

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Newsletter



March 2009

Monthly Query:

When disagreements arise, are they recognized, discussed, and resolved with loving patience and forbearance? Are we able to celebrate our diversity without reservation?

Contents:

Spaghetti Sauce!.....	3
Forums	3
Spiritual Book Groups.....	3
Friendly Adult Book Groups.....	4
Vegetarian Potluck.....	5
CROP Walk.....	6
Prison Visitation.....	6
Volunteer with IFC.....	6
Respond to State of the Meeting Queries.....	6
Jesus Seminar Speakers.....	7
Godly Play Training.....	7
10 Reasons to Attend FGC Summer Gathering.....	8
Carrboro Summer House for Rent.....	10
Book Review.....	10
Minutes from Meeting for Worship	
with Attention to Business, Feb. 5.....	12
Minutes from Meeting for Worship	
with Attention to Business, Feb. 15.....	21
Directory Updates.....	29
Calendar	32

Spaghetti Sauce for IFC

Feed the hungry in our community. March is Spaghetti Sauce month for IFC. Please plan to bring cans, plastic bottles, or glass jars of spaghetti sauce for our monthly collection on Sunday, March 1st. (Thanks for your great response to our tuna drive last month!)

And for those who plan ahead: PASTA is the item to bring in April!

Forums

- March 1** “Spiritual Book Groups” Jan Hutton & Dan Darnell
This forum will be experiential and discuss how spiritual book clubs might be formed.
- March 8** “Quakers and the Environment”
Rob Jones will present on his work with Quaker Earthcare Witness and Crop Mob along with Catherine Alguire who will present on the Wildlife Habitat Certification program offered by the National Wildlife Federation.
- March 22** “The Call to Speak”
Ministry and Worship will present on vocal ministry in the meeting.
- March 29** Personal sharing by Jocelyn Ogden-Schaefer

Spiritual Book Groups

The Adult Religious Education (ARE) committee will hold a forum on March 1 with a focus on forming spiritual book groups in the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. In offering this opportunity, ARE hopes to support Friends in further exploring their spiritual journeys in the company of others through participation in spiritual book clubs.

While it is our hope that many of you can attend the March 1st forum, we invite those who cannot to still take part in the book groups. To that end, we have included below, an article from Michael Gibson, FGC Religious Education Coordinator, which describes a Quaker process for deepening our experiences as participants in these groups. If you are interested in being part

of a spiritual book club or would like more information, please contact ARE member, Jan Hutton, janhutton@earthlink.net, or 967-1959.

Friendly Adult Book Groups

by **Michael Gibson (FGC Adult Religious Education Coordinator)**

Book groups have become quite popular in Friends adult religious education. What is perhaps most attractive about this approach is that it can provide numerous opportunities for deep personal sharing. When using any book for a Friends adult forum or class, it is particularly Friendly to keep the focus, in questions and in sharing, on the experience of the participants. Asking what one thinks about a passage may invite opinions and discussion but may not get to the heart.

Questions such as these may lead to richer sharing.

- How does the text speak to your condition?
- In what ways does the author challenge you, open you up, or invite you to deeper living and loving?
- Where is God in what you are reading, and how is the Spirit working in you as you engage (or resist!) the text?
- Does the passage under study make you more tender toward others and toward yourself? Explain.
- What rises up in you as you read the text—a strong emotion, an old memory, an image, a sense of the Divine Presence?
- If the text “makes a difference” or touches us deeply, how then shall we live?
- What practical action might you be led to as a result of your reflections on the text?
- How might you rephrase key passages to make them your own, informed by your experience of the sacred?

Look for texts that invite deep reflection and sharing. Memoirs, journals, biographies, essays on some aspect of Quaker faith or practice, and explorations of any of the testimonies are some of the many possibilities. Sharing is usually most rich when those in the group have read the passage under study in advance and have allowed time for the words to roll over in their minds and play in their hearts. Responding off the cuff to material heard for the first time often leads more to shallow reacting than seasoned reflection.

Queries and discussion questions are richest when they come from a heart illuminated by the Light.

Some suggested guidelines are:

1. Use “I” statements that indicate your own experience, rather than to generalize or assume what others experience.
2. Lovingly accept each person’s contributions as reflecting her or his experience, whether or not the experience is your own or is common to others.
3. Self-monitor the frequency of your contributions to avoid dominating or excluding others.
4. Take time and care to listen fully and consistently to the contributions of others.
5. Pay attention to the power dynamics of the group. Has any one group (of age, race, gender, etc.) “hogged” the time or determined the shape and flow of the sharing, thus compromising safety, respect or mutuality?
6. Keep worship sharing and other intimate sharing within the group unless given permission from the speaker to share it with others.

When each participant both speaks and listens from the heart, no one is judged. Adult book groups can be a vital part of any monthly meeting’s religious education program when the sharing is experiential, touches the heart, respectfully honors the whole person, and is conducted within a framework of clear and healthy boundaries. As each participant’s experience of the numinous is expressed uniquely, the discussion of a text that invites deep reflection can provide a rich forum for enriching relationships and for coming to know one another in that which is eternal. May the Light shine in all our Quaker religious education work!

Vegetarian Potluck

Saturday, March 21

The next vegetarian potluck will be March 21 at 6pm at Lynn and Matt Drake’s house.

Annual CROP WALK

Sunday, March 22

The 23rd annual CROP WALK (C-community; R- reaching; O-out to; P-people) is scheduled for Sunday, March 22nd at 2:30. Please join in the Chapel Hill/Carrboro community effort to raise money to provide food and other resources for people locally and globally. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised support the local IFC hunger relief programs in Orange County. If you would like to walk or support a walker, there will be information available after the rise of Meeting in the foyer each Sunday through March 22nd. Contact Gwynne Pomeroy (968-0829) for more information.

Prison Visitation with Yoke Fellows

Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30pm

Yoke Fellows visits with residents at our local minimum security prison in Hillsborough, 7:30 to 8:30 pm every Tuesday except the last Tuesday of the month. Carpool at 7:05 pm from in front of the main building at Carol Woods or at 7:10 pm from in front of the Subway Restaurant at Timberlyne Shopping Center. Call Hank Elkins 918-3504 or Asta Crowe 933-4564 for more information.

Want to Volunteer with the IFC?

The IFC Committee invites Friends interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities with the InterFaith Council to contact Marie Hopper - marie.hopper@gmail.com or 919-414-1894.

Respond to the Spiritual State of the Meeting Queries Online

For those unable to attend the Spiritual State of the Meeting gathering, the Ministry and Worship Committee invites your responses to two queries. Please go to the survey monkey at the link below and respond. They'd like to hear from as many Friends as possible.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=A9UOAAWjwe5GELjFGoGnsQ_3d_3d

Hear the Jesus Seminar Scholars

April 24-25, 2009

The Jesus Seminar group is composed largely of professors in university and college departments of religious study all across the country. Put into the briefest possible words, the scholars comprising the Jesus Seminar are committed to being advocates for literacy in Bible and religion. These are people of deep faith, who want to share the wonderful new discoveries and insights that are developing.

In addition to offering a week-long summer conference for lay people, the Jesus Seminar now makes available weekend events occasionally, around the country. On April 24-25 at the Brevard, NC, Unitarian Universalist Church, Dr. Hal Taussig (Union Theological Seminary, NYC) and Dr. Charles Hedrick (Claremont Graduate School, CA) will be presenting on the great diversity of often competing early Christian literature which reveals how diverse early Christianity really was, even in its basic ideas. Different views of the Crucifixion through early Christian eyes will also be discussed.

Pre-registration by April 3 is \$60; after this date, \$75. Additional family member, \$50. Marilyn Dyer plans to attend assuming she can get someone to ride along. Contact her for further info at 918.3622.

Interested in Godly Play/Faith and Play/ Playing in the Light Training?

May 15-17, 2009

Playing in the Light training at Pendle Hill, near Philadelphia, PA. Check out <http://www.pendlehill.org/programs> for details.

June 27-July 4, 2009

Godly Play for Teachers and Parents at Friends General Conference's Summer Gathering in Blacksburg, VA <http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering> (the Advanced Program will be published in early March).

Both will be led by Michael Gibson and two other certified Godly Play trainers. With support from the Leadership Development Fund and the Spiritual

Development Committee, the Children's Religious Education embarked upon our first Godly Play unit in January. We have ten trained teachers, with three others that are learning the approach experientially. Each teacher and pod is modifying the approach and the lessons to a greater or lesser degree for theological and pedagogical reasons. We have started a listserv for the teachers to explore our teaching experiences. We are focusing on the parables, including a sharing of "The Great Well" with the children. Many of you will remember that parable from our experience of it at the forum presented by FGC's Michael Gibson. We are looking forward already to the Fall, when we expect to use a similar approach and new lessons — this unit will be built on the six Faith and Play lessons created by FGC for Quakers.

We encourage anyone interested in joining our pool of trained teachers to let us know. If enough Friends are interested, it might be more efficient to convince Michael to travel here again. In any case, support for attendance may be available from the Shotts-Leadership Development Fund. If you are interested, or for more information, please contact Tom Munk ASAP (technically by the end of February): tommunk@westat.com; 929-9135; 474-8158.

10 Reasons to Attend the FGC Summer Gathering in 2009

June 27 to July 4, 2009

by Marsha Green

Each year, over 1,000 Quakers gather at the end of June for the Friends General Conference Gathering. Will you be one of those gathered this year? Here are 10 good reasons (in no particular order) to experience the gathering:

1. **Community.** Where else can you live, work and worship with so many other Quakers? It's a unique experience, recreated anew each year.
2. **Challenging Ideas.** With workshops and plenary speakers, information sessions and casual conversations, you can't make it through the week without encountering some food for thought. The 2009 plenary speakers will include speakers such as Ben Pink Dandelion, a British Quaker Historian; Shane Colburn, author of *Jesus for President*; Hollister Knowlton, clerk of Quaker

Earthcare Witness of the Americas; and Nikki Giovanni, poet, activist and University Distinguished Professor at Virginia Tech.

3. **Incredible Programming for Children.** For 3 hours each morning and 2.5 hours each evening, scores of dedicated Quakers provide age-appropriate, spirit-filled activities for newborns through middle-school aged kids.
4. **Friendships.** Many friendships made at The Gathering routinely survive 51 weeks of no contact and blossom again for one week each summer. Adults and children often return to The Gathering year after year, reconnecting with old friends and creating new. The Teen program (for 9th-12th graders) is a particularly fertile ground for friendships.
5. **Workshops.** Teens and adults anchor their days with a workshop that allows them to delve deeply into a topic and creates a mini-community within the gathering community. The workshops meet each morning (while the children's program is happening). With over 50 workshops ranging from Quaker history and theology to worshipful biking and knitting, there is something for everyone.
6. **Worship.** There's silent worship, worshipful dance, singing and chanting, worship at meals, worship in workshops, morning worship, evening worship. Worship permeates the gathering, happening on schedule and spontaneously. This year, there will be a special opportunity to worship with attention to healing from the tragedy in 2007 at Virginia Tech, where 32 people were killed by a disturbed student who then killed himself.
7. **Information Sessions.** Learn about the work of Quaker organizations from around the world at displays and information sessions throughout the week.
8. **No Housework.** You get 2 or 3 meals each day (depending on your meal plan) at the Virginia Tech cafeteria. And you'll never have to eat alone – these Quakers are a friendly bunch.
9. **Cost.** The cost varies slightly from year to year, depending on the location,

but it is usually less than \$400 per person for the entire week. There are several ways to make it cheaper: families can receive discounts, sharing rooms or camping reduces housing costs, applying for a workgrant reduces the program fees. If money is still an issue, consider applying for scholarships. They are available from the Meeting, from PFF, and from the Gathering itself.

10. Location, Location, Location. Blacksburg VA is only half-day's drive from Chapel Hill. The Gathering doesn't get this close this often, so take advantage of the location while you can. (The Gathering will be in Ohio in 2010).

More information will be available online at www.fgcgathering.org . Registration begins April 1. Please feel free to contact the Friends listed below for more specific information. Many of their children have also attended FGC.

Mike and Marsha Green, mgreen@mindspring.com

Jennifer Leeman, jleeman@email.unc.edu

Tom Munk, tommunk@westat.com

Judy Purvis, judy@edtsi.com

Jim Bartow, James.Bartow@mail.csc.unc.edu

Jan Hutton, janhutton@earthlink.net

Hank and Nancy Elkins, hankelkins@mindspring.com

Carrboro Summer House Available

Carrboro house available June through September. Pay for utilities. Please contact Perry Martin/Dirk Spruyt, 919-967-4746.

Book Review: *Held in The Light*

Anne Morrison Welsh, Orbis Books, 2008

by Marilyn Dyer

The nation was shocked on Nov. 2, 1965, when outside the Pentagon, during rush hour, within 40 feet of then Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara's third floor window, a deeply committed Quaker, Norman Morrison, immolated himself. It has taken his widow four decades to journey through the healing

process and come to fully grasp the significance of sacrificing one's life for peace.

This small, beautifully written book moves one far beyond quick moral judgment to a far deeper level of understanding. With the passing of the years since 1965 and the tragic Vietnam War, countless unforeseen effects of Norman's sacrifice have emerged. "The deepest truth about Norman is that he was a person who cared—deeply, passionately, and finally desperately—about the things he believed in: peace and non-violence, human rights, and an equitable sharing of the world's resources." He felt that he had done everything imaginable to try to stop the war: praying, protesting, lobbying, withholding war taxes, writing letters to newspapers and people in power. He could not accept the unspeakable human toll the war was taking on the Vietnamese and on our soldiers. He also feared that if the war continued, China or the Soviet Union eventually would enter the war on the side of North Vietnam, escalating the conflict into a nuclear World War III. It is now known that his fears were not groundless; nuclear options had been officially proposed at our highest U.S. military levels.

For those unaware of it, Norman and his wife Anne established the Charlotte, NC, Friends Meeting, and later Norman was hired as the executive secretary of Stony Run Friends Meeting in Baltimore.

Anne Welsh writes: "Norman was convinced that the control and ultimate elimination of war is an imperative of this century. Norman considered war itself—and the hatred it inspires—as the real enemy of the peoples of Vietnam and the U.S. He gave his life as witness to this belief. Few people care deeply enough about anything to understand how he could do so noble an act."

At a memorial service for Norman in Washington, D.C., it was said that in a society where it is normal for human beings to drop bombs on human targets, where it is normal to spend 50% of the individual's tax dollar on war, where it is normal to give war toys for Christmas, where it is normal to have 12 times overkill capacity, Norman Morrison was not normal. He said, "Let it stop...let us be abnormal in the sense that Jesus and Gandhi were abnormal. Let us practice the law of love."

Quaker Rufus Jones has said the Prophet cannot give people what they want. He is under an inescapable compulsion to give them what his soul

believes to be true. Norman's final act was the result of a perfectly rational decision, his death an affirmation of those ideals he held and lived throughout his life. Our focus should be on the conditions in the world and in American society that made Norman believe this sacrifice was necessary.

This book will be available in our Meeting library.

**Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society
of Friends**

**Quarterly Meeting for Worship with Attention
to Business**

Minutes

February 5, 2009

Jennifer Leeman, Clerk

Susan Inglis, Recording Clerk

Query: Are our children made to feel a valued part of the Meeting, with opportunity to participate and share in its worship and work? What is the Meeting's commitment to excellent education in the larger community, including public schools and the Carolina Friends School?

1. Opening Worship

2. Welcome, Recognition of First-Time Attenders, & Review of the Agenda

Joanna Selim was welcomed as a first time attender.

3. Peace and Social Concerns

Open Letter to President-Elect Obama entitled "We Need a Change in Israel/Palestine Policy"- request for Meeting to sign.

Hank Elkins, Clerk, Peace and Social Concerns, presented the letter with a request that we join the other organizations that have signed. The letter listed 30 North Carolina organizations that have signed. Many national organizations have signed as well. The letter is

attached here. After a few questions, Friends approved our signing the letter as a Meeting.

4. Announcements

- The clerk read a letter from Gunpowder Friends Meeting expressing their appreciation of a recent visit from John Watts and his musical ministry.
- On Saturday, February 28, Perry Martin and Martha Kelder will lead a contemplative writing and expressive art workshop.
- Tom Munk reminded members that the Historic Thousands on Jones Street (HKonJ) march and rally will take place on Saturday, February 14.
- The Spiritual State of the Meeting will be Thursday, February 12, from 7:00 - 9:00pm in the Meeting House. We will consider two queries: How is your spiritual life nourished by our Meeting Community? What are your desires for deepening and strengthening the spiritual life of our Meeting?
- In March, the IFC especially wants to receive donations of spaghetti sauce.
- We will hold a work morning Saturday, February 21, at the meeting-house to address indoor and outdoor tasks. Activities begin at 8:30am with breakfast.

5. Finance Committee

Buffie Webber, Clerk of Finance Committee, presented an update on the status of our budget. Revenues this year are not sufficient to cover the budget. We generally raise about \$65,000, which has recently been consistently about \$2000 less than we spend and even less than what we budgeted for as committees tend to underspend their budgets. Finance suggested paying 50% of all external benevolences immediately and then asked the Meeting's approval to revise the budget for FY 08-09 by cutting up to 10% of external benevolences if needed. Their report is attached here. Friends expressed appreciation for the work of the committee, and their comments and questions included:

- Clarification that “internal benevolences” include the Leadership Development Fund, Physical Plant Replacement, Meeting For Suffering, Meeting For National Service, the Social Action Discretionary Fund, and the Environmental Concerns Discretionary Fund.
- External benevolences include many organizations. Carolina Friends School, Interfaith Council, Quaker House are the largest.
- Friends expressed concern about making across the board cuts of 10% in all benevolences. The suggestion was made that we delay the decision about the particulars until we get to the point where we have to make a cut. Further, since the Peace & Social Concerns committee will then be deliberating its benevolence budget for next fiscal year, it may be easier for them to make recommendations about how to distribute the cuts then, if they are necessary.
- The question was raised asking how finance committee anticipates structuring next year’s budget to better match anticipated revenue. The finance committee was only prepared to discuss ways to manage shortfalls this fiscal year and will be discussing plans for next year’s budget at future meetings.
- Friends expressed interest in having more time as a meeting to work with recommendations for benevolences.
- It is a concern that the Meeting can raise only \$65,000 per year.
- This fiscal year we had a pledge statement in the fall. Perhaps in the coming year we should pledge in March before the budget is set, as part of the budget-making process.
- It was pointed out that many Friends give to these same external benevolences on their own. We give generously, in kind as well as in cash.
- Friends asked that the Spiritual Enrichment Bequest funding be used to cover the remaining balance for the costs of purchasing Godly Play materials.

Friends accepted the report with appreciation. They did not approve an across the board up to 10% in benevolences if need. Instead they request that the finance committee come back to the meeting with specifics if and when the cuts are necessary. The treasurer is directed

to pay out the 50% of planned external benevolences now.

6. Nominating Committee

Jeff Brown, Co-Clerk, Nominating Committee, brought 4 recommendations with request for approval. They cover the process for filling the positions of recorder, recording clerk, trustees, and members of nominating committee. Two were addressed and two were held over.

1 – The proposal that Trustees be contacted annually to be thanked and asked if they want to recommit each year was approved. This will be part of the roster that Nominating Committee brings for approval each spring

2- To fill vacancies on Nominating Committee in recent years, the clerk has made recommendations for appointments that business meeting approves. The committee recommended that we continue this process. After some discussion, Friends approved establishing a 2-3 member Naming Committee by October of each year that would bring forward recommendations for the new class of Nominating Committee by December of each year to be held over for approval at the following business meeting.

In attendance:

Lloyd Kramer, Joanna Selim, Marnie Clark, Dirk Spruyt, Mike Green, Marsha Green, Tom Munk, Jeff Brown, Dottie Henninger, Polly Ulin, Judy Purvis, Ken Grogan, Miriam Thompson, Larry Tabor, Terry Mehlman, Jan Hutton, Robin Harper, Asta Crowe, Anne Smith, Matt Drake, Ruth Zalph, Marilyn A. Dyer, Nancy Elkins, Hank Elkins, Margie Brache, Buffy Weber, Francis Coyle, Pam Schwingl

ATTACHMENTS:

End the Occupation

US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation
PO Box 21539, Washington, DC, 20009, 202-332-0994
www.endtheoccupation.org

“We aim to change those US policies that both sustain Israel’s 41-year occupation of the Palestinian West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, and deny equal rights for all.”

Dear President-Elect Obama,

Congratulations on your historic election as the next President of the United States.

Last year, you pledged to “take an active role, and make a personal commitment to do all I can to advance the cause of [Israeli-Palestinian] peace from the start of my Administration.” We are eager to work with you to fulfill this goal. To do so, your Administration should break with past policies of unconditional support for Israel’s illegal military occupation of the Palestinian West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip, and change U.S. policy toward Israel/Palestine to support human rights, international law, and equality.

We agree with Aaron David Miller, a 25-year State Department Middle East negotiator and adviser on Arab-Israeli affairs, who wrote that “For far too long, many American officials involved in Arab-Israeli peacemaking, myself included, have acted as Israel’s attorney, catering and coordinating with the Israelis at the expense of successful peace negotiations.”

To become an honest and effective broker, your Administration should:

*** Insist that Israel ends its siege of the Gaza Strip.** Israel has deliberately impoverished the 1.5 million residents of the Gaza Strip and caused a humanitarian catastrophe of dire proportions by prohibiting the delivery of food, medicine, fuel, and electricity. Your Administration should insist on the illegality of collective punishment and support the human rights of Palestinians such as freedom of movement as a first step towards ending Israel’s occupation of the Gaza Strip.

*** Demand a freeze in the construction of settlements and Israel’s Wall in the West Bank.** Israel’s West Bank settlements, including those in East Jerusalem, are all illegal under international law, and the

International Court of Justice ruled in 2004 that Israel's Wall is illegal and must be torn down. Halting this construction should be a first step toward completely dismantling the infrastructure of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, which former President Jimmy Carter, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and others have labeled "apartheid."

* **Hold Israel accountable for its misuse of U.S. weapons.** In 2007, the United States and Israel agreed to increase military aid to Israel by 25% over the next decade, totaling \$30 billion. During the Bush Administration, Israel killed more than 2,000 innocent Palestinian civilians who took no part in hostilities, oftentimes with U.S. weapons in violation of the Arms Export Control and Foreign Assistance Acts. Your Administration should hold Israel accountable for these violations of U.S. law and cut off military aid as required by law, rather than increase it.

* **End the U.S. veto protecting Israel at the United Nations.** The United States has used its veto power at the UN more than 40 times since 1972 to shield Israel from the consequences of its violations of human rights, UN resolutions, and international law. Your Administration should work with, not in opposition to, the international community so that human rights, UN resolutions, and international law are applied and enforced uniformly.

* **Base a just peace on human rights, international law, and equality.** Such a policy is the only way to ensure the legitimate security needs of all peoples and can only be achieved by engaging in dialog with all interested parties. A just and lasting Israeli-Palestinian peace includes the complete end of Israel's military occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip; a resolution to the Palestinian refugee issue consistent with international law and UN resolutions, including the right of return and/or compensation; and full equality for Palestinian citizens of Israel. A policy denying Palestinians these

internationally-guaranteed rights will only lead to yet another failed “peace process”.

Signed by,

National Organizations

1. African American Islamic Institute
2. American Jews for a Just Peace
3. Americans for a Just Peace in the Middle East
4. Black Voices for Peace
5. Code Pink: Women for Peace
6. Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism
7. Council for the National Interest
8. Episcopal Peace Fellowship
9. Friends of Sabeel North America
10. Global Exchange
11. Interfaith Peace-Builders
12. Middle East Children’s Alliance
13. Middle East Peace Fellowship
14. Middle East Research and Information Project
15. Muslim Student Association West
16. National Hip Hop Political Convention
17. National Lawyers Guild
18. Nonviolence International
19. Peace Action
20. Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
21. Progressive Democrats of America
22. United for Peace and Justice
23. US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation
24. War Resisters League
25. Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom—U.S. Section

North Carolina

1. Action Center for Justice, Charlotte
2. Green Resistance, Raleigh
3. Islamic Political Party of America, Charlotte
4. Jews for a Just Peace North Carolina, Durham
5. Piedmont Green Party, Pinnacel

Finance Committee Report to Quarterly Meeting

February 2009

The Finance Committee wishes to thank all of the members and attenders who have made a monetary contribution to the Meeting. With the information available to the Committee from the received annual giving plans and through recent conversations with Committee Clerks, the Finance Committee is optimistic that the Meeting will be able to keep its operating expenditures within anticipated revenue.

We greatly appreciate the clerks for their input. To be clear, the Finance Committee does *not* advocate that committees refrain from spending money to carry out their mission. With thoughtful spending, we anticipate the Meeting will be able to fully use our annual revenue to meet our operating expenditures.

Assumption 1: Estimated revenue at the time (1/26/2009) of the Finance Committee deliberations was \$65,000 (a 3.7% increase over last year). Through the presentation of the monthly Treasurer's Report, the Finance Committee will apprise the Monthly Business Meeting of any changes to this prediction. Several variables could affect an increase in the available annual revenue:

1. a decrease in anticipated committee expenditures;
2. unspent Internal Benevolences;
3. unspent discretionary funds; or
4. an increase in donations.

Assumption 2: The Children's Religious Education Committee anticipates spending up to \$600 (\$170 less than the amount approved by Meeting) to purchase the Godly Play curriculum and supplies. The Finance Committee assumes that funds will be available from the Spiritual Enrichment (up to \$530) and Leadership Development (\$70) Committees to offset these costs.

Assumption 3: The primary tool available to the Finance Committee to evaluate a potential deficit is a review of expenditures. By analyzing the information available to us, the Finance Committee anticipates that the Meeting will spend less than the existing budget

amounts in some areas.

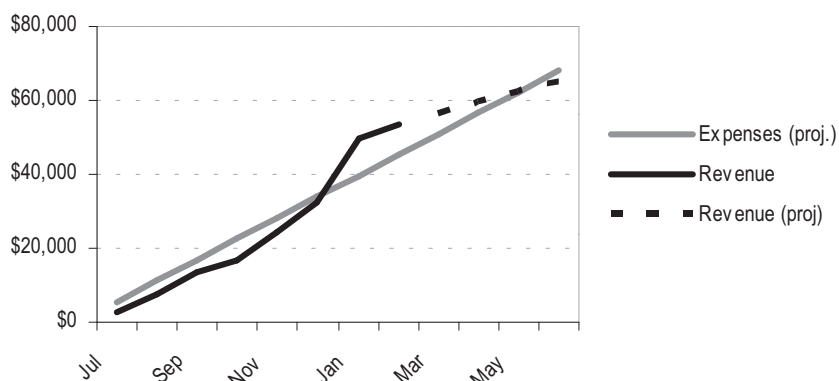
\$72,280	FY09 Budget passed in June 2008
\$ 770	Children's Religious Education funds increased by Meeting for Business
<hr/>	
\$73,050	
\$ -645	<i>Potential Savings</i> – Committees plans to spend less than budget
<hr/>	
\$72,405	
\$ -4,500	<i>Potential Savings</i> — Peace & Social Concerns and Environmental Discretionary Funds
<hr/>	
\$67,905	

Objective: The Finance Committee is united in recommending that the Meeting operating expenditures be kept within our annual revenue. We note that the Meeting has engaged in deficit financing over the past several years. Meeting budget shortfalls have been covered by dipping into the reserve funds. We recommend that the Meeting refrain from using money in reserve funds to meet any potential FY09 budget shortfall. We urge you to do so.

Action: Under this framework, the Treasurer will begin immediately to pay 50% of the planned External Benevolences. The remainder will be paid fully at the end of the June, assuming income is sufficient.

Request for Approval: *If* an increase in income or cuts to spending in Internal Benevolences and Committee Expenses are not sufficient to close the gap between revenue and expenses, we recommend an across the board cut (potentially up to 10% or \$3,202) to the External Benevolences.

Revenue to Expenses February 2009



Expenses (projected) have been revised to \$67,905 of the \$73,050 approved by the Meeting while projected revenue is \$65,000.

Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Minutes February 15, 2009 Jennifer Leeman, Clerk Susan Inglis, Recording Clerk

Query: When disagreements arise, are they recognized, discussed, and resolved with loving patience and forbearance? Are we able to celebrate our diversity without reservation?

One Friend spoke in response to the query noting that there is a healthy level of conflict that keeps a Meeting vital. Conflict is one of the

ways we grow, deepening our relationships as we discover the ways in which we do not agree as well as the ways in which we do.

(NOTE: Underlined attachments were not available at press time.)

1. The Clerk welcomed Friends, recognized first-time attenders.

Jo Ellen Gabbert and Tristan Green, and reviewed the Agenda

2. Review of Minutes for January 18 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

The Minutes were approved with the following clarification, which clearly states the language of the minute agreed to on the topic of outreach to Muslims.

Minute we approved:

Accordingly, we at the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting affirm that Quaker values compel us to:

1. In 2009, commit to look for and engage American Muslim secular and religious organizations with which to learn together and collaborate on issues of common interest and concern.

2. Commit to implement this initiative in a purposeful way by forming a small ad hoc committee, under the care of Peace and Social Concerns, that will:

(a) develop an inclusive outreach outline or plan that explores opportunities among secular and religious Muslim organizations, as well as other disenfranchised groups, for collaborative work, while gaining an understanding of our shared truths;

(b) interpret, support, and report on progress of this initiative to our Meeting.

The ad hoc committee could help each of our committees

explore ways it might link up with its Muslim counterpart (see the attached appendix for specific examples).

The outreach outline or plan could also supply contact numbers of a variety of Muslim and other diverse groups for longer term outreach efforts, relevant websites, and other background resources.

3. By the end of 2010, fold the ad hoc outreach committee into the normal fabric of Peace & Social Concerns so that this effort becomes an ongoing part of its work and that of the Meeting.

Individual friends & committees are asked to discern personally how it will live in our lives.

3. Conscientious Objector Letter - Tristan Green

Tristan read a letter requesting the meeting's support for his position as a conscientious objector. It is attached here.

Friends spoke in appreciation and support:

- I delight in the well-thought-out nature of this letter and feel tremendously proud of Tristan.
- I rejoice in the letter and am moved, because we know Tristan is soon going to visit Guatemala, one of the most traumatized countries in our hemisphere to work with children there, ministering to those who are victims of violence and war. I rejoice that he goes as witness not only in our community but in war-torn Guatemala.
- I want to thank Tristan for this letter. I may speak on behalf of others who have taught him in First Day School when I say I did not realize he was paying attention. He has obviously absorbed the teachings of our faith and the good guidance of his parents. This statement means much to those of us who have taught him, but also to the meeting as a whole – we are all involved in the process of our youths' growth.
- I remember well passing Tristan around this meeting when he was a

baby. I recall what a moving experience that was and how it brought out our most fervent prayers for our children. Similarly, his witness in this letter moves me, making me proud and eager to provide all manner of support for it.

- I want to say to you publicly what I never heard directly from my own father, though I know he said it too: I am proud of you, I love you, and may God keep you safe because this choice is not necessarily the safe way. May God keep you as you walk in the world. When you are challenged, draw on this meeting as your strength.
- It took me until adulthood to know how many adults cared about me. I hope you know how many adults love and support you. You have helped us to see how we support each other as the pinnacle point of a conviction we share.

The letter was signed by a trustee and the clerk and will be held on record at the meeting house.

4. Nominating Committee - Continuation of discussion of process for filling the positions of recorder, recording clerk, trustees, and members of nominating committee

Jeff Brown, Co-Clerk, Nominating Committee, brought a request on processes for approval.

The committee recommended that the process for selecting First Day School teachers and the names of FDS teachers be listed in the meeting directory. They also suggested that a description of the position of First Day School Coordinator and process for selecting the Coordinator be described. The suggestion was made that a brief description be put in the Directory with more detailed description of processes on the Meeting Web Site. Carolyn Stuart offered to bring this back to the Children's Religious Education committee for action. The suggestion was made that Buildings & Grounds do something similar for the Meeting Resident; Matt Drake agreed to take the issue to Buildings & Grounds. Publications and Records Committee was asked to consider how best to put reports and full descriptions on the website, including whether a part of our website should be for the

meeting only.

The Nominations committee also recommended that the positions of recorder, recording clerk, recorder, and treasurer be for a 3-year term, renewable. The point was made that both the recorder and treasurer positions have been held, at times, for more than six consecutive years. The person currently in the recorder position was not nominated but rather was appointed to the position by the previous recorder. After additional discussion about our historical process, Nominations was asked to do further research and re-bring a recommendation to a future Meeting.

5. Annual Report - Environmental Concerns Committee

Lauren Carreto, Clerk, presented the report. [It is attached here.](#) Friends accepted the report with great appreciation for all the work that has been done.

6. Treasurer's Report – Judy Purvis

The Treasurer's Report was distributed. Although there was not time for Judy to present the report, she invited Friends to ask her questions after Meeting. [The report is attached here.](#)

7. Report on HKonJ

Jennifer Leeman reported that several Friends participated in the event, which is a NAACP organized march in Raleigh to advocate for more just economic and other types of policy.

8. Announcements

- Meeting Work Day - February 21st. Come for pancakes at 8:30 and then join together to work on the Meeting Buildings and Grounds.
- Family Pot Luck - February 21st at Leslie Rountree and David Schneider's House.
- Start planning to attend this summer's Friends General Conference Gathering at Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, VA, June 27 - July 4, 2009. FGC and the Meeting have funds to help support Friends attendance. Speak with Judy Purvis or Mike Green for more information on

how to apply for financial assistance.

- Upcoming Pendle Hill Workshop, May 15-17, 2009, Playing in the Light: A Godly Play® Workshop for Quakers.
- We hold Linda and Annie DiLorenzo in our prayers as they deal with Linda's recent diagnosis of colon cancer. Friends will be coordinating material support for them. Please volunteer with Hospitality Committee to provide meals and contact Susan Inglis with ideas for fundraisers.
- Francis Coyle reported that the Meeting's Inter Faith Council Committee met on February 9th. He submitted the following report about that meeting:

Our mission is multi-dimensional, focused on:

1. Community (Chapel Hill-Carrboro)
2. Agency (IFC)
3. Individual (the links between CHFM members and attenders and IFC)

This is a work-in-progress and more fulsome reporting will be forthcoming. All members and attenders are invited to participate and contribute whenever future meetings are announced. Meanwhile, please join the work crew on the first Thursday of the month when it is our turn to cook and serve at the shelter. There is an urgent need for contributions of food. There is a spaghetti sauce drive on now (any type jar or can) and our focus for next month will be pasta, but contributions of any non-perishable foods and of cash are welcome anytime.

In Attendance:

Marsha Green, Mike Green, Perry Martin, Dirk Spruyt, Ann Kessemeier, Dottie Heninger, Bettie L. Flash, Jeff Brown, Kathy Davis, Judy Purvis, Curt Torell, Polly Ulin, Ken Grogan, John Hite, Lynn Drake, Matt Drake, Lloyd Kramer, Don Hopper, Jan Hutton, Pat Mann, Joyce Munk, Jo Ellen Gabbert, Robin Harper, Marilyn Dyer, Anne Smith, Hank Elkins, Nancy Elkins, Carolyn Stuart, Francis Coyle, Lauren Carreto, Maria Darlington, Daniel Hilgenberg, Susan Inglis, Jennifer Leeman

ATTACHMENTS:

Conscientious Objector Letter - Tristan Green

Dear Chapel Hill Friends Meeting,

I am writing this letter to document my beliefs and feelings about selective service. I hope that this letter adequately explains my reasons for declaring myself a conscientious objector.

Ever since I was a week old, and passed around my meeting as a baby, I have been a part of the Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). This Quaker community has taught me many valuable lessons and shaped the person that I am today. One of the core beliefs of the Quaker community is that of non-violence and I have continuously learned about this belief throughout my upbringing. I practiced non-violence when I was a child by not playing with toy weapons or violent video games. As I grew older I learned more and understood more about the Quaker core belief of non-violence and practiced it in more sophisticated ways. I started to attend anti-war rallies in Fayetteville, and helped support Quaker House with service trips there. Now my religious belief has become a deep core moral belief that I believe I will hold onto forever.

I have attempted to involve myself with communities that share my belief in non-violence and I am now taking up leadership positions in these communities. I attend Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting retreats and I am on the nurturing committee for that youth group. This past year I was on the nurturing committee for the Friends General Conference High School Program, and this coming summer I am going to be co-presiding Clerk for the high school program.

I also attend Carolina Friends School, a private Quaker school, and am part of the Staff Student Discipline Committee. The Staff Student Discipline Committee is an integral part of the CFS community and it is valued because it is the community's alternative to punishment as retribution. The Discipline Committee's purpose is to look at any given situation and make sure the entire truth is uncovered from any and all perspectives. It is the role of the committee to listen, obtain

the entire truth, and then think of a consequence for the perpetrator that restores all the relationship within the community that have been broken. This consequence is what differentiates this discipline system from most because every case is looked at individually and the consequence is created to make sure the perpetrator understands what he or she did wrong. It is made so the perpetrator does not feel like he or she is being punished for what was done, but is supposed to make the perpetrator understand why what they did was wrong, and to perform restitution for any damage caused and restore relationships. When one is just punished for a something bad it is not productive at all, if someone does something bad, one should try to understand why the action was done and then try to have the perpetrator understand why his action was wrong.

My core belief in non-violence is so strong that I have begun to nurture younger members of the non-violent communities I am in. I believe I have started to become a role model for other young Friends who are going through the same process I did of forming there identities and figuring out exactly what they believe. My belief in non-violence is such a part of me, and so strong, that I could not, in good conscience, take part in any war, for any entity, at any point in my life. This would be going against who I am as a person, contradicting my moral and religious beliefs that I have built up my whole life. I could not even participate in a non-combatant role in a war because this would abet those participating in war.

I appreciate this Meeting's support and nurture over the past 18 years, and ask your continued support as I use the selective service registration to declare my position as a conscientious objector.

Sincerely,
Tristan Douglas Green

Directory Changes and Additions

CHANGES/CORRECTIONS:

members/attenders

Margie Brache
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(no "o" after "fastmail")

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929-2384

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:

When disagreements arise, are they recognized, discussed, and resolved with loving patience and forbearance? Are we able to celebrate our diversity without reservation?

Calendar:

Sun. 3/1	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: Spiritual Book Groups - Hutton & Darnell
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Potluck & IFC Sunday - Schoolhouse
		Environmental Concerns Com. - Schoolhouse
Tue. 3/3	7:30-8:30pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation
Wed. 3/4	10am	Quaker Women's Gathering - Marnie Clark's Home
Thu. 3/5	11am-1pm	CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter
Fri. 3/6	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot
Sun. 3/8	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: Quakers & Environment - Jones/Alguire
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
Tue. 3/10	7:30-8:30pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation
Fri. 3/13	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot
Sun. 3/15	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
Tue. 3/17	7:30-8:30pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation
Wed. 3/18	10am	Quaker Women's Gathering - Marnie Clark's Home
Fri. 3/20	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot
Sat. 3/21	6:00pm	Vegetarian Potluck - Home of Matt & Lynn Drake
Sun. 3/22	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: The Call to Speak - Ministry & Worship
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	2:30pm	CROP Walk
Tue. 3/24	7:30-8:30pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation
Fri. 3/27	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot
Sun. 3/29	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: Personal Sharing - J. Ogden Schaefer
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	10pm	Deadline To Turn In Items For Newsletter!
Tue. 3/31	7:30-8:30pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation
Wed. 4/1	10am	Quaker Women's Gathering - Marnie Clark's Home
Thu. 4/2	11am-1pm	CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter
Sun. 4/5	9:45am	Forum: TBA
	12:30pm	Potluck & IFC Sunday - Schoolhouse
		Environmental Concerns Com. - Schoolhouse