors make good-faith attempts to produce a page with some diversity of opinion.
7. Editors also like controversial pieces that stir up readers and generate letters to the editor.
8. But getting your letter published is not the only measure of success; often a deluge of letters will force editors to publish a representative sample, and your unpublished letter could be part of that a critical mass.
9. Most papers won’t accept a letter on behalf of a group; an individual has to sign it.

Some Suggestions

10. Don’t try to accomplish too much in one piece.
11. Learn to be merciless in editing yourself, in cutting unnecessary words and phrases. An effective OpEd is not so much a product of writing but of rewriting and editing.
12. Make editors understand that your views—no matter how radical—are not flaky and idiosyncratic, but represent a constituency. Avoid phrases that will be seen as left-wing clichés. Editors are turned off by anything that smacks of ideological fanaticism.

News Hooks or Pegs that Help a Submission Get Printed

13. Commentary on an event or issue

- Must be timely and distinctive.
- An issue can be a couple of days old—sometimes even a couple of weeks old—and still be relevant. And some ongoing stories provide multiple opportunities for submission.
- Plus, editors are looking for pieces from local writers that don’t say exactly the same thing as what they have read on the wires.

14. Responding to conventional wisdom (they’ve got it all wrong)

- Confront conventional wisdom head on, arguing that the taken-as-obvious points are not only wrong but based on untenable assumptions—wrong all the way down. Example: If we really want to *Support the Troops*, well then stay out of war. Use diplomacy instead.
- One of the reasons mainstream media has such a powerful influence over what we think is that certain core ideas are repeated over and over, a drumbeat of conventional wisdom.
- U.S. citizens must begin to understand that our government’s actions in the international arena cannot be assumed to be just and moral, but must constantly be examined and challenged. That’s the task of people of conscience who live in an empire.

15. Piggybacking on the news

- Sometimes a news story can be used as a springboard for a submission that isn’t directly concerned with the news item itself and allows a deeper critique. Because editors feel safer with a piece that plays off something current, it’s always good to keep an eye open for that kind of opportunity.

- Example: “On speaking of missile defense research, the program does what it was designed to do: transfer money from the pockets of taxpayers to corporations. What matters to decision-makers is the flow of public subsidies for high-tech industries, always one of the key functions of the Pentagon budget. But while we dump billions into such plans year after year, remember what is going underfunded or unfunded: quality education for all students, child care, national health insurance and a host of other social programs that could actually benefit the people of this country and serve the national interest.

16. Anniversaries and holidays

- One of the easiest news hooks for an LTE or OpEd is an anniversary. And these dates are predictable.
- Our U.S. culture in general seems to like the opportunity to look back, and journalists especially find them irresistible.
- Once the country’s mistakes are safely in the past, our culture can sometimes acknowledge them. Tease out the lessons in history that should be applied today.

17. Getting personal

- Telling stories, especially personal stories, can be effective in a way that straightforward arguments are not. They can crystallize a political point and convey more than traditional arguments.
- However, pieces that lean too heavily on sentiment also can be dangerous. Che Guevaras: “the true revolutionary is guided by great feelings of love.”

18. Counter-offensives

- One opportunity to inject radical opinions into the mainstream comes when local organizing is covered, or miscovered, by the local paper. These problems can be remedied by a correction written by the paper, or a letter to the editor from the activist.
- But if a paper makes egregious errors in reporting or in editorials, and especially if it makes them consistently over time, activists can sometimes argue that out of fairness we deserve OpEd space to respond.
- Remember, the failure to get space to respond at one point in time doesn’t mean the effort was wasted. Often it is the cumulative pressure that brings the desired results somewhere down the road.

Chapel Hill Friends Care and Counsel Committee Annual Report - 2017

- The Care and Counsel Committee serves the Meeting by overseeing the pastoral care of each member and attender of the Meeting, and is concerned with each one's overall wellbeing. In doing this work we are dependent on requests from those in need, as well as from other members who may know of such need. The committee is always mindful of the necessity of privacy and confidentiality.

Members of the committee have participated in numerous clearness, support and membership committees this year, some of which are ongoing. Other committees were formed at the request of members and attenders. These may be convened to help individuals in discerning clarity and direction around life transitions, or to offer spiritual and emotional support in a variety of situations.

- Care and Counsel coordinated an event in February to welcome the very young Dylan Barker to our community as a new member of the family of Andrew Barker, Alex Barker, and Hart Pillow. In May we coordinated a Celebration of Life for Richard Webber. The committee also supported Ed Brown's family in placing his ashes in the Memorial Garden in May, next to those of Nicky Brown. A member

of Care and Counsel is part of the Meeting's Archives Committee, to ensure that life transitions are documented.

- As part of its concern to help members and attenders plan for times when they will not be able to make decisions on their own behalf, Care and Counsel hosted an information session with attorney Judy Whisnant in March on advance planning for legal and financial arrangements.
- The committee sponsored a Meeting for Healing in September to hold in prayer our concerns for those experiencing illness and loss. We also support the work of other committees, such as the Transition Committee for Returning Citizens and the Mental Health Support Group.
- Care and Counsel works to maintain connections with those who seem to have fallen out of touch with the Meeting. With the Publications and Records committee, we contact members who may wish to be listed in the Directory even though they do not currently attend Meeting for Worship. The committee also oversees a fund by which we can assist individuals in the Meeting community financially when compelling needs arise.
- During 2017, Kitty Bergel completed her term of service to the committee, and we appreciate her contributions. We have been grateful to welcome new members Pat Mann and returning member Tom Munk, who are already valuable contributors to our work. We appreciate the support and wisdom of our current Meeting Clerk, Matt Drake. Other Care and Counsel Committee members for this year are Ann Miller, Bonnie Raphael, Eloise Graethwohl, Jasmine McKewen, Jeff Brown, Jennifer Leeman, Tom Ludlow, and Deborah Gibbs, Clerk.

Trustee report Carolina Friends School 2017

- Carolina Friends School remains a strong and vibrant school. In 2017, the Board has strengthened its commitment to engage in the wider local community in promoting itself as a Quaker school. During the search for a new Head of School, we were reminded by national organizations of the school's reputation for being a leader in Quaker education. The school benefits greatly from the dedication of staff with Quaker roots to the inception of starting the second racially integrated school in the south.
- The new head of school, Karen Cumberbatch, has 25 years of administrative and teaching experience in Quaker. The Board of Trustees, with the assistance of Quakers from Chapel Hill Friends Meeting and Durham Friends Meeting (at the request of all Board members), is increasing the use of Quaker practices in its Board meetings. Education on clerking meetings will be offered to all Board members.
- This fall a new tuition-range model was introduced. In the roll-out to the school community, the Board determined it will be fully implemented next year. At CFS, valuing diversity, including socio-economic diversity, is a central principle of our mission. Under the current tuition structure at CFS, tuition covers only 86% of the total cost of educating our children. In the interest of supporting socioeconomic diversity, we have worked over the past four years to develop a tuition model to nurture the goal of creating access and affordability in a sustainable way for our School.
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- **The new tuition-range model**
- As usual, each unit will post its distinct tuition, but it will now be presented as a range. Families who wish to be considered for a tuition level below the top of the range will submit financial information through our existing tuition management and assistance system, TADS. In the assessment of our families' needs, the focus no longer will be on what tuition assistance might be awarded but rather what each family will contribute. The formula for creating the range was based on market research on growth trends, costs of providing a high quality CFS education, and the history of previous tuition increases. We
- will continue to seek revenue streams in addition to tuition that support an affordable tuition for all families.

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- Why are we moving to this model?
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- • To strengthen our applicant pool, as more families with diverse incomes will be able to consider CFS
- • To offer a tuition model consistent with the values of our community
- • To enhance opportunity to intentionally increase economic diversity across units of the school
- • To align our tuition model with the values and practices of a next generation of families who might be a great fit with CFS but cannot afford full tuition and prefer to avoid association with financial aid
- • To provide adequate revenue to pursue access/affordability
- • To exercise leadership among other independent schools in the region by implementing a tuition model to further our mission aligned goals
-
- How will this affect families?
-
- • We will be better served to meet the need of current families
- • Providing a broader range of experiences and perspectives from our families will further enrich our growth as a community and enhance the opportunities for learners in the classroom
- • Some families who have not previously received tuition assistance may be eligible for a tuition that is more affordable, and could benefit from filing financial information through TADS for consideration
-
- **Highlights of the Year**
-
- 1. Board members' (100%) have agreed to participate in "Organizing Against Racism" racial equality workshops
- 2. Upper School (US) spring class trip to Wash. D.C. to lobby NC senators and representatives about health care reform
- 3. The School's in-house workshops and classes to educate staff and students about internet safety
- 4. The Lower School (LS) staff's study of the value of homework for young students. Their study found lots of opinions but that very little real research has been conducted. They discussed their own observations and other information they had collected. They decided to reduce homework assignments and to expand learning efforts within the classroom for LS students.
- 5. The US service project at the start of the school year where the freshman class spends several days at migrant worker camps in Newton Grove, NC. Students worked in the fields, the Head Start Program and in Thrift Stores.
- 6. The CFS summer program where over 1,000 students participate in X adult-led workshops throughout the summer. On average CFS students make up 1/3rd of the workshop participants; the other participants come from throughout the community. Older students can participate in a counselor-in-training program.
-
- Sincerely, Buffie Webber Trustee Carolina Friends School

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
Budget v. Actuals
July through December 2017

	Jul - Dec 17	Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Building Rental	679.00	300.00	226.3%
Contributions	41,617.00	70,600.00	58.9%
Parking :space rental	6,058.50	5,100.00	118.8%
Total Income	48,354.50	76,000.00	63.6%
Gross Profit	48,354.50	76,000.00	63.6%
Expense			
Benevolences			
Archives Benevolences	0.00	150.00	0.0%
M&W Benevolences	0.00	1,400.00	0.0%
P&J Benevolences	0.00	24,420.00	0.0%
Total Benevolences	0.00	25,970.00	0.0%
Committees			
Adult Religious Ed	0.00	100.00	0.0%
Archives	0.00	100.00	0.0%
Building and Grounds	4,824.36	11,000.00	43.8%
Care and Counsel			
Meeting for Suffering	0.00	110.00	0.0%
Care and Counsel - Other	0.00	200.00	0.0%
Total Care and Counsel	0.00	310.00	0.0%
Children's/Youth Religious Ed			
Southern Appl. Young Friends	600.00	0.00	100.0%
Children's/Youth Religious Ed - Other	136.41	2,500.00	5.5%
Total Children's/Youth Religious Ed	736.41	2,500.00	29.5%
Finance			
Contingency Fund	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
Finance - Other	59.69	350.00	17.1%
Total Finance	59.69	1,350.00	4.4%
Friends Transition & Suppt-Yoke	926.06	1,700.00	54.5%
Hospitality	174.79	300.00	58.3%
IFC	0.00	200.00	0.0%
Library	48.00	400.00	12.0%
Ministry and Worship	198.35	800.00	24.8%
Nominations	0.00	10.00	0.0%
Peace and Justice			
National Quaker Service	974.10	2,000.00	48.7%
Peace and Justice - Other	0.00	300.00	0.0%
Total Peace and Justice	974.10	2,300.00	42.4%
Publications and Communications	310.67	1,750.00	17.8%
Total Committees	8,253.73	22,820.00	36.2%
Obligations			
Bank Fee	0.00	50.00	0.0%
FDS Coordinator/Childcare	2,955.22	6,000.00	49.3%
Insurance	350.00	5,400.00	6.5%
Software License Fee	348.50	860.00	40.5%
UBIT, Storm Fees	674.55	1,100.00	61.3%
Utilities	1,489.81	6,000.00	24.8%
Total Obligations	5,818.08	19,410.00	30.0%
Transfers to other accounts			
Care and Counsel	0.00	500.00	0.0%
Leadership Development	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
 Budget v. Actuals
 July through December 2017

	Jul - Dec 17	Budget	% of Budget
Physical Plant Fund	0.00	4,600.00	0.0%
Returning Citizens	0.00	500.00	0.0%
Youth Service Trip	0.00	800.00	0.0%
Total Transfers to other accounts	0.00	7,800.00	0.0%
Total Expense	14,071.81	76,000.00	18.5%
Net Ordinary Income	34,282.69	0.00	100.0%
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
Misc Income			
Building Renovation Donation	29,900.00		
Interest Income	17.27	0.00	100.0%
Misc Income - Other	916.33	0.00	100.0%
Total Misc Income	30,833.60	0.00	100.0%
Total Other Income	30,833.60	0.00	100.0%
Other Expense			
Building Renovation	171,631.20		
Refugee Project Expenses	1,028.00		
Returning Citizens	714.92	0.00	100.0%
Shotts Leadership	240.00	0.00	100.0%
Total Other Expense	173,614.12	0.00	100.0%
Net Other Income	-142,780.52	0.00	100.0%
Net Income	-108,497.83	0.00	100.0%

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2017

	Dec 31, 17
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
BB&T-2699 Community Checking	62,894.41
BB&T-3430 Refac (Return Citz)	1,161.29
BB&T-3597 Youth Service Trip	1,515.29
BB&T-4039 Building Renovat Fund	80,107.07
BB&T-4071 Care and Counsel	2,128.93
BB&T-4593 Shotts Leadership	2,962.81
BB&T-4085 Refugee Fund	1,128.11
BB&T-9737 Money Rate Savings	18,926.23
Friends Fiduciary	
Bequest Fund	1,367.41
General Fund	15,960.23
Physical Plant Reserve Fund	19,191.40
Shotts Endowment	33,884.98
Total Friends Fiduciary	70,404.02
Total Checking/Savings	241,228.16
Total Current Assets	241,228.16
TOTAL ASSETS	241,228.16
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	899.26
Total Other Current Liabilities	899.26
Total Current Liabilities	899.26
Total Liabilities	899.26
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	134,376.03
Unrestricted Net Assets	214,450.70
Net Income	-108,497.83
Total Equity	240,328.90
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	241,228.16

Jan Hutton's letter nominating Claire Bates

Why Nominated: Claire Bates, a member of the Ann Arbor (MI) Friends Meeting, contacted the Chapel Hill (NC) Friends Meeting, early 2015, about sojourning as she prepared to attend the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Claire has since completed a community-focused Master of Social Work and a Graduate Certificate in International Peace and Conflict Resolution. As Claire's initial Meeting contact person, I've been fortunate that our paths continually intersected during her sojourn.

I clerk a Meeting Committee which financially supports our members/attenders in their growth as leaders, and Quakers. Claire requested travel funding to attend a Ben Lomond Quaker Center (CA) workshop regarding the applicability of the Friends tradition to working on social change today. I was particularly taken with a line from her application, "I'm learning and internalizing the Quaker way of pursuing change, and this retreat will help me conceptualize my course of life related to social change." We funded her request. When Claire returned, we met for tea and continued connection by email and at worship. Whenever we connected, it seemed Claire was always living in a different place! When asked, Claire explained that peacework is the ONLY work she does.

To live into and nurture her vision, Claire has gone into educational debt for the MSW degree, including four unpaid internships over two years, and is choosing to live in simplicity to continue this work. I am very

moved by this 30-year-old Friend's living dedication to a vision of bringing people together to address the planet's wounds.

Grant Benefit: Claire trains others in NVC (Nonviolent Communication), and is offering several NVC workshops in our Meeting. Learning about her offer became a crucible for my deeper understanding of her long-term vision of actionable peacemaking. Wow! She created a timeline for research, collaboration, and action for approximately the next year, most of which is unpaid work. Claire envisions a program connecting those affected by warfare (e.g., refugees, military members, community members) to hear one another and collaborate for change, slowly impacting U.S. militarism and international warfare - heart by heart. She proposes to develop a dialogue framework based on: 1) NVC - so people can express painful experiences and be heard by groups in impactful ways, 2) Paulo Freire's organizing approach, teaching that experiential knowledge of people in impacted groups is the richest resource in the room and shapes a way forward; person-centered and experiential from the get-go.

Claire's 2018 plans include: moving to CA to learn alongside a trainer facilitating similar NVC-informed dialogues related to systemic racism; focused reading and study; relevant interviews; piloting groups in line with her vision. Claire lives simply. In peace-focused work, she has relied upon donation baskets, accepted honorariums, or worked with organizations to find amounts that feel fair to them. A Pickett grant would help Claire meet her needs for health insurance, food, gas, and living while doing this research and creating a workable format. This would allow her to focus on her vision as she continues to learn and pioneer in peacemaking. •

Report on Quaker House to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, 21st of First Month, with subsequent revisions on 24th

This past year was one of transition for Quaker House; some new and some ongoing. Co-directors Steve and Lynn Newsom retired at the end of August 2017, and, after an extensive search, we hired a new director, Kindra Bradley. She grew up in an army family, moved to different bases across the country and in Germany, and eventually became disillusioned with war. She has a sharp mind, a compassionate heart, and brings skills in social media. Among other jobs, she had been a firefighter and is an attorney. After five months, the board remains delighted with its decision to hire her.

The other major transition that we all experienced was in the Executive Branch and the White House. Globally, if not nationally, we seem to have become a country that has forgotten our democracy, our sense of inclusiveness, our dedication to diplomacy, and our kindness and compassion. Rather, the systematic lurch from all parts of the administration reflect a new personality characterized by self-centeredness, arrogance, hate, intolerance, dishonesty, distrust, violence, and unbridled capitalism. Our president and his administration are eager to take the fight to any nation that is not white, use "limited" nuclear weapons, and delegate free-reign to his commanding generals. In his first year in office, our president increased the military budget, sent troops into Syria, fueled Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen, seeks to void the Iranian Nuclear Deal, threatens N. Korea with war, increased troops in Afghanistan and elsewhere, authorized more deadly drone strikes killing more civilians, and has dispatched Special Operations forces to 149 countries (Washington Post, 1/16/18). Our wars have become more secret, lethal, widespread, and endless, yet the public seems more apathetic, uniformed, and complicit, and unfortunately that includes Quakers. American exceptionalism, unbridled nationalism, and greed are pushing us to be economic isolationists and military bullies.

This means the work of Quaker House becomes even more essential. These changes are not a surprise. They are part of a long transition of this nation's expanded militarism, its gradual and intentional strategy to hide the full impact of militarism from the public, and a continual denial of the increased devastation that combat training, deployment, and killing has on our service members and their families. It increases the need for Quaker House to fill both its pastoral reach to service members and their families who suffer the invisible wounds of war (PTSD, Moral Injury, and Traumatic Brain Injury) and its prophetic mission to stand

against war and promote a testimony of peace. This report will highlight only a few of Quaker House's many endeavors.

G.I. Rights Hotline: For 2017, our hotline counselors averaged 300 calls per month. Some are one time calls and do not last long. Others, particularly on conscientious objection or wading through complex military regulations, take much longer. Most fall under three categories: involuntary discharge, conscientious objection, and AWOL (Absent without Leave).

Some service members, even those who have been in the military for 10-20 years, suffer from the invisible wounds of war and are being "**involuntarily discharged,**" or forced out, with a less-than-honorable classification. This discharge disqualifies them from receiving the full health insurance coverage or medical services that they require and were promised. Our counselors reported a specific example. "A recent caller is currently in the middle of fighting for disability evaluation while being threatened with a disciplinary action for not attending medical appointments. Out of over 126 appointments, this airman missed two, while suffering from multiple head injuries and an undiagnosed TBI. Among the now recognized symptoms of his TBI are confusion, and memory and concentration issues—meaning the illness limits a person's ability to remember and attend medical appointments—hardly something he should be punished for. The family has been paying out of pocket for his expensive medical care with a civilian doctor because the military doctor continues to ignore and downplay his symptoms. They have depleted their savings and are now relying on friends for help paying for their son's care. When he was recently seen by a civilian TBI expert (at the family's expense), that doctor told him he needed to get to an epidemiologist "immediately." In six weeks, this airman completes his military contract, which gives us not much time to fight for a disability evaluation and to try to get the Air Force to take responsibility for his medical care."

The myth that the military never leaves fellow soldiers on the battlefield breaks down when they return home, display the invisible wounds of war, and need desperately needed help and support. The long-term obligations are ignored. The financial cost to the military is just too much, and the service member is no longer of any use to the military.

Conscientious objection cases continue to be the most rewarding though most time intensive for our Hotline counselors. These service members—some are officers, some have been deployed, some repeatedly, and some simply could not conform to the training—go through a transformation or spiritual re-awakening to stand against war and killing. Writing from their hearts, these service members experience for the first time the impact they have had on the world and the effect that military actions have had on their own lives.

During this long and strenuous period of maneuvering through the regulations, delays, and layers of personnel who evaluate them, everyone else on base, obviously pro-war, make life very difficult for this person. One Special Operation soldier, who Quaker House helped get a CO, received multiple threats for his life and did not stay at base the days before his discharge took effect. Quaker House took him in. For the many others applying for CO, the hotline counselors are the only people who support these service members through this long and tedious ordeal. Often, our Hotline counselors are the only people who are saying to them they are "normal" for having an aversion to kill.

December and January have especially high call volume for **AWOL** cases (Absent Without Leave). Many recruits return home for vacation after completing basic training and realize the military is not for them, and they won't go back. The Hotline counselors help these service members maneuver through regulations and get administrative discharges minimizing other severe consequences.

The Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Moral Injury Program: In roughly four years, this program has seen 60 clients for varying amounts of time logging 1860 counseling hours. Our part-time social work counselor attends behavioral health conferences and meetings and represents Quaker House at both Fayetteville community and Ft. Bragg base events. She takes referrals from our G.I. Rights Hotline counselors for psychological evaluations that facilitate improved mental health services and discharge upgrades that help service members receive their essential medications to treat their PTSD, moral injury, or

TBI. This program saves lives, prevents suicides and aggravated assaults, and puts women back on a road to recovery.

Many of her cases involve sexual assault, especially by a commander or co-worker when reporting the incident only increases its traumatic ramifications. Ordinary civilian rules for confidentiality, investigation, and protection for the victim do not apply in the military. Too often these women (though sometimes men) must continue working in the same situation with the same perpetrator who may be shielded under layers of command.

Some of her most recent cases:

- Referred by Ft. Bragg through its employee assistance program, is a veteran, now civilian employee for Ft. Bragg. She experienced a MST (military sexual trauma) by one of her supervisors while serving and has recently started demonstrating signs of PTSD after an unexpected encounter with her attacker at a social function on Ft. Bragg.
- Referred by GI Rights Hotline to get mental health evaluation, has attempted suicide twice in the past year, hospitalized three times. Received counseling from Quaker House but counselor is having trouble maintaining contact with him when he is hospitalized in military facilities.
- Ex-spouse of veteran, has no insurance, was in new relationship and wanted to ensure he was not abusive.
- Referred by a current client, she suffered from 20+ years of emotional and physical abuse from her active duty husband; now separated and trying to heal from their abusive relationship.

Our Executive Director: Kindra continues to attend Fayetteville community and Ft. Bragg base behavioral health meetings and conferences, as well as Quaker yearly and monthly meetings. She has upgraded Quaker House presence on social media, including the posting of information and seeking donations. She attended the Bowe Bergdahl hearings and his sentencing, work that Lynn and Steve began. Bowe was the soldier who left his post in Afghanistan to walk to another base, report the lax operation of this base, was captured and severely tortured for several years by the Taliban, and eventually was released through the efforts of President Obama. Bowe became a lightning rod for political pundits who aggressively misrepresented and condemned his behavior and Obama's efforts to gain his release. See Kindra's excellent blog reports on the www.Quakerhouse.org site.

Kindra also found a location for *This Evil Thing*, a play about a British World War I conscientious objection which is touring the East Coast. It will be held at Guilford College on March 16. Kindra also continues all the rest of the programs and administrative work done by Steve and Lynn.

Finance and Support: Quaker House funding continues to stay afloat despite the loss of donations from a major donor who passed away, others who continue to "age out," and increased costs in health insurance for our staff, whose pay is modest to begin with. We also had some unexpected costs: the office computer crashed in December, major renovations need to be done to the kitchen floor has suffered long-term water damage, and the website needs revamping. Also in December, the website lost its ability to process online donations. The previous consultants who set up and host the website have been completely unresponsive yet hold domain names and server access. We need to find a different host and platform to have the ability and control to revise the site and make improvements. Yet, despite these funding challenges, our donor base is very loyal, we expanded our fundraising efforts, and we recently received a large donation that helped us recoup some shortfalls. To stay above the water, we continue to rely on donations from individuals and meetings.

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting is a founding member of Quaker House. It is where the idea, almost 50 years ago was conceived. We are grateful for the support of CHF, its members, and its attenders who support Quaker House both financially and through their volunteer service. Several people who are not on the Quaker House board have advised in grant granting, fundraising expertise, and writing. It should be noted in particular: **Quaker House provides services at no-charge and often to people who have nowhere else to turn. It is only because of you, our donors, that we can do this. You are literally saving lives.**

In closing, a recent strategic planning exercise of the Quaker House board and staff culminated with a renewed vision statement and summary of goals to move forward:

A Vision of Quaker House 2018

The vision of Quaker House is to be a Quaker witness and testimony of peace in Fayetteville and throughout the country. We are a resource and refuge for service members who have had a transformation of heart and are led to seek conscientious objection or other discharge, who have had their rights as military members ignored or denied, or who have been affected by the hidden wounds of war (Moral Injury, PTSD, Domestic Violence, TBI, wrongful discharge, or unjust incarceration). We educate the public about these hidden costs of war, shining a light on the human destruction and futility of war and striving for a peaceable kingdom for all. We will always speak against war and its many consequences particularly as it evolves in a changing world and becomes more secret, mechanized, lethal, widespread, and seemingly endless. As a successful witness for peace over almost 50 years, we seek to expand our impact, programmatically and geographically, collaborate with other peace-minded organizations, and serve as a model for satellite programs throughout the nation.

Summary of Goals

1. Continue what we're doing with our programs, always striving to improve and expand.
2. Get the word out, in every way we can, about what we're doing and why.
3. Expand and increase our donor base; go beyond Quakers and "old-timers."
4. Continue being a more effective board; participate through committees, overcome distances.
5. Speak truth to power (and apathy, ignorance, blind nationalism, and American exceptionalism).
6. Act according to "as way opens" with spirit-led discernment, faith, and courage.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Miller, Karen Porter, and Curt Torell, CFHM Quaker House board representatives

Quaker House Workshop on Conscientious Objection at PFF Retreat

Quaker House will present a workshop to PFF on Saturday, March 31, 11:00 to 12:15 to address this important topic. The description is:

Selective Service registration, conscientious objection claims, and the Quaker peace testimony continue to be largely hidden and neglected in our national discourse. Despite our government's attempt to make this difficult, this workshop will help **teens, adults, and meetings** be better informed and inspired to think about, nurture, articulate, and document a claim for conscientious objection when our teens, both men and women, turn 18 years old. The workshop will give plenty of handouts for in-depth reference as well as a panel of teens to react and contribute to this narrative.

UNC/Duke Animal Law Symposium, March 3, by Karen Porter

I attended this excellent symposium last year, but I have a conflict and cannot go this year. I strongly urge the animal rights activists at our meeting to attend. Robin Harper tells me she plans to go, so other folks might coordinate with her. One great aspect of this symposium is that it has a broad spectrum of participants - not just lawyers - activists, farm and veterinary staff, legislators, etc. You can meet some really interesting people from different walks of life who are all convening for one purpose, animal rights. Specifics:

The Duke University School of Law and UNC School of Law's Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF) chapters are proud to partner together this year to host the annual Animal Law Symposium on Saturday, March 3, 2018. The symposium will be held at Duke Law. Join us for a discussion on the social justice issues surrounding the hog-farming crisis in North Carolina, a legislative update from Humane Society of the U.S., an Animal Legal Defense Fund update, and more.

The symposium features speakers from the Humane Society of U.S., the Animal Legal Defense Fund, New York University School of Law and the “McLibel” case. Vegan breakfast, coffee and lunch will be provided to attendees.

The event is free, but registration is required. Please register for the event at: events.law.unc.edu

If, after the event, any of you who are non-lawyers need to talk about any legalisms or technicalities, I'd be happy to meet with you. However, I think you will find that speakers will be happy to answer all your questions. I think this symposium is a unique and invaluable opportunity.

—Karen Porter

**Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Agenda for the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
9:00 AM, January 21, 2018 . . . Matt Drake, Clerk, and Jennifer Leeman, Recording Clerk**

1. Opening worship and query – Matt Drake, Meeting Clerk. Query: “Do I faithfully attend Meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship?”

2. Welcome, recognition of first time attenders, review of agenda – Matt

3. Minutes of the December 17, 2017 MWAB – Jennifer Leeman, Recording Clerk. *Consider.* **Any additions or corrections? Do we approve the December 17, 2017 minutes?**

4. Matt Drake: in December we discussed terms for the Meeting’s “officers.” My errors in the presentation of the proposed years of the terms caused some confusion. To confirm that we have clarity, here are the correct years. Meeting Clerk - Matt Drake: July 2016 through June 2019; Recording Clerk – Jennifer Leeman: July 2016 through June 2019; Treasurer – Maura Murphy: July 2014 through June 2021; Recorder – Carolyn White: July 2016 through June 2019; Correspondence Clerk – Emilie Condon: July 2014 through June 2018. *Consider.* **Do we approve the proposed terms and years for the Meeting Clerk, Recording Clerk, Treasurer, Recorder, and Correspondence Clerk?**

5. Jan Hutton: Claire Bates has been nominated for a 2018 Clarence and Lilly Picket Endowment for Quaker Leadership Award which could provide partial funding for her research, training, and voluntary service plans for 2018: developing a dialogue practice for connecting refugees, veterans, and community members toward collaboration in peace activism. The Endowment asks “. . . that applicants seek support of their Quaker meeting/church for their project in order to provide a base of spiritual and administrative oversight.” *Consider.* **Do we support Claire Bates’ project and agree to provide the spiritual and administrative oversight requested by the 2018 Clarence and Lilly Picket Endowment for Quaker Leadership Award?** (February 15, 2018 application deadline)

6. David Curtin, Naming Committee member: the committee recommends Leslie Rountree and Carolyn White to join the Nominations Committee. *Consider.* **Do we approve appointing Leslie Rountree and Carolyn White to the Nominations Committee?**

7. Deborah Gibbs, Clerk, Care and Counsel Committee: annual report. Q & A. **Do we accept the C&C Committee annual report?**

8. Dottie Heninger, Co-clerk, Nominations Committee: Nominations recommends Montese Snyder and Tim Fogarty to join the Transition and Support Committee. *Consider.* **Approve appointing Montese Snyder and Tim Fogarty to the Transition and Support Committee?**

Nominations Committee asks committee clerks to review their committee membership and report any vacancies for the coming year to Nominations by February 14, 2018.

9. Buffie Webber, one of the Meeting's appointees to the Carolina Friends School Board of Trustees: the CFS annual report. Q & A. **Accept the annual report from our appointees to the Carolina Friends School Board of Trustees?**
10. Curt Torell, one of the Meeting appointees to the Quaker House Board of Directors: Annual Report. Q & A. **Accept Annual Report from appointees to the Quaker House Board?**
11. Finn James, letter of conscientious objection. *Consider.* **Approve Finn James' letter of conscientious objection?**
12. Matt Drake: report and recommendations concerning Meeting trustees. See Appendix. *Consider.* **Do we approve the ten recommendations regarding Meeting trustees?**
13. Hank Elkins, Peace and Justice Committee member, update regarding Justice United activities and opportunities for participation.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Forums, Carolyn White:

Jan 28, 2018: **2017-18 Benevolences Proposal. A Listening.** Led by Tom Munk and members of the Peace and Justice Committee. P&J will present a review of the principles and process for selecting benevolences and listen to Meeting feedback on a proposed list of benevolences and amounts.

Feb 4: **Seeking Carolina Quakerism "Outside the Bubble"**. Chuck Fager examines what he has learned since leaving 45 years of unprogrammed Quakerism & worshipping in a semi-programmed meeting far out in the middle of rural Alamance County, where Neo-Confederates & right-wing evangelicals abound.

Feb 11: **Buildings and Grounds Update**: Don Hopper

Feb 25: **Personal Sharing: Perry Martin**

- Don Hopper invites your thoughts on meeting room renovations. Send to donald.hopper@gmail.com or tell a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee

- Joanna Selim and Elizabeth Taylor invite your suggestions for renovating the foyer. Send to joannaselim@gmail.com or to etlodo@gmail.com or talk with a member of Hospitality Comm.

- Other announcements?

15. Closing worship, circle, prepare for 11:00AM meeting for worship

Appendix: **A REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS REGARDING TRUSTEES OF THE CHAPEL HILL FRIENDS MEETING . . .** for the January 21, 2018 MWAB Matt Drake, Tom Munk, assisted by Wade Barber

BACKGROUND: The Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Trustees hold the Meeting's property (meetinghouse, schoolhouse, playground, parking area, and associated grounds) in trust for the Meeting. Legally, the trustees are considered the owners of the Meeting property. Trustees serve as signatories of legal documents for the Meeting. These may be "in-house" documents, such as conscientious objection letters written by Meeting members and attenders and approved by the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB). Trustee signatures are also required on formal contracts with individuals and companies. For example, trustee signatures were required in the spring of 2017 on construction contracts with the company overseeing the renovation of the lower level of the meetinghouse.

CHFM HISTORY: The trustees' responsibility of holding property in trust for the Meeting was evident with the February 5, 1950 purchase of the land for the future Friends meetinghouse at 531 Raleigh Rd, Chapel Hill, 27514. The deed states that the owners, W.C. Coker and his wife, Louise Venable Coker, conveyed their property to ". . . D.D. Carroll and A.W. Hobbs, Trustees for the Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of Friends,

their successors in office and assigns, that certain tract or parcel of land situated, lying and being in Chapel Hill Township, Orange County, North Carolina, and bounded and described as follows . . . “

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT: Resources and support for the Meeting’s trustees include a copy of Chapter 61, of the North Carolina General Statutes, which can be found in the Trustee file in the library. The North Carolina General Assembly enacted the Religious Societies Act in 1796 authorizing religious societies to appoint trustees to receive and hold property. This is codified as Chapter 61, Religious Societies in the North Carolina General Statutes.

As authorized under 61-1 (a) of the NC General Statutes, Chapel Hill Friends Meeting trustees are selected upon the recommendation of the Nominations Committee for consideration and approval by the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB), the governing body of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. In accordance with 61-2, trustees of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting (CHFM) may hold property in trust for the Meeting and be accountable to the Meeting for the use and management of such property. In accordance with 61-3, the title to lands owned by the Meeting is vested in the CHFM trustees. In accordance with 61-4, the CHFM trustees may mortgage or sell any land owned by the Meeting, when directed to do so by the Meeting.

A further support for the Meeting trustees consists of liability coverage via Director, Officers and Trustees liability coverage through the Meeting’s contract with the Church Mutual Insurance Company. (See Finance Committee records.)

AN UPDATE ON THE CURRENT TRUSTEES:

- A. Asta Crowe and Emilie Condon are willing to continue serving as trustees, years to be determined by MWAB.
- B. Bettie Flash will serve through June 2018 and then will step down as a trustee.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Meeting names three trustees.
2. A trustee must be a member of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting.
3. Trustees serve staggered terms.
4. If a trustee resigns before the end of her/his term, the MWAB will name another member to complete the term.
5. The Meeting will continue to maintain trustee liability coverage as part of the Meeting’s insurance policy.
6. The Meeting clerk and/or committee clerks and/or committee members are expected to alert trustees beforehand about the need for them to read and sign contracts. The trustees should be provided with explanations of the purposes and descriptions of the documents that need to be signed and with time in which to consider the documents before signing.
7. Trustees are encouraged to gain whatever information they need to sign a contract that will serve the Meeting well. The trustees may consult with those involved in the contract and may, on behalf of and with the approval of the Meeting or the clerk of the Meeting, employ an attorney’s services if the trustees and the Meeting clerk agree that such assistance is necessary.
8. Signatures of two of the three trustees on any one document are usually sufficient.
9. Nominations Committee will propose to a 2018 MWAB the number of years in a trustee term and the number of consecutive terms a trustee may serve.
10. Nominations Committee will propose to a 2018 MWAB the years of the next terms of the on-going trustees and the name of a Friend to serve as the third trustee, starting in July 2018.

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR KNEE ARTHRITIS

February 8, 2018 2:00—3:00 PM

UNC WELLNESS CENTER MEADOWMONT

100 Sprunt Street, Chapel Hill

Registration 919-966-5500

Questions aym27517@gmail.com

EngAGING ISSUES is a collaboration of the Orange County Department on Aging, Project EngAGE, and UNC Wellness Centers Health Education

Brian Pietrosimone, PhD, Associate Professor Department of Exercise and Sports Science

Knee osteoarthritis causes disability in approximately 16% North Carolinians over the age of 45. While there is no cure for osteoarthritis there are things that can be done to decrease your pain and improve your function. During this lecture we will discuss the risk factors for knee osteoarthritis as well as the evidence for different treatments (i.e. exercises, braces, and knee replacement). Our goal is to help you find ways to decrease your pain and improve your physical activity.

Dr. Pietrosimone's research seeks to decrease disability related to knee injury with a focus on maximizing long-term joint health following traumatic joint injury.

Aging, from infancy to elderhood, is a process of vast, incessant changes. Understanding and knowledge about "common" changes and variations in aging are powerful tools to prepare and manage change. Gathering information is one of the major steps in proactive coping. Studies show that proactive coping provides benefits for achieving success in a wide range of age related adjustments. The intent of the EngAGING ISSUES series is to provide information that YOU CAN USE as changes approach and occur for you or loved ones. Information and proactive coping is especially important for persons aging independently in community. Education and information support and enhance YOUR awareness, options and opportunities.

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 on First Days at 8:30 and 11:00 AM

Forum at 9:45am; Child Care from 9:30 AM–12:15 PM

First Day School from 11:15 AM–12:00 PM

Clerk of the Meeting: Matt Drake (919) 968-0044

Resident: John Hite (919) 929-5377

- **Newsletter.** This newsletter is published every first Sunday under the care of the Publications and Communications Committee. Paper copies are available at the Meetinghouse and a PDF is posted on the Meeting website, www.chapelhillfriends.org. The deadline for submissions is 10 PM on the last Sunday of the month. Email submissions to news@chapelhillfriends.org or call Peter Malone, (919) 270-4456. Please include "newsletter" in the subject line.
- **E-news.** To send a news or "In the Light" announcement in the Meeting's e-news, contact news@chapelhillfriends.org. Please include "e-news" or "in the light" in the subject line. This e-news goes to about 280 people. Do not submit personal information about someone else unless you know he/she wants to share. Subscribe to the e-news at www.chapelhillfriends.org/contact.html.
- **Website.** To get items posted on our website, send them to news@chapelhillfriends.org.