

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Newsletter

Third Month, 2022

Monthly Query: *How do I ground myself in the understandings of my faith? Am I clear about my beliefs?*

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?



Upcoming Zoom Fora -

March 6: "The Ramallah Friends School: 150 years of Quaker service in Palestine"

Founded as a training school for girls in Ottoman-controlled Ramallah and co-ed since 1901, this school now serves more than 1,400 students and has had a significant influence on the Palestinian society. Presented by Max L. Carter, based on his 52 year association with the school.

March 13: Quaker Practice: Clearness Committees for Discernment (led by Lori Fernald-Khamala and the Care & Counsel Committee)

March 20: Meeting for Business

March 27: TBD

April 3: What Easter Means to Me. Worship sharing facilitated by Deborah Gibbs and Kate Fitch

April 10: Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL) priorities. Led by our Meeting representative: Pam Schwingl. Moderator: Lori Fernald Khamala

April 17: Meeting for Business

April 24: Report from the American Friends Service Committee. Led by Naveed Moeed, Meeting Representative. Moderator: Tom Munk

Small Group Worship at the Meetinghouse

After listening carefully to our community and giving thoughtful consideration to ways to meet the needs of our community, the Ministry & Worship Committee received permission from the Meeting to begin offering responsible opportunities for small group worship in a variety of settings - inside the meetinghouse, outside, and online via Zoom. We invite the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting community to try and help us evaluate those options. In this unprecedented time, the committee is not pursuing the perfect answer to how to worship together, and we do not know the lowest risk way to proceed.

Note: To promote safety and reduce the possibility of Covid 19 transmission and infection, the completion of **vaccination protocol** and the **wearing of masks** around others on meeting property is lovingly expected.

What is the risk of in-person worship? A risk assessment tool is available to help inform your decision about participation in worship options at <https://www.microcovid.org/tracker>.

Worship options include a second trial run of a “blended” meeting, to be scheduled, using the Zoom platform blended with in-person attendance for worship. After that, the committee will request time for a listening session about blended meetings, to be scheduled. A blended meeting combines in-person worship and participation via Zoom.

To keep the trial of small group worship simple, there will be no refreshments available (bring your own water), indoor participants will be urged to go outside at the rise of meeting to limit time in the building, and the building will be closed between early and late meetings. Friends are asked to not go downstairs (except for the nursery), for simplicity in preparation and maintenance of safe spaces.

Children older than 3 are encouraged to attend the first 15 minutes of worship and will be led down to the playground for First Day School, which is on the playground during Covid. However, there will be at least one adult on the playground starting at 11:00 for those who are nervous about attendance indoors. For children under 3, the nursery will be open downstairs if needed.

Upcoming Events

Black Lives Matter Film Festival, Feb 12 - Apr 9

Jan Hutton and the Antiracism Committee share with Friends:

We are thrilled to announce the Black Quaker Lives Matter Film Festival, a first-of-its-kind film festival that endeavors to educate all about the importance of Quakers of Color who for too long have remained within the margins of the Society of Friends and the wider world. From 12 February 2022, during Black History Month, until Paul Robeson’s birthday on 9 April 2022 we will screen a film centered on a Quaker of Color with an introduction from a guest expert and a follow up discussion facilitated by BQP Director Dr. Harold D. (Hal) Weaver. Screenings will take place every other Saturday on Zoom at 1pm ET.

For information and to register, go to : <https://www.theblackquakerproject.org/black-quaker-lives-matter-film-festival>

Annual Crop Hunger Walk, April 3

Asta Crowe shares with Friends:

Friends, the annual Crop Hunger Walk, sponsored by Church World Services, will take place in our community on **Sunday, April 3**. Please plan to join the walk, or if you cannot walk, please sponsor a walker, or make a donation through the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting donation link: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/chapel-hill-friends-meeting>.

From there, either:

Scroll to “SUPPORT CHAPEL HILL FRIENDS MEETING AND CWS” and click **Make a Donation**, or
Scroll to “Team Members: David Curtin, and click **Donate**.

Contact astacrowe@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Friends General Conference Gathering, July 3 - 9

The Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering 2022 is being hosted by Piedmont Friends and will be held in-person nearby – at Radford University, Radford, Virginia.

The Gathering is a week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community for all ages. Friends come together from across the US and Canada (and sometimes further) to deepen our connection to one another and the Spirit.

The dates are July 3 through July 9. The theme for 2022 is “...and follow me.” Given the proximity, the hosting by our yearly meeting, and the first in-person sessions since 2019, this is a rare opportunity to participate.

The week of the Gathering is packed with programs and events, from small group workshops to evening plenaries, and programs for children, teens, and young adults. You can register to attend the full event, or just the parts that fit with your schedule.

Registration will be open early in 2022. A reminder—if you need financial assistance to attend the Gathering, Chapel Hill Friends through the Shotts Leadership Development Fund and Piedmont Friends can contribute for part of the cost.

We have opportunities to participate in planning the event. Piedmont Friends have a Hosting Committee. The FGC Gathering Committee has subcommittees for the following aspects of the event: Adult Young Friends (18-35), Local Arrangements, High School, Junior Gathering, Evening Programs, Workshops, Worship, and Communication.

For more information, visit the FGC website (<https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>) and see a 6-minute video about the Gathering. Or contact our Piedmont Friends representatives: Ann Miller and Leslie Rountree (PFYM) and Jasmine McKewen and Brad Schultz (PFF).

Announcements

Timely Video from FCNL

Jan Hutton shares with Friends:

If “War is not the Answer” what is? Diane Randall of FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) talks Quaker pacifism, pentagon spending, and the military industrial complex:

<https://quakerspeak.com/video/war-is-not-the-answer/>

New Website: Manumitted: The People Enslaved by Quakers

Jan Hutton shares with Friends:

Haverford College's Quaker and Special Collections has begun a new project named "Manumitted: The People Enslaved by Quakers."

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/inside-haverfords-manumission-archives/>

The IFC Pantry Needs Food Items

Dottie Henniger shares with Friends:

The Inter-Faith Council pantry continues to need donations of food items. Please think of the IFC as you do your grocery shopping! The basket in the meetinghouse foyer is available to receive your contributions. For attenders who worship on Zoom, plastic bins will be put on the front porch on the last Wednesday of each month for your donations. Please also remember that financial gifts are always welcome. You can make your contributions online at the IFC website, ifcweb.org. Thank you!

Dottie

Visiting the Meetinghouse During Covid

Building and Grounds shares with Friends:

As you know we've curtailed use of the meeting house during the pandemic. Occasionally, people have, and needed to, gone 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.

Recurring Events

Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light, 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 7-8:30 pm

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN Virtual Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, 7:00 to 8:30 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: prayers@chapelhillfriends.org. The list of names to be held in the Light will be renewed each month. Names must be resubmitted each month to be maintained on the list.

We'll send an updated list on Wednesday afternoons. Thank you for joining us!

This virtual prayer service continues under the care of the Ministry and Worship Committee and each week, a volunteer will collect and post the names that are submitted and will read them aloud during the time of

the service. You can be one of these volunteers! Please contact the Ministry and Worship Committee (mw@chapelhillfriends.org) or Chris Stanley (clerkofmeeting@chapelhillfriends.org) to join the volunteers supporting this ongoing ministry.

Pendle Hill Worship via Zoom, Daily, 8:30-9:10am

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>

Note: The above link takes you *not* to the meeting but to a page of general instructions. Look for the sentence “You can join us via Zoom **here**, or by clicking on the image below.”

Friends General Conference Gathering, July 3 - 9

The Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering 2022 is being hosted by Piedmont Friends and will be held in-person nearby – at Radford University, Radford, Virginia.

The Gathering is a week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community for all ages. Friends come together from across the US and Canada (and sometimes further) to deepen our connection to one another and the Spirit.

The dates are July 3 through July 9. The theme for 2022 is “...and follow me.”

Given the proximity, the hosting by our yearly meeting, and the first in-person sessions since 2019, this is a rare opportunity to participate.

The week of the Gathering is packed with programs and events, from small group workshops to evening plenaries, and programs for children, teens, and young adults. You can register to attend the full event, or just the parts that fit with your schedule.

Registration will be open early in 2022. A reminder—if you need financial assistance to attend the Gathering, Chapel Hill Friends through the Shotts Leadership Development Fund and Piedmont Friends can contribute for part of the cost.

We have opportunities to participate in planning the event. Piedmont Friends have a Hosting Committee. The FGC Gathering Committee has subcommittees for the following aspects of the event: Adult Young Friends (18-35), Local Arrangements, High School, Junior Gathering, Evening Programs, Workshops, Worship, and Communication.

For more information, visit the FGC website (<https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>) and see a 6-minute video about the Gathering. Or contact our Piedmont Friends representatives: Ann Miller and Leslie Rountree (PFYM) and Jasmine McKewen and Brad Schultz (PFF).

Sloth Radio Is On the Air, Tues, Thursdays, 8pm

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: <https://unc.zoom.us/j/9194488892>

Please spread the word if you have any friends that you think would like to join us!

Announcements

Transcript of Forum on Quaker Decision Making Now Available

The transcript of Matt's presentation at the forum of January 9 on Quaker Decision Making In the Meeting For Worship With Attention to Business is now available on our website:

<https://www.chapelhillfriends.org/forums.html> (click "Transcript")

FCNL Action Alert Regarding Yemen

Tom Munk shares with Friends:

From the Peace and Justice Committee, quoting Emma Hulbert of the Friends Committee on National Legislation

The United States is complicit in the Saudi-led coalition's war and blockade in Yemen, which has created the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today. After seven years of war, roughly 16 million Yemenis are at risk of famine, and over two million children under the age of five are severely malnourished.

The United States remains complicit through continued intelligence sharing on airstrikes and by enforcing the air and sea blockade of Yemen—despite President Biden's promise in early 2021 to end U.S. support for the Saudi-led coalition. This month, we ask you to urge your members of Congress [in our case, David Price] to reintroduce and pass a Yemen War Powers Resolution!

Over the last few years, bipartisan majorities in both chambers of Congress have supported ending U.S. support for this war. Act now: [Urge your members of Congress to introduce and pass a Yemen War Powers Resolution to end U.S. participation in the Saudi-led war on Yemen.](#)

Update on Afghan Refugees

Joe Groves shares with Friends:

An estimated 700 out of 1200 refugees have arrived in NC, mostly in the last month and mostly in the Triangle, the Triad, and Charlotte. 9 different agencies are involved in resettling them, with loose coordination. The agencies are struggling to cope because of the number of refugees, the staff cuts they experienced during the Trump administration, and the shortage of local sponsors. Agencies "officially" are given 24 hours notice by the government, but sometimes the agencies are told "the refugees are on the plane and will be there in 2 hours."

The agencies coordinate with local sponsors (congregations and organizations) who arrange for housing and help refugee families with basic needs. Because of the shortage of local sponsors and housing, many families are in temporary housing, with limited support.

If you want to get involved, there are several options:

https://www.chapelhillfriends.org/assets/mwab/afghan_update.pdf

The IFC Pantry Needs Food Items

Dottie Henniger shares with Friends:

The Inter-Faith Council pantry continues to need donations of food items. Please think of the IFC as you do your grocery shopping! The basket in the meetinghouse foyer is available to receive your contributions. For attenders who worship on Zoom, plastic bins will be put on the front porch on the last Wednesday of each month for your donations. Please also remember that financial gifts are always welcome. You can make your contributions online at the IFC website, ifcweb.org. Thank you!

Help Support Planning the 2022 FGC Gathering

Ann Miller shares with Friends:

Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting is excited to be hosting the 2022 FGC Gathering in Southwestern Virginia at Radford University. We are reaching out to Monthly Meetings in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, West Virginia and Tennessee to ask them to help us find members to support the Planning of the FGC Gathering.

We are hoping you may be willing to help us with two things:

- Recommendations to people who might serve on these committee's who we could send individual invites to.
- Share the link committee volunteer interest form with your members and attenders.
(www.tinyurl.com/PlanGathering2022)

Interested Friends could also ask Leslie Rountree or Ann Miller about getting involved in planning and we will be happy to connect you with the planning process.

Newsletter & eNews Reminder

Note: If you think that you haven't received your weekly enews or monthly newsletter, it helps to add news@chapelhillfriends.org to your contacts. Otherwise it might go to your Spam folder (and likewise for other chapelhillfriends.org mailing lists such as pfym@chapelhillfriends.org).

Please send items for the weekly eNews email and the monthly print Newsletter to news@chapelhillfriends.org. **Note:** The eNews is formatted using Google Docs, so submissions in that format are most welcome!

- The deadline for weekly eNews is *midnight on Wednesday*. Please put "**for eNews**" in the subject line.
- The deadline for the monthly print Newsletter is on the *last Sunday of the month*. Please put "**for Newsletter**" in the subject line.

To unsubscribe, email to news@chapelhillfriends.org with the subject line, Unsubscribe.

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Minutes

9 am Sunday February 20, 2022

Online via Zoom

Chris Stanley, Clerk, and Susan Inglis, Recording Clerk

In Attendance:

Chris Stanley, Susan Inglis, Jeff Brown, Hart Pillow, Betsy Brinson, Lois Ann Hobbs, Hank Elkins, Karen, Jessee, Jan Hutton, Monteze Snyder, Paul Munk, Alice Carlton, Dave Curtin, Kate Vinita Fitch, Jennifer Leeman, Tom Munk, Deborah Gibbs, Curt Torell, Gwynne Pomeroy, Carolyn Stuart, Ben Ray, Julia Cleaver, Tom Ludlow, Bonnie Ludlow, Madelyn Ashley, Rufus King, Dottie Heninger, Carolyn Stuart, Richard Miller, Pan Schwingl, Pat Mann, Allie Scales, Ken Grogan, Jasmine, McKewen, Wendy Michener, John Hite, 919-830-0202, Ann Miller, Emilie Condon, Lloyd Kramer, Nancy Milio, Buzz Borchardt

1. Opening worship and query – Chris Stanley, Meeting Clerk.

Query: Do I treat conflict as an opportunity for growth and address it with careful attention? Do I seek to recognize and respect the Divine in those with whom I have a basic disagreement?

2. Chris welcomed Friends, and reviewed the agenda. There were no newcomers in attendance.

3. Susan had prepared the Minutes of the January Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB). They were considered and approved.

4. The search for new leadership at Quaker House is in process and Betsy Brinson, our past Quaker House Board Representative, and Rufus King, our current Representative, presented the annual report for Quaker House. Betsy prepared the report and Rufus presented it and responded to questions. Friends expressed their excitement at the prospect of the new Executive Director. The report is attached here as Appendix 1. It was accepted with appreciation.

5. Jasmine McKewen, Clerk of the Children's & Youth Religious Education Committee, presented the annual report. It is attached here as Appendix 2. Friends expressed their appreciation for the steadiness and creativity with which the committee has managed to continue activities and commented on the joy that involvement with our youngest members brings us all. Responding to questions, Jasmine clarified that the goal is fluency in the best known stories in the Bible. Other texts include Godly Play and its Quaker counterpart, Faith and Play, both of which are encouraged by Friends General Conference. Attendance at First Day School is part of what is reported to Piedmont Yearly Meeting. Friends accepted the report as presented, with gratitude.

6. Our Nominations Committee needs additional members and Chris reported on having asked Pat Mann to join the committee as they begin their annual work to fill the rosters of the standing committees of CHFM. Pat has agreed to serve, if approved. Chris described his frustrated attempt to form a Naming Cttee, which led to his simply nominating Pat, and which emphasizes for us the importance that each of us consider committee service. Pat was approved as an addition to the committee. Friends are encouraged to respond in the affirmative when contacted by Nominations.

We have more than 160 positions on our 30 committees and boards! There will be 42 positions to reappoint or replace in addition to the 12 vacancies this year.

7. Alice Carlton, a member of the Ministry and Worship Committee, brought a recommendation for membership for Karen Jessee. Chris read from Karen's original request:

After a long period of discernment, I feel led to seek community with the Society of Friends. Although I knew something of Quaker history and practice, I've learned more of the quality of Quaker life since my son has been attending Friends school. The values lived out at the school are definitely our own. Likewise, contemplative prayer and meditation have been part of my spiritual practice for decades, so silent worship is familiar and rich ground for inspiration which I long for.

Thank you for your willingness to work with me further in the process of discerning membership in the CHFM.

Friends commented on their enthusiasm for Karen's participation and approved the membership. A Welcoming Committee was appointed: Jennifer, Dottie, and Alice as clerk. They will plan a welcoming party when Covid numbers have dropped and the weather has warmed.

8. The Ministry and Worship Committee provided an update on the experiment with returning to face-to-face worship. Jeff presented, and also provided clarification in response to Friends' questions. It is attached here as Appendix 3.

9. Our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is planned for 9:00 AM on March 20th, 2022.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. To send items for the weekly eNews email news@chapelhillfriends.org. Put "for eNews" in the subject line. Deadline is each Wednesday at midnight. For the monthly print newsletter, mail news@chapelhillfriends.org. Put "for Newsletter" in the subject line. Deadline is the last Sunday of the month.
2. Friends shared their appreciation for the new directory in hardcopy as well as electronically, especially for the work of the committee that made it happen.
3. The Afghan refugee program will begin before too long and Friends are encouraged to stand by.
4. For keeping up with efforts on gun control a website is recommended: shockmarket.org.
5. FCNL priorities will be discussed next month in a forum.
6. Hold in the Light decision makers re Ukraine crisis.
7. Interfaith Council and Church World Service Crop Walk will be held on April 3.
8. There is a film festival going on about Black Quakers in history – see details on listserv.
10. Closing worship, virtual circle, preparation for 11:00 AM Meeting for Worship.

Appendix 1

Annual Report on Quaker House to CHFM (February, 2022)

Mission Statement: Quaker House is a manifestation of the Religious Society of Friends Peace Testimony. Based in Fayetteville, NC, the home of Fort Bragg and some 55,000 soldiers, 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. CHFM offered financial support to establish a physical space where

soldiers come for information, support and community. When the first house burned mysteriously in the middle of the night, CHFM arranged for a second home on Hillside Avenue, which is where QH has since resided.

COVID-19: The COVID pandemic has directly impacted the life and program of Quaker House operations. The **Domestic Violence and Victims' Support Program** continues at full capacity but with sessions done using teletherapy or in person outdoors with weather permitting. (The program would like to offer counseling to veterans of Afghanistan in the wake of mental trauma during the current withdrawal situation but monies for this must first be raised.) The travel for education and outreach has been cancelled for all functions with most meetings for administrative and staff, board of directors and committee meetings, educational forums, development visits to monthly meetings, Friends General Conference workshop, Congressional monitoring and more. Zoom has become the primary communication tool. Regretfully in early November director Kindra Bradley announced her sudden resignation in order to move closer to family where she could help with small grandchildren, who were housebound on account of the pandemic. In spite of these challenges, Quaker House programs and administrative operations have continued to function even in difficult times.

Board of Directors: The board consists of 22 members representing monthly meetings in NC, VA, and SC. KY, along with representative from Baltimore Yearly Meeting. A number of longtime members are stepping down after lengthy service and new leadership is being groomed. A strategic planning process is underway. With Kindra's resignation, several of these long-term members have rejoined the board and the search committee for a new director. In that regard, Pam Schwingl serves on the director search and personnel committees. Betsy Brinson has rejoined the board of directors and is also on the transition team and the search committee.

Financial Development: The first ever virtual 5k run raised about \$3800. Birthday fundraisers on Face Book by several board members also generated funds. Since these fundraisers seem to attract 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. The fall newsletter was delayed with Kindra's departure but the board of directors took over the writing and production. While it arrived in meeting and individual donor mailboxes later than customary, it does remind readers that it is time to donate for the year so it is an important fundraising tool. A second Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan was received and forgiven.

GI Rights Hotline: In 2021 Steve and Lenore handled a total of 2,796 calls from American soldiers stationed around the world. This is about 200 calls less than in previous years. Calls, however, are taking longer to complete.

The COVID 19 pandemic forced the military to issue emergency orders and to change a number of practices. The military is still trying to figure out how to conduct business while accommodating safety considerations. One part of that involved mandatory vaccinations. Military deadlines requiring service members to be vaccinated for COVID have passed, and the branches have been discharging people who refused the vaccine. As with other cases, the Hotline tries to help people understand likely consequences for not complying with military consequences.

The Hotline has also received calls from soldiers in quarantine for COVID. With hours of time on their hands, they are reflecting on their training thus far and realizing that conscientious objection may be their first choice. Different options are discussed with these soldiers and they are mailed the Hotline guide to begin the written application.

Current Staff: Until October the staff consisted 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. Accounting services are handled by an independent agency in Fayetteville and with considerable volunteer input from our treasurer Charley Pennell from the Raleigh Meeting.

New Director: Wayne W. Finegar II has been selected as the new Quaker House director and plans to begin March 1. Wayne is a birthright Quaker, who comes to us with 12 years employment at Baltimore Yearly Meeting. He served as

Administrative Manager, Associate General Secretary and in 2020-2021 as Acting General Secretary. He is a graduate of Swarthmore College and the University of Maryland School of Law. Previously he worked as a lawyer but also as a stay at home parent of three sons, who are now grown. Wayne also worked with the BYM Youth Camping Program. We look forward to having you meet him.

Financial: While Quaker House has no endowment, we currently hold \$50,777.14 with Friends' Fiduciary in Philadelphia. (This will gain interest and can be withdrawn at any time.) There is also approximately \$68,352. in money market certificates. The current treasurer's account balance is \$123,000. While 2021 expenses were less than anticipated with the pandemic, no travel costs and with the absence of a director staff position, we are watching gifts from individual donors and meetings very carefully. (Total meeting gifts declined several thousand dollars.) Fortunately, we ended 2021 in good shape financially.

Chapel Hill Meeting Representation to QH Board: Betsy Brinson and Rufus King are the current CHFM representatives to the Quaker House Board. QH by-laws allow for 5 members and CHFM Nominations Committee is looking to make additional appointments. (Betsy left the board in July but returned temporarily with the departure of Kindra Bradley. Rufus began his service in the fall, 2021.)

For questions and/or more information about this report, please contact Betsy Brinson or Rufus King.

February 2, 2022

Appendix 2

Children's and Youth Religious Education Committee Annual Report

February 2021-February 2022

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 been holding FDS on Zoom as well as offering an in-person FDS on the playground since July. We continued to meet as a committee using Zoom.

Jasmine McKewen continued to serve as clerk. Jason James, Simone Kershner, and Julie Feickert rotated off the committee. We welcomed Leslie Rountree, Jennifer Leeman, Rob Jones, and Rowena Bowman as new members. Continuing members are: Stacey Sewall and Laura Young. Kathleen McNeil (FDS Coordinator) serves on the committee as an ex-officio member.

First Day School (FDS) program

We 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 during pre-pandemic times but has increased since the reopening of an in-person FDS option. Children and teens have been meeting as one large group and have divided into subgroups depending on the ages and interests of those in attendance. Every week separate options are available in person for teenagers as well as for all ages on Zoom.

The Lower and Middle Pod continue to convene 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, Andrea Wuerth, Carolyn Stuart, Jennifer Leeman, Leslie Rountree, and Julie Feickert. There is usually the attendance of somewhere between two and twelve children each week in person. Consistently, we have two children on zoom.

Upper Pod generally consists of those students of high school age. The teachers are John Hite and Herbert Struemper. Henry Schneider and Sutton King presented their CO letters this year. The teens led the whole FDS to organize the alternative gift mart. They raised around \$5,018.00 dollars for ten 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 2021, students studied the New Testament.

Multicultural Unit; (Sunday after Easter through the end of the school year) We talked about traditions in Judaism, Buddhism, 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 were able to adapt our holiday traditions for the outdoors or Zoom. 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, made a video nativity play, had a game day with Tom Munk, and made bird feeders to welcome the New Year. Additionally, the teens participated in a white elephant gift exchange with John Hite.

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

Nursery Care

Nursery care has been suspended during the pandemic. Stacey Sewall remains in her position and continues to assist with curriculum planning as well as working with little ones on the playground as necessary.

Participation in the Larger Meeting

FDS led a gratitude forum the week of Thanksgiving. Additionally, we had a meeting with attention to graduation for Rufus King, Matilda Chen, and Henry Schneider.

Collaboration with Friends outside of our Meeting

We are looking forward to finishing out this year with a visit from local Unitarian Universalist youth the last week in January. Two friends participated in the QUAIL (program on human sexuality and human relationships) through Durham Friends Meeting.

Building Family Connections

FDS delivered activity packets to approximately twelve children several times during the first half of the year. Kathleen McNeil hosted 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 each week of the show *The Legend of Korra*.

Teen Activities

In addition to coordinating The Alternative Gift Mart, teens continue to participate in 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), Stacey Sewall, Leslie Rountree, Rowena Bowman, Rob Jones, Jennifer Leeman, and Laura Young.

Appendix 3

February 2022 Report from Ministry and Worship Committee (M&W) on the Status of Worship to the February 20th Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Opportunities continue for small group worship in a variety of settings (inside the meetinghouse at 8:15 and 11:00 AM, by Zoom at 11:00 AM, and at Carol Woods at 11:00 AM.) Friends decide for themselves what First Day option best meets their needs for safety and well-being.

At the meetinghouse, Friends wear masks indoors and outside including children who are under age for vaccination. We urge Friends to wear N95 or KN95 masks, now available at the meetinghouse as the best protection.

M&W continues to consult with the Zoom subcommittee, with gratitude for their attention to detail and patient persistence. The subcommittee is scheduled to provide a second trial run of a “blended” meeting for worship on March 13 at 11:00. M&W will follow with a Meeting listening session, open to all, to share experiences of the combination of Zoom and in-person worship. Please hold the date for the listening session: Wednesday, March 16 at 7:00 PM. M&W will then consider a recommendation to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

As always, the committee values and invites your comments this morning or anytime via ministryandworship@chapelhillfriends.org.

February 20, 2022

Ministry & Worship Committee

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

Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

531 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Resident: John Hite (919) 929-5377