

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Newsletter

Third Month, 2023

Monthly Query: *How do I faithfully attend Meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship, fully expecting that worship will be a source of strength and guidance?*

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 - 09:30 am <https://www.chapelhillfriends.org/zoom/online.html>

March 5 - Are Quakers Prepared for the New Congress?

Nancy Milio for FCNL.

March 12 - Immigration Experiences

Witness For Peace trip to Agua Prieta Sonora with Mary Rider of the Father Charlie Mulholland Catholic Worker House in Raleigh NC. Mary went with three other women from the Triangle to a mission established by Presbyterians on the border with Mexico. She will tell us about border conditions on both sides, immigrant stories, rituals and vigils established by border people, and the current immigrant policy of the Biden Administration.

March 19 - No Forum - Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at 9:00 a.m

March 26 - What Woman That Was: Poems for Mary Dyer

Anne Myles will read selections from her recently-published collection, an exploration of the life of the New England Quaker martyr, and talk about her personal journey to writing it and why Dyer remains such a compelling figure today. Learn more at <https://www.annemyles.com/books>.

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

Help Maintain the Historic Eno Friends Burying Ground, Sat. March 4, 10am

Join us for some light maintenance of the historic Eno Friends burying ground this Saturday March 4th from 10:00-noon. Please bring your own loppers, hand saws or clippers to cut and remove small to medium-sized seedlings. Wearing sturdy shoes or boots, long pants and shirts, gloves and bug spray is encouraged. Contact John Bell johnbellnc@gmail.com #919-619-6490 for directions, or with questions.

Noel Coward's Play, Present Laughter, Thru March 5

Naveed Moeed shares with Friends:

Here is a play that friends at the Meeting might be interested in. It's a comedy by Noël Coward called Present Laughter. We run for ten days until Sunday, March 5th at Durham Arts Council, right next to Carolina Theatre with multiple matinees. Naveed from the Meeting is in the play. This play is normally produced with an all-white cast. However, the company producing it this time (Switchyard Theatre) has decided to turn that on its head and rediscover what this means when people of color are front and center.

For more information: <https://switchyardtheatrecompany.org/shows/present-laughter/>

Lobby Day at the NC General Assembly, Wed. March 22

Pam Schwingl shares with Friends:

Members from meetings all over NC are gathering in Raleigh for Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation Lobby Day on 3/22/23. We need you to come and be a part of what we hope will be the impetus that pushes Medicaid over the line and into law for so many North Carolinians who have been denied access to affordable health care for too long.

We're so close - the House has passed a "clean" Medicaid Expansion Bill, but now FCNCL is requesting that the Senate pass a clean Bill as well and take a vote so that the General Assembly can send a final version of a combined house and senate bill to Gov. Cooper for his signature.

To Register for FCNCL Lobby Day and a training session (3/15/22), please go to the [FCNCL.ORG](https://www.fcnc.org) website, and scroll down, and click on the link for the Lobby Day Registration. FCNCL is hoping to bring Friends from across the state to Raleigh, so we are arranging transportation and hospitality. If you need hospitality either on 3/21 or 3/22, please indicate this on the registration form. For folks who wish to drive to Raleigh on the morning of 3/22, a very early start is recommended in order to arrive at the NC History Museum by 8:45. Once registered you will receive a map, an agenda, and "leave behinds" which include information about FCNCL and talking points about Medicaid Expansion.

On Wednesday, March 22 in Raleigh we'll meet in the Longleaf classroom in the Museum with a NC House representative and Senator who will update us on the status of Medicaid Expansion and other bills relevant to FCNCL. We will then break up into groups and visit our legislators and/or their aides in their offices. This is a very good opportunity to build a relationship with your state legislator. ACTION FOR DEMOCRACY BEGINS CLOSE TO HOME, AND OUR STATE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS A GREAT PLACE TO PUT OUR ENERGY.

A virtual Lobby Day training session is planned for Wed. 3/15, and we encourage you to sign up for that if you are planning to come to Raleigh on 3/22.

Please contact Pam Schwingl 919-943-0961 or pschwingl82@gmail.com to arrange car pooling!

Announcements

Video of Flyleaf Books Presentation Now Available

Betsy Brinson shares with Friends:

A video of Margaret Edds and Lloyd Kramer's presentation at Flyleaf Books is now available on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RutO9aDNM0>

Margaret Edds is a member of the Richmond, VA Friends Meeting. She presented her new book on Tuesday, Feb 7 at 6 pm at Flyleaf Books, with the participation of Lloyd Kramer. Here is a link to further information on the book and the historical context: <https://www.allarts.org/programs/pbs-newshour/historic-reckoning-1671999365/>

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam's "blackface scandal" could have destroyed any politician. The photo of Governor Northam purportedly in blackface created a firestorm not only locally but also in every political sphere. What the Eyes Can't See details why Northam's career did not end with the scandal, and how it made him a better governor—and a better citizen.

In this book Margaret Edds draws on unprecedented access to the governor, his aides, and members of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus, whose initial anger evolved into determination to mine good from an ugly episode. Both scolding and encouraging, they led Northam to a deeper understanding of the racism and pain the photograph symbolized. Edds provides a revealing examination of race in the nation, how racism might be addressed and reckoned with, and how we all may find a measure of redemption in listening to one another.

Keep Up the Pressure for Congress to Act on Yemen!

Help to End the Devastating War Our legislators need to hear from us this week. Urge Sen. Tillis and Burr, and Rep. Manning to support the Yemen War Powers Resolution (S.J. Res. 56/H.J Res 87).

For nearly eight years, unauthorized U.S. military support and weapons sales have enabled the Saudi-led coalition's participation in a horrific civil war in Yemen.

In Feb. of 2021, President Biden announced the U.S. would end its support for the Saudi-led coalition, but important aspects of U.S. complicity remain. These include ongoing maintenance and logistical support for warplanes conducting airstrikes and enforcing an air and sea blockade of Yemen. This participation has not been authorized by Congress and must not continue.

FCNL has heard that Sen. Sanders plans to introduce S.J. Res 56 any day now. The U.S. has an opportunity to have a big impact on the civil war during this lame duck session.

If congress fails to act the path forward will be significantly more challenging in the new congressional year. Join Friends across the U.S. as we say "war is NOT the answer." Use FCNL's online system to send an email or better yet, find a phone number to call all three of your representatives -- <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2022-12/100-national-organizations-urge-congress-support-yemen-war-powers-resolution>

The IFC Pantry Needs Food Items

Carolyn Stuart 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 on First Days. We are no longer offering last-Wednesday food donation pickups, as Friends tend now to either support the IFC through financial contributions or bring food items to the foyer on First Days. Thank you.

Quaker House Update, 02/25/23

Curt Torell shares with Friends:

Wayne Finegar, **Quaker House E.D.** is finishing his first year and fitting in comfortably. Aside from provocative reports in its newsletter "From the Homefront," Wayne is regularly visiting member meetings, including a trip to CHFM, and this summer he will be attending numerous yearly meetings.

The **Quaker House Hotline** continues responding to a full range of calls, and counselors Steve and Lenore also presented "The Many Faces of Conscientious Objection" at Carol Woods' Peace & Justice forum. They shared a range of cases where soldiers were transformed into a CO position.

The **Quaker House in a Box** project is moving forward. This is designed to give meeting communities a set of resources about Quaker House and peace for them to consider and use according to their FDS needs. The project is interactive or a two-way link with meetings. Some meetings have robust FDS programs; some less so. Quaker House hopes to promote materials and approaches that meetings find helpful and also share these materials with meetings that have fewer resources. YCRE agreed to help pilot portions of these lesson plans, give feedback, and blend in their own successes in teaching peace.

For further questions, contact Rufus King, Tom McQuiston, or Curt Torell, CHMF Quaker House Board Members

Support Knit-A-Thon and Win a Knitted Hat

Kate Fitch shares with Friends:

As discussed in last week's forum, Kate Fitch is participating in the 2023 Knit for Food Knit-A-Thon on March 26, where she will knit nothing but hats for 12 hours straight. Every \$5 donated to her campaign earns one entry into a drawing to receive one of the (probably 3) hats knitted during the Knit-A-Thon.

Click here to donate: <https://givebutter.com/knitforfood23/katefitch>

Proceeds will be split equally between Feeding America, World Central Kitchen, No Kid Hungry, and Meals on Wheels.

Nichole Nettleton's Forum Text Available Online

On February 12, Nichole Nettleton presented a forum entitled A Cry for Community. The text of her forum is now available at: <https://www.chapelhillfriends.org/assets/PDF/CryForCommunity.pdf>

Nichole started attending our Meeting in 2006 when she was a student at UNC and is now a member of Ithaca Meeting. She is leading the Differently Abled Friends and Allies Group for New York Yearly Meeting and was interviewed for an October 2022 article in Friends Journal entitled "Stirring Things Up by Being Ourselves." In this very personal presentation, Nichole discussed struggles with their communities, their disability, health care and adjoining systems and issued a call for action. Nicholennettleton@gmail.com.

Visiting the Meetinghouse During Covid - 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 (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."

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.

Small Group Update

Thanks to all those who have signed up to participate in small groups starting in January and to the facilitators of each group. If you signed up for a group, you should have been contacted by the facilitator of your chosen group sometime in December with information about the first session and to confirm your participation. If you have any questions, contact Lynn Drake (Linda.drake100@gmail.com) or Dottie Heninger (Dottieheninger@gmail.com).



Personals

Looking for a Digital Helper

Lauren Tappan shares with Friends:

I am looking for a digital helper. This person needs to be able to type, handle emails, and web search for PC and Apple devices. Wonderful working environment, good pay, will negotiate on hours. Contact Lauren at laurenandjay@mindspring.com.

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Minutes

9 am Sunday February 19, 2023

Online via Zoom

Ann Miller, Clerk, and Susan Inglis, Recording Clerk

In attendance:

Jeff Brown, Monteze Snyder, Buzz Borchardt, Kate Vinita Fitch, Calloway Rolof, Carolyn Stuart, Richard Miller, Carolyn White, Jan Hutton, Matt Drake, Linda Drake, Tom Ludlow, Bonnie Ludlow, Susan Peterson, Maura Murphy, John Bell, Judy Whisnant, Ann Shy, Tori Toles, Rob Jones, Tom Munk, Jennifer Leeman, Alice Carlton, Dave Curtin, Madelyn Ashley, Hank Elkins, Julia Cleaver, Jasmine McKewen, Quaker Harmon, Rebecca Estes, Emilie Condon, Peter Malone, Ken Grogan, Billie Grogan, Ali Huber-Disla, John Hite, Wendy Michener, Gwynne Pomeroy, Lloyd Kramer, Nancy Milio, Dottie Henninger, Pam Schwingl, Paul Munk, Betsy Brinson, Rick Shepherd, Max Drake, David Waterman, Paul Munk, Joyce Munk, Ann Miller, Susan Inglis

1. Ann Miller, Clerk, led the Meeting in Opening worship and presented the query: How do I experience our Meeting as a beloved community? Friends spoke out of the silence, responding with examples.
2. Ann welcomed Friends, recognized first-time attender Calloway Rohloff, and reviewed the agenda.
3. Susan Inglis, Recording Clerk, presented the Minutes of the January Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB), which were considered and approved.
5. Maura Murphy, Treasurer, presented the second quarter financial report. It is attached here as Appendix 1. She noted concern that we are behind in contributions for the year. She also noted that though it appears that Buildings & Grounds is over-budget, their recent expenses were covered by other funds. Friends asked questions for clarification and accepted the report with gratitude.
4. Carolyn White, for Nominations Committee presented Kara Grawozburn to join Children's and Youth Religious Education Committee (CYRE), Susan Peterson to join Hospitality, David Waterman to be a representative to Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL) and Calaway Rohloff to join Adult Religious Education Committee (ARE). Friends approved these nominations, with appreciation.
6. Carolyn White, for Ministry and Worship Committee, brought a recommendation of Susan Newcomer for membership. She reported that Bonnie Rafael, Jennifer Leeman, Carolyn White were the Membership Clearness Committee and that they had reached clearness with Susan, whose biography is attached as Appendix 2. Friends accepted the recommendation with enthusiasm and formed a Welcoming Committee composed of Carolyn White, Dottie Henninger, Madelyn Ashley, and Hank Elkins.
7. Jasmine McKewen, for Children's and Youth Religious Education Committee (CYRE,) presented the annual report. It is attached here as Appendix 3. Friends commented appreciatively on what a key part our children and First Day School play in our experience of our meeting as a beloved community. Jasmine responded to questions and Friends noted their particular appreciation of Kathleen MacNeill. Friends also commented on the lasting impact that our First Day School has as our children grow up and go out into the world, implanted with an important seed of commitment and values and understanding, testifying to our impact and legacy. Friends accepted the report with deep gratitude.

8. Carolyn Stuart, for Care and Counsel, presented a recommendation of approval for Marya Plotkin and Michael Hanson to be married under the care of the Meeting. Attached here as Appendix 4. Friends accepted the recommendation with enthusiasm. The couple will be married on July 22.

10. Jeff Brown, for Ministry & Worship Committee brought a discussion on the frequency of blended meetings for worship. Friends discussed and commented:

1. I have given much thought to my experience as a person with an underlying health condition. Myr worship horizons have enlarged. We each see through our own prism. The opportunity to be in the meeting room even virtually is a gift for me. I try to see each sharing as the speaker's prism, and find that of God in this process.
2. I am grateful for Zoom and grateful for blended meeting for worship once a month. I am aware of what it takes technically. I also feel separation between the Zoom and in-person groups, so want more blended opportunities, including more small in-person groups. I am concerned that not all announcements get to both groups. I appreciate the richness of having Friends attend from afar, and see it as an opportunity to grow the meeting. Online worship may be the way of the future for bringing more people to Quakerism.
3. I would like to the mirror Friend's comments because I never knows on a given morning whether I will have energy to attend in person. I wholly support anything we do that increases the use of blended and Zoom.
4. Blended worship has brought us closer together as a community. Attending blended by Zoom makes me want to come to the meeting house more often, though I usually attend by Zoom. I would like blended 2x/month at least, especially since most meetings in our area meet blended every week.
5. I find it a lot. Am curious about what Quakerism is. Zoom is attractive for convenience.
6. I feel as though Zoom is a godsend - but we need tech hosts, which can be a challenge and is a cost to the techie. Zoom-only might be less demanding technically, and could be at another time rather than 11-12
7. I applaud Friend's creative thinking, and that is a possibility. I cannot imagine us not having a Zoom option ongoingly. There is also the Carol Woods meeting, and much credit to Nancy Elkins for leading that.
8. Quaker Harmon is doing incredible work to develop and sustain the hybrid, blended format. Thank you. You are a tech superstar. I like to attend in person but appreciate the new sense of connection with people who are on the Zoom. We need to sustain our sense of community to include those who can't be in the meeting house.
9. When we were first considering blending Zoom into the meeting room, some felt that the screen in the room would be deleterious to their experience. Do Friends have any comments on having a screen in the room? It is different but does not take away from my worship experience. I suggest we survey everyone to ask what friends' experience is.
10. I find the screen distracting, and also, when I am on Zoom, find the meeting room in a "box" distracting.
11. For me the screen in the meeting room was deleterious, because the sound was jarring when a Friend spoke from it, and the lengthier and louder-than-usual message was distracting.
12. The Zoom committee could accept new members, so please note if you are called to serve there.
13. I am deeply grateful for an early Zoom experience: going to Pendel Hill meeting, because I had been in that Meeting Room. I have enjoyed watching Kate knit. In her book, *The Light We Carry*, Michelle Obama shares the piece of peace she gets from knitting! Thank you, Kate, for your piece of peace!
14. I wonder whether we have enough Ministry & Worship committee members to add another meeting that is Zoom-only at a different time.
15. I see no reason why early meeting at the Meeting House and early Zoom have to be hybrid. The time would then be 8:30-9:30 or somewhat earlier so the early meeting on Zoom can stay on and do Forum.
16. FGC has done some conversations with meetings about the blended options. It may provide some guidance to discuss with them.
17. I wear hearing aids and am grateful for them and for being able to use machinery to hear. Zoom meeting is analogous.
18. I think that we have had a need for an evening meeting to invite young adults who stay out late on Saturdays. Maybe that could be zoom/hybrid.

19. I just want to voice that I really appreciate the in-person early meeting and find it very valuable as frequently mid-morning family activities arise.

11. The Clerk called for other concerns of members, during this time for unseasoned concerns that arise, to be identified only and simply heard or referred. Friends updated each other on Laura Young's recent surgery. She is doing OK.

11. The Clerk reminded us that our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is planned for 9:00 AM on 3/19/2023.

Announcements:

1. Ministry and Worship committee is in unity to offer folks the opportunity to shake hands again at the rise of Meeting if they are comfortable.
2. Nominations committee is in the process of filling committee vacancies. Please spend time in discernment about where your gifts, talents and time can be of service to the Meeting community.
3. Piedmont Friends will have a Spring Gathering Saturday, April 1, 10:30 to 3:00, including lunch at High Point City Lake Park 601 West Main Street AND a tour of Mendenhall Homeplace 603 W. Main Street in Jamestown, NC. A flyer is available including a link to registration.

Appendix 1

Second Quarter Financial Report

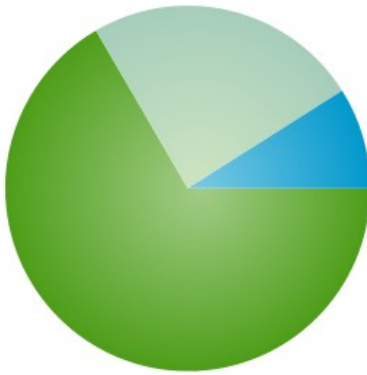
9:45 PM
02/07/23
Cash Basis

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2022

	Dec 31, 22
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1-Checking Truist-2699	34,235.34
2-Savings Truist-9737	56,133.95
3-Designated Renova Truist-4039	54,180.44
4-Designated Funds Truist-4593	
Care and Counsel Support Funds	7,887.39
ReFac Support Funds	2,321.05
Shotts Leadership Support Funds	3,649.65
Youth Service Support Funds	4,116.25
4-Designated Funds Truist-4593 - Other	0.60
Total 4-Designated Funds Truist-4593	17,974.94
Total Checking/Savings	162,524.67
Other Current Assets	
FF- General Fund Designated	27,351.32
FF- Physical Plant Resrv Fund-D	34,938.09
Total Other Current Assets	62,289.41
Total Current Assets	224,814.08
Other Assets	
FF- Shotts Endowment Rst	37,050.95
Total Other Assets	37,050.95
TOTAL ASSETS	261,865.03
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	-78.32
Total Accounts Payable	-78.32
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	1,054.57
Total Other Current Liabilities	1,054.57
Total Current Liabilities	976.25
Total Liabilities	976.25
Equity	
FF Unrealized Gain/Loss	18,940.00
Opening Balance Equity	134,376.03
Unrestricted Net Assets	97,032.37
Net Income	10,540.38
Total Equity	260,888.78
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	261,865.03

Income Breakdown

This year



- Contrib...
- Misc In...
- Parking...

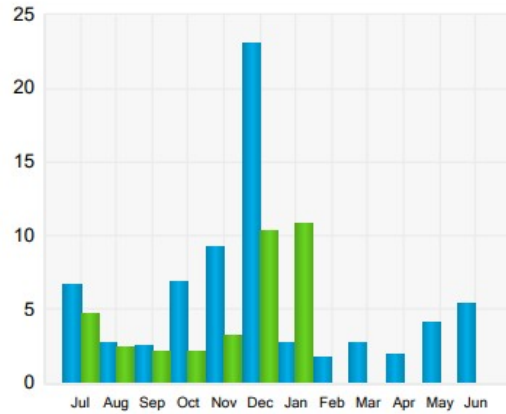
Total: \$54,127.42

Prev Year Income Comparison

Contributions

Monthly

\$ in 1000s

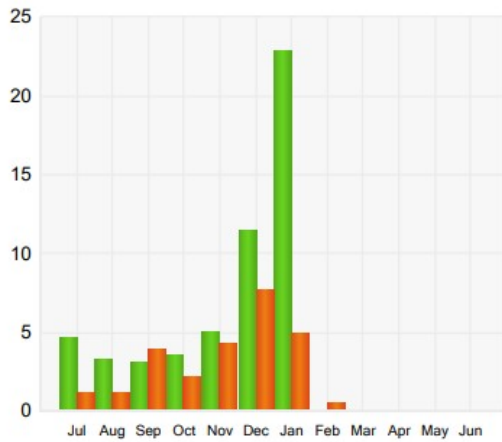


- 2022
- 2023

Income and Expense Trend

This year

\$ in 1000s



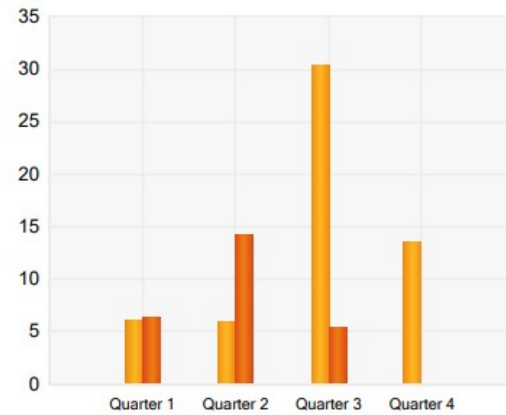
- Income
- Expense

Prev Year Expense Comparison

All

Quarterly

\$ in 1000s



- 2022
- 2023

Susan Newcomer Biography

I was raised as a Sunday-school-going Presbyterian in a suburb of Cincinnati Ohio. After I graduated from high school in 1957, through marriage, college, many moves and two children I was not a church-goer. When my then husband joined the faculty of Iowa State University in Ames in 1972, I met a birthright Quaker whose serenity in the midst of her confusing and disrupted life impressed me. She encouraged me to join the meeting in Ames which had about 8 members and met in the main room of the campus YWCA. My life was changing, and meeting was a place of calm. When I got divorced and, with my children, moved to Chapel Hill for graduate school in 1978, I was a regular attender at the meeting here. My older daughter graduated from Carolina Friends' School. On graduation, in 1984, I took a job as Director of Education for PPFA and moved to New York City, where I attended the meeting on 14th Street in Manhattan. My daughters were in college by then. In 1988 I moved to Washington DC to work for the US National Institutes of Health and became a regular attender at the Florida Avenue meeting. It was a job I loved, working with people I respect. When the orange one got elected, I decided it was time to leave, as my research area is sexual behavior and family planning use. I retired in 2017 and moved to live near my younger daughter in Fraser Colorado. The closest meeting was in Boulder, 85 miles away, so I was not a regular attender. In 2021 after 4 years of too much snow and after her two daughters went on to college, I moved back to Chapel Hill and returned to the meeting here. Meeting has always been a source of strength for me, and it seemed time to join. So here I am.

Susan Newcomer

Children's and Youth Religious Education Committee (CYRE) annual report.

Children's and Youth Religious Education Committee Annual Report

February 2022-February 2023

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. The first half of the year, we held FDS on Zoom as well as offering an in-person FDS on the playground. Starting in July, we moved to in-person only as our last two virtual students started coming in-person. Since November, we have occasionally met inside the school house if the weather is poor. We have continued to meet as a committee using Zoom.

Jasmine McKewen continued to serve as clerk. Rowena Bowman rotated off the committee. Kara GrawOsburn joined as a new member. Continuing members are: Rob Jones, Jennifer Leeman, Leslie Rountree, Stacey Sewall, and Laura Young. Kathleen McNeil (FDS Coordinator) serves on the committee as an ex-officio member.

First Day School (FDS) program

We have continued to have participation from families with children ranging in age from 2 to high school during the last year. Attendance has been lower and less consistent than during pre-pandemic times but has remained steady since the reopening of in-person FDS. Children up until high school have been meeting as one large group and highschoolers have been meeting separately.

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 has been attendance of somewhere between two and twelve children each week in person.

Upper Pod generally consists of those students of high school age. The teachers are John Hite, Finn James, Lori Khamala, Grace Shneider, and Herbert Struemper. The teens led the whole FDS to organize the alternative gift mart. They raised around \$5,070.00 dollars for eleven 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 2022, students studied the Old Testament.

Multicultural Unit: (Sunday after Easter through the end of the school year) We talked about traditions in Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and a variety of indigenous people's traditions.

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

Holiday Activities (Sunday after Thanksgiving through the first Sunday in January). 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, performed a nativity play, and made bird feeders to welcome the New Year. Additionally, the teens participated in a white elephant gift exchange with John Hite and Lori Khamala.

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

Nursery Care

Nursery care has been provided by Stacey Sewall. She also assists 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 Sutton King.

Collaboration with Friends outside of our Meeting

In January, we had a great visit from some local Unitarian Universalist youth. Two recently finished the QUAIL (program on human sexuality and human relationships) through Durham Friends Meeting and two are looking forward to starting this year. We are looking forward to visiting Judea Reform Temple for our multicultural field trip this spring.

Building Family Connections

FDS held two family gatherings at Mark Hulburt's home outdoors: one in spring and one in fall. Until October, Kathleen McNeil hosted a TV night each Tuesday evening from 7:30-8:00pm using Netflix Teleparty. Several families participated each week. After finishing *Shawn the Sheep*, families decided to finish up this activity.

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 ten 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, Rob Jones, Jennifer Leeman, Kara GrawOzburn and Laura Young.

Appendix 4
Recommendation of Approval for
Marya Plotkin and Michael Hanson to be Married under the Care of the Meeting.

The Care and Counsel Committee unanimously recommends the approval by Chapel Hill Friends at their Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on February 19 of the request of Marya Plotkin and Michael Hanson to be married under the care of the Meeting.

The Clearness Committee for Marriage for Marya Plotkin and Michael Hanson met on December 10 and January 14. The members of the Clearness Committee are Carolyn Stuart, Richard Miller, Robin and James Harper, and Lynn and Matt Drake.

Using the document on Clearness Committees for Marriage from the Meeting's website as our guide, we had two rich conversations that explored a variety of issues that the couple is likely to face in their marriage. We are impressed by the maturity, honesty, vulnerability, and devotion that Marya and Michael displayed. We are united in our recommendation that their request be approved.

The Committee takes seriously the charge for continuing support for the couple after the wedding as the commitment we make on behalf of the Meeting for those who are married under the care of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting.

Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
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