

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Newsletter

July 2009



Monthly Query:

How do we witness to the power of non-violence and against the glorification of violence in our culture and against the militarization of our society? Do we adequately support conscientious objectors and tax resisters?

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Fall Events at CFS

Mark your calendars for these fall events at CFS:

Monday, August 3 - US sports practices begin

Mon-Fri, August 24-28 - Staff work week

Sunday, August 30 - Community Back-to-School Picnic

Monday, August 31 - US/MS/LS orientation day for new students

Tuesday, September 1 - First day of school

Report from Emergency Rally June 15th

On June 15, Joyce Munk, Tom Munk, Miriam Thompson, Ruth Zalph and hundreds of other citizens attended the HKonJ/Together NC-sponsored Emergency Rally against the Budget Cuts in Raleigh. They listened to an inspirational speech by Rev. William Barber, observed a Senate session, and left inspired to call our Representative (Ellie Kinnaird), our Senator (Verla Insko), the Speaker of the House (Joe Hackney), and the leader of the Senate (Mark Basnight) with their concerns. They hope others will join them. HKonJoc.org and www.ncleg.net are good resources.

Temporary Housing Needed

Mila Seckinger is planning to be in Chapel Hill from July 15th to the 27th or 28th. She needs a place to stay (but will have her own transportation). If anyone can put her up please let her know at emiposada@yahoo.com.

New Location for Quaker Women's Gathering

This twice monthly gathering (1st and 3rd Wednesday – 10am) will start meeting at the home of Bettie Flash (Carol Wood #157; 969-4491).

Family Book Club

The Family Book Club will meet on Thursday, July 23, at 6:30pm at the home of Andrea Wuerth and Herbert Struemper (109 Forest Ridge Dr., Chapel Hill; Phone: 967-3319). Everyone interested in talking about family relationships is welcome. Childcare is provided. For more information, contact Sherri Fulp (493-5764 or sfulp2@nc.rr.com).

Bread Ministry in Chapel Hill

The Bread Ministry is a fresh-food food bank located in the Northside community in Chapel Hill and run by St. Joseph C.M.E. Church at 510 W Rosemary St. The food bank provides healthy food options for people to cook for their families and allows families to preserve their culinary heritage and culture by being one of the only food distribution centers that allows people to choose what food they would like.

In these tough economic times more and more people are going hungry and this volunteer run food bank system feeds more than 400 families a week! We go around town collecting food that is extra from local groceries stores and distributing it in the community. This is mostly food that is overstocked, day old bread or is past a "sell by" date but is not expired. Anything that we receive that we ourselves wouldn't eat goes to local hog farmers to feed to pigs. It is a very full circle system of distribution and sustainability.

Food pickup occurs around 9am each morning and takes one to two hours. We use the St. Joseph van to pick up food from the Trader Joe's and three local Food Lions.

Food sorting takes place in the afternoon, usually beginning around 2pm. Volunteers can stay as long or as short as they wish, and there can never be too much help! There will be someone at the church to guide folks, but basically we just go through all of the food, throwing away what is bad, refrigerating perishables, and sorting the rest into sections (vegetables, fruits, breads, desserts, meats, etc).

Food distribution takes place at 4pm, so volunteers are needed for this beginning at 3 or 3:30pm. Again, as many as can come are welcome, and people can stay for however long they are available.

The Bread Ministry operates 7 days a week, with the sorting and distribution schedule being slightly different on Saturdays and Sundays. For more information contact Haley Koch at haleykoch@gmail.com or 301-651-5844.

Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
June 21, 2009 – Minutes

Jennifer Leeman, Clerk; Susan Inglis, Recording Clerk

Query: How do we witness to the power of non-violence and against the glorification of violence in our culture and against the militarization of our society? Do we adequately support conscientious objectors and tax resisters?

1. Welcome

The Clerk welcomed Friends, recognizing Kent Torrell as a first time attender, and reviewed the Agenda.

2. Approval

Review of Minutes for May 17 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. The Minutes were approved.

3. Crossing the Faith Divide Report

Report from the Crossing the Faith Divide Subcommittee was presented by Curt Torrell. It is attached here.

4. Conscientious Objector Letter

Kent Torrell read his letter requesting that the meeting support his request for conscientious objector status. It is attached here. Friends approved and affirmed his statement of conscientious objector status. They said the following in response to his letter:

Thank you for doing the hard work that is required to come to such a decision. I unite with your letter because you have touched on what is our central tenant: that there is that of God or a higher power in every person. As you affirm that you would not wish to harm another, your compassion encompasses all humankind, and we unite in that faith.

I, too, thank you for your letter and for the compassion you show for people who may not agree with you. It is a reminder that peace is about our relationships in all times, not just times of war. You demonstrate great integrity in your letter. You clearly state your beliefs in your own language. Although you do not necessarily use Quaker terms, you have stated the faith we share. Thank you. I am particularly moved by your stating your willingness to go to jail rather than harm another.

5. Nominations for 2009-2010

Tom Munk presented the roster, pointing out the following changes from the roster that was published in last month's newsletter. Andy Nelson was added to Adult Religious Education, Ann Shy to Peace and Social Concerns, and Robert Rogers to Library Committee. Marsha Green reported that the Carolina Friends School has changed its bylaws to allow Meetings to appoint more than one non-member to the board (with the addition of Linda DiLorenzo, we would have two non-members on the board. Friends approved the roster with great appreciation for the large number of positions that have been filled. All committees will convene before September and at that time decide who will be the clerk.

6. Proposed budget for 2009-2010

Buffie Webber, Clerk of Finance Committee, presented the budget, pointing out changes to the format of the budget presentation. (a copy was not available in time for inclusion.)

Friends approved the line items listed under the following parts of the proposed budget:

- Meeting House Upkeep
- Religious Education
- Other Meeting Committees
- Future Needs of the Meeting, with the Revision of Leadership Development to \$1750.

The rest of the budget was held over for decision at a future meeting for worship with attention to business.

The items held over include external benevolences, discretionary funds (social action and environmental), and the contingency fund. We also held over decision on whether the total budget should be capped at \$68,000 as recommended by Finance Committee.

The external benevolences include lists from Peace & Social Concerns, Ministry & Worship, and Adult Religious Education Committee. The discretionary funds are under the care of the Peace & Social Concerns and Environmental Concerns Committee.

Finance Committee strongly recommends that we remain within our budget total of \$68,000. This amount is based on projections for next year's receipts and will avoid deficit spending.

The total proposed external benevolences are within the proposed budgeted amount for external benevolences spending.

The proposed budget includes no funding for the environmental discretionary fund. The Clerk of Environmental Concerns Committee, Lauren Caretto, reported that the committee has an idea they would like to bring before the meeting for the use of \$3000 in discretionary funding. Raising this point led to a discussion of ways in which the Meeting can support new leadings during the budget cycle. Should additional funding be put in the Committee's budget since this is not an external project? Should a request be made to the contingency fund? Should we put funding in the discretionary fund. Buffie stated that the Meeting's policy is that discretionary fund money is only to be spend at the end of the fiscal year, when we know the funding is available. However, historically it has been spent before the end of the year and the suggestion was made that we relook at the policy to allow for spending during the year. Friends noted this is an opportunity to re-new what our practice is about discretionary funds in general. Friends also noted that when we have truly been lead, we have found the funds. The primary criterion is that we are truly called.

Contingency funds are spent as necessary. There was some consideration of moving into the Contingency funds the \$1,250 reduced from the Leadership Development Fund.

At a future Meeting, we need to come to clearness on the total budget amount, the organizations that will be supported through external benevolences spending, the time frames for external benevolence spending (Finance recommends 50% at mid year and 50% at the end of the year), the amounts in the two discretionary funds, the

timeframes for spending the amounts in the two discretionary funds, and the amount and use of the contingency fund. The request was also made that Finance Committee update the Meeting on the status of Meeting's reserves.

7. Social Action Grants Request

Hank Elkins brought a proposal that the meeting support Meeting member Anne Riggs in her ministry to serve as director of a seminary in Kenya. Baltimore Yearly Meeting and Annapolis Meeting, where she is sojourning, have united in supporting her to accomplish. Peace and Social Concerns has reached clarity that the meeting should support her with the \$2000 she is requesting. Given the time constraint, and as it is not clear whether the meeting has the funds, Friends asked Hank to clarify whether Anne needs the money immediately. If so we will call a meeting to consider the request and make a timely response. Otherwise, the decision was deferred to the next Meeting.

In Attendance:

Ann Kessemeier, Bette L. Flash, Jeff Brown, Ken Grogan, Pat Mann, Tom Munk, Joyce Munk, Anne Smith, Nancy Elkins, Hank Elkins, Curt Torrell, Pat Sprigg, Kent Torrell, James Harper, Allie Scales, Larry Tabor, Wren Hendrickson, Buffie Webber, Marilyn Dyer, Rut Zalph, Kay Eager, Mike Green, Marsha Green, Lauren Carreto, Rachel Leeman-Munk, Asta Crowe, Dirk Kelder, Susan Inglis, Jennifer Leeman

Report to the Meeting, June 21, 2009

From the Crossing the Faith Divide Subcommittee

(formerly known as Engaging Our American Muslim Brothers and Sisters) Of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

Our committee has moved along in good Quakerly manner: slowly and deliberately. Since our last report, we continue to make contacts and associations with our American Muslim brothers and sisters. Originally, this contact was in Raleigh and, while we've nurtured these, we are looking to more immediate ones in Chapel Hill and Duke University. We sponsored a highly attended forum in April and have plans for the same for June 28.

We continue to accumulate, digest resources, and encourage educational and service opportunities. Our committee sent an email to the clerks of the Meeting's committees asking them to make this endeavor a focus of their future agenda. Copied below is our original charge for their consideration.

Our overlap with TIMELEAP is undeniable. Our committee recognizes this and is working with them in a collaborative effort.

Submitted by,

Curt Torell, On behalf of the Crossing the Faith Divide Committee.

Conscientious Objector Letter

103 Orchard Lane
Carrboro, NC 27510

June 21, 2009

Dear Members of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting,

My name is Kent Torell and I celebrated my eighteenth birthday on May 28th of this year, and I was hoping that as I filled out my registration form for the Selective Service System that you would stand by me as I claim my status as a Conscientious Objector.

I am personally opposed to any and all war, however I do not look down on those who do approve of and desire to serve in times of war. For example, one of my good friends, who lives in my neighborhood, wishes that he can one day enter the military and serve. I have known this individual for a long time, and even though I feel that he should not enter the military, I will support him no matter what he chooses to do.

I believe that my objection is based on not only my religious beliefs as a Quaker, but also on my moral beliefs as well. Growing up in a Quaker family, but having friends from many different backgrounds and religions has allowed me to realize that my beliefs would not fit in with any religion other than Quakerism. I feel that while there may not be a single being above us all who is titled as God, that there is a special entity within all of us that links us together and that that link may be called God. Thus if we are all linked together by a common thing then we are destroying a part of ourselves whenever we decide to harm another human being.

I hold these beliefs so deeply that if I was denied my Conscientious Objector status then I would rather go to jail and serve the time as one who dodged the draft and have my name soiled rather than take part in a situation that aids the potential harming of others.

Please support me in my decision to object to any form of participation in the military as I file for status as a class 1-O objector. I feel that while I wish to help all those who are in need, I feel like I could better achieve that goal by working in the community that I live in rather than aid a war in a foreign country.

Sincerely,

Kent Torell

Directory Changes and Additions

ADDITIONS:

MICHAEL SMITH

myra@mindspring.com

929-9429

CHANGES:

CAROL AND MICHAEL HOPPE

205 Windhover Dr.

Chapel Hill NC 27514

929-7009

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.

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Calendar: (All events at Meetinghouse unless otherwise indicated.)

Sun. 7/5	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
Tue. 7/7	7:30-8:30pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Fri. 7/10	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot
Sun. 7/12	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
Tue. 7/14	7:30-8:30pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Wed. 7/15	10am	Quaker Women's Gathering – Betty Flash's Home
Fri. 7/17	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot
Sun. 7/19	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. 7/21	7:30-8:30pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Thu. 7/23	6:30pm	Family Book Club - Fulps' Home
Fri. 7/24	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot
Sun. 7/26	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	10pm	<i>Deadline To Turn In Items For Newsletter!</i>
Fri. 7/31	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot
Sun. 8/2	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Potluck & IFC Sunday – Schoolhouse
		Environmental Concerns Com. - Schoolhouse
Thu. 8/6	11am-1pm	CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter