

# Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

## Newsletter

### Third Month, 2020

**Monthly Query:** *How do I carefully speak truth as I know it and how do I remain open to truth spoken to me?*

**Monthly Worship Tip from the M&W Committee:** *Waiting in silent expectation and prayer for guidance from the Light Within is the basis for our Meeting for Worship.*



### Upcoming Forum Schedule –

**March 1 - Personal Sharing: Nancy Milio**

**March 8 - Spiritual Self-Care:** How can we help ourselves? How can we help value ourselves and our loved ones? How can we escape from over busy-ness into living in the Spirit? Lead by Kitty Bergel, Leslie Rountree, Jeff Brown of Ministry and Worship Committee.

**March 15 - No Forum:** Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at 9:00am

**March 22 - Military Might in Our Environment:** The United States maintains a massive military force that pollutes distant and local lands, but also prepares for the consequences of climate change. Quaker House's executive director, Kindra Bradley, and GI Rights Hotline Counselor, Steve Woolford, will lead a discussion on the intersections that exist between the military and our environment.

**March 29 - How Do We Create Time for Spirituality in Our Daily Lives:** Friends are encouraged to attend Piedmont Friends Fellowship. Forum will be small group discussions.

### Poll Day March 3:

Primary Election Day, you must vote at your home precinct: your ballot may include candidate choices for US President, US Senate, US House, NC House, NC Senate, County Board of Elections, State Auditor, Superintendent of Schools, Lieutenant Governor, District Court Judges, and Board of Commissioners, depending on the county and district.

**Book Reading Mar 4** Pam Schwingl and Hart Pillow share with Friends: Longtime Durham Friends Meeting member Jennie Ratcliffe will read from and discuss her new book ***Nothing Lowly in the Universe: An Integral Approach to the Ecological Crisis*** at Flyleaf Books, Chapel Hill on March 4 at 7 pm. For information, go to: <https://www.flyleafbooks.com/jennie-ratcliffe>

The ecological and climate crisis is, at its heart, a spiritual and moral crisis. *Nothing Lowly in the Universe* explores the connections between the scientific, technological, economic, cultural, psychological and religious forces driving the crisis and how we can transform the ways of thinking and living that got us here.

Drawing on the Quaker testimonies of integrity, reciprocity, nonviolence, simplicity, and the fundamental equality of the whole earth community, on other wisdom traditions, and on the work of visionaries from Gandhi and Arne Naess to E.F. Schumacher and Thomas Berry, Jennie Ratcliffe explores the spiritual principles of an integrated deep ecology, economy and peace, and shows how they are being put into practice around the world.

WHERE: **Flyleaf Books, 725 Martin Luther King Blvd**, Chapel Hill (next to the Root Cellar).

WHEN: **Wednesday March 4, 2020, 7-8 pm.**

### **Celebrating Pete Seeger's Centennial, Friday, March 6, 7:00 pm**

Jan Hutton shares with Friends: Songs of Hope & Courage: Celebrating Pete Seeger's Centennial with Quaker Songbook creator of "Rise Up Singing", Annie Patterson.

Episcopal Church of the Advocate, 8410 Merin Road, Chapel Hill

Information / advance tickets at: <https://www.riseupandsing.org/events/songs-hope-courage-chapel-hill>

### **Volunteer Workday on the Historic Eno Friends Burying Ground, Mar 14**

John Bell shares with Friends:

F/friends will hold a second winter volunteer workday on the historic Eno Friends burying ground, north of Hillsborough, on Saturday March the 14th at 1:00 pm. If you plan to come, or need directions or have questions, please email: [Johnbellnc@gmail.com](mailto:Johnbellnc@gmail.com).

Useful tools include loppers and pruning shears, limb/hand saws, gloves, and a gas powered leaf blower. Please wear strong shoes/boots, and bring gloves and tick repellent.

This is not a CHFM nor Eno Friends Meeting sponsored-event but organized by volunteers. Because there is no documented owner of this property, there is no insurance coverage in case of injury.

### **20-Minute Defibrillator Training, Mar 22**

A 20-minute defibrillator training is being offered, after the rise of meeting, on Sunday, March 22.

For those interested (and, at no cost to you), the training will be in the schoolhouse multipurpose room after all announcements have finished. You do not need to sign up ahead of time. The Ministry and Worship Committee is coordinating this: [Ministryandworship@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:Ministryandworship@chapelhillfriends.org).

### **Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Yearly Meeting Annual Retreat, Mar 27-29**

**Registration is now open** for the Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Yearly Meeting Annual Retreat that will take place March 27-29, 2020 at Carolina Friends School in Durham. The theme of the weekend is Quaker history and the challenge of living our lives as Quaker witnesses. Friday, March 27, will feature presentations by Quaker organizations, a potluck dinner and ice breaking activities. Saturday, March 28, will feature a presentation by AFSC on racism and colonization, and a panel of historians on Quaker history, plus two sessions of the Yearly Meeting. Saturday evening will be informal with fellowship, games and singing. Information on registration will be available soon.

There will be programming for preschool through high school, and we are encouraging youth to attend. Also, please contact Jasmine McKewen ([mckewen@gmail.com](mailto:mckewen@gmail.com)) if you are able to host a traveling Friend.

As before, the Shotts/Leadership Development Fund stands ready to pay for registration fees for all who register from Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. Registration is available [online](#) or in [printable format](#). Please register before March 22 for meal planning. PFF Representatives [Jasmine McKewen](#) and [Jeff Brown](#).

### **CROP Walk, Mar 29**

This year's event will be on Sunday, March 29, starting with registration at 1:00 and leaving Carrboro Commons at 2:30. The CROP Walk supports Church World Service's global work and IFC's local programs to fight hunger. Walkers' packets will be available and can be turned in at the Carrboro Commons. Pick up a packet at the T-shirt table in the foyer. T-shirts will be available (\$10 each and all proceeds go to the IFC) for pre-order in the foyer on March 15th and 22nd before and after late meeting. Pick up shirts on March 29th.

Support our CROP walkers and/or donate. A website will be posted for your contributions. Meeting attenders have always been very generous to CROP Walk. Thank you! ~ *The IFC Committee*

### **Quaker Earthcare Witness Meeting, Apr 23-26**

This spring, Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) will be holding their Steering Committee meeting at Durham Meetinghouse, April 23-26. Friends are welcome to join any or all of their sessions. QEW is a North American network of Friends carrying concerns for Earthcare. QEW's job is to connect Friends who are taking Spirit-led action and to inspire all of us through sharing stories. The recently concluded decade may end up being the time we all woke up to the ecological crises we are facing, including unprecedented climate change. QEW Friends are finding increasing awareness and engagement on earthcare concerns. Have you been looking for like-minded Friends, seeking support, companionship, resources and spiritual nurture? If so, we invite you to participate. These will be working meetings, with time for committees to connect face-to-face, time to discuss policy directions for the organization, time for business, and time to reflect and worship together. Friday evening, we will hear a presentation about Permaculture and Regenerative Agriculture from Carol Barta, an experienced practitioner and trainer; Saturday evening, ecologist Jennie Ratcliffe from Durham Meeting will talk about her book, *Nothing Lowly in the Universe*, and lead a discussion. All are welcome. If you plan to attend full day sessions, please register in advance (for registration and an agenda, see <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/upcoming>) If you are attending just one session, drop-ins are fine and fees are waived – though please let us know in advance if you plan to stay for a meal. Contact [Shelley@quakerearthcare.org](mailto:Shelley@quakerearthcare.org) with questions.

### **Beloved Community Tour, Jun 20-25**

Hello from Carolina Friends School! I write with a warm invitation for Chapel Hill Meeting Friends to consider our June 20-25 Beloved Community Tour of the South.

Especially given the rich collaboration and community-building of the Summer 2018 Quaker Journey to England's Lake District, we're hopeful members of our local Meetings can join in this exploration of civil rights history (including challenges that led to the creation of Carolina Friends School more than 50 years ago) and of contemporary social justice issues.

Included in our itinerary are a visit to Friends School of Atlanta and dinner with American Friends Service Committee staff.

The goal is to bring together:

- members of our local and other Friends Meetings
- Carolina Friends School staff and community members
- educators from independent, charter, and traditional public schools and from colleges and universities (across ages, stages, and disciplines)
- other interested adults

Spouses and partners are welcome.

Contact:

Anthony L. Clay [he/him/his], Director

[Extended Learning](#) @ Carolina Friends School

An Innovation Hub for Student, Adult, and Family Enrichment

4809 Friends School Road | Durham, NC 27705 | 919.383.6602 x\*263

### **Study Tour to Bolivia in July**

Pam Schwingl shares with Friends: The Bolivia Quaker Education Fund (BQEF) is sponsoring a study tour to Bolivia in July of 2020 to promote cross-cultural and trans-continental Quaker exchange with an emphasis on studying climate change from a South American perspective. It's exciting to us that some former graduates of our scholarship program will be among those presenting and helping with the tour. For more information and details about the 2020 Quaker Study Tour, please visit the BQEF [website http://www.bqef.org/?q=node/724](http://www.bqef.org/?q=node/724) which includes information about dates, a provisional itinerary, information about tour leaders, registration information and an application form. While we are very concerned about the ongoing political unrest in Bolivia which has impacted life for most everyone in the El Alto and La Paz areas, at this time we are moving forward with our plans for the trip as we are hoping that the situation may be more settled by July.

Please contact Pam Schwingl for more information - 919-943-0961 or [pschwingl82@gmail.com](mailto:pschwingl82@gmail.com).

### **Shotts Memorial and Leadership Funds Are Available**

What are your self-improvement plans for 2020? The new year and new decade bring the opportunity for each of us to take stock and consider how we want to be our best selves in 2020.

Would you like to participate in a Racial Equity Institute training in Durham? Or attend a Pendle Hill workshop? Get active in the Friends Committee for North Carolina Legislation with others in the North Carolina Yearly Meeting? Attend North Carolina Yearly Meeting's annual meeting in March and/or Friends General Conference Gathering in July? Participate in a contemplative retreat with the School of the Spirit or a webcast on *Bridging Differences: A Day of Dialogue and Understanding* from the Greater Good Science Center in Berkeley?

As you consider your options for this new year, please remember that the Meeting's Shotts Memorial/Leadership Development Funds are available to help support you with financial obligations that might be associated with these activities. This financial support is not need based. Check the Meeting's website for information on how to request funding. Contact the committee at: [shotts-leadershipfunds@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:shotts-leadershipfunds@chapelhillfriends.org).

**Chapel Hill Friends Meeting – Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**9 am, February 16, 2020 – Minutes**  
**Chris Stanley, Clerk; Alice Carlton, Recording Clerk**

Attendance: Alice Carlton, Chris Stanley, Liliana Wuerth, Andrea Wuerth, Herbert Struemper, Max Drake, Faye Stanley, Dave Schneider, Henry Schneider, Jasmine McKewen, Leslie Rountree, Jennifer Leeman, Tom Munk, Betsy Brinson, Dottie Heninger, Richard Miller, Jan Hutton, Simone Kershner, Ken Grogan, Curt Torell, John Hite, Kitty Bergel, Bonnie Ludlow, Tom Ludlow, Pam Schwingl, Pat Mann, Lois Ann Hobbs, Emilie Condon, Gordon Davies, Ann Miller, Joyce Munk, Paul Munk, Willie Melvin, Buffie Webber, Jeff Brown, Matt Drake, Lynn Drake, Julia Cleaver, Hank Elkins, David Curtin, Wendy Michener, Annalee Harkins, Buzz Borschardt.

1. Opening worship and query: “How do I face my differences with others and reaffirm in action and attitude my love for those with whom I am in conflict?”
2. Welcome and recognition of first-time attender, Bonnie Ludlow, review of agenda.
3. The minutes of the January Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved as written.
4. Dottie Heninger presented a memorial minute for Max Hendrickson (see Appendix 1). We approved the minute as written.
5. Lily Wuerth presented her letter of request for Conscientious Objector status. We accepted the letter with appreciation (see Appendix 2).
6. Jan Hutton, Co-clerk, Ministry & Worship Committee, presented a request for familial membership for Desmond Conklin, son of Jasmine McKewen. We approved this request.
7. Leslie Rountree presented a recommendation for membership for Annalee Harkins and read her bio (see Appendix 3). We approved this request. A welcoming party will be hosted by Carolyn Stuart. Details will follow.
8. Tom Munk, Clerk, Peace & Justice Benevolence Ad hoc Subcommittee, presented the most recent proposal for our Benevolence Process. A long discussion ensued. We approved this proposal as amended (see Appendix 4). Jan Hutton expressed concerns about the process. Dave Schneider and Faye Stanley stood aside and requested to be minuted as such.
9. Jasmine McKewen and John Hite, Co-clerks of Children’s & Youth Religious Education Committee (CYRE), presented the annual report (see Appendix 5). We accepted the report as amended.
10. The next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be 9 am on March 15, 2020.
11. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
  - A. To send items for the weekly eNews email [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org). Put “for eNews” in the subject line. Deadline is each Wednesday at midnight. For the monthly print newsletter, email [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org). Put “for Newsletter” in the subject line. Deadline is the last Sunday of the month.
  - B. *Beloved Community Tour of the South* takes place June 20-15, 2020. Check our eNews for more information.
12. Closing worship, circle, preparation for 11 am Meeting for Worship.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1

#### **MAX HENDRICKSON**

**November 8, 1989 – December 16, 2019**

Max Hendrickson, son of Wren Hendrickson (member of Chapel Hill Friends Meeting) and Ted Hendrickson, and brother to Alexa Hartford, was a familiar sight in many of the usual circles of Quaker youth in Chapel Hill. He studied at Carolina Friends School, worshipped at CHFM where he attended first-day school, and faithfully participated in South Appalachian Yearly Meeting Association's youth retreats.

Max's energy, creativity and charisma distinguished him early in life. He was known as "the alpha male of preschool." One story started with his harsh judgment on another boy's sand volcano and ended with a demonstration of the proper engineering techniques involved in sand volcano construction, culminating in a baking soda and vinegar eruption.

His talents became more pronounced as he grew up. One of his tamer accomplishments was to paint a fish with a pompadour and a mysterious being of fire in the CHFM teen room. Other of his creative feats included the novel use of marbles in the development of an aiming system for a medieval siege weapon and an innovative pneumatic system for launching fake blood. Whether it was a conversation about sex held within his mother's hearing, or a literal fireball exploding in someone's face, scarcely a person who knew Max did not have some memory of his exploits. The stories of his wild personality were punctuated with accounts of the great lengths he went to in order to help friends in need.

As an adult, Max moved to Asheville, and Wren moved there soon after. She stayed close by as Max suffered the debilitating effects of advanced Lyme disease, which sapped the energy he needed to make his life meaningful. The end of his life came after ten years of chronic pain and difficult, ineffective treatments.

A memorial service was held for Max on December 19, 2019 at Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. If the love and the laughter at that service are any indication, Max made an outsize impact on the people around him during his too short life.

### Appendix 2

#### **Conscientious Objector Letter - Liliana Wuerth**

December 31, 2019

Presented February 16, 2020

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

*Until I sat down to write, I always thought my conscientious objector letter would be much longer. It is my nature to explore every aspect of an argument, to anticipate and to respond to any counterargument. Yet, while I wrote this, it seemed much more simple.*

I understand that conflict is inevitable. I understand that there will be rifts along the lines of religion, policy, culture, and morality. I understand that some such rifts call for action, discipline, or condemnation: a solution. I cannot accept that any such solution should entail the destruction of human life—either of "our own" or of "the opposition." The loss of life is always a net loss for all parties involved. Every battle is lost. Every war is lost.

We often equate killing with championing a cause; the idea is that a victory that derives

from death can still be a victory because it symbolizes some greater morality or ideal. But the individual lives lost are not abstract like ideas. They are flesh and spirit. They are made up of their ties to family and friends, their memories, their experience, their suffering. You are not killing an idea, you are killing a real live human being.

It is a common sentiment, especially in liberal circles, that the “other” party in a war is “like us,” separated only by a few cultural markers. This is false. They are us. They are people with families, fears, plans, hopes, and dreams. At the moment when conflict is the most violent, the most dangerous, they want only to survive and for the people whom they love to survive. Thus, at the moments of their deaths, they are us, for we too, under such conditions, are defined by the same desires. In such matters of life or death, all distinctions we make between one another—religion, race, politics, nationality—are arbitrary.

I cannot support any killing for the name of any cause, because when we kill, we are not championing an ideal or superior morality, we are extinguishing another life. It is that simple. Although I have never been engaged in combat and I cannot begin to understand how it would feel, one thing is clear to me: I cannot destroy, or even aid in the destruction of, the same humanity that is within me. I cannot look at anyone else and see “the opposition”—all I will see is a mirror image. I will not kill myself.

It is with my unalienable connection to all humanity in mind that I ask the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting to accept this letter as a declaration of my status as a conscientious objector. My objection to the aid of and participation in war is deeply held and stems both from my personal ethical convictions and my Quaker belief that there is that of God in everyone.

### Appendix 3

Bio: Annalee Harkins

Annalee was born in Chapel Hill in 1989 and grew up elsewhere, mostly in California, with her mother and two half-brothers. She returned to Chapel Hill in 2008 after studying art and design in England and has lived here ever since. Annalee started attending meeting in 2014 while an undergrad at UNC (where she later graduated in 2016). She has served on the Hospitality and Library committees, and regularly attends the monthly handcrafting group, where she sews quilts by hand. One of her life-long dreams was achieved when she bought her house in 2016--the ultimate DIY and craft project. She lives the snug life with her two beautiful, cinnamon-colored herding dogs: Elsa, 9, and Tullamore, 5.

### Appendix 4

#### **Minute on an Updated Benevolences Process**

From the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Benevolences and the Peace and Justice Committee, 2/9/20  
For Approval by the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, 2/16/20

#### Background

We are deeply grateful that our Meeting shares so much of its income with others, often 35 to 40% of the total. We celebrate this ongoing commitment. Our benevolences reflect our faith and values and are an important way we express these to the larger community and the world.

Oversight of the Meeting’s benevolences is shared among three committees: Library, Ministry and Worship, and Peace and Justice. The focus here is on the benevolences currently overseen by the Peace and Justice Committee (P&J).

#### Continuing support of five organizations

We are grateful for the Meeting’s historic support of five organizations: American Friends Service Committee, Carolina Friends School, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Interfaith Council for Social Services, and Quaker House. We celebrate the fact that Chapel Hill Friends Meeting was instrumental in the founding of Carolina Friends School and Quaker House. In addition, Meeting members helped found the InterFaith Council for Social Services. The Meeting has provided substantial support for

each of these organizations for more than thirty-five years. **We recommend that substantial support of the five organizations continue.**

Over the last ten years, these five received an average of 84% of the total benevolences currently overseen by P&J. We believe a slight reduction is appropriate in order to encourage new insights into the use of the Meeting's benevolence dollars. **We recommend that the five legacy organizations receive 79% of the Meeting's total benevolences currently overseen by P&J.** Additionally, we have made adjustments to restore Quaker House to its 2018-19 level of funding.

<b>Benevolence</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>2019-20 Amount</b>
AFSC	5.0%	\$1,231
CFS - Tuition Aid	17.5%	\$4,300
FCNL	7.4%	\$1,823
IFC	22.3%	\$5,500
Quaker House	26.8%	\$6,600
<b>Totals</b>	<b>79.0%</b>	<b>\$19,454</b>

**We recommend this level of support for the five legacy organizations in 2019-2020 and beyond.**

Oversight of the legacy organizations

**We recommend that oversight of the five legacy organizations be placed directly under the care of the MWAB.** This will be accomplished by asking the five organizations to present annual reports to MWAB as follows:

- AFSC & FCNL: a Meeting Friend active in or knowledgeable about the organization named by the Meeting Clerk
- CFS & IFC & Quaker House: a Meeting appointee to the Board or committee selected by the appointees

The annual report should include highlights of the past year's accomplishments and may include new initiatives, capital projects, major staffing changes, and other significant developments that have impacted the organization. Additionally, we ask that each of the five organizations provide financial information for the past two fiscal years for general fund contributions, capital contributions, endowment contributions, operating expenses, endowment and reserve totals and number of full-time equivalent employees.

Re-evaluation

We recommend that every five years, to coincide with the spiritual state of the Meeting retreat report to MWAB, a business item be placed on the MWAB agenda to test if the hearts and minds of the Meeting are still in unity with the percentages guiding the benevolence decisions. If, and only if, necessary MWAB will co-ordinate an ad-hoc committee to look at these percentages when the time comes.

It is the understanding of the Meeting that MWAB can change the percentages outside of the five year cycle should there be an extraordinary change in the program or finances of one of the organizations.

The role of the Peace and Justice Committee

**We recommend that 21% of benevolences be placed under the oversight of the P&J Committee.** P&J will unite each year on the recipients of 21% of the Meeting's annual P&J benevolence total and recommend recipients and amounts to the MWAB for approval. P&J will continue to meet the following guidelines for their benevolence decisions as stated in previous P&J reports: "Meeting benevolences MUST be either (a)

Quaker-affiliated organizations, or (b) local organizations that reflect our Meeting's values and with which members of the Meeting are closely involved."

Looking at the above recommendations in the context of the 2019-2020 budget, the results are:

\$26,175 benevolence total in the Meeting's 2019-2020 budget  
-\$1,400 benevolences overseen by Ministry & Worship  
- \$150 benevolences overseen by the Library Comm  
\$24,625 benevolence dollars available to legacy organizations and to P&J  
-\$19,454 79% of benevolences to five legacy organizations  
\$5, 171 21% of benevolences to be overseen by P&J

## Appendix 5

### **Children's and Youth Religious Education Committee Annual Report**

#### **February 2019-February 2020**

The Children's and Youth Religious Education (CYRE) Committee is responsible for the development, oversight, and support of curricula and activities for young Friends in preschool through high school. CYRE is also responsible for childcare in the nursery. In addition to supporting the First Day School (FDS) program and two paid staff positions (FDS Coordinator and Childcare Provider), the committee recruits teachers, selects materials, assesses progress, clarifies goals and objectives, oversees a budget, and communicates with the Ministry and Worship Committee. In summary, the CYRE Committee nurtures the spiritual development of children and teens and their families, and works to integrate families and young Friends into the life of the meeting.

We have had a transition in clerking as Carolyn Stuart stepped down from the committee. John Hite and Carolyn Stuart were co-clerks through June 2019, and John Hite and Jasmine McKewen have been serving together as co-clerks since July 2019. We are grateful for Carolyn Stuart's many years of faithful service. Continuing members on the committee are: John Hite, Jasmine McKewen, Simone Kershner, Stacey Sewall, Herbert Struemper and Laura Young. Kathleen McNeil continues to offer excellent service as First Day School Coordinator, as does Stacey Sewall as Childcare Provider in the nursery. Kathleen McNeil (FDS Coordinator) serves on the committee as an ex-officio member.

#### *First Day School (FDS) program*

We are happy to have maintained a stable number of families in our First Day School program, though attendance varies substantially from one Sunday to the next. Children and teens are grouped into three developmentally appropriate pods:

Lower Pod, generally children ages three to nine. The teachers are Allie Scales, Julie Feickert, Jasmine McKewen, Carolyn Stuart, and Laura Young. Roshna Bala Keen has assisted the teaching of this group. Several Friends from the meeting at large have offered assisting support, including: Edward Bala Keen, Hart Pillow, Dave Curtin, Eloise Grathwohl, and Annalee Harkins. From three to nine children are in attendance each week.

Middle Pod, generally children ages ten to fourteen. The teachers are Kathleen McNeil, Andrea Wuerth, and Mark Hulbert, who has rejoined the teaching pod after stepping down to spend time with family last year. From three to as many as seven or eight children are in this pod.

Upper Pod, generally those students of high school age. The teachers are John Hite, Leslie Rountree, Simone Kershner and Herbert Struemper. From two to seven teens are in attendance on any given Sunday.

The curriculum is composed of four parts:

Bible Studies (January through Easter) which alternates between the Old Testament and the New Testament. In 2019, students studied the New Testament.

Multicultural Unit: (Sunday after Easter through the end of the school year) Simone did a lesson on Buddhism, and we had a group guided meditation.

Quakerism (late August until Sunday before Thanksgiving). Students studied Quaker history, testimonies and practices. This year, approximately 9 children went with family members to Mendenhall Homeplace in Jamestown on a Quakerism field trip.

Holiday Activities (Sunday after Thanksgiving through first Sunday in January). Young Friends created cards for Quakers at Carol Woods who are not regular meeting attenders, and for men at Orange Correctional Center who worship with us. They decorated the meeting Christmas tree with home-made ornaments, caroled at Carol Woods, presented a Nativity play and a humorous skit (teens) at the Christmas party, and made snowflakes with hope messages.

Bible Studies (January and February, to be continued until Easter Sunday). Young Friends are currently studying the Old Testament.

### *Nursery Care*

Stacey Sewall continues to offer excellent care for infants and toddlers in our nursery. We have one toddler who regularly attends and several others who come sporadically. To meet the best practice of having two adults with children, meeting volunteers have provided assistance throughout the year. A benefit of this practice is that these volunteers have gotten to know our young Friends and their families better.

We thank the meeting volunteers who have helped Stacey in the nursery this year:

Catherine Alguire, Alice Carlton, Dave Curtin, Lynn Drake, Jennifer Leeman, Tom Munk, Ben Ray, Eloise Grathwohl, Robin Harper, Dottie Heninger, Jason James, Jasmine McKewen, Wendy Michener, Carolyn Stuart, Carolyn White, Annalee Harkins, Deborah Gibbs, and Julia Cleaver.

### *Collaboration with other Meeting Committees*

Jasmine McKewen worked with an ad hoc committee which included members of Care and Counsel, Ministry and Worship, Hospitality and CYRE, to discuss means of celebrating major milestones in the lives of young Friends, including graduations from high school and college as well as other milestones.

Jasmine McKewen is working with a trial subcommittee of Ministry and Worship about music. Part of the work of this committee is exploring the integration of song into religious education.

Robin Harper presented a lesson on our connections with animals on April 28 as well as leading a Worship Sharing with all of CHFM.. Robin engaged children in activities and discussion that led all to consider how our lives are enriched by animals, and the responsibility we have to treat them with respect.

CYRE accepted the invitation of the Adult Religious Education Committee to present two forums: one on November 24th that focused on gratitude. Participants in the forum on gratitude were Ian, Marley, and Delilah Feickert, Olivia James, Margit and Elise Belcher, Henry Schneider, Calvin King, Matilda Chen, and Desmond Conklin. On December 1st, Henry Schneider, Lily Wuerth, Matilda Chen and Will King led a forum on the Alternative Gift Mart regarding the process of selection.

### *Building Family Connections*

CYRE hosted its annual "Meet the Teacher" picnic on September 9. It was a well-attended and informative event.

Two family potlucks were held since the last annual report: In the spring, a potluck was hosted by Herbert Struemper and Andrea Wuerth. In the fall, Kathleen McNeil hosted a pumpkin party. Both events were well attended, with plenty of good food, games and lively conversation.

### *Teen Activities*

In addition to three lock-ins providing opportunities for community building, the teens have provided service to the meeting. The Alternative Gift Mart this year focused on nine organizations: Quaker House, Inter-Faith Council, Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry, American Friends Service Committee, Against Malaria Foundation, The Trevor Project, NC Wildlife Federation, The Equal Justice Initiative and Fondation Enfant Jesus (in Haiti). The Upper Pod and Middle Pod collaborated to choose the organizations. A total of \$4207 in contribution was raised, which is a record high. The teens also collected money for parking spots in the meetinghouse lot during home football games, earning a total of \$4,550, which was contributed to the meeting. In addition, John set up tables and chairs for potlucks on First Days. The teens closed meeting for worship on a Sunday during months that included five Sundays. Two members of the high school group periodically attend Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) retreats which occur every couple of months. Conscientious Objector curriculum is impeccably and thoroughly presented each year by Curt Torell, with continual support from John Hite.

### *Summer Activities*

During the summer, Friends who are not FDS teachers are invited to lead classes for children of all ages. The purpose is twofold: it gives our regular FDS teachers a much-needed break, and it provides meeting members with an opportunity to share their passions and interests and to have fun with our wonderful children. We are grateful to all Friends who participated: Leslie Rountree, Annalee Harkins, Faye Stanley, Finn James, Barbara Williamson, Julie Feickert, Jennifer Leeman, Wendy Michener and Tom Munk,

Activities included singing and stories, cooking, board games, legos, word games, and community building. The Upper Pod took on the tasks of painting the toy shelves with John continuing the work through the week.

### *Looking Forward*

We are delighted to have a stable group of children, family and teachers in our meeting. We look forward to continuing to build closer relationships among our meeting families and integrating families and children into the lives of the meeting as a whole.

Respectfully submitted by the CYRE committee: John Hite (co-clerk), Simone Kershner, Jasmine McKewen (co-clerk), Kathleen McNeil (FDS Coordinator, ex-officio), Stacey Sewall, Herbert Struemper and Laura Young

### **Intergenerational Games**

Please join us on the First Sunday of each month for Intergenerational Games following potluck, after the rise of Meeting.

### **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

Resident: John Hite (919) 929-5377