

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Newsletter

May, 2011



Monthly Query:

How do I resolve conflicts with others in ways that are loving and constructive?

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From the ECC:

With the assistance of a mini-grant from Quaker Earthcare Witness, the Environmental Concerns Committee established a Children's Nibble Garden in the playground behind the Meetinghouse. The intent of this garden is to engage our children more fully in the process of where our food comes from. We have planted blueberries, kiwis, hazelnuts, and muscadine grapes. This spring, you can journey into the children's world to visit these edible delectable plants growing out of the earth and re-experience for yourself the joy of watching them grow.

Upcoming Forum Schedule

May 8 "Quaker Earth Care Witness" - Ruth Hamilton (see page 3)

May 22 "Asking Questions About God: Does God Exist?" - George Baroff, professor of Psychology, UNC-Chapel Hill

May 29 "Nuclear Energy, Coal, and Climate: from Japan to the NC Legislature" - Peter MacDowell of NC Warn (see page 3)

June 5 Carolina Friends School Forum

June 12 High School Seniors Graduation Forum

IFC News

On May 9, the Mayor and Town Council will continue the public hearing for the new IFC Community House on MLK Jr Blvd. Please consider attending to show your support. Arrive by 6 pm. Contact Allan Rosen for more information (929 6380 x27, project@ifcmailbox.org)

May 8 Forum: QEW Mini-Grant Program

For the past few years Ruth Hamilton was clerk of the Mini-Grant Subcommittee of Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW). The Mini-Grant program has been used by Meetings throughout the country for myriad creative and functional purposes, all of which endeavor to make an environmental impact in Quaker communities. Ruth will share some results from the Mini-Grant program and then open the discussion to broader topics related to Earthcare and stewardship.

Friends World Committee for Consultation Queries on Global Change:

1. How has global change affected our communities and ourselves?
2. What actions have we taken in response to global change as experienced in our area, to express our responsibilities toward all creation? In what ways have my activities or those of my community contributed to positive or adverse local and global change?
3. How can we support one another in rekindling our love and respect for God's creation in such a way that we are messengers of the transforming power of love and hope?

May 29 Forum: Nuclear Energy

Pete MacDowell will discuss the relevance of Japan to the current proposal being considered in our NC Legislature for Duke and Progress Energy customers to pay for the construction of new nuclear plants, how we may wish to engage with our legislative leaders, and how the sources of our electrical energy relate to our Quaker testimony of simplicity. NC Warn, for which Pete is Program Director, is one of the major benevolences of our Meeting.

Welcome Jasmine McKewen

May 15, 2 to 4 pm, at the Drakes' house

Please join us in welcoming a new member of the Meeting, Jasmine McKewen. We will celebrate her membership on Sunday, May 15, from 2 to 4 pm at the home of Matt and Lynn Drake, 100 Homewood Drive, Chapel Hill. There will be light refreshments along with the opportunity to visit with Jasmine, so plan to drop in.

Contributions to Linda DiLorenzo

As many of you know, our dear Friend Linda DiLorenzo is dealing with stage 4 colon cancer. Her disability payments barely cover her monthly living expenses. Recently Linda has had to replace her 30 year old HVAC system. Additionally, her daughter Annie is ready to get her driver's license. This will be a big help to Linda. However it means an increase in Linda's auto insurance costs by approximately \$300 every quarter.

If you are able to help Linda in meeting these unexpected expenses, she will gratefully receive your donations. You may contact Linda directly or make a donation anonymously at this website: <http://givinganon.org>. You must use a credit card at this secure site and designate Linda as the recipient, providing her name, address, phone number, and email address. This information is available in the Meeting Directory. Please be aware that this donation is not tax deductible. Helping Linda with her financial obligations is an opportunity for us to show our gratitude and appreciation for all the gifts that Linda has shared with the Meeting community over the years. Thanks for considering this request.

Report on Orange Justice United in Community Engagement (JUICE) House Meetings

Submitted by Jennifer Leeman and Tom Munk

Twenty people from the Meeting attended one of three Orange JUICE House Meetings to share their top priorities for action with the Orange County community. Tom Munk and Jennifer Leeman gleaned the following highest priorities and forwarded them to the Orange JUICE planning committee:

1. Environment (climate change, public facility/university energy use, don't allow OWASA to develop the land around the reservoir, educate/support efforts to be responsible/green consumers)
2. Jobs with a living wage and benefits (jobs for unskilled, a community civilian conservation corps)
3. Treat public sector employees justly, change the current punitive, hierarchical system
4. K-12 education (protect from cuts and loss of teachers, address disparities between African American and White students, resist vouchers)
5. Day care and preschool age children and services (protect from being cut, invest in young children and families)

Tom and Jennifer then represented CHFMs at a planning meeting where representatives from many congregations joined to select Orange JUICE's priorities for the next two years. Those priorities are:

At the state level: (1) Foreclosure processes and (2) Senior citizens

At the county level: (1) Day laborers and jobs, (2) environment, (3) housing, homelessness, and (4) immigrant issues

Thank you to all who participated in the house meetings. Please let us know if you would like to participate in any of the action planning teams working on the selected issues. And, stay tuned for opportunities to act to move these priorities forward.

Hospitality for Visitors

Submitted by Judy Purvis

At Meeting for Business this month, we heard a report on all the wonderful ways that the Hospitality Committee is helping our Meeting, and we are reminded that we are all members of this Committee in the sense of having responsibility for welcoming newcomers and helping to meet each other's needs. I liked the following quote from an October 2005 Friends Journal article by Nancy Fennell:

"For Friends, hospitality is a serious ministry and rests upon a deep base. Quaker wisdom holds that when a guest or visitor walks through our meetinghouse door, some reflection or revelation of Spirit has arrived in our midst. One whom God loves deeply and infinitely has come to be with us. A gift has been sent. We hold to that deep understanding, and keep it in the front of our minds. We approach to receive our gift with open hearts and great joy. We seek to connect with that of God in our visitor."

Can you imagine what it would feel like to a visitor to be met with such delight and gratitude?

Tristan Green invites you to Guitars for Guatemala Fundraising Festival!

**May 22, 11am to 8pm, at Johnny's of Carrboro (901 West Main St)
Submitted by Tristan Green**

This is an event organized to help fund my trip to Safe Passage Guatemala this summer. Safe Passage is an organization that works to provide access to education and opportunities for work and life beyond the poverty for many children and families living around the Guatemala City garbage dump. In the spring of 2009 I spent three months volunteering as a Teacher's Assistant for Safe Passage, and I knew I wanted to go back.

This summer I will be teaching English, Guitar, and songwriting to the children at Safe Passage. This is exciting for me because it will be a way to connect my love of music with my love for traveling and volunteering. The support of the meeting has been incredible throughout all of my travels and so I invite you to come out and support me again!

Here is the lineup for the day of music:

11-11:45 Tristan Green (Acoustic / Singer-Songwriter)

www.reverbnation.com/tristangreen

12-12:45 dAshton (Folk / Indie / Alt Country)

www.reverbnation.com/dashton

1-2 hearyonder (Acoustic Folk Pop / Country) www.hearyonder.com

2:30-3:30 Puritan Rodeo (Americana / Rock / Roots Music)

www.puritanrodeo.com

4-5 Tom Maxwell (Post-Zipper Americana) www.tommaxwell.com

5:30-6:30 Rootzie (Blues / Reggae / Soul)

www.myspace.com/therootzieband

7-7:30 John Saylor (Acoustic/Folk)

www.myspace.com/johnsaylorlormusic

7:30-8 Justin Johnson & Tristan Green: Closing Set & Raffle!

*All Day Justin Johnson (Jazz/Blues/Fusion) Justin will be sitting in on some of the sets and performing in between each set while the bands switch over, so that the music will never stop!!

Multiple food trucks will be set up, and they have offered to donate a percentage of their proceeds to Guitars For Guatemala. There will be local art, and handmade jewelry, provided by Anna Young. She has generously offered to donate a percent of proceeds to Guitars for Guatemala, as well as one of her pieces for the raffle!

Thanks, and I hope to see you there!

Against the Tide Documentary

May 19, 7 pm, Nasher Museum of Art

Join us for a presentation of the complete documentary AGAINST THE TIDE, the story of two men released from prison after serving many years behind bars. The film shows what it takes to re-enter the real world, and their success stories of how they did it with the help of re-entry support teams. Showing at the Nasher Museum of Art on the Duke campus on Thursday, May 19, 7 pm, with the film and follow-up discussion.

For more information go to www.against-the-tide.org

Yearly Meeting

June 9 to 12; registration deadline May 20

The Advanced Program for Yearly Meeting, being held at Warren Wilson College June 9 to 12, has been mailed to each meeting and worship group. Contact Liz Perch (below) for a copy mailed to you. The material is also available on the SAYMA website at http://www.sayma.org/online_documents.htm#YMRRegis.

The registration deadline is May 20. Mail or email registrations to Liz., and mail checks. She will acknowledge your registration and deposit by email or postcard within a week of receipt.

Liz Perch, SAYMA Administrative Assistant
adminasst@sayma.org, 865 272-9621 (Google Voice)
P. O. Box 5848, Savannah, GA 31404

Quaker House Seeks Director

Deadline August 1

Quaker House, since 1969 an active peace witness in Fayetteville, NC, near Fort Bragg, seeks a DIRECTOR to begin summer/fall 2012. Qualifications: Alignment with Quakerism and its peace testimony; proven leadership skills, fundraising, writing, management skills; comfortable in a military-oriented environment. Appropriate salary and benefits, including housing/utilities in recently renovated historic house for Director and small family. For more information: <http://www.quakerhouse.org>. Inquiries to: betsybrinson@yahoo.com. Closing date August 1, 2011.

Books to Increase Knowledge of Islam

Submitted by Marilyn Dyer

MEMORIES OF MUHAMMAD: Why the Prophet Matters
Omid Safi, Ph.D. (HarperCollins, 2009) He is professor of Islamic studies, UNC. Is at the forefront of the debate to engage the spiritual legacy of Islam with a progressive commitment to social justice and pluralism.

THE ORIGINS of the KORAN: Classic essays on Islam's Holy Book. Edited by Ibn Warraq. (Prometheus Books, 1998) How the various pieces of the Koran took literary form is uncertain. The Koran was not collected during the Prophet's lifetime. The third caliph, Uthman, produced the first "official" edition. The book is fascinating reading, but not easy reading.

MUHAMMAD and the BELIEVERS: At the Origins of Islam
Fred M. Donner, Professor of Near Eastern History, University of Chicago. (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2010). The origins of Islam have been the subject of increasing controversy in recent years

LIBERAL ISLAM: A Sourcebook Edited by Charles Kurzman, Assistant Professor of Sociology, UNC. (Oxford University Press, 1998). Frequently referred to as a classic, this anthology presents the work of 32 prominent Muslims who share parallel concerns with Western liberalism: separation of Church and state, democracy, rights of women and minorities, freedom of thought and human progress. A must for those seriously interested in modern and contemporary Muslim thought.

FOLLOWING MUHAMMAD: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World Carl W. Ernst is Zachary Smith distinguished Term Professor of Religious Studies at UNC. (UNC Press, 2003). Dr. Ernst has received international recognition for his work in Islamic studies. This book has been described as "highly accessible and a major step forward in understanding Islam, and should be read from schoolroom to the State Department." It has been translated into at least 7 languages.

JOURNEY INTO AMERICA was written by Akbar S. Ahmed, Chair of Islamic Studies at American University in Washington, D.C. (Brookings Institution Press Washington, D.C.). The book takes readers, Muslim and non-Muslim, behind the scenes of every day life in America, informing, provoking, and inspiring. ~~Note:~~

ISLAM: THE STRAIGHT PATH by John L. Esposito, Georgetown professor who seeks to build bridges between Christians and Muslims. He was awarded the highest civil honor by the Pakistani government. Esposito is founding director of Georgetown's Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding. This widely acclaimed guide to Islamic history, faith, culture, and politics is in its third edition. Publisher: Oxford University Press, 1998.

INTRODUCING THE QUR'AN FOR TODAY'S READER by John Kaltner (Fortress Press, 2011). He is Professor of Muslim-Christian Relations at Rhodes College, Memphis, TN. A bridge-builder, Kaltner focuses on the issues-themes raised by non-Muslims, taking readers directly to the Qur'an for discussion. It would be a fine tool if, for instance, a group in our Meeting were to form a study group. We can be bridge-builders, too, by

acquiring some degree of knowledge about the holy book of Islam.

THE CAIRO HOUSE This autobiographical novel comes to us from Samia Seragelden who was born in Egypt and lived there until governmental policies led to her family's move to England. In the prologue to this her first novel, she writes "For those whose past and present belong to different worlds, there are places and times that mark their passages from one to the other, a transitional limbo like airports." Novels can so lightly carry somber information. Syracuse University Press published CAIRO HOUSE in 2,000. In 2009, she published a collection of short stories, and in 2010, the novel MAQUID'S DAUGHTER. Samia lives in Chapel Hill and has occasionally taught at Duke.

Green Tara Sand Mandala

May 21 to June 4; submitted by Buffie Webber

The Tibetan monks of Drepung Gomang Monastery will bring a message of compassionate understanding with interfaith dialogue to Chapel Hill with the construction of the Green Tara Sand Mandala, created and exhibited at East Gallery at 523 East Franklin Street. As a member of the Planning Committee, I encourage members and attenders of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting to join us to create a peace community during their stay from May 21 to June 4.

The primary public events are the following:

- construction of the Green Tara Sand Mandala, created and exhibited (May 22 to May 30) at the East Gallery
- a preview of the Cultural Pageant (May 24) at University Mall

· a Cultural Pageant (May 28) at the ArtsCenter in Carrboro.

A complete schedule of activities and opportunities to participate is available on the website, www.monkstour.info.

Educational materials for children are available on the website.

Please contact me with any questions, Buffie Webber, 428-3218.

Re-using Plastic in the Garden

Submitted by Emily Buehler

Do you have a stockpile of plastic utensils in the cupboard? This spring, give them a new purpose: protecting transplants from cats. Something about the scent of fresh-turned earth calls to my cats, causing them to attack whatever I've most recently planted. Now, pointy-side-up, my army of plastic utensils stands amidst the tiny violas, thwarting would-be attackers. A plethora of used chopsticks guards a new bed of California poppies. And slats of an old mini-blind, cut to points at both ends, add a literary touch (remember *Lord of the Flies*?) while protecting the zinnia transplants. So far, the utensils are working.

Another springtime re-use of plastic is as "rings" around new plants. Cut the bottom off yogurt and cottage cheese containers and press the remaining ring into the soil around your plant. The ring will deter underground pests who travel in the top of the soil, as well as serving as a catchment device when you water. [Remember that these containers, made of "rigid plastics" 5 and 2, can also be recycled in the purple bins at Orange County Solid Waste Convenience Centers (and some 24-Hour Drop-Off Sites).]

Directory Updates

Hart Pillow

New email address: hart.pillow@gmail.com

Margret Mueller

New address/ phone/ email:

2911 Hawk Hill Road, Mebane NC 27302

(919)563-5723, Earthbound52@gmail.com



**Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
April 17, 2011
(Carolyn White, clerk; Robin Harper, recording clerk)**

Worship and query: How does our Meeting encourage each of us to simplify our lives? In what ways do we encourage thoughtful use of our gifts to nourish our spiritual growth and the spiritual growth of others?

1. Welcome, recognition of first time attenders, review of agenda

2. Review of minutes for March Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Add Bettie Flash's name to list of attenders. **Otherwise approved.**

3. Approval to transfer membership of Kitty Bergel from Orange County Meeting in California (Carolyn White) (Letter attached)

Approved. Jennifer Leeman, Hank Elkins, Dottie Heninger, and Judy Purvis agreed to serve on Welcoming Committee.

4. Annual report of YRE (Jennifer Leeman) (Attached)

Jennifer added that YRE is exploring bringing a recommendation to fold YRE back into CRE.

Accepted. Gratitude was expressed for this attention to and care for our youth.

5. Annual report of Hospitality Committee (Stuart Phillips)
(Attached)

Special appreciation was expressed for the Newcomers' Lunches in particular; also for making visitors feel welcome, and coordinating meals with Care & Counsel. Stuart expressed regret that there were not enough hands to make the Meeting's traditional Thanksgiving meal happen this year. A thought was expressed that we might keep the worship portion of Thanksgiving, even if the meal can't happen.

6 . Report from Piedmont Friends Fellowship (Annette Broadwell and Terry Mehlman)

Annette reported that PFF's major focus recently has been whether or not to become a yearly meeting. Charlotte and Winston-Salem are the driving forces behind the proposal to make PFF into a Yearly Meeting. There was discussion about what PFF would look like as a Yearly Meeting. It was reported that PFF would like to continue to support smaller Meetings as well as provide youth activities. There was confusion over belonging to PFF but not belonging to it as a yearly meeting.

Friends expressed that a yearly meeting focused in North Carolina would give strength to our Meeting's political, social, and environmental concerns. They also expressed that if there is little participation from our Meeting, maybe the interest is not there to maintain our membership in PFF. Also, at a Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business last year that was dedicated wholly to this issue, there was little leading to go in this direction.

Our PFF representatives will continue to explore and gather information on this issue, and on activity within PFF. Nominations Committee is searching for someone to replace Terry in this role.

Thanks were expressed for report. (No written report provided.)

7. Treasurer's Report (Judy Purvis) (Attached)

We still have a way to go to reach our budgetary goal. Judy reported that we have learned that we are going to have to pay taxes on the money raised at football parking. The teens and their helpers have raised enough money through football parking that they have not had to dip into their budgetary allotment.

Accepted with thanks.

**8 . Approval of changes to the budget process (Matt Drake)
(Attached)**

Matt mentioned the early dissemination of reports, including this one, via the listserv, and encouraged Friends to go to our website to read them in advance, to be prepared for MWAB.

Matt identified three issues that will impact the Meeting's budget:

- a. What repairs/renovations need to be done on the Meetinghouse?
- b. If we join SAYMA, we will need to do our part to support it financially.
- c. Our ability to increase our contributions is limited.

Carolyn proposed an appointed evening meeting on June 2, dedicated to this issue.

Thanks were expressed to Matt and Finance Committee.

It was decided that we would sit with this report, and requested to hear Finance's proposed budget next month, which would include rough estimates of the above costs from

Buildings & Grounds and SAYMA. To keep on schedule, the budget would need to be approved at the regular June MWAB.

9. Peace and Social Concerns would like to request a grant of \$300 from the contingency fund to be paid to the JobLink Center (care of Malinda Marsch, 503 West Franklin Street, Chapel Hill NC) to pay for 10 prisoners involved in the prison ministry to take the Work Keys test. This test will qualify them for employment under the job readiness certification program of the Orange County Partnership to end homelessness. (Hank Elkins)

This item postponed.

10. Update on Justice United (Jennifer Leeman)

This item will be sent to Publications for the newsletter instead.

11. Request to consider a recommendation from Ministry and Worship to begin Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at 9:00am. (Carolyn White)

This item postponed.

12. Messages and Announcements:

a. The deadline for the May newsletter is 10:00pm on Easter Sunday, April 24.

Worship and greeting

Attending:

Perry Martin, Dirk Spruyt, Judy Purvis, Jan Hutton, Bettie Flash, Pam Chevalier, Barbara Williamson, Tom Munk, Jennifer Leeman,

Annette Broadwell, Jeff Brown, Ken Grogan, Dottie Heninger, Carolyn Stuart, Anne Smith, Pam Schwingl, Pat Mann, Kitty Bergel, Dave Curtin, Alice Carlton, Nancy Elkins, Hank Elkins, Marilyn Dyer, Lynn Drake, Matt Drake, Ruth Zalph, Stuart Phillips, Buffie Webber, Maria Darlington, Josie Horne

Attachments

Also attached below is Andrew Meriwether's conscientious objector letter from the March MWAB.

Transfer of Membership Letter

Dear Carolyn and Jan,

This letter is written to request transfer of my membership in the Society of Friends from Orange County Meeting in California to Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. I don't know your process, so I'm writing this letter to both of you, with a copy to my dear California meeting.

I've been attending Chapel Hill Meeting since last fall, and feel that I would like to become officially part of your community. I was raised in Orange Grove Meeting in Pasadena, California, and became a member of that meeting in 1965. I moved to Orange, California, in 1999 and transferred my membership to Orange County Meeting then. I've been active in Pacific Yearly Meeting for years and have held many committee assignments there and in the two monthly meetings where I've carried membership. I worked on staff for the American Friends Service Committee, based in Pasadena, for more than twenty years.

I moved to Carol Woods in August of last year, and want to strengthen my affiliation with Chapel Hill Meeting. I have spoken with Nominations Committee about my readiness to accept a committee assignment, and am regularly contributing financially to the Meeting. My own Quakerism is grounded in honoring the Sacred, and its continuing revelation.

It would be my pleasure to answer questions if you have them, and I look forward to proceeding with the transfer.

With best wishes,
Kitty Bergel

Youth Religious Education Committee Annual Report March 2011

The Youth Religious Education Committee continues to develop, oversee, and support First Day School class and other activities involving young Friends in Grades 6 through 12. This report covers committee work from March 2010 to date. Committee strengths include an enthusiastic and effective First Day School Coordinator, Lauren Hart, and strong teaching teams for both the Middle and High School groups. We are delighted by the growth and energy of the middle school group and challenged by small numbers of high schoolers.

First Day School Classes

The Middle School FDS class is currently co-led by Andrea Wuerth and Leslie Rountree and attendance has fluctuated between four and a recent high of nine young people. The Middle School

curriculum follows the Children's Religious Education trimester schedule of Quaker Studies, Bible Studies, and Multi-Culturalism. This past fall, Andrea and Leslie worked with the middle schoolers on putting the Quaker testimonies directly into practice. Middle Schoolers joined one of the weekly, Friday peace demonstrations on Franklin Street, enthusiastically raising the pro-peace signs they made in FDS and counting the number of cars that honked. They also made two meals for Allie Scales and caroled at Carol Woods. During the holidays, they organized the alternative gift mart, raising over \$1,000 to support four non-profit organizations. They also had a camp out. This semester, the middle school class is studying Jesus' words and actions, with a focus on their relationship to Quaker testimonies.

The High School class is currently co-led by John Hite, Jennifer Leeman, and Tom Munk and attendance fluctuates up to five. This reflects the meeting's demographics and comes as no surprise. Nonetheless, it creates challenges for those planning FDS classes. We have combined the Middle School and High School classes on some occasions. At other times, the teachers, particularly John Hite, have taken the opportunity for in-depth, one-to-one conversations with the youth who do attend.

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting (SAYMA)

Consistent with the low numbers of high school students in FDS, Chapel Hill participation in retreats held by the Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) has dropped. Three of our youth are members of the SAYF nurturing committee: Michael Grathwohl, Annie DiLorenzo, and Joseph Bishop. Between zero and three youth have attended retreats since the start of the fall 2010 semester. During this same time, the number of youth attending

from Durham Friends meeting has been on the rise, and we are in the process of negotiating with Durham to transfer to them the responsibility of renting vans and recruiting Friendly Adult Drivers. Local leadership for SAYF retreats is from Wren Hendrickson and Buffie Webber with Wren continuing to serve SAYMA as the convener of the SAYF program. We are grateful to Wren for this service that she provides to the wider Quaker community. SAYF is a nurturing community that has provided valuable support to many of our youth and youth throughout the southeast.

Finances and Fundraising

Our youth program benefits from our ability to raise funds through paid parking during UNC home football games. The majority of Committee expenditures are covered by these funds, thus enabling any CHFM youth to participate in our activities. Additional funds are available to the Committee through the Meeting's annual budget. This fall, our youth and supportive adults raised over \$5,000 from football parking, much of which we anticipate will be contributed to the Meeting's general budget at the end of the fiscal year. Thank you particularly to the members of Finance Committee who helped with parking this year.

Young Adult Friends

Members of our committee carry a concern for the Meeting's young adult friends, both those who have graduated from our FDS school program and also those who are new to the Meeting. We continue to explore the best approach to supporting this group of individuals. We actively reached out to recent graduates to join us at two recent intergenerational game nights. We welcome Friends' thoughts on how else we might welcome and nurture our young adult Friends.

Respectfully submitted by Caleb Cole (youth), Annie DiLorenzo (youth), Michael Grathwohl (youth), Lauren Hart, Wren Hendrickson, John Hite, Jennifer Leeman (clerk), Tom Munk, Maura Murphy, Andrea Wuerth

Hospitality Committee Annual Report

The Hospitality committee works to develop and create a congenial, welcoming and supportive atmosphere within our Meeting. Our committee is largely task oriented, while considering the various needs of the Meeting for fellowship, community building, care and celebration.

The committee:

- manages the potluck luncheons on the first Sunday of each month;
- assists with special occasions, such as holiday parties, weddings under the care of the Meeting, and memorial services;
- helps arrange meals for members in need;
- schedules greeters for (late) Sunday Meeting for Worship;
- and welcomes visitors and newcomers to our Meeting.

Members:

This year, the committee consisted of several ongoing members: Stuart Phillips, Jeff Brown, Gwynne Pomeroy, Dave Curtin. With the

new committee year, we welcomed members Joanna Selim, Anne Filiaci, Lauren Hart, Carolyn Stuart, Beth Kurtz–Costes and Alice Carlton. In July 2010 Kathy Davis stepped down from the committee, and from her many years serving as clerk. Her contributions to the Meeting, through the work of the Hospitality Committee, were numerous and substantial. Of particular note among Kathy’s contributions is the information/welcome bulletin board that now hangs inside the front entrance. During the fall, Stuart and Jeff shared duties as co–conveners; since January Stuart has served as the sole clerk of Hospitality.

Potlucks and Snacks:

Committee members take turns overseeing potlucks on the first Sunday of each month following the 11:00 meeting for worship. Currently, three members (increased from two) cover each Potluck Sunday, with middle schoolers occasionally helping set up tables and chairs, and various potluck participants pitching in with clean–up. Between 40 and 60 people regularly attend.

As the need arises, some potlucks are dedicated to special occasions. A celebration of our graduates is a traditionally planned in June. When new members are welcomed, there is often a cake in their honor. The April ‘11 potluck was dedicated to the welcoming of two new babies.

Periodically, members reorganize the kitchen cabinets in order to make serving and clean–up flow smoothly. Members keep track of and purchase supplies such as drink mixes, towels for drying dishes, utensils, etc.

Special Events:

Hospitality is responsible for the Thanksgiving potluck and helps with the holiday party. However, this year, for the first time in many

years, the Meeting did not host its traditional Thanksgiving midday meal. Primarily, that was because so little interest was shown in attending-- four people registered intent to attend during the weeks prior to the holiday. Unfortunately, no Hospitality member was able to be present for the potluck, and that lack of individual representation/encouragement likely lessened sign-up response. In November 2011, the Committee will begin its planning and solicitation of interest much earlier in the month, and hopefully the traditional meal will be back on track.

The 2010 holiday party was planned largely by CRE, but Hospitality helped organize the finger food pot luck for the event held on December 12. At that event, Committee members are responsible for set-up and clean-up.

Several times during the past year, other committees or groups have asked for food/refreshment support from Hospitality-- in particular, there have been two rise-of-meeting receptions this past fall, when guests of Bridging the Faith Divide have stayed to talk with our community. The committee has provided modest refreshments of sweets, cheeses and fruits.

Greeters:

Hospitality is in charge of coordinating greeters for each 11:00 Meeting for Worship. Greeters welcome people into the meetinghouse. Newcomers are invited to sign the guest book, to make and wear a name tag, and if visitors have children, greeters explain the initial inclusion of children at the beginning of meeting and the options for childcare and First Day School. Greeters stay at the door from approximately 10:45 till 11:15.

Visitors and Newcomers:

The committee maintains the visitor's book; we send letters or emails to all in-state visitors. We only make phone calls to those newcomers who indicate on the log that they would like to receive one.

Hospitality organized a luncheon for newcomers on November 11 and another on April 10. Both had relatively modest attendance, but with the addition of quite a few old-timers, the lunches have had a strong communal flavor. For the past two years we have hosted the lunches at the rise of second meeting in the school house. Committee members provide the light lunch, so there is no expectation of potluck. We always take 30 minutes or so after people have eaten to introduce ourselves, hear what has brought newcomers to the Meeting, and talk about ways for them to get involved.

As a committee, we recognize our ongoing need to evaluate how we welcome and integrate newcomers. We make an effort to watch out for newcomers on Sunday mornings and to introduce ourselves. We also recognize that this must be the responsibility of all members and attenders, so that we make people feel welcome and in this way, contribute to the ongoing vitality of the whole Meeting. We want to thank others who have worked over the past years to be available to answer questions for newcomers at the rise of meeting, spoken to new people at events and created new written materials of welcome.

Care:

Periodically, we collect and maintain a list of people willing to make food for members or attenders in special need. This is a commitment that we have shared with Care and Counsel. Since summer 2010, our committee has been trying to provide semi-regular meals for a few families in particular. It is time again to

reach out and update/expand our list of people outside the Hospitality Committee who are able to contribute meals occasionally.

We look forward to a new year of fellowship and celebrations.

Respectfully submitted: Jeff Brown, David Curtin, Stuart Phillips (convener), Gwynne Pomeroy, Alice Carlton, Beth Kurtz-Costes, Joanna Selim, Anne Filiaci, Lauren Hart, Carolyn Stuart

CHFM Treasurer’s Report, July 2010 through March 2011

INCOME		July 1–Mar 31	Other Income
Contributions		\$48,338.62	\$10,000 (restricted)
Building rental			\$2,564.00
Parking space rental			\$5,095.00
Miscellaneous*			\$983.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$48,338.62	\$18,642.00
EXPENSES	2010–2011 budget	Expenditures to date	Amount remaining
Committees:			
Adult Religious Educ.	\$200	0	\$200.00
Buildings & Grounds ^{a,b}	\$17,020	\$12,282.30 ^b	\$4,737.70
Care & Counsel	\$100	\$100	0
Children’s Religious Educ. ^c	\$5,250	\$3,244.61	\$2,005.39
Environmental Concerns	\$650	\$32.25	\$617.75

Finance	\$250	\$284.57	(-\$34.57)
Hospitality	\$450	\$19.38	\$430.62
Library	\$500	\$151.23	\$348.77
Ministry & Worship ^d	\$500	\$422.30	\$77.70
Nominations	\$25	0	\$25.00
Peace & Social Concerns	\$400	\$262.27	\$137.73
Publications & Records	\$2,100	\$1,438.69	\$661.31
Total Committee Expenses^e		\$18,237.60	
Youth Religious Educ. ^e	\$500	\$2,395.81	\$500.00
Special Funds			
National Quaker Service	\$2,000	\$1,977.10	\$22.90
Meeting for Suffering	\$135	0	\$135.00
Contingency Fund	\$1,280	\$525	\$755.00
Future Needs of Meeting			
Leadership Development	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000.00
Physical Plant Fund	\$2,000	\$2,000	0
Wider Quaker Community	\$23,200	\$11,825	\$11,375.00
Local & Regional Orgs.	\$11,500	\$5,750	\$5,750.00
TOTAL EXPENSES^e	\$70,060	\$41,314.70	\$28,745.30

^a Includes insurance, maintenance, utilities, and landscaping. Landscaping overspent by \$1389.

^bDoes not include \$3685 from Physical Plant Fund: painting and termite removal.

^cIncludes compensation for First Day School Coordinator and Nursery Care person.

^dOffset by \$128 income from donations at State of Meeting workshop.

^eYRE income=\$5,950; $\$5,950 - \$2395.81 = \$3,554.19$ remains w/out budget funds; not included in totals.

Finance Committee Report to the April 2011 Meeting for Worship for Business

The Finance Committee consists of Jim Bartow, Asta Crowe, Matt Drake, Bob Durovich, Mike Jokinen, Buffie Webber, and Judy Purvis. The Committee's overall goal is to "help the Meeting be a good steward of its resources." In committee meetings of recent years and especially this year, we have considered specific ways to achieve this goal. In March we united on the following recommendations and present them now for consideration and approval. **The recommendations arise from several facts that have become clear to us.**

First, the original portion of the meetinghouse, possibly the front porch, and, sooner or later, the parking lot need or will need major repairs and/or improvements. The original portion of the meetinghouse is over 50 years old. It consists of most of the meeting room as well as the kitchen, teen room, and part of the office/meeting area downstairs. It also contains essential and outdated portions of the heating, ventilating, and cooling infrastructure. Buildings and Grounds Committee is working on a list of meetinghouse improvements that includes the following. You can expect this list to grow.

- A. Place insulation on the inside of about half of the exterior walls downstairs.
- B. Replace about half of the windows and frames downstairs and all of the library windows with Energy Star windows and frames.
- C. Replace/repair the frames of the exterior doors, especially the front door.
- D. Improve the electrical infrastructure to allow for energy-efficient upgrades of the heating, cooling, and ventilating systems.
- E. Accomplish major insulation work on the ceiling of the foyer.
- F. Substitute energy-saving fixtures for the meeting room lights and for all the old fluorescent ceiling lights elsewhere.
- G. Replace the ceiling tiles in the meeting room with new tiles or drywall.
- H. Replace the plumbing, cabinetry, and most appliances in the downstairs kitchen.
- I. Replace the carpets upstairs with floor coverings that are more easily cleaned, less allergy affecting, and more environmentally-friendly.
- J. Repair woodwork and walls in the original portion of the meetinghouse and repaint walls and woodwork throughout the building.

Preparing the meetinghouse and property for the future is a multi-year commitment. It will require a considerable amount of money, which Finance will hold in the Physical Plant Fund. The Meeting can

take on this long-term project joyfully, recognizing the opportunity it provides us to be good stewards of our property, to employ the best environmental practices we can afford, and to prepare for the future as we celebrate our 75th anniversary.

Second, if Meeting gains clarity on applying for membership in Southeastern Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA), our membership application will include our willing commitment to meet the financial obligations of Yearly Meeting membership.

Third, our Meeting's ability to increase contributions to the budget is limited. About 110 members and attenders contribute to the budget each year. This number appears unlikely to increase significantly anytime soon. The recession is restricting the amount some families can contribute, and the economy's move out of recession is slow. Also, contributors leave our Meeting each year. Their giving is not always replaced by that of new members and attenders. Also, the members of Finance Committee have a limited willingness to act as fund raisers.

To enable the Meeting to meet either or both of the above potential commitments within current fund raising realities requires new uses of all sources of income and some reduction of the Meeting's generous support of benevolences over the last several years. Finance requests your prayerful consideration of the following recommended policies.

1. Starting July 1, the Meeting's budget total for each new fiscal year will be based on the total of unrestricted contributions received through April 30 and planned through June of the current fiscal year. (Note: in our experience few unexpected contributions

are given in May and June.) This will base the new budget total on a clear foundation.

2. The Meeting will operate on a balanced budget, with operating expenses and benevolences paid for by unrestricted contributions to the budget.

3. Until Meeting is satisfied that the improvements to our building and property are completed, the Physical Plant line item in the budget each year will be substantially higher than current levels.

4. Should our Meeting and SAYMA agree on membership, Finance Committee will add the financial commitment of SAYMA membership to future annual budgets.

5. Should Finance find at the end of a fiscal year that income from unrestricted contributions to the budget exceed the total of operating expenses and benevolences for the year, the “overage” will be placed in the Physical Plant Fund.

6. Should Finance find at the end of a fiscal year that the contribution total is lower than operating expenses and that under-spending by committees fails to make up the difference, Finance will reduce by an equal proportion the final benevolence payments.

7. All income from rentals of our facilities will be placed in the Physical Plant Fund.

8. Income from football parking will fund retreats and activities for our MS & HS youth, along with requisite tax payments. Residual income will go into the Physical Plant Fund.

9. Until Meeting is satisfied that the improvements to our building and property are completed, all unrestricted bequest dollars will be placed in the Physical Plant Fund

Conscientious Objection Letter

Dear Friends,

On July 25th, of this past year I turned 18 years old and am, therefore, required to register for the selective service. Due to my beliefs as a Quaker, I will be writing that I am a conscientious objector on the selective service form. Unfortunately, the registration form does not ask for this information specifically, and I am in need of a record of my convictions. I ask that two representatives of this Meeting serve as witnesses to my testimony, and that Meeting keep a copy for permanent records.

Although I firmly believe that the truth will continue to reveal itself to me, I can state now and with clarity my current beliefs.

- I disdain and refuse to personally participate in war of any form.
- This conviction was founded on the religious instruction and training I have received during my short life. The community of the Meeting Houses in Durham and here in Chapel Hill, along with Carolina Friends School, have taught me to appreciate and foster peace in every act I perform. I learned a respect for all human life, and that we were all connected through the bond of God in each and every one of us.
- I sincerely feel that I do not have the right, God given or otherwise, to take the life of another human being.

Please accept this letter as a declaration of my convictions. I hope in the future this country and the world will actualize the potential of peace, and that military action will finally be seen as a problem, not a solution. I thank you for your willingness to stand with me in witness of my convictions.

Sincerely, Andrew Meriwether

Calendar

(All events at Meetinghouse unless otherwise indicated.)

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------|--|
| Sun. 5/1 | 8:30am | Meeting for Worship (Early) |
| | 9:45am | Forum: Abdul-Hafeez Waheed Personal Journey |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship (Late) |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods |
| | 12:30pm | Potluck & IFC donations |
| Tue. 5/3 | 7–8pm | Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation – Call Hank Elkins |
| Wed. 5/4 | 10am–12pm | Quaker Women’s Gathering – Bettie Flash Home |
| Fri. 5/6 | 5–6pm | Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd |
| Sun. 5/8 | 8:30am | Meeting for Worship (Early) |
| | 9:45am | Forum: QEW Mini-Grant Program |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship (Late) |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods |
| | 12:30pm | Peace & Social Concerns Com. – Schoolhouse |
| Tue. 5/10 | 7–8pm | Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation – Call Hank Elkins |
| Fri. 5/13 | 5–6pm | Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd |
| Sun. 5/15 | 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 |
| | 2–4pm | Welcome Jasmine McKewen – Drakes’ House |
| Tue. 5/17 | 7–8pm | Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation – Call Hank Elkins |
| Wed. 5/18 | 10am–12pm | Quaker Women’s Gathering – Bettie Flash Home |
| | 7pm | YRE Committee – Meetinghouse |
| Thurs. 5/19 | 7pm | Against the Tide – Nasher Museum (see page 8) |
| Fri. 5/20 | 5–6pm | Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd |
| Sun. 5/22 | 8:30am | Meeting for Worship (Early) |
| | 9:45am | Forum: Asking Questions About God |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship (Late) |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods |
| | 12:30pm | Environmental Concerns Com. – Schoolhouse |
| | 11am–8pm | Guitars for Guatemala Fundraiser – Johnny’s (page 7) |

Tues. 5/24	7-8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation – Call Hank Elkins
Fri. 5/27	5-6pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
Sun. 5/29	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: Nuclear Energy
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods
	10pm	Deadline To Turn In Items For Newsletter!
Wed. 6/1	10am-12pm	Quaker Women’s Gathering – Bettie Flash Home
Thur.6/2	9am-1pm	CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter
	7pm	Evening Appointed Business Meeting
Fri. 6/3	5-6pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd



**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: Carolyn White (967.4926)

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 Emily Buehler at 475.5756.

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.