

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Newsletter

Third Month, 2021

- **Monthly Query:** *How can we make the meeting a community in which each person is accepted and nurtured, and strangers are welcome?*
- **Monthly Worship Tip from the M&W Committee:** *If you feel moved to speak in meeting for worship, take a moment to test your message. Is it from the Inward Light? Is it meant only for me, or for the entire Meeting?*



NOTICE

All CHFM Quaker-related activities at the meetinghouse and in the school house have been canceled until later notice, pending reassessment.

The Building and Grounds committee has requested that those who rent on the premises find alternate options until we reopen.

Virtual Meetings

Meetings for Worship; Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business; and Weekly Forums:

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting has been using Zoom software as an online platform to hold Meetings for Worship; including meetings with attention to business, forums, social hours, and committee meetings. Friends are doing our best to sustain spiritual connections and support the life of the Meeting during the pandemic.

The link to Zoom for the Forum and Meeting for Worship is sent weekly via the listserv. If you wish to visit with us for the first time or are a regular attender but do not have access to the listserv please contact us at zoom@chapelhillfriends.org. Comments are warmly appreciated at the same email address. See you online!

Ministry and Worship Committee and the Zoom Ad-hoc Committee (zoom@chapelhillfriends.org) wish to make this experience as rich as possible. Even apart, we wish to come together in the Light. To aid this, we advise those attending of the following:

- On entering the Meeting for Worship via Zoom, everyone's microphone will be muted (you do not need to mute yourself on entry). We suggest remaining muted when not speaking to avoid background noise.
- If led to share vocal ministry, the "Unmute" button on the bottom left of the Zoom screen is pressed. When finished speaking, the "Mute" button may be pressed in the same location.
- We recognize you may need to move around and settle. If doing so Friends are asked to use the "Stop Video" option (bottom of screen next to Mute) – your name or profile picture will display until pressing "Start Video" again. This will minimize visual distraction for others,
- There is an option on the upper right of your Zoom screen to select "Speaker View" for a large window for the current speaker or "Gallery View" that shows small windows for all participants.

The Ministry & Worship Committee reminds Friends that our traditional Quaker practice in Meeting for Worship, in-person or online, is to refrain from sharing vocal ministry more than once in the hour to give

others space for messages. Though it may be more challenging online, we strive to listen deeply in the silence and be open to the leadings of the Spirit that may move us to speak.

More information about Zoom is available on the Meeting's website:

<https://www.chapelhillfriends.org/zoom.html>

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Upcoming Zoom Forums

March 7: Persuade, Don't Preach: finding that of God in those we dislike. Karen Tibbals, Rahway Plainfield Monthly Meeting.

March 14: CHFM SPICE Forum Series features THE PEACE TESTIMONY. Guest speaker: Mary Rider, founding- member of the Fr. Charles Mulholland Catholic Worker House in Garner, NC, and life-long advocate for peace. Mary's husband Patrick O'Neill is currently serving a federal prison sentence for his acts of civil disobedience at the Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base in Georgia on April 4th, 2018, the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. The "Kings Bay 7" were attempting to make real the prophet Isiah's command to "beat swords into plowshares." Mary will share about a lifetime of peace activism and what Patrick is facing in prison during Covid-times.

March 21: Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

March 28: Bonnie Ludlow, Personal Sharing.

April 4: Quaker Testimonies Series: Equality. We'll reflect on some passages from Faith and Practice, hear from a panel about how they live this testimony, and share in small groups and together.

Upcoming Events

Piedmont Friends Spring Retreat, April 9, 10, 11

Jeff Brown shares with Friends: Save the dates!
Please help spread the word!

Piedmont Friends Spring Retreat will be happening **virtually** on **April 9, 10 and 11, 2021.**

We hope you can join us as we gather to celebrate our community of Friends, deepen our connections and find inspiration to do our work in the world.

Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

In Friendship,

Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Yearly Meeting

Announcements

Carolina Futurescapes, a NC Botanical Garden Workshop, Sat. Mar 6, 1-3pm

Hart Pillow shares with Friends:

The NC Botanical Garden is reaching out to let you know that Tara Mei Smith and Justin Robinson of Extra Terrestrial Projects will be leading an upcoming workshop via Zoom. You may remember Tara Mei and Justin from the Carolina Xeriscapes Virtual Lunchbox Talk we hosted in August.

In the [Carolina Futurescapes: Planning and Planting Climate Resilient Landscapes](#) virtual workshop, participants will learn about and begin to plan their own native-plant gardens. We will learn the basics of creating Carolina Xeriscape gardens, which do not require additional watering and are resilient to extreme heat. Topics include plant selection, site selection, plant care, and color palettes. Participants will develop or refine planting plans for their own climate-resilient gardens.

This course is scheduled from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 6, 2021. Register today as seats are limited!

Note: Interested people can apply to Shotts Fund for the \$25 cost.

Navigating Through Difficult Times With Faith, Sat. Mar 20, 12-1:45pm

Leslie Rountree shares with Friends:

The Islamic Association of Raleigh is excited to inform you of our upcoming virtual open house. The theme for this year's event is "Navigating through difficult times with faith".

The event will take place online, Saturday March 20, 2021 from 12pm to 1:45pm. It will feature a keynote address by Dr. Imam AbuTaleb. Join us to know how to navigate these challenging times with faith and observe muslims at prayer. As always we would love to have your company (virtually).

This is a free event. Click the link for the detailed program, timings and registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-open-house-2021-navigating-difficult-time-tickets-142352609487>

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Outreach team at Islamic Association of Raleigh

808 Atwater St,

Raleigh, NC 27606

Guilford College Chooses an Interim President

Julia Cleaver shares with Friends:

Guilford College has announced James Hood as interim president. You can read his statement here in the Greensboro News and Record: https://greensboro.com/opinion/columnists/james-w-hood-a-new-path-forward-for-guilford-college/article_8ba397d4-755c-11eb-9722-97970736d963.html

Action Alert from Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation

Pam Schwingl shares with Friends:

FOREVER CHEMICAL LIMITS SHOULD BE LOWER

North Carolina is reviewing its groundwater regulations for these chemicals. The NC Dept. of Environmental Quality is sending recommendations to the NC Environmental Management Commission in March calling for no more than 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for the combined concentrations of just two PFAS: PFOA and PFOS, perfluorooctanoic acid and perfluorooctane sulfonate, respectively.

ACTION NEEDED NOW:

Please email the NC Dept. of Environmental Quality by March 16th and ask them to recommend to the NC Environmental Management Commission that standards be set at no more than 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for ALL FORMS OF PFAS COMBINED, and no more than 10 ppt for any single PFAS. Click to see the entire (and other) action alerts: <https://fcncf.org/action-alerts/>

Receive a Grant From Shotts Leadership Development Funds

During the pandemic, the Shotts Memorial/Leadership Development Funds Committee encourages Friends to seek opportunities for service to others and for developing new skills. Friends General Conference and the Racial Equity Institute are two examples of organizations sponsoring on-line training events and there are many others. The Shotts Memorial/Leadership Development Funds Committee offers grants to anyone participating in the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting to help defray the costs to you of these programs. Those expenses might include childcare or transportation as well as registration fees. We realize that the giving of services can be a development opportunity for those participating, especially at this time of so much need among so many. We invite you to consider how you might serve and whether receiving financial support from the Shotts...Committee will enable your participation. Information about the application process is available on the Meeting's website here: [Committees - Chapel Hill Friends Meeting | Chapel Hill Friends Meeting](#). Look for Shotts and Leadership Funds.

Timeless Quaker Wisdom in Plainsong

Tom Munk shares with Friends:

For Friends who enjoyed Quaker-chanting with Paulette Meier at Forum and want more, here is her website: www.paulettemeier.com where you can find her Quaker Chant CDs in both digital download and CD disc versions.

Quaker Corner

Quaker Corner serves as an ongoing portal into the larger Quaker world (UK included.) Many powerful online course offerings, articles, worships, etc., are available in our 'Quaker-verse'. Links will be provided weekly, if available. Let there be Light! Jan Hutton

Afro-Americans and Quakerism

Black Power's Challenge to Quaker Power

<https://www.afsc.org/blogs/acting-in-faith/black-power's-challenge-to-quaker-power>

My Experience as an African American Quaker

By Avis Wanda McClinton

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/experience-african-american-quaker/>

Making a Difference: Black Quaker History

<https://www.pym.org/making-a-difference-black-quaker-history/>

How Black Quakers Influenced History

<https://www.barclaycollege.edu/news/how-black-quakers-influenced-history/>

22nd Annual White Privilege Conference, April 7-10

Friends General Conference sponsors the [22nd Annual White Privilege Conference](#) (online this year) April 7-10.

The White Privilege Conference (WPC) was established and is organized by African American Professor Dr. Eddie Moore, who wanted to provide a challenging, collaborative and comprehensive experience. The conference strives to empower and equip individuals to work for equity and justice through self and social transformation.

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/deepen/enrichment/help-your-meeting-challenge-racism/fgc-white-privilege-conference>

Healing Ancestral Trauma: What Is Epigenetics and Why Does It Matter?

Pendle Hill, Quaker teaching and conference center, offers the opportunity to tune into [live and pre-recorded lectures and presentations](#) on topics that are of spiritual or personal interest to you.

<https://pendlehill.org/learn/live-recorded-lectures/>

Pre-recorded lectures include the following (and many, many others):

[Healing Ancestral Trauma: What is Epigenetics and Why Does it Matter? Erva Baden](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=K0Hp6Ua3_A4

[Re-creating Hope - Francisco Burgos](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=pFaJ2galv1Y>

[Can Quakers and Others Help Prevent an American Slide Into Dictatorship? Hint: Nonviolence Will Be Key! \(George Lakey\)](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=34GoBn0cuY0>

Building and Grounds shares with Friends:

As you know we've curtailed use of the meeting house during the pandemic. Occasionally, people need to go into the meeting house to support the few essential tasks of the meeting. We appreciate that those visits have been brief and infrequent. We do ask though that anyone that needs to go into the meeting house to please notify John Hite, by phone or text, prior to going. Thank you.

Food Delivery to IFC While Meetinghouse is Closed

The meeting's IFC committee has devised a plan to make Friends' donations of food items to the IfC more convenient. You can find a [list of recommended food items](#) on the IFC website (and you can purchase food online).

1. Please bring food items to the meetinghouse porch on first and third Wednesdays of each month. Canned goods are to be placed in cardboard boxes labeled "IFC." Place bags of food in the plastic bin with a secure top. Members of the IFC committee will pick up the donations at 3:00 pm on first and third Wednesdays and deliver them to the Rosemary parking lot. This system will eliminate the need for individual Friends to drive to Rosemary street with food contributions, though you are still welcome to do that. The first day of food delivery to IFC from our meetinghouse porch will be Wednesday, June 17th.
2. Please do not leave food on the meetinghouse porch on days other than the designated delivery days - first and third Wednesdays. Bring your food donations prior to pick-up time of 3:00 pm.
3. From the IFC website, requested food contributions include pasta, spaghetti or pasta sauce, canned tuna or other meats, macaroni and cheese mixes, canned fruit, oatmeal, baking mixes (cornbread, muffins) and crackers (saltines and others). Other items would be welcomed as well. Link for pantry needs: <http://www.ifcweb.org/needs#pantry>

Questions? Contact Carolyn Stuart (919.929.2287 or stuartc@elon.edu)

Recurring Events

Online Social Event, Thursdays, 7pm

Chris Stanley shares with Friends:

As we have been doing recently, we will have a time to gather and touch base to see how everyone is doing. Last week, we looked at Catherine Alguire's garden during the call. Feel free to bring pictures of your garden or current project to share. There is no agenda and it is just a time to see a friendly face and say hello. Join us, if you are interested. - Chris

Parallel Meeting at Home, Sunday, 11am-12

Many of us on First Day are doing what one Friend called "simultaneous sitting" and could be called *ethereal* worship - that is, we are sitting in our own homes having worship between 11 and 12, calling to mind other Friends, but not taking part in any techno forum. We miss the benefit of wider ministry, but can add that angle in our own way. It can be quite magical.

QuakerCraft Online Game, Sundays

Sam Leeman-Munk shares with Friends:

Hi everybody,

This email is about a Minecraft server that Finn and Henry have set up for us.

It is a peaceful server with no player versus player and no monsters, so it is appropriate for young Quakers. The server is available 24/7, but we particularly encourage people to log in at the same time so we can play together. This event started April 19 and happens every Sunday between 1:30 and 3:30.

We are playing Minecraft: Java Edition

<https://www.minecraft.net/en-us/store/minecraft-java-edition>

An account costs about \$27, but anyone who identifies as a child may reach out to Finn James, Tom Munk and me to get an account. For best results, include all three of us on the email so we can work together.

Finn James runs the server, and once you have a screenname you can give it to him and he will give you access. For how to access the server, [click here](#).

<https://www.chapelhillfriends.org/assets/hospitality/quakercraft.htm>

DISCORD SERVER

We may be Quakers, but what fun is playing with friends if it's all in silence? I have set up a discord server for chatting while we play. This server will be your first lifeline when navigating the vibrant, potentially overwhelming world of MineCraft, so be sure to join!

<https://discord.gg/F2Jf9MQ>

For more detailed discord instructions, [click here](#) :

<https://www.chapelhillfriends.org/assets/hospitality/quakercraftDiscord.htm>

Sloth Radio Goes Online, Tuesdays and Thursdays

Kathleen McNeil shares with Friends:

Hi Friends/friends,

The First Day School Middle POD (the Sloths) will be sharing our Sloth Radio Hour every Tuesday and Thursday evening at 8PM. You don't need to be in the middle pod to join us. All are welcome. We are reading the first book of the Harry Potter series. We will read for 30-60 minutes depending on interest level. The program will continue to be on zoom at the same address.

[Zoom meeting link available]

Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light, Wednesdays, 7-9pm

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN Virtual Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light, Wednesday evenings, 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Join us when you can for as long as you wish-from your own home.

Do you have a name or a group of people to add to - or remove from - the list of those we will hold in our hearts and prayers? If so, please send to Lynn (linda.drake100@gmail.com) or Matt

(matthiasdrake@gmail.com). We'll send an updated list on Wednesday afternoons. Thank you for joining us!

Pendle Hill Daily Worship via Zoom, Daily

Pendle Hill Quaker Study, Retreat, and Conference Center is now opening their daily morning worship to everyone, by way of Zoom or phone. A lovely opportunity for gathered worship every morning. "A handful of Pendle Hill residents continue to gather daily in the Barn – from 8:30am to 9:10am Eastern Time – expanding the 90-year-long tradition of daily worship here on campus. Beginning the week of March 16, 2020, we started an experiment of opening the circle of worship to YOU in your home. You can join us here via Zoom."

<https://pendlehill.org/explore/worship/join-us-online-for-worship-in-the-barn/?bblinkid=210290749&bbemailid=19903873&bbejrid=1408822779>

Adult Young Friends Meet via Zoom

Alice Carlton (CHFM rep to PFYM) shares with Friends:

The first meeting of the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting Adult Young Friends (AYF) went well with eight in attendance and more coming. They decided to meet every First Sunday of the month at 5:30-7pm via Zoom.

Contact Faith Josephs (faith.josephs@gmail.com) for the Zoom link for the December 6, 2020 meeting 5:30-7pm.

Note: The following announcement appeared previously in eNews:

My name is Faith Josephs and I attend Charlotte Friends Meeting. At Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting this summer I noticed there were a handful of other Adult Young Friends and thought it could be neat to get together over zoom to get to know each other. I've had the opportunity previously to be a part of some very powerful and supportive groups of Quaker peers my age (I grew up in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting then went to Guilford College) and I would love to create that sort of community among Adult Young Friends in the Carolinas.

Addiction, Homelessness, and Incarceration: Faceless No More

Asta Crowe shares with Friends:

Mark Hall, whom many of us know from his visits when he was incarcerated at OCC, has a formed an organization:

Addiction, Homelessness and Incarceration: Faceless No More (www.facelessnomore.org) –

"AHI advocates for them and shares their stories, working with individuals and organizations in North Carolina and beyond." He has recently partnered with the Human Kindness Foundation (<https://www.humankindness.org/>) to further expand the educational and outreach work of of the "Faceless No More" organization. You can contact astacrowe@gmail.com if you have questions

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Minutes, 9 am Sunday February 21, 2021

Chris Stanley, Clerk; Alice Carlton, Recording Clerk

Attendance: Chris Stanley, Alice Carlton, Dave Curtin, Lynn Drake, Matt Drake, Dave Schneider, Leslie Rountree, Faye Stanley, Jeff Brown, Ken Grogan, Max Drake, Susan Gall, Dianne Uwayo, Ellen O'Brien, Michael Jokinen, Tom Ludlow, Jasmine McKewen, Curt Torell, Gwynne Pomeroy, Finn James, Rachel Schneider, Joe Groves, Henry Schneider, Emilie Condon, Sean Chen, Lori Khamala, Rufus King, Buzz Borchardt, Tim Fogarty, Monteze Snyder, Hank Elkins, Nancy Elkins, John Hite, Carolyn Stuart, Richard Miller, Dottie Heninger, Carolyn White, Jennifer

Leeman, Julia Cleaver, Paul Munk, Betsy Brinson, Kurt Hein, Gwyn Hein, Jan Hutton, Wendy Michener, Sabrina King, Lois Ann Hobbs, Cecilia King, Tom Munk, Ann Miller, Bob Durovich, Cathering Alguire, Deborah Gibbs, Ben Ray, Rich Godfrey, Pam Schwingl, Nancy Milio, Rowena Bowman.

1. Opening worship and query: “Do you respect that of God/the Light in everyone though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or be difficult to discern?”

2. Welcome, recognition of first time attender Dianne Owayo, review of the agenda.

3. The minutes from the January 17, 2021 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB) were approved as written.

4. Jasmine McKewen, Clerk of the Children & Youth Religious Education Committee (CYRE), presented the CYRE annual report. (Appendix 1.) Friends expressed much admiration and appreciation for all CYRE has been able to accomplish during the pandemic. We approved the report with great gratitude.

5. Henry Schneider presented his letter declaring his position as a Conscientious Objector. (Appendix 2.) Friends shared much appreciation for Henry’s letter. Many spoke of the sincerity and integrity in it. Some examples: it had your own voice, your independent thinking, your soul’s journey, very moving to hear you read it, speaks well to who you are, and an expression of peace and your commitment to that.

Others spoke of his thoughtful, clear, and persuasive presentation of beliefs, and particularly that these are moral, not religious. Comments included: you defined your moral beliefs coherently, deeply, and powerfully; you didn’t take the easy way out by simply appealing on religious grounds; you weaved together your moral, atheist, and CHF/Quaker/family influences; and you framed your argument personally, and not just as a political or philosophical treatise.

We accepted Henry’s letter with gratitude.

6. Dottie Heninger presented the memorial minute for Martha Gwyn who died Sept. 5, 2020. (Appendix 3.) Many Friends expressed appreciation for Martha’s long life and many contributions to our Meeting and for Dottie’s beautiful memorial minute. We approved the memorial minute with gratitude to Dottie for the service she provides in composing these memorial minutes.

7. Time was opened for responses to the discernment statement on the rooftop solar project, held over from last month. One Friend said she was distressed that this statement landed through email rather than through the discernment of MWAB. Another observed that those with great concern for the environment were both for and against this project. The Clerk explained his intent was to express his discernment of the lack of unity and to manage the agenda. Another

spoke of the need for seasoning of other possible actions to address climate change. A long discussion ensued. We affirmed the Clerk's discernment about the lack of unity on the project and the need to set it aside for now.

8. Jeff Brown, Clerk of the Ministry & Worship (M&W) Committee, provided an update on the discernment within M&W regarding when we might reenter the Meetinghouse safely. (Appendix 4.) Friends are invited to submit questions and comments to ministryandworship@chapelhillfriends.org.

9. The Task Force for Financial Information Policy has met twice with a third session scheduled. They will report at our next meeting.

10. Henry Schneider presented a minute from Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW): "Climate change is an existential crisis. QEW advocates addressing this crisis as a Meeting as well as individually." The Clerk will hold this minute over until next month to allow Friends to reflect on it.

11. The report on the discernment of benevolences will be held over.

12. Next meeting will be 9 am Sunday, March 21, 2021.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. The spring retreat for Piedmont Friends (Piedmont Friends Fellowship/Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFF/PFYM)), will be April 9-11, 2021, again held virtually. A flyer with registration details will come soon.

B. The NC Utilities Commission will meet March 16, 2021. Details to follow in eNews.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Children's and Youth Religious Education Committee Annual Report

February 2020-February 2021

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. This past year we have continued holding FDS on Zoom and continued to meet as a committee using Zoom. Jasmine McKewen continued to be clerk after co-clerk John Hite rotated off the committee last year. Additionally, Herbert Struemper rotated off the committee. We are grateful for John and Herbie's many years of faithful service and appreciate their continued participation in FDS teaching and programming. Jason James and Julie Feickert joined the committee this year. Continuing members are: Simone Kershner, Stacey Sewall, and Laura Young.

Kathleen McNeil (FDS Coordinator) serves on the committee as an ex-officio member.

First Day School (FDS) program

We have continued to have participation from families with children ranging in age from 3 to high school during the pandemic. Attendance has been lower and less consistent than it had been in person. Children and teens are grouped into two pods as we navigate these unusual circumstances.

The Lower and Middle Pod have merged and meet as one group at 11am each First Day. Children range in age from three to twelve. The teachers have included Kathleen McNeil, Mark Hulbert, Jasmine McKewen, Carolyn Stuart, Julie Feickert, and Allie Scales. There is usually the attendance of somewhere between one and seven children each week. The merged Lower and Middle Pod have delivered activity packets once or twice a month since the beginning of the summer to families in this group. Children sometimes completed activities independently if they were not able to come to the Zoom session.

Upper Pod, generally those students of high school age. The teachers are John Hite, Leslie Rountree, Simone Kershner and Herbert Struemper. The upper pod students have been meeting at various times as they try to support one another during this unusual time. Right now they are meeting on the second Sunday of the month. Will King and Rufus King presented their CO letters this year, and Henry Schneider has been preparing for his. The teens worked together to organize the alternative gift mart. They raised around \$4,651.50 dollars for designated charities.

The curriculum is composed of four parts:

Bible Studies (January through Easter) which alternates between the Old Testament and the New Testament. In 2020, students studied the Old Testament.

Multicultural Unit (Sunday after Easter through the end of the school year) We talked about traditions in Judaism, Hinduism, and Islam.

Quakerism (late August until Sunday before Thanksgiving). Students studied Quaker history, testimonies and practices.

Holiday Activities (Sunday after Thanksgiving through first Sunday in January). We continued some holiday traditions during our Zoom meetings. Carolyn Stuart led young Friends in creating cards for Quakers at Carol Woods who are not regular meeting attendees, and for men at Orange Correctional Center who worship with us. They also made ornaments with Leslie Rountree, sang songs with Jasmine McKewen, and made snowflakes with Carolyn Stuart.

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

Nursery Care

Nursery care has been suspended during the pandemic. Stacey Sewall remains in her position and continues to assist with curriculum planning.

Collaboration with other Meeting Committees

CYRE collaborated with the Ministry and Worship and Finance Committees to purchase a separate Zoom account for the use of CYRE meetings and FDS activities. CYRE has prepared and discussed a statement on racial justice, attached here.

Collaboration with Friends outside of our Meeting

Jasmine McKewen and Julie Feickert participated in conversations on Zoom with FDS teachers around the country through QREC, the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative. CYRE has been in communication with Durham Friends Meeting to discuss ideas for FDS programming during the pandemic.

Building Family Connections

FDS delivered activity packets to approximately twelve children several times most months between July and now.

Kathleen McNeil hosted a story night once a week on Zoom or with children calling in on the phone. She read an excerpt from Harry Potter each week for several months. We are now hosting a TV night each Tuesday evening from 7:30-8:00pm using Netflix Teleparty. Several families participate each week and are currently watching one episode of the show *Avatar: The Last Airbender*. Former FDS student, Finn James, set up a Minecraft game server for Friends to play together in a virtual environment.

Teen Activities

In addition to coordinating The Alternative Gift Mart, Ian Feickert partnered with alums Sam Leeman Munk and Finn James to create a peaceful gaming server for children and adults to play communally. Conscientious Objector curriculum is impeccably and thoroughly presented each year by Curt Torell, with continual support from John Hite.

Looking Forward

We are delighted to have had the continued participation of approximately a dozen families in FDS activities and a stable group of teachers during the past year. We look forward to renewing our connections with more families in the coming year and continuing to build closer relationships among our meeting families in our work of integrating families and children into the lives of the meeting as a whole.

Respectfully submitted by the CYRE committee: Jasmine McKewen (clerk), Kathleen McNeil (FDS Coordinator, ex-officio), Simone Kershner, Stacey Sewall, Jason James, Julie Feickert, and Laura Young

CYRE Anti-racism Statement

The Children's and Youth Religious Education Committee of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting offers this statement to affirm our support of the Black Lives Matter movement and our commitment to honoring the value and dignity of Black lives in response to pervasive white supremacy in our society and community.

In our racial justice work, CYRE prioritizes the voices of people of color, especially Black people, and is committed to taking the lead from BIPOC families in our community. We intend to seek continual feedback and ask questions: How do Black families/families of color want to navigate their path within the meeting? How can we best support the Black youth of our Meeting?

CYRE recognizes that our work with young people in our meeting offers us a unique opportunity to disrupt patterns of white supremacy with the voices we choose to amplify in our FDS classrooms. We are committed to acquiring and using materials (books, wall art, worksheets, lesson-materials, toys etc) that feature Black/Brown characters, Black/Brown representations of Jesus, and images of BIPOC. We are committed to re-examining our lesson plans and weaving diverse voices and materials into FDS lessons in all units throughout the year.

In planning lessons we will ask ourselves: how can this lesson be made anti-racist? We will strive to include quotes, teachings, and examples from Black religious leaders, including Black Quakers (ie Bayard Rustin), African and African-American religious traditions, holiday traditions (ie learning about Kwanzaa during the holiday unit at the end of December) and we will make explicit when studying the Bible stories that the people we are learning about *were not white*.

For any decision we make as a committee, we will ask: how does this decision bring us closer to being an anti-racist organization? Field trips, high school service trips, fundraisers, curriculum, FDS student groupings, materials purchases, and any other decisions of the committee will be viewed through an anti-racist lens to guide our work.

Notes:

We're thinking of compiling a list of resources: reading list, children's Bibles, recommended books etc.

Appendix 2

Dear Chapel Hill Friends Meeting,

I wish to be noted as a conscientious objector to war.

War kills innocent people without regard for justice. I could not personally participate in such an act for doing so would go against my deepest held moral inclinations.

That, in short, is why I write this letter.

Growing up in a Quaker meeting I've been taught from an early age that war is wrong. As far as Quakerism has "core pillars," the testimony to peace is the closest you'll get.

As I've grown older though, I've spent a lot of time reflecting on the things that have been taught to me as a kid. Not everything churches teach kids today is correct, and while I've been pretty sure for a while now that the meeting I grew up in wasn't anything like the Westboro Baptist Church, I felt, and still feel, it is my duty to critically analyze those values that I have been taught.

And when it comes to antimilitarism, what I've found is that I do genuinely object to warfare and participation in it.

Proving that this objection is strong enough grounds for conscientious objection is difficult for me, especially since I am an atheist. I do not have the luxury of appealing to eternal divine law. Instead, by US law, I must make a case that my opposition is "morally" founded or that my Quaker upbringing is significant enough for my opposition to be of "religious" nature.

From a religious perspective, I find again, as stated above, that my objection to participation in war took root through my Quaker meeting and that it cemented through guidance from the many role models I found within my meeting growing up.

Morals, to me, are nothing more than the biological programming kept within us, as social creatures, to do justice to the larger community of humans. Yet from that perspective, I do think that I can make a confident case against warfare, as killing indiscriminately is no 'justice to mankind'.

War historically has only been used as an economic and political tool to enrich and empower the privileged few involved in statecraft (and occasionally to pay off their goons). War, fundamentally, is an act of statecraft, never done for humanitarian ends. World War II wasn't started because of the camps or the slavery, it was started because of geopolitical alliances. Those making war are blind to injustice.

Ultimately, the people that suffer from war the most are innocent civilians, reduced to poverty and despair. To those that make the decision to go to war, destitution is a goal, as cruel institutions are often justified and upheld through the scarcity and desperation of the people living under them.

War is often justified as some life-saving operation, but in my historical understanding that is categorically false, merely a propaganda narrative that appeals to those same sacred values that state-sponsored killing desecrates.

As per *Gillette v. U.S.*, I hold no obligation to defend my beliefs against hypothetical wars. A 'just war' may be a scientific possibility, but it isn't an anthropological one.

Therefore with both my full understanding of wars and their context, as well as my deep moral instincts to do the best for my fellow human being, I could not willingly participate in war.

That, in length, is why I write this letter.

With love and some degree of careful consideration,

Henry Schneider

Appendix 3

Martha Perry Gwyn

December 4, 1923 – September 5, 2020

Martha Gwyn, a life-long member of the Religious Society of Friends, grew up attending Sugar Plain Friends Church in Thorntown, Indiana where she was born. Her early years included working on the family farm and joining the Future Farmers of America. She attended Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, graduating as a Latin major, then extended her education with a master's degree in theology from Hartford Seminary and later earned a second master's degree in social work from Tulane University.

Martha made good use of her education: she taught at Ramallah Friends School in Palestine, worked for the YWCA in Houston, Texas, and for child welfare services in Carbondale, Illinois. In 1956 she met Robert (Bob) Gwyn at the Houston Friends Meeting and four months later they married. Their life was enriched as they had their first son and later adopted seven children. Throughout these busy years, they lived in Illinois and Indiana where Bob taught communications at the university. In 1967, they arrived in Chapel Hill and adopted their last child.

Martha and Bob joined Chapel Hill Friends Meeting where they were both active. She was clerk of the Meeting, served on numerous committees and on the Board of the Carolina Friends School. She and Bob were leaders in social justice movements and were instrumental in founding Quaker House. They regularly participated in anti-Vietnam War vigils at the post office and picketed the Varsity Theater to allow full integration of their cinema. They were also founding members of the Lockridge Community, north of Chapel Hill, where they built a three-domed home. And they never missed Meeting for Worship. Martha's advice on committees and vocal ministry was plain spoken and down-to-earth; she was a practical sage.

In retirement, Bob and Martha served two years as resident caretakers at the Friends Center in Hawaii. As the children left home, Martha increased her volunteer work to include the Inter-Faith Council, Amnesty International, and the Democratic Party. She remained a faithful supporter of the American Friends Service Committee.

Martha died in the Health Center of Carol Woods Retirement Community where she had lived for the last few years. Bob and her son Nicholas predeceased her. She is survived by her children Christopher, Sara, Rachel, Gregory, Rebecca Gwyn McQuoid, Brian, and Hannah. She is also survived by ten grandchildren and 14 great-grand-children.

Her legacy of a life well-lived continues to touch those whom she met on her journey.

Appendix 4

Dear Friends,

We last met in person for Meeting for Worship on March 8, 2020. The closing of the meeting house has weighed heavily on our hearts over these many months. The persistence of risks related to the COVID-19 pandemic has been daunting. Caution has been guided by love and concern for the health and safety of all in our Quaker community. Management of the meeting house has included strictly limiting access to reduce the risk of spreading the virus to the resident and the few others who must occasionally enter the meeting house.

The Ministry & Worship Committee has responsibility to make a recommendation to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business about when and how to reopen the meeting house for in-person worship. For months, the committee has been in consultation with the Buildings and Grounds, Hospitality, Children and Youth Religious Education, and Finance committees. We continue to watch for information about other Friends Meetings who are facing the same public health conditions. We continue to pay close attention to recommendations from Orange County, the Governor and the Centers for Disease Control as well as suggestions by members of our Meeting community. Uncertainty about when and how risk will diminish leads to continued caution. Public efforts to widely distribute vaccinations are encouraging and may be the key to safe resumption of face-to-face worship.

The risk factors related to worship in the meeting room include transmission of the virus indoors, with ventilation a factor, in addition to masking and distancing. Bathrooms are enclosed spaces that could harbor the virus. Risk is lower outdoors where air circulates freely, where masking and distancing are still advised for public health.

While current rules and guidelines would permit an indoor gathering of a few people, Ministry & Worship has not been led to accept the current level of risk as low enough for reopening the meeting house and resuming in-person activities.

Although conditions are not yet favorable for in-person activities, with optimism we can begin planning. The following need to be considered in our planning:

- The health risk for the meeting house resident.
- Risk of severe illness for vulnerable members and attenders.
- The value of enabling our community to worship together, online, in person, or in some combination.
- Reopening of the meeting house may be achievable sooner if there is a combination of in-person attendance on a gradual basis, a high level of vaccination, and online participation using our Zoom technology.
- Online participation, combined with in-person attendance, will require a modest investment to equip the meeting house with adequate connectivity to Zoom and effective audio and visual elements.

• Advance notice to Buildings & Grounds well before resumption of any in-person activity.

The Ministry & Worship Committee asks our community to take time to sit with these considerations. Acknowledging uncertainties in public health conditions, personal risks, and outcomes for widespread vaccinations, please think about

- (a) your preference for your own participation,
- (b) your preference for our community,
- (c) how participation could be managed effectively, and
- (d) what questions need to be answered in discussion.

We invite your thoughts and questions via email to ministryandworship@chapelhillfriends.org

Ministry & Worship Committee would like to share observations about online worship via Zoom, with gratitude for information and technical support from the Zoom working group. Clearly, spiritual deepening and discernment are more challenging online, and we hear the words “Zoom” and “fatigue” used in the same sentence. Yet, in response to a survey and in conversation, we have learned that the Zoom platform enables participation in Forum, Meeting for Worship, and Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business by Friends who live far away, or who cannot travel easily or at all. Online gatherings also enable Friends with hearing issues to adjust the audio on their devices to hear better than they might in person. Online worship via Zoom may not be ideal, but it is the best we can do for now.

Ministry & Worship Committee is grateful for your attention and your patience with worship during this pandemic.

February 21, 2021 Ministry & Worship Committee: Jeff Brown, clerk, Madelyn Ashley, Alice Carlton, Matt Drake, Carolyn White and Chris Stanley, ex- officio.

END

of Minutes of Meeting For Worship With Attention to Business, 02/21/2021

Newsletter & eNews Reminder

Please send items for the weekly eNews email and the monthly print Newsletter to news@chapelhillfriends.org.

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