

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Newsletter

December 2008



Monthly Query:

Is our worship together the source and inspiration of all other activities of our Meeting life?

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December Forums

Dec. 7 “Godly Play”

Michael Gibson of GFC’s religious education committee will present a Godly Play lesson.

Dec. 14 “Quakers in Bolivia” (there are 30,000 of them)

Alicia Lucasi will present on her experience of Quakerism in Bolivia and during her stay in North Carolina.

Dec. 28 “Quakers Listening and Speaking to the World”

As Quakers, we are called to Listen very carefully and also to Speak Truth to Power. We will explore how we learn about the wider world and how we respond to the Powers that send mass messages and make momentous decisions.

Carolina Friends School Open House

Sunday, December 7, 2:00-4:00pm

Interested in learning more about Carolina Friends School? Come visit the main campus (between Chapel Hill and Durham) on Sunday, December 7 from 2:00-4:00pm for an Open House celebration. There will be an upper school program beginning at 2:30pm.

For directions on how to get to the campus, or more information about the school, visit <http://www.cfsnc.org>.

Human Rights Week Events in Chapel Hill-Carrboro

December 7 through 10

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee is a co-sponsor of Human Rights Week in Chapel Hill-Carrboro, because the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an expression of our Quaker values of Peace, Integrity, Community, and Equality. Please consider attending some of the following events:

Sunday, December 7

3:00-5:00pm

The Richness of Religious Diversity: A Human Rights Perspective

Location: CHFM Educational Building. Panelists are Mona Dakrouri (a Chapel Hill resident, trained in Egypt to introduce Islam to people of different faith communities by Bridges Foundation. She is also a certified presenter of Islam by the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Egypt. She was born in Chapel Hill, brought up in Egypt and moved back to NC last year), Dr. Robert Seymour (the founding pastor and Pastor Emeritus of Binkley Church, Chapel Hill. Dr. Seymour has a long history of working on human and civil rights and has been honored by the ACLU for his legacy of courageous work in this area), and Padmini Hansda (a past President of the Triangle Interfaith Alliance (TIA), a Carrboro resident and a Buddhist. She is involved with Turkish and Arabic music in an endeavor to introduce local audiences to their global neighbors).

Sunday, December 7

4:30-6:30pm

Environmental Justice: The Rogers Road Struggle

Location: Chapel Hill Public Library, 100 Library Dr, off Estes Dr. Panelists are Minister Robert Campbell and Nelo Jones.

Sunday, December 7

7:00-9:00pm

Local Food, Sustainability, and Human Rights

Location: Homestead Community Center, 600 Homestead Road, near old NC 86. Panelists are Rob Hogan, Mike Lanier, Lori Baldwin, and Roland Walters.

Monday, December 8

7:00-9:00pm

The Right to Healthcare

Location: Homestead Community Center, 600 Homestead Road, near old NC 86. Panelists are Denis Lazof (of Healthcare for all North Carolina), Adam Searing, (of NC Health Access Coalition at the Justice Center), and Luke Smith (of Futuro).

Monday, December 8

9:00pm

Poetry Slam for Human Rights: Open Microphone

Location: Mansion 462, 462 West Franklin St, Chapel Hill

Tuesday, December 9

7:00-9:00pm

Fair Trade and Human Rights

Location: Homestead Community Center, 600 Homestead Road, near old NC 86. Panelists are Scott Conary (of Carrboro Coffee), Sarah Drewett (of 10,000 Villages), and Claudia Salvadore Tolan (of Weaver Street Market).

Wednesday, December 10

7:00-9:00pm

“Peoples’ Assembly” Where do we go next?

Location: Homestead Community Center, 600 Homestead Road, near old NC 86. Interactive facilitation by Scene and Heard Theater Group

All community forums and events are free and open to the public. Donations help support Human Rights Week, and are tax deductible; visit <http://humanrightscities.org/events.html#december3>. For more info, call 929-7885.

Let Your Hearts Sing!

Sundays, December 14 & 21

7:30pm

Come sing and harmonize. Find healing through the vibration of sound! A capella singing—traditional, seasonal, and shape note. Two occasions in December: at the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, December 14 at 7:30pm (after the Christmas party), and at the Durham Friends Meeting, December 21 at 7:30pm. For more information, call Mike Green at 929-2339 or email mgreen@mindspring.com.

Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24

5:30pm

The Christmas Eve Service will take place on December 24 at 5:30pm. As we did last year, we will begin with silent worship with one candle on the table in the center and lights off. As it becomes slowly darker outside, and as the spirit moves us, each of us will light our candle from the central candle and add our lighted candle to the table in silence and/or give whatever message we may feel led to share, slowly bringing light to the darkness. After about 45 minutes, we will close with singing “Silent Night” and other carols as the spirit moves us. Children are welcome to worship with us. Bring a candle with a holder, Extra candles will be provided for those who forget to bring their own.

Parents needed to Coordinate Participation in MLK Jr. Day Parade

Saturday, January 17 (tentative)

Parents are needed to coordinate CFS participation in the MLK Parade in Durham. Several activities are planned for the week prior to the January 17 celebration, and it would be very helpful if a parent or two could join us with the intent of coordinating our participation in the parade. Please contact Kathleen Davidson at 919.383.6602 ext 221 or kdavidson@cfsnc.org, www.cfsnc.org.

Job Opening at FGC

There is a Conference Associate job opening at Friends General Conference. It is a full-time position on a team of three staff that manages the annual FGC Gathering of Friends and other FGC conferences. Responsibilities include arranging for logistical support for the conference committees, development and implementation of registration systems, and more. For a full job description, visit <http://fgcquaker.org/about-us/employment-internships>. To apply, send a cover letter and resume to Conference Coordinator, FGC, 1216 Arch Street, 2B, Philadelphia, PA, 19107, or <tracis@fgcquaker.org>. This position

is open until it is filled—applications are already being reviewed.

Poem Read at Forum

Nov. 30 Forum on Gratitude, Led by Dan Darnell and Dirk Kelder

Be Thankful

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire,
If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something
For it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times.
During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations
Because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge
Because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes
They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary
Because it means you've made a difference.

It is easy to be thankful for the good things.
A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are also thankful for the setbacks.

Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive.
Find a way to be thankful for your troubles and they can become your blessings.

~Author Unknown

Help Needed on Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee organizes meals for those in need and provides support for our community's special events, including weddings and memorials. They need the support of our whole community. They keep lists of those willing to help when these needs arise and would like to update their lists. Please let them know by email or phone if you are willing to be on one of these lists:

- 1) List 1: Making meals for those in need.
- 2) List 2: Support for special events. These events are all different, but all need set-up, clean-up and attending to food and supplies before, after, and during the event.

Being on a list means the Committee can call you when the need arises. If you are able to help, great; if not, then maybe next time.

Also, help at potlucks is always needed! We have 2 hospitality members assigned each month, but 2 people are not enough to carry the event alone. Please grab a towel, a sponge or a broom and socialize while you dry (dishes that is).

Finally, the Committee is looking for at least one new member. They are a fun, loving group who like to work together, divide up tasks, and support each other and the Meeting as a whole. They meet at the rise of the 11:00 meeting on the 4th Sunday each month. For more information or to sign up for a list, contact Kathy Davis (978-7828; browndavis@mindspring.com).

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business November 16, 2008

The meeting began out of worship on the query: Is our worship together the source and inspiration of all other activities of our Meeting life?

New Attenders:

We welcomed first-time attenders Daniel and Lindsey Williams.

Approval of Minutes

The meeting approved the minutes from the October Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business with a change to reflect that the suggestion had been made by two friends that the spiritual enrichment ad hoc committee consider supporting the cost of Godly Play materials.

Moncure Plywood Worker Update

Hank Elkins provided an update on the ongoing strike at the Moncure Plywood company. Workers have been on strike since July. A delegation from our meeting visited Moncure on September 27. Hank spoke with the president of the union yesterday. The president reported that talks continue, although nothing yet has been resolved. The strikers are grateful for the Meeting's support.

Ministry & Worship Annual Report

Pat Mann gave the annual report from Ministry & Worship (attached). Friends accepted the report with appreciation for the work of the committee.

Adult Religious Education

Dan Darnell reported on behalf of the Adult Religious Education. They know that there is a concern that holding forum in the meeting room may be disruptive to early and late meeting because of the need to cut short afterthoughts from early meeting, and the difficulty of having a quiet space to settle at the beginning of the later meeting. ARE has considered the issue and wanted to share their reasons for continuing to hold forum in the meeting room: that the forum serves as a physical space and time where people from both meetings can easily meet and interact, and that the forum is an extension of our worship on Sunday mornings.

Several friends spoke to the advantages and disadvantages of continuing to have forum in the meeting room. These comments were recorded and will be shared with ARE. After the discussion, the meeting approved the following minute:

The meeting recognizes that maintaining the spirit of worship and our sense of community throughout Sunday morning is a priority. We recognize the challenge of respecting the needs and desire for deep worship and shared communion. We ask that the Building & Grounds, Ministry & Worship, Adult Religious Education and Youth Religious Education committees work together to help us find ways to address these issues.

Treasurer's Report

Judy Purvis gave the treasurer's report (attached). She explained that we are "underspending" because we have not been paying out external benevolences. She deferred discussion of that to Buffie Webber, clerk of Finance Committee and next on the agenda. Friends accepted the treasurer's report.

Finance Committee

Buffie Webber reported for the Finance Committee. She explained that the committee is trying to clarify how much money the meeting can anticipate receiving during the year. In the past, the meeting has spent money before the money has actually been received, dipping into reserves to pay bills and benevolences, and hoping that the money would come in to balance the books. The committee is taking a different approach this year, suspending payment of external benevolences until we have a better idea of how much money is coming in. The committee will present more information about this at our quarterly business meeting (December 4).

Clerk's Report

* Jennifer Leeman has written a letter of introduction from our meeting to Wellington Friends Meeting in New Zealand for Jason Morris.

* The quarterly business meeting will take place Thursday, December 4 at 7:00 pm in the meeting room.

Announcements:

1. Elaine Tuyn passed away this week. Her daughter requested a memorial at Presbyterian Church in Hillsborough, Tryon Street, at 11:00am on November 22 (Saturday).

2. Jim Fein, of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, will speak at Carol Woods at noon on November 19 (Wednesday).

Attending

Wren Hendrickson, Perry Martin, Dirk Spruyt, Judy Purvis, Tom Munk, Jeff Brown, Kathy Davis, Marnie Clark, Jan Hutton, Lloyd Kramer, Dirk Kelder, Emilie Condon, Daniel Williams, Lindsey Williams, Christy Morgan, Buffie Webber, Ken Grogan, Annette Broadwell, Dan Darnell, Terry Mehlman, Bettie Flash, Dottie Heninger, Marilyn A. Dyer, Anne Smith, Lynn Drake, Robin Harper, James Harper, Pamela Schwingl, Miriam Thompson, Nancy Elkins, Hank Elkins, Pat Mann, Jennifer Leeman (clerk), Marsha Green (recording clerk).

Attachments

Ministry & Worship Annual Report

The Ministry and Worship Committee is charged with overseeing the spiritual life of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. This includes administrative tasks and the more daunting responsibility of supporting and nurturing the overall spiritual life of the meeting.

A major focus this year has been to reassess the best time for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business to allow the fullest participation of the meeting community. We held listening sessions, solicited input from committee clerks, invited feedback to members of the M&W committee to involve as many members and attenders as possible in our desire to involve the entire community in coming to

clearness on that choice. In addition to the monthly third Sunday from 8:30-10:50 am, we added a Thursday night quarterly business meeting, the first of which was held in September 2008. We will continue to monitor this arrangement to evaluate its effectiveness.

Another major focus was revising the welcoming pamphlet given to visitors. We recognize that inviting, welcoming, and educating potential new members into our community is necessary to maintain a vibrant meeting. This task led to long, deep, and searching discussions into how best to express the beliefs of Friends and the nature of our Meeting. We were both challenged and enriched by these deep discussions and rejoiced when we completed our task.

We also are responsible for organizing clearness committees for membership. This year Terry Mehlman, Lauren Carreto, Anne Smith, Brad Schultz, and Larry Tabor requested membership. Perry Martin requested a clearness committee to welcome her transfer of membership. At this writing, all committees have completed their work with memberships approve or soon to be brought to Business Meeting.

Other responsibilities include the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and the Meeting for Graduation. The Candlelight Service attracts a large crowd of appreciative participants. We held two meetings for graduation, in 2007 and 2008. Each was preceded by a forum led by graduates who shared their experience of growing up in our meeting. We gave each graduate a copy of Parker Palmer's "Let your lives speak," each personally inscribed.

A Spiritual State of the Meeting gathering was held in March 2007. With apologies, we assure the Meeting that another is in the planning stages for the future.

Working with the Adult Religious Education Committee, we offered a forum on "Sharing our Spiritual Journeys" in October, on "What the Meeting brings to me and what I bring to the meeting" in February and another on "Why Quaker Membership?" in August. We also helped form a subcommittee with members of ARE to plan how best to use the bequest money allocated for spiritual enrichment. This discernment is ongoing. We expect to report to the Meeting when decisions are ready for approval. We proposed and the business

meeting approved that we join area churches to co-sponsor the Labyrinth Walk held at Binkley Baptist the week before Easter with the hope it could lead to other collaborations with area churches about community issues. Other churches sponsoring the Labyrinth Walk include: University United Methodist Church, Orange UMC, United Church UCC, Church of the Advocate Episcopal, Chapel of the Cross Episcopal, St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church, Binkley Baptist Church, and now Chapel Hill Friends Meeting.

An ongoing responsibility is overseeing the quality of vocal ministry in meeting for worship. We realize that Friends may need guidance in how to know when the Spirit is truly guiding us to speak. Our desire is to nurture the spiritual gifts in our members and attenders. We will continue to give prayerful consideration to this challenge in the future. We have also been asked by the Meeting to review the functioning of committees and to make recommendations to the Meeting. A future focus will also include how to educate newcomers about Quaker spirituality and how to nurture growth of individuals on their spiritual paths, whether through various small groups, classes, or other ways yet to be imagined.

Respectfully submitted: Jim Bartow, Alice Carlton, Max Drake, Michael Green, Dottie Heninger, Jan Hutton, Pat Mann (clerk), Terry Mehlman, Renee Prillaman, Jennifer Leeman, ex-officio (Meeting Clerk)

Treasurer's Report for October 2008

| | This month | 2008-2009 budget | Cumulative total from 6/1/08 | Budgeted funds to be raised |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Unrestricted Income | | | | |
| Unrestricted personal | 3107 | | 16061.16 | |
| Unrestricted building use | | | 828 | |
| Total Unrestricted Income | 3107 | 72,280 | 16,889.16 | 55,390.84 |

Treasurer's Report continued....

Restricted Income*

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Football parking (YRE) | 2930 | — | 3690 |
| Total Restricted Income | 2930 | — | 3690 |

| Committee Expenses | This month | 2008-2009 budget | Cumulative total from 6/1/08 | Budget Remaining |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Adult Religious Educ | | 300 | | 300 |
| Buildings & Grounds** | 838.16 | 14,350 | 3580.44 | 10769.56 |
| Insurance | 389.84 | 5,350 | 779.88 | 4570.12 |
| Utilities | 383.32 | 5,250 | 1700.49 | 3549.51 |
| Maintain & Improve | 65 | 2,750 | 1055.27 | 1694.73 |
| Landscaping | | 1,000 | | 1000 |
| Care & Counsel | | 100 | | 100 |
| Children's Religious Educ | 248.85 | 4,800 | 1119.25 | 3680.75 |
| Environmental Concerns | | 650 | | 650 |
| Finance | | 400 | 25.11 | 374.89 |
| Hospitality | 203.01 | 250 | 203.01 | 46.99 |
| Library | | 400 | | 400 |
| Ministry & Worship | 76 | 1,750 | 246 | 1504 |
| Nominations | | 25 | | 25 |
| Peace & Social Concerns | | 300 | | 300 |
| Publications & Records | 96.08 | 1,800 | 488.28 | 1311.72 |
| Youth Religious Educ | | 2,500 | 1776.70 | 723.30 |
| Total Committee Exp | 1462.10 | 27,625 | 7438.79 | 20186.21 |
| | | | | |
| Benevolences | | | | |
| Internal Planned | | 8,135 | | |
| Internal Discretionary | 99.41 | 4,500 | 352.41 | 4147.59 |
| External | | 32,020 | 1500 | 30520 |
| Total Benevolences | 249.41 | 44,655 | 2002.41 | 42652.59 |
| Total Expenses | 1711.51 | 72,280 | 9441.20 | 62838.80 |

*\$207.63 residual from Gerry Gourley's estate deposited in Bequest Account

**\$2,000 from Bequest Fund transferred to General Fund at FFC for new window sashes

Editor's Note: the amount for football parking has been updated and is now correct.

New Copies of Directory and Updates

Additional copies of the directory have been made, and are located on the table in the foyer. Nearby you should also see a stack of errata sheets for the directory. This is the information we have gathered about members and attenders since the directory's publication. Please help yourselves.

We will continue to publish changes and additions to the directory in the monthly newsletter. Also, you can expect to soon see:

- * an updated list of elected officials
- * a list of committee clerks
- * the compilation of Quaker resources
- * a list of First Day School teachers

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
531 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514
929.5377

Meetings for Worship at 8:30 and 11:00am
Forum at 9:45am
Child Care from 9:30am-12:15pm
First Day School from 11:15am-12:00pm

Clerk of the Meeting: Jennifer Leeman (929.9135)
Resident: John Hite (929.5377)

This newsletter is published every first Sunday under the care of the Publications and Records Committee. The deadline for submissions is evening, last Sunday of the month. Please email submissions to news@chapelhillfriends.org, or call James and Robin Harper at 768.9870.

To send Meeting News and In The Light announcements via email, or to get your name on our listserv, contact news@chapelhillfriends.org.

This and past issues of the newsletter are available online at www.chapelhillfriends.org. To get items posted on our website, send the information to news@chapelhillfriends.org.

Monthly Query:

Is our worship together the source and inspiration of all other activities of our Meeting life?

Calendar:

| | | |
|------------|-----------|---|
| Sun. 12/7 | 8:30am | Meeting for Worship (Early) |
| | 9:45am | Forum: "Godly Play" - Michael Gibson |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship (Late) |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods |
| | 12:30pm | Potluck & IFC Sunday - Schoolhouse |
| | | Environmental Concerns Com. - Schoolhouse |
| | 2-4pm | Carolina Friends School Open House |
| | | Human Rights Week Events Begin |
| Thu. 12/11 | 4:30-5:30 | Vigil for Peace & Justice - Post Office |
| Sun. 12/14 | 8:30am | Meeting for Worship (Early) |
| | 9:45am | Forum: "Quakers in Bolivia" - Alicia Lucasi |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship (Late) |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods |
| | 7:30pm | Let Your Hearts Sing! - Meetinghouse |
| Wed. 12/17 | 10am | Quaker Women's Gathering - Marnie Clark's |
| Thu. 12/18 | 4:30-5:30 | Vigil for Peace & Justice - Post Office |
| Sun. 12/21 | 8:30am | Meeting for Worship (Early) |
| | 9:30am | Meeting for Worship w/Attention to Business |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship (Late) |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods |
| | 7:30pm | Let Your Hearts Sing! - Durham Friends Meeting |
| Wed. 12/24 | 5:30pm | Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship |
| Thu. 12/25 | 4:30-5:30 | Vigil for Peace & Justice - Post Office |
| Sun. 12/28 | 8:30am | Meeting for Worship (Early) |
| | 9:45am | Forum: "Quakers Listening and Speaking to the World" |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship (Late) |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods |
| | 10pm | Deadline To Turn In Items For The Newsletter! |
| Thu. 1/1 | 11am-1pm | CHFMs Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter |
| | | Vigil for Peace & Justice - Post Office |
| Sun. 1/4 | 8:30am | Meeting for Worship (Early) |
| | 9:45am | Forum: TBA |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship (Late) |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods |
| | 12:30pm | Potluck & IFC Sunday - Schoolhouse |
| | | Environmental Concerns Com. - Schoolhouse |
| Wed. 1/7 | 10am | Quaker Women's Gathering - Marnie Clark's |