

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Newsletter: Ninth Month, 2025



Monthly Query: *How does worship deepen my relationship with God/Spirit, increase my faithfulness, and renew my daily life?*

Monthly Worship Tip from the M&W Committee: *When taking in another's vocal ministry, take a moment to test your own reactions. Where do they come from? Are you listening through to the Light behind the message? If you find yourself struggling with another's words, search for the Love behind them.*

Contents

Monthly Calendar	1
Upcoming Zoom Fora	2
Upcoming Events	2
George Moses Horton Lecture, Fri. Sept. 19, 2pm	2
Symposium on Interfaith Voices For Animals, Sun. Oct. 5, 1-4pm	3
Beloved Community Trip: Exploring Racial Justice Issues, Oct. 8-12	3
Local Contemplative Retreat in the Manner of Friends, Oct. 24-26	4
CFS Beloved Community Offerings this Coming Fall And Spring	4
Quakers in the World	5
Nonviolent Communication 1-Day Intro Workshop, Sept. 6	5
Announcements	6
Bequests to the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting	6
Info for Supporting Our Immigrant Neighbors	6
AFSC Annual Report	6
Witnessing Against Genocide	7
Personals	8
Looking for a Penpal	8
Recurring Announcements	8
InterFath Council Committee Is Seeking Volunteers	8
Zoom Tech Hosts Wanted	8

Inter-Faith Council Pantry Needs Donated Food Items	9
FRIENDS, PLEASE LIMIT YOUR WEEKDAY MEETINGHOUSE VISITS.	9
Newsletter & eNews Reminder	9
Recurring Events	10
Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light, 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 7-8:30 pm	10
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Peace in Palestine, Thursdays, 5:30pm	10
Pendle Hill Worship via Zoom, Daily, 8:30-9:10am	10
Pray for Peace - From Friends House Moscow, Daily	11
Business Meeting Minutes	11
Appendix A: Alice Drozdiak's Request to Transfer Membership	14
Appendix B: Marya Plotkin's Request To Transfer Membership	15
Appendix C: PFYMF Representatives Annual Report	16
Appendix D: Bettie Flash Memorial Minute	19
Appendix E: Rita Kuwahara and Haralamb Braileanu Request for Marriage	21



Monthly Calendar

First Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8:15 - 9:15 am - Early worship in the meeting room ● 9:30 - 10:30 am - Forum via Zoom ● 11:00 am - 12:00 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Worship in the meeting room ○ Online worship via Zoom ● After meeting - Potluck in the schoolhouse
Second Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8:15 - 9:15 am - Early worship in the meeting room ● 9:30 - 10:30 am - Forum via Zoom ● 11:00 am - 12:00 - Blended Meeting in the meeting room and via Zoom
Third Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8:00 - 9:00 am - Early worship in the meeting room (reverts to 8:15 the following week) ● 9:00 - 10:30 am - Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business via Zoom ● 11:00 am - 12:00 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Worship in the meeting room ○ Online worship via Zoom
Fourth Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Same as Second Sunday - Blended Meeting

Fifth Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Same as First Sunday, but without potluck
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Upcoming Zoom Fora

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

September 7: What is the light of God within us?

Explore how ancient philosophy and spiritual leaders named and explained the human connection to the spirit as well as what the emerging scientific research is telling us about human consciousness. Presented by Astra Titus.

September 14: TBA

September 21: Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (no forum)

September 28: Whitney Fry personal sharing.



Upcoming Events

George Moses Horton Lecture, Fri. Sept. 19, 2pm

Asta Crowe shares with Friends:

Join the Shared Learning lecture on Friday September 19 at 2 pm for the first Liberman lecture of the year, ***Hustling for a Bit of Liberty: The Activist Eloquence of Enslaved Poet George Moses Horton*** presented by *Prof. Glenn Hinson, Dept. of Anthropology and the Dept. of American Studies at UNC-CH*. The lecture will be held at Fellowship Hall, Church of Reconciliation 110 North Elliott Rd, Chapel Hill and is free and open to the public but registration is recommended as seating is limited. Go to sharedlearning.us for more information and registration.

George Moses Horton (c. 1798–after 1867), was an African-American poet from North Carolina who was enslaved until Union troops, carrying the Emancipation Proclamation, reached North Carolina (1865). Horton is the first African-American author to be published in the United States. His elegant verses became the stuff of legend on UNC's campus in the early 19th century. Few

portraits of Mr. Horton, however, situate his poetic gifts within the broader traditions of African American eloquence, and fewer still acknowledge his role as a fierce political activist. Instead, he's often portrayed as a rather curious anomaly, a singular savant who found fulfillment crafting clever poems for the elite sons of enslavers. Mr. Horton's story, though, is far more complicated—and far more compelling. This presentation will celebrate George Moses Horton as a wise hustler and a signifying wearer of the mask, while acknowledging that he might well have been the South's first truly "professional" poet.

Symposium on Interfaith Voices For Animals, Sun. Oct. 5, 1-4pm



Quaker Harmon shares with Friends:

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Hillsborough is organizing an event called Interfaith Voices For Animals. This symposium-style event will bring together six speakers from different faith traditions (Christian, Jewish, Pagan, Buddhist, UU, and Jain) who will each speak about how their beliefs inspire them to protect animals from exploitation.

This free event will take place at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Hillsborough on **Sunday, October 5, from 1-4pm**. We are also offering free vegan lunch and free childcare for those who pre-register by September 28. More information, including a list of speakers and the registration form, can be found here: <https://uuchnc.org/justice/animal/symposium/>

Beloved Community Trip: Exploring Racial Justice Issues, Oct. 8-12

Dottie Heninger shares with Friends:

Carolina Friends School, Binkley Baptist Church, University Presbyterian Church, and the Orange County Remembrance Coalition are sponsoring this trip. The dates are October 8 – 12. Journey to Birmingham, Selma, Montgomery, Tuskegee and Atlanta. Visit key sites in civil rights history and explore contemporary racial justice issues. If you haven't already made this trip, you know you want to! Priority registration for members (you! CHFM is a member of the OCCRC) of the sponsoring organizations ran through June 6, general registration follows. For an

application form, etc. please visit

<https://www.cfsnc.org/extended-learning/adult-enrichment/bcj25>. Visit this link for the draft itinerary: [Beloved Community Journey 2025 | Draft Itinerary](#).

Local Contemplative Retreat in the Manner of Friends, Oct. 24-26

Matt Drake shares with Friends:

Join us for *Weathering the Storm: A Contemplative Retreat in the Manner of Friends*, **October 24-26**, 2025, at the Avila Center in Durham, North Carolina. Together we will reflect upon the storms that we are now encountering, whether in our nation, community, or as individuals. Who might we become through the storm? What may be lost? Gained? In what ways have we been faithful within the storm?

All are welcome. Participants from varying spiritual backgrounds will experience the distinctly Quaker manner of contemplation in community. There will be opportunities for both solitude and for sharing. We will have silent time for prayer and reflection, walks among the trees, and contemplative interaction with scripture, as well as worship together and sharing out of the silence. Participants may, if they wish, meet one-on-one with a retreat leader.

Our retreat leaders are April Allison of Durham Friends Meeting in North Carolina, Maryann Concannon of Red Cedar Friends in Lansing, Michigan, and Scott Wagoner of High Point Friends Meeting in North Carolina. This retreat is co-sponsored by [School of the Spirit](#) and [Peace Hill at Avila](#).

The retreat begins with lunch at noon Friday and concludes after morning worship on Sunday. The registration fee of \$560 will cover lodging, meals, and program. Scholarships are available for those with financial need. If you have questions, please reach out to Caroline Preziosi via email at info@schoolofthespirit.org.

CFS Beloved Community Offerings this Coming Fall And Spring

Pam Schwingl shares with Friends:

From Carolina Friends School Beloved Community Institute:

THE NEXT BELOVED COMMUNITY JOURNEY

In partnership with Binkley Baptist and University Presbyterian in Chapel Hill and the [Orange County Community Remembrance Coalition](#), we're offering our next bus trip (five days instead of the usual six) **8-12 October**. Registration is now OPEN! (Pam Schwingl HIGHLY recommends this trip based on going two years ago! Anthony Clay is an amazing guide!)

We'll:

- do a driving tour of Birmingham with Judge Houston Brown
- walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma
- visit the Legacy Museum, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and the new Freedom Monument Sculpture Park in Montgomery
- experience World War II history at the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site
- join Sunday worship at Dr. King's Ebenezer Baptist with Dr. Raphael Warnock in Atlanta.

UPCOMING WELLNESS AND TRANSFORMATIONAL TRAVEL-LEARNING PROGRAMS

Registration opens soon!

- **Self-Perception and the Moving Body**, an experiential anatomy workshop using a variety of movement explorations, conversations, and tactile feedback to help us practice attuning to the body we are in right now and imagining other possibilities. 20 September 2025
- **Racial Myth & Memory** | Wilmington, a two-day experience--Gullah-Geechee culture, the 1898 race massacre, and more--in coastal North Carolina. Late October/Early November 2025
- **Coastal Journey**, a six-day racial justice trip to Savannah and Charleston. Early March 2026
- **Quaker Journey**, a weeklong visit to the 17th-century roots of Quakerism in the breathtaking Lake District of Northern England. 2-9 August 2026

You can see links for these and additional offerings at www.cfsnc.org/AdultEnrichment.



Quakers in the World

Nonviolent Communication 1-Day Intro Workshop, Sept. 6

Whitney Fry will co-facilitate an in-person workshop on nonviolent communication (NVC) on September 6th in Chapel Hill. In this workshop, we'll reclaim our innate desire and capacity for peace, question violence as a way to deal with inner and outer conflicts, and learn new skills to move from a zero-sum approach to one where everyone's needs are met. Topics covered include:

- Foundational concepts and principles of NVC
- Skills to observe without evaluation, identify and express feelings and needs, and make clear, actionable requests
- Empathy and active listening to improve personal and professional relationships

Please click [here](#) for more information about how to register.



Announcements

Bequests to the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

You may have heard pitches on PBS or other charitable organizations asking you to include them in your estate plans. The Finance committee wants to remind folks that you can do the same thing for our Meeting!

In one sentence: bequests to Chapel Hill Friends Meeting can make a real difference to the life of our Meeting and to its financial security.

We encourage you to read the Finance Committee's complete, recently revised [estate planning guide!](#)

Info for Supporting Our Immigrant Neighbors

Lydia Kiefer shares with Friends:

If you become aware of ICE or police activity in your neighborhood or at your workplace, you can call Siembra NC's Defensa Hotline at 336-543-0353. They will help confirm what is happening, connect people with needed support, and ensure no one faces these moments alone. Learn more at <https://www.siembranc.org/la-migra-hotline>

AFSC Annual Report

Betsy Brinson and Whitney Fry share with Friends:

American Friends Service Committee is proud to share their annual report from the past fiscal year (linked [here](#)). The report includes highlights from AFSC's worldwide work for peace, immigrant rights, and economic justice. Take a look and see some of the ways that supporters are helping put Quaker values into action for a better future for all.

Witnessing Against Genocide

Betsy Brinson shares with Friends an announcement from Quakers for Peace in Palestine and Israel:

"Everywhere I look, there's a body giving out. A woman falls to her knees in the street. A child can no longer walk. A man sways, barely able to stand. The images aren't isolated. They are daily. They are everywhere. They are us."

These are the heartbreaking words from Serena, an AFSC program officer in Gaza. You can read her full article here: <https://tinyurl.com/StarvationinGaza>

Recently we shared with you the Britain Yearly Meeting statement about Genocide in Gaza (<https://tinyurl.com/BYMMMinuteonGaza>). Since then multiple Quaker organizations have come together to discern that genocide is occurring in Gaza.

We are being urged to take courageous action. This is their statement: <https://tinyurl.com/QuakersDiscernAFSC>. Please consider sharing it with your monthly or yearly meeting. Meetings and yearly meetings can consider endorsing the statement at <https://tinyurl.com/EndorseStatement>

What can you do now?

- Many activists are banging pots to call attention to the starvation in Gaza. Look for a local group in your community or form a group to protest the starvation.
- Talk to your meeting to discern what to do.
- Have a called meeting for worship with a concern for Gaza.
- This is also a good time to visit your Representatives' district offices in person and witness against the starvation.
- If you cannot visit, call and write your Congressional Representatives. Let them know we care.

Actions to join:

- FCNL - <https://tinyurl.com/FCNL-Advocacy-Teams>
- AFSC - <https://tinyurl.com/AFSC-Action-Hour>

Giving Humanitarian Aid:

- AFSC - <https://tinyurl.com/Give-to-AFSC>
- ANERA - <https://tinyurl.com/Aid-to-refugees>
- UN - <https://tinyurl.com/Give-to-UNRWA>

Quaker groups that discerned that genocide is occurring in Gaza include: the American Friends Service Committee, the Canadian Friends Service Committee the Friends Committee on National Legislation, the Friends World Committee for Consultation (World Office), Quakers in Britain/Quaker Peace and Social Witness, the Quaker Council on European Affairs, Quaker Service Norway, and the Quaker United Nations Office.



Personals

Looking for a Penpal

I am looking for a penpal for a young 26 year old male being housed in an East TN jail. He is a Berea College graduate, working as a mail carrier. He is charged with homicide after a family altercation that left one dead and him with a missing finger. A very sad story. He is not allowed books and he is very bored. He wants to learn more about religions, including Quakers. Please contact me if you are interested in being a penpal. betsybrinson422@gmail.com. cell 804-836-2669.



Recurring Announcements

InterFath Council Committee Is Seeking Volunteers

We invite anyone interested in becoming, or knowing more about being an IFC Committee Member to please contact Carolyn White.

We welcome volunteers to help with food preparation and service at ICF every second Thursday for lunch: 10a - 1p, and/or every second Friday for dinner 4p-6:30p. Volunteers are welcome for part of the shift, or the full shift.

Zoom Tech Hosts Wanted

Support Chapel Hill Friends Meeting's Zoom worship and forums by becoming a tech host. The role is much more simple than you would imagine. Trust us! We need your help and will train you. Please contact the Zoom Subcommittee if interested, or have questions: zoom@chapelhillfriends.org.

Inter-Faith Council Pantry Needs Donated Food Items

Please consider IFC's needs when doing your shopping. There is a basket in the meetinghouse foyer for food donations. IFC has requested the following food items: coffee, hot chocolate, canned protein, canned pork and beans, canned soup (not vegetable), boxed cereal, cake mixes, instant foods, ramen noodles. Thank you!

FRIENDS, PLEASE LIMIT YOUR WEEKDAY MEETINGHOUSE VISITS.

The CFS Early School teachers, parents and guests have priority use of the meetinghouse parking lot from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday throughout the calendar year. If you must visit the meetinghouse during weekday hours, please alert John Hite, the Meetinghouse Resident, at least one day ahead. Email: johnthequaker@gmail.com or call: 919-929-5377.

Newsletter & eNews Reminder

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

- The deadline for weekly eNews is *Wednesday* 5 pm.
- The deadline for the monthly print Newsletter is on the *last day of the month*.

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

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).



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 Care and Counsel Committee and each week, a committee member will collect and post the names that are submitted and will read them aloud during the time of the service.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Peace in Palestine. Thursdays, 5:30pm

You are invited to join Meeting for Worship with Attention to Peace in Palestine and Israel at 5:30 p.m. ET / 2:30 p.m. PT.

Join on Zoom:

<https://afsc-org.zoom.us/j/85831333364?pwd=VEtPTUZuYk5hTHV2OGs1VzRkY0ZKUT09>

Meeting ID: 858 3133 3364

Passcode: 759311

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, Daily

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.



Business Meeting Minutes

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Minutes of the online Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

August 17, 2025

Attendance: Margaret Flash, Jennifer Leeman, Jeff Brown, Tony Hickey, Ann Miller, Barry and Lynda MaKichan, Dottie Heninger, Kuldip Kuwahara, Quaker Harmon, Leslie Rountree, Traci Sullivan, Betsy Brinson, Lynn and Matt Drake, Tom Munk, Hank Elkins, Jessica Eustice, Allie Scales, Alice Carlton, Tom Ludlow, Hart Pillow, Carolyn Stuart, Kate Fitch, Lloyd Kramer, Rita Kawahara, Gwynne Pomeroy, John Hite, Susan Inglis, John Pilgrim, Wendy Michener, Colleen Fey, Nancy Milio, Jasmine McKewen, Buzz Borchardt

1. We opened with worship and the query, “How do we welcome, recognize and nurture the spiritual gifts of all in our community?” In response to the query, one Friend noted the importance of the gift of compassion and the need to recognize the spark of compassion and to fan that spark into a flame.
2. We welcomed Maggie Flash as a first time visitor to the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.
3. The minutes of the June 2025 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved as written. There was no meeting in July.
4. Dottie Heninger, corresponding clerk, read a letter requesting transfer of Alice Drozdiak’s membership from the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting to Durham Friends Meeting ([Appendix A](#)). Friends approved the transfer, with warm memories of Alice and her family.
5. Jeff Brown, Clerk, read a letter from the Homewood Friends Meeting requesting transfer of Marya Plotkin’s membership to Chapel Hill Friends Meeting ([Appendix B](#)). Friends approved the transfer with joy.
6. Leslie Rountree, representative to Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting & Fellowship (PFYMF), presented the PFYMF Annual report ([Appendix C](#)). Our Meeting is a member of PFYMF, which serves as our annual meeting. Friends accepted the report with appreciation to Leslie and other Friends for their service and leadership to PFYMF. Friends were reminded that the Schott’s funds are available.
7. Dottie Heninger, corresponding clerk, read a Memorial Minute for Bettie Flash ([Appendix D](#)). Friends shared loving memories of Bettie. Maggie reported that a memorial is planned for May 2026 and invited Friends to email her at mflash2@hotmail.com with memories of Bettie. Friends accepted the Minute with gratitude.

8. Jeff Brown, Clerk, read a request for marriage under the care of the Meeting from Rita Kuwahara and Haralamb Braileanu ([Appendix E](#)). The request will be referred to Care and Counsel to convene a clearness committee.

9. Quaker Harmon provided an update on audio for blended meetings in the meeting room. The switch to hanging microphones is working well for those in the Meeting room. However, Friends on line have expressed concerns that the hanging microphones pick-up extraneous sounds (e.g., scraping chairs) and do not always clearly pick up those who are sharing messages in the Meeting room. The Zoom workgroup will continue to work on optimizing the functioning of the hanging microphones.

10. Announcements.

- The Next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is planned for 9:00 AM on 9/21/2025.
- The annual committee clerks' retreat will be held on Saturday morning, September 6.

Jeff Brown, Clerk, and Jennifer Leeman, Recording Clerk

Appendix A: Alice Drozdiak's Request to Transfer Membership

Dear Marsha Green,

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting received Alice Drozdiak's letter requesting transfer of her membership to Durham Friends Meeting. Ministry and Worship and then Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business reviewed this request. Alice became a member of CHFM in August 2013. She has been a valued member of our community, and we hope that these friendships will continue!

We commend Alice to Durham Friends with our blessings. We are glad she and her family have found a spiritual home at DFM.

Dottie Heninger

Corresponding Clerk

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Approved by the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting at the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on August 17, 2025

Appendix B: Marya Plotkin's Request To Transfer Membership

Dear Chapel Hill Friends: We have received Marya Plotkin's request to transfer her membership from Homewood Friends Meeting (Baltimore) to Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. Homewood Friends approved Marya's transfer to Chapel Hill Friends Meeting at our 7/6/25 Meeting for Business. We are glad that Marya has found a spiritual home at Chapel Hill and wish her well.

Please send us a note after you have accepted her into membership to close the circle.

Warm regards,

Sarah Bur, Clerk

Homewood Friends Meeting

Appendix C: PFYMF Representatives Annual Report

Piedmont Friends – Yearly Meeting and Fellowship (PFYMF)

Representatives Annual Report

Eighth Month, 2025

Chapel Hill Friends remained an active presence in the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting and Fellowship (PFYMF) in the past year. We have participated in the Piedmont Friends' fellowship gatherings, spiritual forums, and business meetings. Our representatives (Leslie Rountree, Brad Schultz and Lloyd Kramer) have attended both Annual Session and quarterly interim meetings. Leslie continues to serve on the Executive Committee and as recording clerk for the Yearly Meeting. She and Carolyn Stuart served on the 2025 Epistle Committee. Additionally, Quaker Harmon and Jeff Brown have served as technical hosts for PFYMF virtual gatherings. In June, Ann Miller began a three-year term on the Yearly Meeting's Nominating Committee.

Administrative Update

In June of this year, David Haines of Durham Friends Meeting joined the Piedmont Friends clerking committee as Nancy Riemer of Raleigh Friends Meeting rotated off. Marian Beane of Charlotte Friends Meeting and John Shuford of Raleigh Friends Meeting continue as members of the clerking team. Another one of our working groups – the Interim Finance Working Group – is no longer interim. Treasurer Paul Klever of Eno Friends works with the committee to craft a yearly budget, financial infrastructure, and policy guardrails. An Interim Communications Working Group is under the care of the Clerking Committee.

Communications and Outreach

Piedmont Friends has sought out ways to nurture and support our smaller meetings, our Adult Young Friends group, and to provide opportunities to work together on common concerns and for overall fellowship. Highlights of these activities include:

Semi-annual Gatherings

Friends have had many opportunities to gather and enjoy fellowship and learning since the last report was made in October of 2024. As our last report mentioned, we held our Fall Gathering last September at Historic Bethabara Park in Winston-Salem,

founded by the Moravians in 1753. For our Spring Gathering in April, over 60 Friends from throughout North Carolina gathered in Fayetteville (at Highland Presbyterian Church) for fellowship and to learn about the current priority work of Quaker House. This gathering was particularly celebratory because it was jointly planned and attended by the four primary yearly meetings: NC Friends Church, NC Fellowship of Friends, NC Yearly Meeting Conservative, Piedmont Friends-Yearly Meeting & Fellowship.

We will hold our Fall Gathering in October, date and location TBA. There is interest in procuring a training workshop on nonviolent resistance. Details to follow.

Our Annual Sessions and Retreat took place online and at Guilford College again this year, May 30 – June 1. The theme was Grounded in Spirit – Nourished in Community – Prepared for Action. Our Saturday morning plenary challenged Friends to consider deeply preparing for action in two areas of weighty concern, drawing on the words and legacy of John Woolman. Mark Davidson of Raleigh Friends Meeting spoke about the genocide in Gaza and the Israeli occupation of Palestinians in the West Bank, a continuation of the concerns raised at our

previous Annual Sessions. He was followed by Michelle Downey of Fayetteville Friends Meeting who shared reflections about the concerns for at-risk immigrants and the experience of Fayetteville Friends being led by Spirit into the Minute of Intent to Protect.

Next June our Annual Sessions and Retreat will be held at Haw River State Park the weekend of June 5-7. We will expand our itinerary to include workshops and educational opportunities, children and youth programming, and additional time for fun and fellowship. Overnight accommodations and meals will be available at the conference center. PFYM&F is asking each member meeting to send a member to serve on the Planning Committee.

Support of Adult and Teen Young Friends

Our Adult Young Friends (AYF) met informally in small groups this year. Currently, there are about 15-25 participants on its listserv. Will Rogers has served as the group's convener for two years and is seeking another convener to take over.

Last year Mary Linda McKinney of Friendship Meeting shared a leading to develop a North Carolina Quaker teen program. Since then, FANCY (Friendly Assembly of North Carolina Youth) has held several retreats, mostly with Triad youth.

How to Learn More About Member Meetings

Two important resources available to everyone is the Piedmont Friends website and the Leadership Directory. Our website lists each member meeting and worship group, including meeting times and contact information. In addition, the website posts information about the history of Piedmont Friends, meetings' minutes of concern, upcoming events, Spiritual State of the Meeting reports, and advance documents for Annual Sessions and Representative Body meetings. <https://www.piedmontfriends.org>

A monthly Piedmont Friends Events listing compiles recurring meetings and events from member meetings, particularly those gatherings, in-person and virtual, in which Friends from other PF meetings may want to participate. The Monthly Events listing is distributed to meetings and posted on the website.

Clerks' Calls

The Clerking Committee hosts a Zoom call for Clerks of member meetings every quarter. Clerks are able to share updates and concerns from their meetings, to have informal conversation, learn about happenings with Piedmont Friends and build connections.

In response to the times we live in, PFYM&F is organizing a counterpart Zoom call for clerks and members of Peace and Social Concerns/Justice committees so that they too can share concerns, news, ideas and strategies and build networks across the region.

PFYMF has representatives to the American Friends Service Committee, Friends General Conference, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation, Quaker House, and Friends World Committee on Consultation - Section of the Americas, who provide us with organizational updates at our quarterly meetings. This year we approved the appointment of a liaison to Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW).

Respectfully submitted by

Leslie Rountree, on behalf of the Chapel Hill's PFYM&F representatives

Piedmont Friends member and affiliate meetings include: Abingdon, Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Durham, Eno, Fayetteville, Friendship, New Garden, Raleigh, Rockingham County, Salem Creek, Spring,

Swannanoa Valley, Upstate Friends Worship Group, Wilkes County Friends, and Winston-Salem.

Appendix D: Bettie Flash Memorial Minute

Bettie Lawrence Flash March 16, 1931 – June 2, 2025

Bettie joined the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting in 1969. During the many years she was active in Meeting she was a Presence. She served as Clerk of Meeting, chaired many committees, and taught First Day School. Her Presence, however, far exceeded these formal positions and contributions: she was a dear F/friend to us.

Bettie's counsel was regularly sought. Not that she necessarily gave advice, rather she intuitively knew the right questions to ask the F/friend to find the answers for themselves. Her gift of intimacy and her acceptance, no matter the concern, attracted these requests. Of course, these skills enhanced her abilities as she served on Meeting committees, but her abilities far exceeded the role of member in any committee she served. Her Presence served our Quaker community, readily sharing her love and friendship.

Bettie was hospitable, opening her house for all kinds of gatherings. Committee meetings, informal gatherings, and membership or marriage celebrations. She welcomed us all. And she welcomed renters into her home the same way. During one period, many of her renters were Russians studying or working at the University of North Carolina. Other times, she invited professors, foreign students and performing artists to share her home. Later, her rental properties provided affordable housing for many.

Bettie was intellectually curious. Her formal studies focused on History: Ancient, Modern, and everything in between. At UNC-CH she received her master's degree in education, leading to a lifelong career in teaching. She taught internationally: in Lebanon, Spain, Mexico, and also Carolina Friends School, Chapel Hill High School, Durham Academy, and Durham Tech. Throughout her life, her tenacious curiosity led her to travel extensively in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Central and South America. Her community volunteer work reflected her lifelong commitment to peace and justice and her love of the arts. She was a precinct captain for local elections and a docent at both the North Carolina Museum of Art and the UNC Ackland Museum. She lived her values.

Bettie's legacy lives on in the countless lives she touched through teaching, activism, and friendship. And in her loving children, Maggie and Will. We continue to hold them as part of our Meeting, though they live in Japan and Washington.

Appendix E: Rita Kuwahara and Haralamb Braileanu Request for Marriage

August 12, 2025

To: Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Dear Friends,

We, Rita Kuwahara and Haralamb Braileanu, plan to marry each other and are writing to request that our marriage take place under the care of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting.

I initially grew up in the New Garden Friends Meeting in Greensboro, NC and have been a part of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting since moving to Durham, NC over 20 years ago. We are requesting that our marriage take place under the care of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting because I consider the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting my spiritual home and community, and hope to continue to grow and strengthen my relationship with the Meeting.

We have considered all the questions given in “Queries and Advices for Marriage Under the Care of the Meeting” on the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting website and feel ready to move forward with marriage. We are particularly drawn to the Quaker way of marriage and the simplicity of the ceremony and are asking for the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting’s oversight of our wedding and its continuing loving concern for our union.

We are considering Saturday, February 7, 2026 as a possible date for the ceremony, and would be grateful if the ceremony could be held at the Meeting House. We understand that the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting will need to first consider our request and appoint a marriage clearness committee to meet with us, and we are happy to follow all the Meeting’s processes.

We look forward to hearing from you and please let us know if you need any additional information to consider our request.

In Peace, Rita and Haralamb

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