

# Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

## Newsletter

### Fourth Month, 2021

- **Monthly Query:** *Children and young people need love and stability. Are we doing all we can to uphold and sustain parents and others who carry the responsibility for providing this care?*
- **Monthly Worship Tip from the M&W Committee:**  
*Not all vocal ministry will be equally meaningful to all present. Remember, ministry that does not speak to your condition may nevertheless be valuable to others. Be patient. Take care to separate the message from the minister*



### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

**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.

**April 11 - No Forum** - Friends are encouraged to participate instead in Piedmont Friends Fellowship

**April 18 - No Forum - Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at 9:00 a.m**

**April 25 - Jackie Jenks - IFC Update**

**May 2 - Quaker Testimonies Series: Integrity**

We'll reflect on some passages from Faith and Practice, hear from a panel that lives this testimony, and share in small groups and together.

**May 9 - Mothers and Mother Figures**

**May 16 - No Forum - Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at 9:00 a.m**

**May 23 - Graduation Forum**

Matilda Chen, Rufus King, and Henry Schneider will reflect on their First-Day School experiences and ask for wisdom from attenders.

### **Upcoming Events**

**Piedmont Friends Spring Retreat, Apr 9, 10, 11**

Registration is now open for the Piedmont Friends Spring Retreat! The theme of this free, online event is "Cultivating the Garden of Diversity and Inclusion," featuring a Saturday morning session with Niambi Jaha-Echols, author of "What Color is Your Soul?" An art activity for children and adults with childlike curiosity will be held on Saturday afternoon, followed by annual sessions of the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting. Friends from across the Piedmont are invited to morning worship at 9:00 on April 11th which will feature the healing tones of singing bowls. All registrants receive a discount code for 10% off at Quaker Books of Friends General Conference bookstore through April 18th. "What Color is Your Soul," and other books of interest are featured at the Piedmont Friends Book Table page.

Piedmont Friends Spring Retreat-2021 REGISTRATION:

<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/jdlZ0t0dW4>

## 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.

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## 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/>

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## 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>

### 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](mailto: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) :  
<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](mailto:linda.drake100@gmail.com)) or Matt ([matthiascdrake@gmail.com](mailto:matthiascdrake@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](mailto: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.

## Online Events: Friends Service Committee, Apr 11 thru Apr 15

Naveed Moeed shares with Friends:

You are invited to join us for a week of events and workshops on the occasion of American Friends Service Committee's annual meeting, a virtual program exploring different dimensions of "Making New Worlds: Pursuing Peace with Justice," from Sunday, April 11 through Thursday, April 15.

In six workshops, one panel presentation, and one plenary address we will explore questions including: What does it mean to dismantle systems to create justice? What is the Quaker historical perspective on working for liberation, and what is the vision of contemporary Quaker organizers? How is AFSC working to end injustice and the institutions that perpetuate it—and create alternatives based on care and a solidarity economy?

We will explore approaches to working toward peace with justice and ways that AFSC and Quakers are striving to build new worlds.

Workshops and programming: Join us for one or two sessions or attend the whole program!

We will begin on Sunday, April 11 at 7 p.m. ET with a panel presentation, "[Quakers, AFSC, and abolition: Then and Now](#)," featuring historians Marcus Rediker and Katharine Grebner and contemporary Quaker abolitionists.

Workshops will be offered throughout the week, as listed below:

Monday, April 12, 8 p.m. ET: [FreeThemAll](#): How we are living into the call to free folks in the context of COVID-19 and beyond. Presenters: Adriana Jasso, Demetrius Titus, Layne Mullett.

Tuesday, April 13, 8 p.m. ET: [Pursuing freedom for Palestine](#): A campaign for Palestinian children's rights. Presenters: Jennifer Bing and Zeina Hutchison.

Wednesday, April 14, 4 p.m. ET: [Global migrant justice](#): Manifesting the joint Quaker statement. Presenters: Kristin Kumpf, Marianne Elias, Pauline Muchina, and global migration staff.

Wednesday, April 14, 8 p.m. ET: [Restorative Justice](#): What does it look like/feel like in our communities? Presenter: Fatimeh Khan.

Thursday, April 15, 1:30 p.m. ET: [Making new worlds](#): Creating a society based on care and a solidarity economy...what to divest from/what to invest in? Presenters: Rick Wilson, Dov Baum, and Grace Kindeke.

[Nyle Fort will conclude the program with a plenary session](#) on Thursday, April 15 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. ET. Nyle Fort is a minister, activist, and scholar based in Newark, NJ. He has worked in education, criminal justice, and youth development for over a decade and is a lead trainer at Momentum, an activist incubator that builds large-scale social movements in the United States and around the world.

During these sessions discover AFSC's work, ways you can join us, and hear from historians and wise activists about the contemporary challenges for justice and how we can pursue it together.

[Read more about the program and register for each event here.](#) We hope you will join us!

## Friends General Conference: Spirit and Community Online, Apr 17

Friends General Conference (FGC) is offering a workshop via zoom on April Saturday, April 17, 10:30am - 5pm. Registration is open. You can get information at this link:

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/events/fgc-consultation-spirit-and-community-online>. The Shotts/Leadership committee has funds to assist those interested in attending to cover the basic \$35 fee (it's a pay-as-led registration-- "Based on this personal reflection, we invite you to pay as led and to make any donation that feels appropriate to you. ")

Roundtable discussions will cover a variety of topics, some of which may be of particular interest to Clerking, CYRE (Children and Youth Religious Education) and C&C (Care & Counsel). Contact [shotts-leadershipfunds@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:shotts-leadershipfunds@chapelhillfriends.org) if you wish to apply for funding assistance.

Note that there are a number of other activities listed on the FGC Events page that might be of interest to our readers.

## 2021 CROP Hunger Walk, Sunday, Apr 25

Asta Crowe shares with Friends:

We are participating in the 2021 CROP Hunger Walk to support Church World Service (CWS) and help families who are struggling with hunger. Please join us - with your steps and your donations - to provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them, and greater food security in communities around the world. Our local IFC receives 25% of all donations, 75% goes to CWS to help end hunger. The official date of the walk is Sunday, April 25.

Please donate today -- go to <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/chapel-hill-friends-meeting>. Either click on the "Donate" button for a donation to the main site for our CHFM, or scroll down and you can donate on either David Curtin's or Carolyn Stuart's team page. If you have any questions, please contact [astacrowe@gmail.com](mailto:astacrowe@gmail.com).

## FCNCL Workshop on Criminal Justice Reform, Apr 29

Pam :Schwingl shares with Friends:

News from Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL).

We have a new workshop coming on **April 29**, so save the date. Offered jointly with staff from Friends Committee on National Legislation, we'll update you on criminal justice reform legislation. Materials from our last workshop on how to build relationships with your NC legislators are on our website: [FCNCL.org](http://FCNCL.org). Those materials are intended to **make it easier for you to bring Quaker values to bear on NC legislation**. We want to help you feel confident about advocating and educating your legislators. We also want to Alert you when we see a moment when speaking up will be most impactful. Check out our most recent Action Alert about regulating "forever chemicals" in NC groundwater; see all our past alerts; and sign up to receive Alerts [HERE](#). If you're on Facebook, please, LIKE us and request to join our Facebook Group: [Friends of FCNCL for Advocacy](#), where we can converse. New projects: we're grouping our participants by legislative districts, so you can team with others for lobby visits; and we're reaching out to our General Committee members to get feedback and ideas.

**Learn More About FCNCL.** We advocate for NC policies that support people of all cultural, religious, and racial backgrounds; marriage and gender equality; violence prevention; civil and voting rights for all citizens; access to quality education opportunities; quality healthcare for all; an equitable and humane criminal justice system; environmental stewardship; and opposition to all forms of torture and extreme rendition. We welcome your feedback, so write to us at [info@fcncl.org](mailto:info@fcncl.org) and let us know what you think.

## Announcements

### New Action Alert from FCNL

Pam Schwingl shares with Friends:

There is a [new action alert](#) from the Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation on their [website](#) regarding passage of the uniform heirs property act. This is a bipartisan bill aimed to prevent land loss and has major implications for land owned by African American families. As North Carolina law now stands, family farms and home places can be sold out from under the people who have lived on them for generations and has had a particularly devastating impact on African Americans in rural areas.

### The School-to-Prison Pipeline

Tom Munk shares with Friends:

On February 1, Pam Schwingl sent this letter to her NC legislator, Graig Meyer. The Anti-Racism Committee (a subcommittee of Peace and Justice) encourages other Friends to send similar letters to Graig or their representatives.

*February 1, 2021*

*Dear Representative Meyer,*

*As you know, I am a member of the Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL) and a constituent of yours from northern Orange Counting. As a Quaker I am led by our testimonies of equality, peace, and community. These beliefs lead me to my concern about the multiple issues that make our criminal justice system less than equal, particularly for people of color; and a concern that our current system does little to create a cohesive, peaceful community.*

*One particular issue with which I am concerned, as well as all of FCNCL, has to do with the “school to prison pipeline.” With great enthusiasm I welcome The North Carolina Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice 2020 recommendations that address this issue and others. Specifically, the Task Force recommended critical revisions to use of force policies, law enforcement training, and reforms to the use of School Resource Officers (SROs). These recommendations prioritize public safety and promote alternatives to arrest that, when appropriate, give people the help they need.*

*My ask regarding legislative action to reduce the school-to-prison pipeline is that you actively support any bills which are introduced or co-sponsor any that will:*

- Increase funding to schools for hiring nurses, counselors, psychologists, and social workers to meet the needs of students with behavioral difficulties.*
- Require that all school personnel should complete Mental Health First Aid, first aid, cultural competence/diversity/inclusion, and developmental disability training.*
- Require that law enforcement agencies participate in the International Association of Chiefs of Police One Mind Campaign which seeks to ensure successful interactions between police officers and persons affected by mental illness.*

*It appears that the comment section or the House Select Committee on Community Relations, Law Enforcement, and Justice is closed, and I didn't get chance to submit a comment about this issue.*

*Thank you so much for all you do to build a just NC!*

*Pam Schwingl*

## **Chapel Hill Friends Meeting**

### **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**

**Minutes, 9 am, Sunday, March 21, 2021**

**Chris Stanley, Clerk; Alice Carlton, Recording Clerk**

Attendance: Alice Carlton, Chris Stanley, Hank Elkins, Dave Curtin, Betsy Brinson, Tom Munk, Jasmine McKewen, Lois Ann Hobbs, Nancy Fisher, Tom Ludlow, Quaker Harmon, Jeff Brown, Catherine Alguire, Paul Munk, Bob Durovich, Faye Stanley, Ellen O'Brien, Hart Pillow, John Hite, Kennis Grogan, Matt Drake, Lynn Drake, Ben Ray, Rich Godfrey, Jan Hutton, Dianne Uwayo, Carolyn Stuart, Curt Torell, Wendy Michener, Tom McQuiston, Buzz Borchardt, Dottie Heninger, Joe Groves, Ann Miller, Gwynne Pomeroy, Asta Crowe, Deborah Gibbs, Julia Cleaver, Lloyd Kramer, Monteze Snyder, Tim Fogarty, John Bell, Nancy Milio, Madelyn Ashley, Holly Ma, Carolyn White.

#### 1. Opening worship and query:

Query: How can we make the meeting a community in which each person is accepted and nurtured and strangers are welcome?

#### 2. Welcome and review of the agenda.

3. The minutes for the February 21, 2021 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB) were approved as edited.

4. Betsy Brinson presented the Quaker House Annual Report. (Appendix 1.) Betsy reviewed the history of Quaker House (QH) and how it has been affected by the pandemic this year. Family counseling switched to tele-medicine and served 74 people. The staff is beginning to get vaccinated. Other groups that use the space have been meeting in the back yard. The GI Counseling Hotline has continued as before by telephone. There has been an increase in requests for help with the application for Conscientious Objection. Travel for education and outreach has been canceled and moved to Zoom. The QH Board comprises 22 members from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. Chapel Hill Friends Meeting (CHFM) only has one of the possible five members allotted serving on the board. Friends are encouraged to consider joining. We approved the report with gratitude.

5. CHFM Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) presented a minute on Climate Change last month. "Climate change is an existential crisis. CHFM QEW advocates addressing this crisis as a Meeting as well as individually." Some discussion ensued. The minute will return to QEW for further discernment and brought back to the April 18, 2021 MWAB.

6. Buzz Borchardt, Clerk of the Hospitality Committee, presented their annual report. (Appendix 2.)

Many usual duties had to be canceled due to the pandemic. The committee took over responsibility for responding promptly to those who email [friends@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:friends@chapelhillfriends.org), referring as appropriate to other committees. The report was approved with gratitude.

7. Tom Munk, Clerk of the Peace & Justice Committee (P&J), presented an update on the discernment process on benevolences. Tom Munk, Faye Stanley, Catherine Alguire and Lloyd Kramer serve on a benevolences subcommittee that continues to meet, seeking unity on a recommendation.

8. Nancy Fisher and Tom McQuiston, Co-Clerks of the Transition and Support Committee (TSC), presented their annual report. (Appendix 3.) Despite the limitations of the pandemic, some support to these men has continued via phone, correspondence, or Zoom. A new program, Wounded Healers of NC, has been formed, run by those who have experienced incarceration. The web site is <https://woundedhealersnc.org>. A Friend acknowledged that the formation of Wounded Healers NC has been Tom McQuiston's brain child. Fund raising for the Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry, which provides the chaplain's salary, has continued during the pandemic. Josh Leroy, Orange Correctional Center (OCC) Chaplain, attended the TSC meeting via Zoom. The lack of affordable housing has been a significant obstacle for men returning to the community and needs to be addressed. Many apartment complexes in Orange County refuse to rent to men with any sort of criminal record. We approved the report with gratitude.

9. The Clerk presented an update on the task force regarding our policy on stewardship for gifts to benevolences. This task force includes Carolyn Stuart, Hank Elkins, Faye Stanley, Naveed Moeed and Monteze Snyder. They have a fourth meeting scheduled and will bring their recommendation soon.

10. Jeff Brown, Clerk of the Ministry & Worship Committee (M&W), presented an update on the question of returning to face-to-face worship. (Appendix 4.) As yet we have no time table for re-opening the Meeting house. It's complicated. M&W invites comments from the community. Email [ministryandworship@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:ministryandworship@chapelhillfriends.org).

11. Dottie Heninger presented a memorial minute for Miriam Alexander. (Appendix 5.) We approved the minute with thanks.

12. The next MWAB will be Sunday, 9 am, April 18, 2021.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. The Piedmont Friends Gathering will be April 9-11, again conducted virtually. A link to sign up is in the weekly eNews.

B. CHFM QEW is open to all and next will meet Sunday 4 pm March 28.

C. CROP Walk will be virtual on April 25. Please donate through the web site for our Meeting created by Dave Curtin.

13. Closing worship, virtual circle, preparation for 11 am Meeting for Worship.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1

#### **Annual Report on Quaker House to CHFYM (March, 2021)**

**Mission Statement:** Quaker House is a manifestation of the Religious Society of Friends Peace Testimony. Based in Fayetteville, NC, the home of Fort Bragg, Quaker House provides counseling and support to service members and families, who are questioning their role in the military; educates them, their families and the larger public about military issues; and advocates for a more peaceful world.

**Background:** Chapel Hill Friends Meeting is a founding member of Quaker House since 1969 when Dean Holland, a Vietnam era soldier, who wanted to be a conscientious objector, came to our meeting requesting help for himself but also for others like himself in the Fort Bragg area. CHFYM offered financial support to establish a physical space where soldiers could come for information, support and community. When the first house burned mysteriously in the middle of the night, CHFYM arranged for a second home on Hillside Avenue, which is where QH has since resided.

**COVID-19:** The 2020 pandemic has directly impacted the life and program of Quaker House operations. The **Family Counseling Program** continued in person until one client volunteered that she was infected. While the staff had been careful to wipe down all relevant surfaces since the beginning, it became clear that in person meetings for client counseling was no longer a good idea. In spite of COVID, Joanna has been able to offer counseling services to 74 individuals in 2020. These clients include active duty soldiers as well as military veterans, partners of military personnel and even several children, ages 6-14, of military families. Counseling continues to be offered through teletherapy with plans to return to in person counseling again this spring after staff vaccination is complete. Other outside groups that usually meet at Quaker House, including Fayetteville Friends Meeting, have met in the back yard where an outside fireplace provides some heat, or by zoom or not at all. No decision has been made yet as to when to re-open the building to these groups.

The **GI Rights Counseling Program**, which has always been primarily by telephone hotline, has continued as always. It was necessary to strengthen the internet connections with new equipment to better meet the demand of inquiries by email. Total number of contacts, averaging 266 calls each month, has increased as have requests to help with conscientious objection applications. COVID has affected numerous military issues. Soldiers affected by the military travel ban, isolation before or during boot camp, and disease from unprotected exposure to other incoming recruits caused many callers to question their desire to be in the military. Our counselors were able to help them explore

avenues to get out. An accessible information website was improved upon this year. In addition, comprehensive counselor training for 10 new volunteer counselors was conducted during this year.

With the pandemic, travel for education and outreach has been cancelled for all functions: administrative and staff meetings, board of directors and committee meetings, educational forums, development visits to monthly meetings, Friends General Conference, Congressional monitoring and more. Zoom has become a primary communication too. Chapel Hill Friends Meeting benefitted in spring, 2020 from a new educational forum on the “Military and the Environment” with speakers Steve Woolford in one location, and Kindra Bradley zooming from Quaker House. While we are ready to get back to normal, Quaker House has continued to function well even in difficult times.

**Board of Directors:** The board consists of 22 members representing monthly meetings in NC, VA, and SC along with representatives from Baltimore Yearly Meeting and SAYMA (Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting). Many are new members. A number of longtime members are stepping down after lengthy service and new leadership is being groomed. A strategic planning process is underway.

**Financial Development:** Several staff and board members have attended training of Friends Fiduciary with the goal of establishing a legacy program. Quaker House has been the recipient of very few bequests over the years. Our membership consists of donors who could be interested in remembering Quaker House in their will.

Lapsed individual donors were contacted in the fall, resulting in increased donations. A virtual 5k run is being planned for 2021. Birthday fundraisers on Face Book by several board members have contributed monies. Since these fundraisers seem to generate gifts from younger donors, who use social media more, we will explore their value more. The Outreach Committee has assisted in expanding social media and electronic communications with Face Book, Twitter, and Instagram. ( December stats show that Face Book received 941 contacts, Twitter 505 contacts, and Instagram 393 contacts.)

Quaker House applied and received PPP funds available from the federal government for business and non-profits under COVID regulations. \$18,000 was awarded to cover payroll. Technically this is a loan but indications from the government are that these loans will be forgiven. We have also applied for a second application in the amount of \$16,000 again to cover staff salaries, which have changed with some re-organization this last year.

Outside services like accounting, printing and USPS were all affected by COVID with staff furloughs and delays, affecting QH development. As a result the end of year newsletter, which normally generates significant financial gifts, was delayed and was not always received by donors in time to give 2020 gifts. Fortunately these gifts seem to be coming in with the 2021 calendar year.

**Current Staff:** The staff currently consists of Kindra Bradley (fulltime); Steve Woolford and Lenore Yarger, who share one fulltime position; Joanna, a licensed counselor who is a contract employee; and an administrative assistant who works 11 hours per week.

**Financial:** A comprehensive financial review but not an official audit was conducted. The review committee comprised knowledgeable finance committee members with an additional outside accountant. While Quaker House has no endowment, we currently hold \$50,773.38 with Friends’ Fiduciary in Philadelphia. (This will gain interest and can be withdrawn at any time.) There is also \$26,937.97 in money market certificates at the Self-Help Credit Union. The current treasurer’s account balance is \$63,094. While 2020 expenses were less than anticipated with the pandemic, we are watching gifts from individual donors and meetings very carefully.

**Chapel Hill Meeting Representation to QH Board:** Betsy Brinson is the current CHFMs representative to the Quaker House Board. QH by-laws allow for 5 members and CHFMs Nominations Committee is looking to make additional appointments. (Betsy will be leaving the board July 1 after 17 years service as a Quaker House leader representing the Richmond, VA Friends Meeting and more recently CHFMs.) For questions and/or more information about this report, please contact Betsy Brinson.

March 15, 2021

## Appendix 2

# Hospitality Committee Annual Report 2021 Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

The Hospitality Committee strives to make visitors feel welcomed and to foster community within the meeting. Specifically, and in normal times, the committee serves to:

- greet attenders and welcome visitors to meeting
- manage monthly potluck
- assist CYRE with the mid-December Christmas party
- Help plan memorial services at the Meeting

The past year has not been a normal one. The committee has not been able to perform some actions, has modified others, and assumed a new responsibility, namely:

- serve as first responder for emails to friends@chapelhillfriends.org

**Members of the committee:** Annette Broadwell, Ben Ray, Betsy Fenhagen, Buzz Borchardt (clerk), Evelyn Fendler-Lee, Gordon Davies, Hart Pillow, Jennifer Leeman, and Quaker Harmon. In June of this year, Hart will cycle off of the committee at the end of 3 years of service. We are particularly grateful to her for having assumed responsibility for sending welcome notes to, and contacting, visitors to meeting. She has fulfilled this responsibility for 2 full years with diligence and great warmth, not only mailing welcome notes (now, welcome emails) but phoning and talking to visitors. At the end of June, Annette will also cycle off the committee after her 3 years of service. I particularly wish to express my gratitude to Annette for her advice and guidance when, being a first-time clerk, I assumed the role with great trepidation in 2018. The extent to which I have managed to be successful is due, in large part, to Annette. Because we will be losing two people next year, and because another member, Nancy Dosset, withdrew some time ago, the committee has asked the Nominations Committee for two more members for next year. The committee welcomes volunteers. It is an ideal committee for making connections not only with other members but with visitors to meeting as well.

**Greet attenders and welcome visitors to meeting:**

This past year we have not been able to greet visitors to the Meetinghouse or host fellowship in the library. And, although we have had visitors to Zoom meeting, few of them have left their email address for us to send them a welcome note. By contrast, last year (2019-2020), Hart mailed or emailed over 50 welcome notes and spoke with I don't know how many people. This year since we began meeting via Zoom, only 8 or so visitors have left their email address. The committee is exploring ways to encourage visitors to do so. We have asked Ministry and Worship to add such an invitation to the closer announcements and we are exploring the possibility of a virtual guest book on our website.

**Manage monthly potluck:** In normal times, the committee purchases supplies, sets up and cleans up, and generally oversees potluck. Because of COVID, I believe that our last potluck was in March of 2020. We will resume managing potluck once it begins again.

**Assist CYRE with the mid-December Christmas party:** Normally, committee members help with set-up and clean-up, and the committee provides paper plates, napkins, beverages, and table decorations for the Christmas potluck. This past December, the Christmas party was cancelled, and Christmas Eve candlelight service was celebrated via Zoom. Both Quaker and Buzz, moonlighting from their Hospitality roles, helped the Zoom Committee, on which they both serve, plan for the Candlelight Service.

**Help plan memorial services at the Meeting:** A representative from Hospitality participates with Care and Counsel in working with the family to plan any reception following a memorial service that is held on the grounds of the meeting. We thank Jennifer Leeman for volunteering to be our representative from Hospitality. Because of COVID, no memorial services were held at the meeting this past year, and so Hospitality had no role in this regard.

**Serve as first responder for emails to friends@chapelhillfriends.org:** In August of this past year, Chris Stanley asked the Hospitality Committee to assume the role of responding to emails to

friends@chapelhillfriends.org. Those emails go to: Clerk of Meeting and clerks of Care and Counsel, Ministry and Worship, and Hospitality. The intention was to ensure that the response represents the point of view of the meeting at large rather than that of an arbitrary individual (i.e., whoever steps up to assume the responsibility). It was intended that the Hospitality Committee as a whole be involved in responding and serve as a conduit to other members of the meeting outside of Hospitality. It was also intended that more members be aware of emails that come to our meeting than just the individual who happens to respond. After considerable discernment, the committee adopted the following guidelines for responding to such emails:

If the email to friends@chapelhillfriends.org is:

- **a question like one we used to get while greeting** (e.g., can children be at meeting), responder forwards to Hart to handle.
- **a question that responder knows how to respond**, responder replies, cc'ing friends@chapelhillfriends.org and anyone else appropriate.
- **a question that responder doesn't know how to respond**, responder sends it to members of Hospitality Committee, or anyone else who responder thinks might know, asking for feedback within 24 hours.

Then:

- If feedback makes it clear how to respond, responder does one of the following:
  - replies as in #2 above, or
  - passes responsibility to someone else to respond. If that person doesn't copy the committee on their response, then contact the person to make sure loop was closed.
- If responder still doesn't know how to respond, responder sends a generic email saying we received your query and someone will get back to you within 48 hours, cc'ing friends@chapelhillfriends.org. If we're not copied on their response, then email friends@chapelhillfriends.org to make sure loop was closed.

Since August 18, 2020 when the committee began responding to such emails, 76 emails have been received for an average of 2.5 emails per week. Following is a breakdown of how these emails were handled:

Total eMails	eMails per week (since 08/18/20)	Ignored	Handled within Hospitality	Delegated out of Hospitality
76	2.5	68 (89%)	3 (4%)	5 (7%)

Of the 76 emails the largest majority, 89%, could be (and were) ignored. They ranged from unsolicited newsletters from various organizations, ads for services such as janitorial and web creation, and one memorable ad for a drone featuring 30-minute fly time and 360 degree camera. Only 3 emails were handled within the Hospitality Committee, and 5 were passed along to other committees to handle. Because of the large number of ignorable emails, the task of first responder has not been a particularly burdensome one.

As to whether the goals are being met for having Hospitality respond, it is true that ultimately it is one individual who responds. However, in the case of emails handled within the Hospitality Committee, because members of the committee are copied on the response and sometimes consulted on it, and because the clerks on the distribution list for friends@chapelhillfriends.org are also copied on the response, they all have the chance to weigh in. Similarly, when the response is delegated to another committee, it can be expected that their response represents the point of view of that committee as a whole. So, I think we can say that there is a procedure in place that ensures that emails to Meeting are reviewed by a representative number of individuals and, therefore, represent the viewpoint of the Meeting as a whole. And, many more individuals are aware of emails to our Meeting than before.

**Other news:** Having less Hospitality business to discuss during COVID than before, the Hospitality committee has occasionally met simply for the purpose of connecting and enjoying each other's company. Instead of fellowship in the library, we have had fellowship among ourselves on Zoom.

**Respectfully submitted: Annette Broadwell, Ben Ray, Betsy Fenhagen, Buzz Borchardt (clerk), Evelyn Fendler-Lee, Gordon Davies, Hart Pillow, Jennifer Leeman, Quaker Harmon**

### Appendix 3

Transition and Support Committee

Annual Report

March 2020 to March 2021

This report covers greatly reduced activities in providing support to men in Orange Correctional Center (OCC), and to men who are living in the Chapel Hill and Durham communities.

**Yokefellows at OCC:** The Tuesday evening meetings at Yokefellows were suspended in March due to the coronavirus pandemic. Throughout this year there have been no opportunities for person-to-person relationship building with OCC residents and with recently released men.

Previously, Transition and Support Committee (TSC) members served as OCC sponsors in bringing men to Meeting for Worship, potluck, and the monthly meeting with TSC members following potluck. Sponsors also took men to the monthly book discussion group at Fly Leaf Book Store, and to addiction and recovery meetings. The following OCC events in which TSC members participated previous years were also suspended: parent's day, black history celebration, special meals prepared by the cooking class for July 4<sup>th</sup> and Thanksgiving, individual tutoring and hosting of birthday parties, and two scheduled meetings for worship attended by OCC residents, TSC members and interested CHFM members/attenders.

**Support Team and Returning/Returned Citizens:** Since March 2016 TSC support teams of two-three members have provided support to twenty-one men in their transitioning back into the community, men who had established relationships with TSC members. Given the inability to develop pre-release relationships and the challenge of social distancing, limited support was provided to OCC men in their transition back into the community. Assistance was provided to two men, a returning citizen who had been reincarcerated for a brief period-of-time and a returned citizen. The returning citizen was provided assistance in purchasing clothes

from socks to work boots. One previously returned citizen was unemployed for a brief period after he had a stroke. He was referred to the Returning Citizens Financial Assistance Committee (ReCFAC) for financial assistance for partial payment of one month's rent and electric bill.

Coronavirus has restricted support, primarily telephone contacts, with previously released men. Men called to report joys and concerns, to request assistance in negotiating systems, e.g., medical, social services, IRS, DMV, health insurance, assistance with problem solving, or just to talk with a good friend. Monteze Snyder compiled a list of men living in the community who had completed probation. Support team members contacted these men to provide support in getting men registered to vote. Relationship building continues to be the greater part of support team members' involvement.

Continued support is provided to returned citizens who re-enter the criminal justice system, attending court hearings, speaking with attorneys on their behalf, and visiting them in jail or prison. One man has been reincarcerated. Support team members attend court hearings via Zoom and maintain contact with him through correspondence and telephone.

**Returned Citizens Network:** Members of the TSC, either directly by their participation or by their support of men in transition, have helped spawn a new organization, Wounded Healers of North Carolina (WHNC). WHNC is an emerging organization led and governed by those with the lived experience of incarceration. With perseverance and support Wounded Healers have successfully transitioned back to their community and now resolve to use their own transformation experience, bolstered by certification as peer support specialists, to help others achieve the same. WHNC embraces and supports individuals reentering the community following incarceration, and helps these individuals find pathways to participate in and contribute to healthier and more inclusive communities.

**Financial Support of Alamance Orange Prison Ministry:** Alamance Orange Prison Ministry (AOPM) is solely supported by donations. In October/November TSC conducted the annual fundraiser to support the chaplain and the ministry's activities at OCC. Asta Crowe coordinated this year's fundraiser, the sale of pecans, which generated \$798. AOPM received \$228 from this effort, much less than last year.

**Transition and Support Committee Meetings and Activities:** From March onward TSC met via Zoom on the last Tuesday of the month. Following the OCC coronavirus lock down a list of OCC residents known to TSC members was compiled. Three TSC members wrote to OCC residents or previous OCC residents who were transferred to another prison. Several TSC members participated in the annual purchasing of Christmas presents for OCC residents with children. This event was coordinated by Melissa Radcliffe of Our Children's Place. Josh Leroy, the new chaplain, attended a TSC Zoom meeting. He identified the need for dental supplies. A supply of toothpaste and toothbrushes were purchased and delivered to the Chaplain.

**Post-pandemic:** There has been a change in OCC administration. Given this change and a new chaplain, it is hoped that improved ways of working with OCC can be established when volunteers are again permitted to visit the prison.

TSC policies and practices for assisting returning citizens need to be reviewed, given that entry to free housing is no longer available. Prior to the pandemic, free entry to transitional housing had become difficult. TSC had become dependent on the IFC Community House to provide free transitional residence for OCC men returning to the community. Given the Community House's change in the intake procedure and in its operational policies, the Community House is no longer considered appropriate for most men sponsored by the TSC. The changes in operational policies resulted in an environment which TSC determined was inappropriate for men with substance abuse histories, which many returning citizens have. The IFC

Community House is the only transitional housing in Chapel Hill. A list of transitional housing in Durham was compiled. The transitional residences on this list require payment upon entry and payment of weekly fees or rent. Most of the OCC residents known by TSC members have been released.

Our committee membership this year included Byron Stevens, James Taylor (JT), Asta Crowe, Hank Elkins, Bonnie Raphael, David Schneider, Monteze Snyder, Timothy Fogarty, Richard Miller, Tom McQuiston and Nancy Fisher (co-clerks: Tom McQuiston and Nancy Fisher). Several members rotated off the committee.

Please let us know if you are interested in possible nomination.

#### **Appendix 4**

After the Ministry & Worship Committee reported last month, we received helpful comments from many of you via email. Thank you. Discernment continues. Public health conditions and uncertainties still lead to caution in planning in-person use of the meeting house. The extent of vaccinations is a key factor in consideration of when to resume face-to-face activities, but there are many other factors to consider.

There is no timetable for reopening the meeting house. In a discussion of lead-time needed for reopening, we acknowledge that the Building & Grounds Committee needs as many as two months to properly prepare the premises for safe gathering. In consultation with Buildings & Grounds, Children and Youth Religious Education, and Hospitality committees, Ministry & Worship needs time to figure out how to manage whatever solutions are proposed. Any solutions recommended by Ministry & Worship need to be approved at Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Discernment takes place with recognition that we have values that may be in competition as we emerge from the pandemic. Those values include:

- being a whole, inclusive community; being together, from youngest to oldest
- spiritual health
- physical health and safety
- social and emotional wellbeing

We want to be sure that families with children and youth are included in solutions that involve in-person activity. In thinking about gathering for worship and religious education, we realize that we each have a

responsibility to assess levels of risk to ourselves and others and to follow guidelines for gathering, to be specified in any solutions.

With optimism that way will open—public health efforts will enable in-person gathering—Ministry & Worship is discussing suggestions about times and locations for worship. Questions that have been posed recently include the following:

- Since the pandemic, we have not held an early morning Meeting for Worship. How might the 8:30 to 9:30 hour be used in resumption of in-person worship?
- What roles might the schoolhouse multipurpose room play for worship and religious education in conjunction with First Day School and other Meeting activities?
- Much smaller Friends Meetings in the region have held meetings for worship outdoors at locations near or away from meeting houses. What could work for logistics and audio outdoors for a small number of Friends?
- How much time is needed between in-person gatherings to prepare the meeting room for safe occupation, e.g., between Forum and Meeting for Worship?

Last month, Ministry & Worship Committee asked that we sit with the concepts we outlined, including gathering in gradual numbers and offering in-person and online worship in some blended way. We appreciate responses to date, and without getting into all the nooks and crannies, invite comments today about:

- (a) your preference for your own participation in worship in the meetinghouse,
- (b) your preference for our community's return to worship in the meeting house,
- (c) how participation could be managed effectively, and
- (d) what questions need to be answered in discussion.

March 21, 2021

Ministry & Worship Committee

**Jeff Brown, clerk, Madelyn Ashley, Alice Carlton, Matt Drake, Carolyn White and Chris Stanley, ex officio**

## **Appendix 5**

### **MIRIAM HEALD ALEXANDER**

**May 24, 1928 – May 3, 2020**

Miriam Alexander was born in Nashua, New Hampshire and remained a New Englander throughout her life, even though she spent the last 40 years in North Carolina. Her birth family included one half-sister. She graduated from Wellesley College, attended graduate courses in communications at Columbia University, and later in Maryland.

Her professional employment began at IBM in Boston where she worked in early stages of programming. From there, she went to work for the Episcopal Youth Program in New York City, and then held a variety of positions in education and social work. After moving to Chapel Hill in 1985, she worked at the UNC-CH Population Center for a year.

Miriam married John Wenton Alexander in May 1965. They lived in New York until they moved to Chapel Hill, always spending the summer months in their Covington, Massachusetts home, even after moving South. Their annual visits North were Miriam's favorite times. They always managed to take Patrick, their poodle and beloved companion, with them.

Miriam was raised in the Episcopal Church and maintained an affinity for its rituals. She became a member of Chapel Hill Friends Meeting in March 1996, following John who had joined in 1985. She was an active and valued member of Meeting. She clerked the Hospitality committee for several years and provided sweet nurture to younger women in a Thursday evening group. They often met in her home on Essex Drive where she and John lived before moving to Carol Woods in 1998. At Carol Woods, she chaired the Newcomers

group for many years. Mariam's favorite occupation, however, was engaging others in stimulating conversation. She naturally showed compassion and care for whomever she talked to. Reading and enjoying the full range of the arts were also happy times for her. She is survived by three stepdaughters, Diane, Linda, and Carol.

Miriam lived her last several months in the Carol Woods' Health Center. She was grateful for loving visits from members of Meeting. Miriam shared her life fully and her presence enriched our Meeting.

**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