

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Newsletter

Fourth Month, 2022

Monthly Query: *How do I act as a faithful steward of the environment?*

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.



Upcoming Zoom Fora -

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: TBD; consult the website for updates here - <https://www.chapelhillfriends.org/forums.html>

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. We invite the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting community to try and help us evaluate options for small group worship over the coming weeks. 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. A risk assessment tool is available as well (<https://www.microcovid.org/tracker>). To keep the 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 indoors. For children under 3, the nursery is open downstairs if needed.

Upcoming Events

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.

Lois Ann Hobbs 100th Birthday Celebration, April 9, 3 - 4:30pm

Lois Ann Hobbs will turn 100 years old on April 19, 2022. Chapel Hill Friends Meeting will celebrate this special occasion on Saturday April 9, 2022 from 3-4:30 pm outside at the Meetinghouse (or inside the multi-purpose room if it rains). We'll offer simple fare of tea, coffee and cupcakes (regular and gluten-free). This celebration will be conducted under the meeting's Covid protocol: "To prevent COVID-19 transmission and infection, the completion of vaccination protocol and the wearing of masks around others on Meeting property is lovingly expected." Please RSVP Alice Carlton (amberalice47@gmail.com) to help us know how many to expect. Celebration subcommittee: Alice Carlton, Emilie Condon and Pam Schwingl.

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>

Members/Attendees Asked to Attend District Attorney Candidates Assembly, Apr 26

Tom Munk shares with Friends:

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Anti-Racism Committee Asks Meeting Members To Attend District Attorney Candidates Assembly

Our Meeting has a strong record of helping men who are in prison and men who are leaving prison. Our Anti-Racism Committee now suggests an easy step you can take to help keep local men out of prison. Three organizations with which our meeting has been affiliated (Justice United, Orange County Bail Bond/Justice Project, and the Inter-Faith Council for Social Services) are among the co-sponsors of a

District Attorney Candidates Assembly on April 26: in person at Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church, and online as well. Following Justice United's powerful and exquisitely managed community listening and organizing model, this assembly is the capstone of a months-long effort. The two candidates for local district attorney will be asked to commit to specific equity-focused policy changes and to continue the previous DA Jim Woodall's agreement, won by Justice United in 2016, to stop prosecuting safe drivers for driving without a license. PLEASE REGISTER AND ATTEND.

https://www.ocjusticeunited.org/district_attorney_candidates_assembly_april_26

Quaker House Hosting Second Worship Sharing Session, Sat. Apr 2, 4pm

Pam Schwingl shares with Friends:

Quaker House is hosting a second Worship Sharing session on Saturday, April 2 at 4:00pm EDT. Friends are invited to join to share their thoughts and discernment about the Peace Testimony of Friends and how the events in Ukraine have affected them.

The Worship Sharing will be unprogrammed and we will wait for messages to rise from the silence. As a time of worship, we will not record the session.

If you wish to participate, DM Quaker House, send an email to wayne.finegar@quakerhouse.org, or call 910-323-3912 and the connection information will be sent to you. This will allow us to have a sense of how many will be joining in worship.

After the time of worship, we will discuss next steps in this discernment. Some options already suggested include:

1. Additional worship sharing opportunities.
2. More formal presentations from Friends who have written or spoken on these topics (suggestions of names with contact information are very welcome).
3. Discussion groups (probably with smaller numbers) focused on topics of interest. These might well include materials for review prior to the sessions.
4. Activism sharing with a focus on how to achieve real change in an era of social media.

Friends are encouraged to bring other suggestions for consideration.

#Quakerhouse #quakerhouse #quakerhousepeacework50years #quakerhousefayetteville

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

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/>

Haverford College 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/>

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.

Pray for Peace

From Friends House Moscow:

Link to the Daily Meeting for Worship for Peace sponsored by FHM/FHMSA: (Friends House Moscow)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4165005614?pwd=NUtieEtqbDBYbjBrcGdMMzBKQ3drQT09>

Meeting ID: 416 500 5614

Passcode: 182805

The room opens at 8:45am Pacific time (10:45 EST); worship begins on the hour and ends an hour later. After worship there will be time to share brief thoughts that did not rise to the level of ministry. You may also want to rename yourself indicating your geographic location. There will be no audible indicator when one enters or leaves, and everyone will be muted on entry. Please leave yourself muted unless giving ministry. Ministry may also be shared in the chat, but it is not the place for private conversations. If you are new to Quaker unprogrammed worship and wish to talk with someone about it, send a message to the host and someone can join you in a breakout room.

Diplomacy is the Only Solution

As the Russian invasion and assault on Ukraine continues, we stand in solidarity and sympathy with the people of Ukraine, the people of Russia, and all those in the region whose lives are being torn apart by war. We grieve the loss of life and destruction that war inevitably brings.

We are deeply concerned that new massive and broad sanctions imposed on Russia will not just impact Russian leadership, but further harshen the lives of ordinary people in Ukraine, Russia, and the region. The only solution is diplomacy—not further violence.

Act Now! [Tell your lawmakers that diplomacy is the best way to protect human lives and avoid further suffering.](#)

The IFC Pantry Needs Food Items

Dottie Henniger shares with Friends:

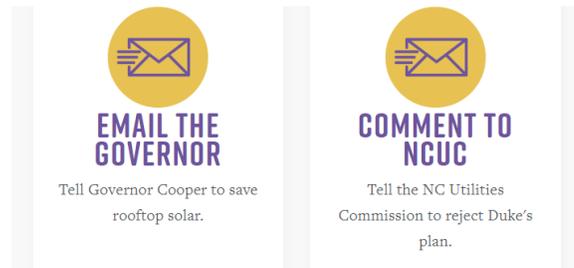
The Inter-Faith Council pantry continues to need donations of food items. Please think of the IFC as you do your grocery shopping! The basket in the meetinghouse foyer is available to receive your contributions. For attenders who worship on Zoom, plastic bins will be put on the front porch on the last 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

Save NC Solar

The CHFM Quaker Earthcare Witness group (QEW) recommends to all to send the message to “Save NC Solar” through this link: <https://www.ncwarn.org/our-work/net-metering/>

Scroll down the page and look for these action buttons:



Duke Energy is not fulfilling the plan for net metering of rooftop solar from homes, and should be reminded of the duty to develop pathways to renewable energy, versus their capital projects to build nearly 50 gas-fired turbine generating plants. Send your message today to Governor Cooper and the NC Utilities Commission through this link provided by NCWarn.

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."

Personals

Housing Leads Wanted

Dirk and Martha Kelder want to share with Friends:

Dear Community,

We are a quiet, responsible, retired couple, (artist, chaplain - calligraphers), searching for a quiet, 2/3 bedroom duplex, separate apartment, or house to rent (or buy). Washer/dryer preferred, some storage, walking paths nearby would be ideal, (in Orange, Chatham or Durham counties).

Thank you so much for any leads!

martha.kelder@yahoo.com.

Seeking Interlocutor

Charlene Sexton shares with Friends:

I am seeking contact and possible overnight accommodations in April or May with neighborly persons in the Triangle area during a planned trip in order to visit retirement communities in Chapel Hill, Durham, and possibly Twin Lakes. I do not expect to be chauffeured around and friends do not consider me a demanding person.

In 2015 I was in Chapel Hill to give a presentation to Carol Woods residents on Dorothy Canfield Fisher (Vermont writer, Quaker, adult education promoter). Fisher was only a footnote during my doctoral studies in adult education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. During that visit, my husband and I stayed with our daughter and husband who lived in Apex.

I have attended Friends Meeting in the past in Madison, WI where I currently live and since retiring in 2016 as a hospice/palliative care and bereavement social worker at the VA in Louisville, KY. Prior to that I had been in university administrative and faculty positions.

I am in the midst of major decision-making since my husband died of cancer 2yrs.ago. I am still learning to live alone. We had originally planned to "age in place" in our home here, but I may transition and plan

something different in the future. I seek clarity and support and feel an onsite visit and contact with people may help me make wise decisions.

I am 75yrs.old, in good health (fully vaccinated and boosted), enjoy flower and vegetable gardening, music, reading, word games, foreign language, family legacy writing, cooking/baking, and choral singing. I am grateful for the years with my husband who was a foreign language and history teacher. I established a scholarship in his name at Kansas State University, his alma mater.

We shared a passion for exploring cultures and world history, exemplified by living 2 years in Berlin, Germany where he taught French at the John F. Kennedy International School. I brought my experience in Asian cultures, philosophy, and Southern culture, having been born in Mobile, Alabama. I enjoy learning from others and would like to be more financially and scientifically literate. Please feel free to contact me at charleneasexton@gmail.com. Peace and Courage.



This photo was taken in October, 2021 at the Memorial Service for my husband. I am standing second from left.

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Minutes

9 am Sunday March 20, 2022

Online via Zoom

Chris Stanley, Clerk, and Susan Inglis, Recording Clerk

In Attendance:

Chris Stanley, Susan Inglis, Lois Ann Hobbs, Rob Jones, Jeff Brown, Sean Chen, Lori Khamala, Allie Scales, Alice Carlton, Tom Ludlow, Tom Munk, Kate Vinita Fitch, Dottie Henninger, Paul Munk, Ken Grogan, Pam Schwingl, Pat Mann, Dave Curtin, Alice Carlton, Carolyn White, Deborah Gibbs, Lloyd Kramer, Betsy Brinson, Jan Hutton, Madelyn Ashley, Max Drake, Carolyn Stuart, Jeff Brown, Wendy Mitchener, Emily Condon, Jennifer Leeman, John Hite, Jasmine McKewen,

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

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

2. Chris welcomed Friends and reviewed the agenda. There were no first-time attenders.

3. Susan had prepared the minutes of the February Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB). The minutes were considered and approved.

4. Tom Munk and Wendy Michener, Co-clerks of the Peace and Justice Committee had requested that the annual report be postponed until next month. It is expected then.

5. Buzz Borchard, Clerk of the Hospitality Committee, presented the annual report. It is attached here as Appendix 1. Friends commented on how much we appreciate the committee's managing to maintain a truly hospitable attitude despite the trials of the pandemic. The report was accepted with gratitude.

6. Tom Munk, Co-clerk of the Peace and Justice Committee, presented the proposed list of priorities requested by the Friends Committee on National Legislation. The list was assembled based on the discussion at a recent forum and reflects the priorities communicated during that forum. It is attached here as Appendix 2. The list was approved for release to FCNL, and Friends expressed their appreciation for the committee's work in compiling the list elegantly.

7. Nancy Fisher, Co-clerk of the Transition and Support Committee, presented the annual report. It is attached here as Appendix 3. The report was accepted as presented, with gratitude.

8. Jeff Brown of the Ministry and Worship Committee provided an update on the experiment with returning to face-to-face worship. It is attached here as Appendix 4. He responded to questions, and Friends thanked him for the committee's diligence, as well as for the update.

9. Chris: Next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is planned for 9:00 AM on April 17th, 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. Other announcements included a celebration of Lois Ann Hobbs' 100th birthday on April 9 at 3pm, outside at the Meeting House. RSVP to Alice Carlton, amberalice47@gmail.com
 3. Crop Walk will be held on April 3 and all are encourage to participate.
 4. Nominations Committee is working on filling committee seats. Friends are asked to consider where they are led to serve and contact nominations@chapelhillfriends.org to volunteer for any or all.
 5. The Forum next week will be Jackie Jenks, director of the Interfaith Council, discussing how the organization is managing these days.
 6. Rallies to support Ukraine include on every Thursday at 4pm at Carol Woods.
10. The meeting closed with worship and a virtual circle, in time for preparation for 11:00 AM Meeting for Worship.

Appendix 1

Hospitality Committee Annual Report 2022 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, including sending a welcome note to visitors
- manage monthly potluck
- assist CYRE with the mid-December Christmas party
- Help plan memorial services at the Meeting
- serve as first responder for emails to friends@chapelhillfriends.org

The past year, once again, has not been a normal one. The committee functions have included the following:

- greet attenders and welcome visitors to meeting, including sending a welcome note to visitors
- serve as first responder for emails to friends@chapelhillfriends.org

Active members of the committee:

Ben Ray, Buzz Borchardt (clerk), Evelyn Fendler-Lee, Gordon Davies, Jennifer Leeman, and Quaker Harmon. Three members were unable to participate for personal reasons.

Greet attenders and welcome visitors to meeting:

After the meetinghouse re-opened on July 4, 2021 the Hospitality Committee resumed greeting visitors there. We can be particularly grateful to committee members Evelyn, Jennifer, Quaker, and Gordon Davies and Betsy Brinson for their readiness to greet. In addition there have been numerous Friends who have volunteered to greet when someone from the Hospitality Committee was not available, and for that the Meeting can be thankful.

Along with greeting visitors, the Hospitality Committee sends a welcome note to those who sign our guestbook. During COVID, the welcome note has taken the form of an email. Since the meetinghouse reopened in July, 25 visitors have signed our guestbook. And, since the meeting gathers on Zoom as well as in person, the Hospitality Committee in May of 2021 inaugurated an online guestbook for visitors to sign. For those not familiar with the online guestbook, it is [here](#). It can be invoked from the [Visit and Learn](#) and the [Online Meeting](#) pages of our website. Since its debut, 25 visitors have signed the online guestbook.

Last year's Hospitality Committee annual report thanked Hart Pillow for agreeing to continue sending welcome notes even though she had been scheduled to cycle off the committee at the end of June 2021. In this year's annual report, we can thank Hart again, with gratitude, for continuing to do so. Moreover, not only does she send welcome notes, but she recently suggested modifying the guestbook format to remove the question as to whether a visitor wished to receive a welcome note or not, and to send a note to everyone who leaves their email or snail-mail address. And the committee was at unity on adopting the suggestion. In her email, Hart invites recipients to respond with questions, and offers the opportunity to talk with a member of meeting in person or by phone. In 2021, three visitors requested such a meeting; and we thank Jennifer and Jeff (Brown) for meeting with them. Two of those visitors are now regular attenders, so we can think that our outreach to visitors has an effect.

In related news, having learned how to use Google Forms to create an online guestbook, we created a similar webpage for visitors to subscribe to our weekly eNews. Since the online subscription form went live in May of last year, we have had 16 people sign.

Serve as first responder for emails to friends@chapelhillfriends.org:

Since August of 2020, the Hospitality Committee has been the first responder for emails to friends@chapelhillfriends.org. The idea being that the response represents the point of view of the meeting at large rather than that of an arbitrary individual – i.e., whoever writes the response. This goal is accomplished by forwarding the email to Hospitality committee members and others to ask advice before sending a response if an appropriate response is not clear. And, then, when the response is sent, to blind-copy the Clerk of Meeting, clerks of Care and Counsel and Ministry and Worship, and any others who might have an interest so that they can join in the response if they wish.

At this time last year when the Hospitality Committee annual report was presented, we had detailed statistics as to the frequency of emails and a breakdown of how they were handled (ignored, responded to immediately, delegated outside of Hospitality). This year we don't have detailed statistics because, as it has turned out, the keeping of such statistics is more onerous than handling the emails themselves. However, it is probably safe to assume that during the past year we received a handful of emails each week. Of those, roughly 90% were spam. Some of those were advertisements for services such as web creation or janitorial services. A surprising number were for drones. And, many were the kinds of spam emails that everyone is undoubtedly familiar with. A number of people, for example, want to bequeath Chapel Hill Friends their fortune or invest large amounts of money in our Meeting (no funds have yet been received).

Probably most legitimate emails were handled within the Hospitality Committee and included such things as inquiries about:

- visiting our meeting
- someone's contact information
- how to post in enews

Some emails that we responded to provoked follow-up discussion among the people that we blind-copied on the response. For example, our negative response to requests for parking space provoked some discussion on the topic in the Building and Grounds committee. And some emails – such as a request to use the meetinghouse as a vaccination site – were acknowledged and passed along to others to provide a response.

Looking ahead

In the spring, COVID permitting, the committee hopes to hold a newcomers tea outdoors in the playground after meeting, with light refreshments provided by the committee. There have been a significant number of new attenders to our meeting during the past year, and the committee would like to provide them with an opportunity to connect with members of meeting and other newcomers in a more intimate, social setting.

In the first draft of this report, I wrote, "Next year might be challenging for the committee as 5 of the 6 active members, including the current clerk, are scheduled to cycle off the committee in June". Since then, however, there have been some very encouraging developments. Jennifer and Buzz have agreed to continue with the committee for another year so as to help the new clerk. And, even more heartening, Quaker Harmon has agreed to become clerk for another term with the committee. We thank Quaker sincerely for her willingness to serve, and all the committee members whose dedication has made this committee such a rewarding one to be on.

Respectfully submitted: Ben Ray, Buzz Borchardt, Evelyn Fendler-Lee, Gordon Davies, Jennifer Leeman, and Quaker Harmon

Appendix 2

CHFM Approved Priorities for the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

Submitted by the Peace and Justice Committee for approval at the March 2022 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

At the February 27, 2022 Forum, Friends were invited to participate in the bi-annual suggestion of priorities for FCNL's lobbying work with the Congress that will be seated next January. FCNL requested the Meetings provide up to seven 30-word priorities. The Peace and Justice Committee recorded and summarized the leadings expressed at the Forum and would like the Meeting's permission to submit them, as requested, to FCNL by April 12.

Climate Change

If the earth can no longer support us, everything else becomes moot. Our government must do their part for our children's sake. Replace our consumption of fossil fuels with renewable energy.

War

Need to restore the power of war to Congress. Recognize all wars are damaging and must end.

Human Rights

Poverty and criminal justice are part of this fight. Immigration is a worldwide issue. The U.S. must stop supporting Israeli apartheid. Racism in the USA threatens our democracy.

Economic issues

Extreme economic inequality destroys peace and unity. Expand post-secondary education: free tuition at community college, vocational training, and student debt forgiveness. Families with children need the child credit.

Voting

Expansion of voting rights - make it as easy as possible and count all votes - this is the bedrock of democracy. Voting - most powerful non-violent tool in a democracy.

Keeping with the existing priorities

The current priorities can usefully be repeated so FCNL can stay focused and not reorganize. Climate change will not wait for our human concerns.

Civility in USA

Incivility in the USA has made direct or open communication between people difficult. We need in-country peace programs before we can make changes. Social media regulation is needed

Appendix 3

Transition and Support Committee
Annual Report
March 2021 to March 2022

This report covers greatly reduced activities in providing support to formerly incarcerated men who are living in the Chapel Hill and Durham communities.

Yokefellows at Orange Correctional Center:

Tuesday evening meetings were suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic. Subsequently, there were no opportunities for person-to-person relationship building with Orange Correctional Center (OCC) residents.

Formerly Incarcerated Citizens:

Since March 2016, TSC support teams of two – three persons provided support to twenty-one men in their transitioning from OCC back into the community. Given the inability to develop pre-release relationships, no support was provided to men transitioning from OCC to the community. Coronavirus also restricted support to formerly incarcerated men to telephone contacts and occasional person-to-person contacts. Men called to request assistance in negotiating systems, e.g., medical, social services, IRS, health insurance, called for assistance with problem solving, securing housing, to share joys and concerns, or just to talk with a friend. More intensive support was provided to four previously incarcerated citizens. Provision of assistance in resume writing and employment search which resulted in four employment interviews, employment, increase in salary, and increased opportunities for training and skill development. Referral to a forklift training course and assistance with an employment search. The outcome was obtaining employment that provided a consistent

forty-hour work week with benefits, and a pay increase. Referral to, and assistance with completion of an application for, subsidized senior housing. The outcome: Qualification for the housing and placement on a short waiting list. Referral of one formerly incarcerated citizen to Children's Services when he became a single parent to his eleven-month-old child. Social media was used in obtaining a crib, baby carriage, pampers, clothes and other items. There were ongoing telephone contacts related to parenting concerns and issues. Provision of transportation from jail to a recovery program was provided for one formerly returned citizen who relapsed and was reincarcerated. Regular telephone contacts provide ongoing support.

Formerly Incarcerated Citizens Network: CHFM and TSC have played an important role in the founding and progress of the local reentry peer support specialist organization, Wounded Healers of North Carolina. Eight former OCC residents obtained North Carolina peer support specialist certificates. Seven of these men are involved with Wounded Healers in providing support to individuals reentering the community following incarceration, helping these individuals find pathways to participate in, and contribute to, healthier and more inclusive communities.

On February 16, 2022, a TSC member attended a webinar which focused on support of reentry peer support specialists and on knowledge and resources needed to effectively support individuals in transition from incarceration to the community.

Financial Support of Alamance Orange Prison Ministry:

Alamance Orange Prison Ministry (AOPM) is solely supported by donations. In October and November TSC conducted the annual fundraiser to support the chaplain and the ministry's activities at OCC. Asta Crowe coordinated this year's fund raiser. The sale of pecans netted \$825. AOPM received \$385 from this effort. A donation of \$250 was given to AOPM to purchase hats to be included with other items in OCC residents' holiday packages.

Transition and Support Committee Meetings and Activities:

From March 2021 through March 2022 the TSC met via Zoom on the last Tuesday of the month. The primary focus of these meetings was on updates of formerly incarcerated men and ongoing support. Several TSC members attended the Friday morning meetings at Weaver Street Market scheduled by Josh Leroy, OCC Chaplain.

Our committee membership includes Annette Broadwell, Asta Crowe, Hank Elkins, Nancy Fisher, Tom McQuiston, Richard Miller, Bonnie Raphael, David Schneider, Byron Stevens and James Taylor. (Co-clerks: Tom McQuiston and Nancy Fisher)

Appendix 3

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

Small group worship continues 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.

Current conditions in Orange County indicate a "medium" level of risk of Coronavirus transmission. With consideration of the risk level and guidance from the local Coalition of Clergy at the beginning of March, M&W recommends continuation of enhanced ventilation in the meeting room and masking on the Meeting property. Reminder: N95 or KN95 masks are available at the meetinghouse.

One change in practice is recommended by the committee. To overcome hearing challenges while window fans are in operation, a Friend sharing vocal ministry or serving as closer is encouraged to lower the mask

while talking, only. The ongoing enhanced air exchange and social distancing are deemed sufficient to offset brief mask lowering for clearer speech.

Regarding worship in person and on Zoom, the Zoom Subcommittee, under the care of M&W, provided a second trial run of a “blended” meeting for worship on March 13 at 11:00. M&W issued a survey for in-person and online attenders for ratings of the worship experience. M&W followed with a Meeting listening session on March 16 to hear more insights about combining in-person and online worship. The committee is grateful to the Zoom Subcommittee for its detailed preparation and skill in utilizing borrowed equipment for testing and conducting the trial runs. M&W will take time and care to review survey responses and notes from the listening session to begin a process of discernment of a recommendation to bring to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Friends are reminded that Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light continues under the guidance of the Care and Counsel Committee. The prayers/holding takes place on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings of the month, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. . . . from your own home. The prayer list continues throughout the month and then is refreshed at the start of the next month. To add to or remove a name from the list, email: prayers@chapelhillfriends.org. We thank the Care & Counsel Committee and Matt and Lynn Drake for sustaining this opportunity.

Also, worship outdoors will resume on March 20th and 27th, located at the east side of the Schoolhouse toward the back of the building. A sign will be posted by the magnolia tree in front of the Meetinghouse to guide folks to the new location. It is hoped that this will be a quieter space for worship. The two dates will serve as an experiment to determine whether outside worship is viable now.

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

March 20, 2022

Ministry & Worship Committee

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

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 Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

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