

# Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Newsletter

August, 2011



## Monthly Query:

*How do we celebrate as a community? As a faith community, how do we embody Friends' testimonies so that others might want to follow them?*

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*From the ECC:*

*Consuming less fuel is a very easy way to preserve the land, reduce carbon emissions, and contribute to your bank account. Some simple tips that any driver can observe are: making sure your tires are properly inflated, not speeding, and never accelerating rapidly. By doing these three things you can improve your mpg by 35%. Other tips include filling your tank in the morning or evening and planning errands so as not to take multiple trips. Remember to walk, ride a bike, take the bus, or carpool when the opportunity arises. If you would like to compare the fuel efficiency of different cars, or would just like more information, visit- [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov)  
In Peace,  
Your Environmental Committee*

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## **Upcoming Forum Schedule**

### **August 28: "Living Quaker Testimonies"**

Forum will start with a panel discussion/sharing on the role (practice) and/or importance of Quaker testimonies in daily life.

- What does it mean to me to carry Quaker testimonies of peace, simplicity, and of seeing that of God in everyone into day-to-day life?
- Which testimonies speak most prominently in my thoughts and through my actions?
- How can/do Quaker testimonies affect the lives of others regardless of their religion or beliefs?

After the panel has shared participants can respond with questions and broader discussion among all can unfold.

## **Donate Clothing - Orange Correctional Center**

As many of you know, there are a number of people at Meeting who work as volunteers at the Orange Correctional Center (prison) in Hillsborough. This message just came from the Chaplain, so if any of you are cleaning out your closet, or this is the incentive you need... well, please keep the needs of these men in mind. They need "street clothes" when they go out for job interviews, go out with sponsors to church, work release jobs, etc. You can let me know, arrangements can be made to pick up any donations or perhaps arrange to pick them up at the Meeting House. Thanks, Asta 933-4565, [astacrowe@gmail.com](mailto:astacrowe@gmail.com)

“Volunteers, our clothes closet at Orange Correctional Center has been inundated with requests recently. We need men's pants, especially waist size 38 or larger, and 2x and 3x shirts. If any of you have clothing you are unable to wear would you consider donating it? Thanks, Chaplain Ken Barker”

## **Quaker House Hosts Ice Cream Social Sunday, October 2 at the Schoolhouse**

Quaker House meeting representatives will be hosting an Ice Cream Social during Potluck Sunday October 2, 2011. Learn about what Quaker House is up to and the progress of the new QH Director search; get acquainted with the Gi Rights Hotline work.

## **Friends Invited to Interfaith Iftar**

**Saturday, August 27, 6:30 pm at the United Church of CH**

CH Friends have been invited to the first ever interfaith iftar—the breaking of the fast during the Muslim month of Ramadan. It will be held on Saturday, August 27 at 6:30pm at the United Church of CH at 1321 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. Food offerings will accommodate vegetarians and non-vegetarians, with dishes from Muslim countries around the world. This is an effort of all segments of the local Muslim community to reach out and share the practice of their faith with others; they will speak about their experience of Ramadan and their interest in making increased contact with the wider community. If you have questions you can email [chisoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:chisoutreach@gmail.com) or contact Nancy Milio, Bridging the Faith Divide Committee. Please rsvp at

[https://spreadsheets.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?hl=en\\_US&formkey=dEcyZmx3RXZqRmxweUZ0aW9kbzFGSke6MQ#gid=0](https://spreadsheets.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?hl=en_US&formkey=dEcyZmx3RXZqRmxweUZ0aW9kbzFGSke6MQ#gid=0)

## **Thank You from Jessica Harper**

Dear Friends, I hope everyone enjoyed their baked goods! Thanks to the meeting's help, we sold out of baked goods! I would like thank everyone who donated money to support my trip to Guatemala, it was a huge help! When I return home, I hope to talk about my experiences. Thanks again for all the help! Jessica Harper

## **A Silent Retreat in the Manner of Friends**

**Friday, September 30 - Monday October 3, Haverford, PA**

Have you ever wondered what an extended period of silent worship would be like? Ever thought about going on a silent retreat? Here's a special opportunity. You are invited to participate in a "Silent Retreat in the manner of Friends."

It begins on Friday evening, September 30 and closes with lunch on Monday, October 3. The location is St. Raphaela's Retreat Center in Haverford (Philadelphia), PA. Leaders are Linda Chidsey, New York Yearly Meeting, and Carolyn Moon, Philadelphia YM. They are experienced leaders of Quaker silent retreats. The cost is \$330 (early bird fee deadline 8/31) or \$370 after 8/31. Enrollment is limited to 25 participants. Exceptional scholarship support is available, including help with travel costs. For more information, ask Matt Drake. Additional information available at [www.schoolofthespirit.org](http://www.schoolofthespirit.org) and [www.straphaelacenter.org](http://www.straphaelacenter.org)

## **Help Build A Home in Cameron, LA**

**October/November**

Teams of Mennonites from the Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship (they meet in our meetinghouse on Sunday afternoons) will be traveling to Louisiana in October and early November to rebuild a Hurricane Katrina destroyed house. You are invited to join them. All kinds of skills will be helpful. To learn more, contact: Tom Lehman, a member of the Mennonite Fellowship, at [talehman@bellsouth.net](mailto:talehman@bellsouth.net)

## Newest Pamphlet From Quaker House

Quaker House just published *Extra Casualties: The Military Industrial Complex and the Uncounted Human Cost of War*, the third of its pamphlet series. Its author, Mia Austin-Scoggins, introduced this topic at the January, 2011 MIC@50 Conference organized by Quaker House to mark the 50th Anniversary of President Eisenhower's prophetic speech warning us of the mounting collusion--growing like a cancer and now so dominant--between the military, weapons manufacturers, and congressional leaders. Mia's presentation was so moving and compassionate that she was urged to transcribe it into print. Here's her overview of the human costs of war:

The official figures of casualties in the four major American wars since World War II are over 101,000 soldiers killed and 296,000 wounded. Yet, these numbers fail to account for the hundreds of thousands of "extra casualties," those of whom returned home seemingly okay, but later developed long-term physical or psychological problems, and of the countless others who are burdened with the care of these veterans or the trauma that spills over into families and communities. At the close World War II, psychiatric disorders increased with fully 60 per cent of postwar VA patients as psychiatric admissions. Other veterans self medicated—alcohol and drug abuse. Nobody recognized the problem, and nobody was talking about it.

The Korean War brought its own unique injuries--overexposure to cold. Soldiers lost hands, feet, limbs, ears, and noses to frostbite. These worsened with age complicating diabetes, vascular disease,

and higher risks of amputations. Chemical and nuclear exposure created new health risks. Asbestos in Navy ships and shipyards compromised both soldiers and workers. Military psychiatrists at the time concluded that war-induced mental trauma was “inevitable and universal” and labeled it “war neurosis,” “battle fatigue,” and “exhaustion.” Treatment was reintegration into the soldier’s units rather than evacuation out.

Tropical Vietnam brought widespread bacterial and fungal diseases along with pesticide and herbicide spraying of “Agent Orange.” Over 200,000 soldiers were exposed to its toxic component, Dioxin, with its links to cancer, neurological and digestive disorders, miscarriages, and birth defects. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) was finally recognized to cause severe psychiatric symptoms: mood disorders, depression, dangerous and aggressive behaviors, substance abuse and alcoholism. Strong correlations were drawn with long-term health problems: heart disease, rheumatoid arthritis, heart failure, asthma, liver and peripheral arterial disease. Initial studies diagnosed 15 per cent or half a million of Vietnam vets with it; later studies increased that to 50 per cent. Homelessness became associated with a Viet Vet. All total, over a million vets became lifelong “prisoners of war.” And for almost all of these troubled veterans, a family became the “force multiplier” increasing the number of extra casualties.

The first Gulf War saw a “mere” 294 Americans killed, but soon after their return, many troops began to suffer from unexplained health problems: chronic fatigue, muscle and joint pain, loss of concentration, forgetfulness, headache, and rash. These soldiers were exposed to toxic agents and environmental and wartime hazards: oil well smoke, depleted uranium, and medicines and

vaccines. Almost a third of these veterans suffered from Gulf War Illness though in their early years they could not get it diagnosed or treated. Almost 300,000 veterans suffered from this profound physical illness. Some 11,000 died.

The numbers for current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are frightening. More than two million U.S. service personnel have deployed to these regions, most for multiple tours, some four or five times. So far, total combat deaths 6,100 and 40,000 wounded. Using the standard ratio of five extra casualties to one death or wounded reported, that's a quarter of million drastically disrupted by these wars. How do we put a monetary value on the loss of life that was to be, for the long-term ill or injured veteran?

Even within the military, incidence of rape (more prevalent in the military), sexual assault, family violence, homicide, suicide, substance abuse and alcoholism all contribute to the domestic costs on our society. As President Eisenhower said, "The problem in defense is how far you can go without destroying from within what you are trying to defend from without."

Caregivers of veterans are "beggared by the cost of war," and in a myriad of ways. The disabled need round the clock assistance with activities of daily living. In current wars, modern medical care and evacuation methods are keeping alive many soldiers who would have died from similar wounds in Vietnam . Many such survivors require extensive and ongoing care, often for life. Caregivers become highly stressed, isolated, and financially pressed.

These social costs are not included in the federal budget. They are borne by veterans, their families, and society. For veterans and their

dependents, and for our nation, these are among the hidden costs of war. These are America's "extra casualties."

Copies of this pamphlet are available in our CHFM library or can be ordered from Quaker House ([www.quakerhouse.org](http://www.quakerhouse.org) or call 910-323-3912). The other two pamphlets, Study War Some More (If You Want To Work for Peace) and Patience & Determination: Tools for Ending Torture & Seeking Accountability, are equally valuable and at less than \$5.00 a real value.

## **New Book: Taking Time Off**

**Inspiring Stories of Students Who Enjoyed Successful Breaks from College and How You Can Plan Your Own**

**By Colin Hall and Ron Lieber, 1996**

**Book review by Emily Buehler**

This book contains over two dozen case studies of young people who took a break from college to work or volunteer in the US or abroad. It is also appropriate for recent high school or college graduates who don't know what to do next. Although I was not brave enough to extract myself from school, this book was a comfort when it was given to me. It showed me that I had options; and I give it partial credit for getting me off my "career path" after school.

Most of the cases are described in first person accounts. Experiences range from working on a deckhand on an Alaskan fishing boat to riding the rails to learn about hobo culture to teaching at a squatter's camp in Zimbabwe. The chapter on riding a bike cross-country is on-the-mark.

Most of the people interviewed for the book left school to “get away from a problem” or because their plans weren’t working out. They seldom had a plan for what to do after. The book includes four cases at the end to help readers get back on track. There is also a resource section (albeit a pre-Internet one).

## **Directory Updates**

Paul and Joyce Munk

New address and house phone:

750 Weaver Dairy Rd. Apt 1313, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

House phone is 919-918-3589.

Cell phone and email stay the same.

## **Additions to June Minutes/July Newsletter**

The following are additions to the Changes to Nominations Committee Report from June’s Business Meeting Minutes (included in the July newsletter). They were erroneously omitted from the report printed in the newsletter.

Library deletion: Ann Booth

Recorder: Julia Cleaver

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

**Worship and query**

How do we help members and attenders balance the needs of their lives with the needs of the Meeting?

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

First time attenders: Madeline Ashley, Emily Ashley, Sean O'Neill, Jessica Harper

**2. Review of minutes for June 2 and 19 Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business**

Approved.

**3. Letter of conscientious objector (Emily Ashley) (Attached)**

Friends commended Emily for her beautiful words and eloquent writing, and noted that it is important for all of us, whether or not we are at risk of being drafted, to examine and articulate our views and beliefs in relation to Friends' testimonies. One Friend wished he had been as aware of his beliefs, and had spoken them when he was 18, as she has. Several Friends expressed thanks to Emily. In John Woolman's autobiography, he exhorted Friends to act and to speak out as a people. Emily has reminded us to do this, too. Friends remarked on Emily's growth and learning to be a

peacemaker in our Meeting, and hoped that she will be an example in the world.

Curt Torell, a member of the Conscientious Objection Guidance Committee, offered a minute, stating that Emily's letter clearly documents her objection to personal participation in war of any form; that it is based upon moral, ethical, and religious beliefs; and that this conviction evolved through her nurture by this Meeting, Carolina Friends School, and the many others who have touched her life. As a woman, she was not legally bound to declare this stand but did so anyway—a true testament to her sincerity.

Emily's letter, and the accompanying minute, were accepted and approved with thanks from the Meeting.

**4. Request for membership of Ann Shy (Refer to Ministry & Worship)**

**5. Annual Report of Publications committee (James Harper) (Attached)**

Friends expressed thanks for P&R's quiet efficiency, and for helping to build our sense of community and keeping in touch. Thanks were also expressed for particular listservs and the many conveniences that P&R creates for the Meeting.

Accepted with thanks.

**6. Report of the Spiritual State of the Meeting (Dottie Heninger) (Attached)**

Accepted with thanks and appreciation.

**7. Report from the Bridging the Faith Divide ad hoc committee (Curt Torell) (Attached)**

Accepted with thanks and gratitude.

**8. Report from Nominations Committee (Jeff Brown)**

Jeff had several different items for Friends' consideration:

\*Proposal for Bill Schweke to join Care & Counsel. Approved.

\*With that approval, someone is now needed to serve on ARE.

\*Selection of members to serve on the ad hoc building committee is underway.

\*Update on the process for selection of CFS board members: Four members shall be nominated by and from CHFM for CFS. They will serve three year staggered terms, and three consecutive terms will be permitted. CFS is working to clarify roles and expectations for board members, and is in communication with CHFM.

\*Proposal for continuation of service on CFS board of Marsha Green, and beginning of service for Buffie Weber. Current board member Hugh Meriwether's term is ongoing, which leaves one spot remaining to be filled.

Friends expressed support for these people as board members for CFS, but not necessarily Marsha Green as a representative of CHFM, having moved her participation, if not her membership, to the Durham Meeting. Buffie Weber was approved as a representative for CHFM on the CFS board.

Nominations made its recommendation based on its understanding of our Meeting's responsibility, namely serving the

board with effective members versed in Quaker faith and practice. Nominations did not have a set of requirements from our Meeting relating to how board members would communicate with the Meeting. Jeff concluded that there is a need for clarification of the process and needs of our Meeting. The clerk will meet with Jeff and Nikki Vangsnes from CFS to clarify the process.

**9. Report of ad hoc committee on incorporation and minute (Matt Drake) (Approve?)**

Postponed.

**10.ECC minute (Lauren Carreto) (Approve?)**

Postponed.

**11. Messages and Announcements:**

- a. Clerking 101 document available on the website.
- b. Ruth Zalph gave a brief report on FGC Annual Gathering, and offered reading material to Friends.
- c. Memorial Service was held for Sue Fletcher last Friday, and it was a wonderful and well-attended celebration of her life.

**Worship and greeting**

**Attending:** Hank Elkins, Ruth Zalph, Jan Hutton, Barbara Williamson, Judy Purvis, James Harper, Jessica Harper, John Hite, Marilyn A. Dyer, Anne Smith, Ann Kessemeyer, Nancy Elkins, Emilie Condon, Ann Miller, Ken Grogan, Kitty Bergel, Curt Torell, Buffie Webber, Beth Kurtz-Costes, Bettie L. Flash, Dottie Heninger, Lois Ann Hobbs, Tom Munk, Jeff Brown, Lynn Drake, Matt Drake, Lloyd Kramer, Sean O'Neill, Emily Ashley, Madelyn Ashley

## Conscientious Objector Letter from Emily Ashley

Dear Friends,

On June 13th of this year, I turned 18 years old. I knew this age was a special age for many reasons; one being the age that one must begin thinking of registering for the selective service, for the males at least. As of turning 18, I knew I wanted to set an example for other women. So, I ask that this meeting keep this letter as documentation of my beliefs.

Whenever the idea of war would come up, I always knew where I stood. I've been raised a pacifist through the ideas and morals I was taught since birth. I attended Carolina Friends School, the local Quaker school, from the age of 3 to 13. In school, we were taught such things as words before violence and other peaceful ways. As well as Carolina Friends School, I've attended the Religious Society of Friends Meeting since birth. Both my mother and father were Quakers and taught me the pacifist morals I have today. I sincerely consider myself a Quaker, and in that, will not take the life of any human being.

This moral belief comes from my belief that there is that of God in everyone. In believing in God, I believe that He/She has put Himself/Herself in everyone because every person is of divine presence. Therefore killing any other human being is murdering a beautiful creation of God. God gave men and women life and only His/Her hands can take it away without the help from any violent act. Although I am not required to produce this letter, I feel strongly about stating my views. I believe that everyone has a voice to be heard and everyone's opinion is of great importance. One

never knows what may happen, and it is always good to prepare for anything that may occur. Many women do not think about this right as they turn 18, or after. I want to be an example for other women to know that it is important for them to state their views. All people have a voice and all should be heard.

If a draft occurs and women were included, I would be morally against any physical connection with war. I am aware of non-combatant rolls that people are put in, and I will state now that I would not be involved with that either. I am strongly against any personal participation in a war or in aiding a war. I believe that I can support my country without participating in a war simply supporting those I am around in my community and my family. I can be patriotic without being involved in a war.

I promise to love and support my country forever. I am extremely proud of my country, but I believe I can show that and not be involved with or supportive of a war. I want to make it clear that although I do not support the idea of war, it does not mean that I do not respect those who are fighting for my country. I do respect that they are risking their life for my country and me, and just as I respect them, I expect them to respect my choices.

As largely praised and respected Albert Einstein once said; "I am not only a pacifist but a militant pacifist. I am willing to fight for peace. Nothing will end war unless the people themselves refuse to go to war."

Sincerely,  
Emily C. Ashley

## **Annual Report of Publications and Records Committee**

P&R's partial membership turnover in July 2010 resulted in a few months of "getting up and running" with the newsletters and directory, while ongoing committee members maintained the listserv and website. Small steps were taken to assist Friends in communicating with committees and the Meeting at large. As the fiscal year ends, we look forward to improvements in the newsletter and directory, the committee's environmental impact, and the Meeting website.

### **Things that have been done:**

- James continued to manage the biweekly listserv and the website.
- James and Dave continued to manage In The Light announcements.
- Sam became involved with updating the online calendar.
- Emily took over production of the monthly newsletter.
- The 2011 directory was produced in time for the new year.
- A "How-To Update the Directory" document was created for future years.
- Emily and Robin Harper worked on expanding the "Guide for Clerks" posted on the website. (This is still in progress.)
- We've asked Nominations to consider moving the post of "Record Keeper" out of the umbrella of P&R, since our committee has had no interactions with the Record Keeper all year. (This is still in progress.)

### **Other Improvements:**

- The directory now includes email addresses for each committee.
- Listserv deadlines were added to the front page of the directory for easy access.

- The directory is available as a PDF. At least a dozen Friends requested a copy. We hope to waste zero paper copies, and are monitoring the supply, printing more as needed. A sign in the directory box instructs Friends on how to alert P&R if we run out.
- We've reduced the number of printed newsletters to 70/ month. We can easily print more if they are again needed.
- An improved understanding of Kinko's printing options minimized the cost of printing newsletters. (for example, we can save money by not having them trimmed.)

### **Planned improvements:**

- Consider changing the size of the newsletter pages from legal to letter so that we can print on 100% recycled paper. The lower cost of letter-size paper may reduce the overall cost, even if more pages are needed. Also, we can reduce margin size to save paper.
- Look into using a locally-owned printer. (The convenience, price, and consistent good work of Kinko's, however, may keep us using them.)
- Improve the directory-updating process: send a group email to Friends who don't respond to the request for updates, to reduce the number of phone calls necessary.
- Improve the 2012 directory. For example, refer Friends to the June-July 2012 newsletters for updated committees, to alleviate confusion caused by mid-year turnover of committee members.

### **Exciting New Directions:**

- We welcome Terry Mehlman as a new committee member. With Terry's help, we'll discuss ways to improve and expand the website.
- A possible "column" in the newsletter will highlight areas of the website in the hopes of making Friends more familiar with all it has

to offer. As always, non-electronically inclined Friends will be welcome to contact P&R for printed versions.

- Newsletter contents that are not of a transient nature (like book reviews) will be posted on the website, to give them more exposure. Friends will be encouraged to contribute.

We want to thank non-committee members who helped with directory phone calls and verifying other directory information last December: Carolyn White, Jan Hutton, Anne Smith, Matt Drake, Linda Graham, Nancy Elkins, Robin Harper, and Terry Mehlman. (If we have forgotten anyone, please correct us.) Also, thanks to Ann Kessemeier who often transports the newsletters from Kinko's to Meeting. And thanks to Robin Harper for her continued assistance giving advice.

**We want to remind Friends of how to contact us:**

- Newsletter, listserv, and In the Light announcements go to [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org)
- Directory updates go to [directory@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:directory@chapelhillfriends.org)
- To reach the P&R clerk, please email [publicationsandrecords@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:publicationsandrecords@chapelhillfriends.org).

Using these emails (in particular the first one) instead of P&R committee members' personal emails will ensure that your message reaches the appropriate committee members for posting in all outlets.

Thank you.

Submitted by Publications and Records: Emily Buehler (clerk), James Harper, Sam Leeman-Munk, David Curtain, Robin Harper (recording clerk)

## **Report of the Annual Spiritual State of the Meeting**

Members and attenders gathered in our Meeting House on Saturday morning, March 26, 2011. Our query for the morning was “How have Quaker testimonies shaped our spiritual community for 75 years? Where do we go from here?” Ministry and Worship planned the meeting to deepen understanding of the Meeting’s history, provide an opportunity to evaluate the current status of the Meeting, and envision our future. This report also reflects comments voiced in our follow up forum held on Sunday, March 27, and includes the expressions for our future provided in our Baby Blessings the following Sunday. Our intent is to provide an expanded view of the spiritual state of our Meeting

### **HISTORY:**

Lois Ann Hobbs, interviewed by Lloyd Kramer, eloquently provided the background (and stories) for the early years of our Meeting. Our founders first met in Carroll Hall on UNC campus, and then decided to build. Lois Ann explained that the decision was made and a mortgage was obtained, all on faith that the Meeting House was needed. She described the many work days that she and her family participated in to clear the land, bought from UNC, which she noted was a “dump.” Years later, the Meeting celebrated as the mortgage was paid off. Their faith took shape in a small Meeting House which was expanded in later years. It remains an example of simplicity.

Lloyd and Lois Ann then turned to how the early members lived the Quaker testimonies. They recalled how our founders helped with the sale of the Quaker school in Carrboro which taught African-American children at the time of the Civil War, and used the proceeds to start the Hargraves Center.

During the Second World War, our Meeting sponsored the first Jewish refugee family as they settled in Chapel Hill. They noted that our members later had helped establish Quaker House after the Vietnam War as a calling to embody the Peace testimony. In the 1990's our Meeting sponsored Burmese refugees as they came to our community. The InterFaith Council was initiated by members of our Meeting 30 years ago in response to the Quaker testimony for Community. Early members of the Meeting did not support the founding of the Carolina Friends School because it did not have an endowment. These Friends were following their leadings, a clear sign of the integrity they held as Quakers. Quickly, however, support blossomed and the Early School began meeting in the Meeting House space. The School was established as the only place in North Carolina which provided racially integrated education. Our embrace of the School reflects our commitment to the testimony of Equality and the traditional Quaker emphasis on education.

## PRESENT

To better understand how our Meeting currently reflects Quaker testimonies, we worked in small groups, with each group focusing on one testimony.

### Simplicity

We agreed that this is a demanding testimony. It includes a discipline that we unclutter our lives and also our hearts. The clutter in our hearts is often the more difficult, including information overload, "baggage from the past", and fear. Emphasis was given to the need for listening deeply with compassion and without distraction. Only when we know our hearts are free and safe can we live a truly simple life. We can do without the material excesses of our society, but what do we do instead? Focus on more

time alone and on more time for our relationship to God. One caution noted was that of hubris of thinking that our simplicity makes us more virtuous than members of other religions.

### Peace

We noted that peace results from the right relationship with the earth, humans and community. We need to expand dialogue with the larger community to articulate what we mean. Peace is a well known Quaker testimony and we must remain worthy of the trust associated with this testimony. Supporting peace is not the equivalent of nonviolence; it is much more and begins with an individual's inner peace and extends to the conviction that all wars must end. War is the problem, not the solution. Our Meeting supports social justice and peace causes. Our 18 year olds are counseled as they identify their individual positions related to conscientious objection. We developed the Choices program to help other youth consider alternatives to military recruitment. Our Bridging the Faith Divide committee has helped us welcome Muslims to use our building for their worship. Our involvement with prisoners and JUICE are other expressions of the Peace testimony. We are actively involved in FCNL; we support IFC and CFS, and recently appreciated a visit from AFSC staff.

### Integrity

We affirmed that each of us has a piece of the truth; we need to listen to each other closely, sometimes beyond language. Integrity is being true to our callings; it can be seen in our actions. We acknowledged that friction can lead to growth. Still waiting and acceptance of each other are necessary for our Meeting. Indeed, we need to nurture each other so that all truths can be heard.

## Community

As a community we seek a larger truth. It is sometimes difficult for new attenders to understand the spiritual dimensions of our meeting for worship. Connecting the spiritual and activist aspects of our community is an ongoing challenge. We need to be inclusive of everyone in our own CHFM community, including Quakers at Carol Woods. We all acknowledge that diversity enriches our Meeting, while understanding that members and attenders may participate in different ways in different phases of their lives. The Comfort Crafters in our Meeting continue to make quilts for community members who are experiencing pain and challenges. They provide tangible comfort as they deliver their quilts to members in need.

## Equality

We agreed that the essence of this testimony is our belief that there is that of God in everyone and that continuing revelation is available to all. Problems arise when we ignore those who have less perceived power. Inequalities happen when we don't trust each other. Inclusion of other races and other ages remains a challenge for our community. Quaker process is an expression of equality; we all have access to the truth.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Members and attenders joined together to examine and to celebrate our Meeting. We were glad to have the opportunity to reflect on our own Meeting and remember the large legacy of this Meeting's work in living the Quaker testimonies. We all talked a lot and enjoyed worship together. Our spiritual state is vibrant; our activities related to the testimonies are numerous.

We have many suggestions for improving our community life: hold a picnic for all our renters, more small groups, more opportunities for fellowship, develop ways to say goodbye to those who leave our community, increase attendance at Meeting for Business to build our shared truth. We also appreciate the beginnings of our ad hoc committee's exploration for joining SAYMA. And we celebrate our children and their families. Members spoke with deep gratitude about the experience their children have in our First Day School. Recently, we cherished a young attender's message in meeting for worship about the mystery and wonders of our world. We embrace her marvel at our world as we look forward to our Meeting's future.

We will celebrate our 75th year and be hopeful for the years ahead. Our celebration will include Allie Scales' leadings to help us develop a Quaker embroidery illustrating our Meeting's experience. Other celebrations are anticipated. We closed in worship and good fellowship.

**Bridging the Faith Divide Subcommittee (BFD)**  
**Summary of Activities: January – June 2011**  
**Report to Meeting with Attention to Business – June 19, 2011**

1. Abdul Waheed presented his May 1 forum, "The Personal Journey of an African American Christian to Al-Islam," about his spiritual journey and views on the current state of American Muslims.
  
2. We continue to support Jumu'ah Friday prayers in both sponsorship and attendance.

3. We communicate with Peace & Social Concerns about BFD and, along with Miriam Thompson, AIME (Abrahamic Faith Leaders for a Just Peace in the Israel and Palestine). These groups overlap. AIME is developing a Consultative Event scheduled for the fall with local faith leaders to create a safe space for dialogue about Israel/ Palestine. It is also drafting a “Common Theological Grounding” statement as a basis for this event (see attached). P&SC suggests this be part of a fall forum for our meeting to review and weigh in.

4. Barbara Conger continues to advocate for a better understanding and inclusion of Islam at CFS, especially through the Afghan Sister Schools Project (see report).

5. We document local media coverage on American Muslims showing both the spread of Islamophobia and also letters to the editor showing support.

6. Several people from our meeting attend interfaith gatherings ranging from dinners with focused discussion to meetings of ordained clergy. Our committee will look at ways to improve multiple interfaith connections.

7. Our meeting’s listserv and newsletter post special interfaith events.

8. We heard Feisal Abdul Rauf (the Imam at the center of the proposed “Ground Zero Mosque” in New York City) during three of his talks in the Triangle. Much of his message resonated with Quaker values. One talk—a small, private session with Raul and a local Turkish women’s group—came through the invitation of Sister Rose Aslan. Curt will summarize his talk for the newsletter.

9. We are exploring how to share with a wider Quaker audience our experiences and suggestions for reaching out to the Muslim community.

10. Nancy led a panel discussion at Carol Woods, June 4, on “American Muslim Life in the Triangle and Chapel Hill: What is life like for American Muslims who live in our community?” Roughly 70 people attended.

11. We hold in the light the passing of Kay Eager. Her memorial service was a tribute to a kind, quiet, compassionate woman whose life bridged the divide between Quakers and Muslims. During her last year, Kay was an active attender at local Mosques, and many described her as “Quaker Muslim.” We will miss her participation and involvement.

We welcome suggestions at any time from the meeting.

Shalom–Salaam–Peace,  
Bridging the Faith Divide Subcommittee, 6/12/11: Nancy Milio, Barbara Conger, Miriam Thompson, Curt Torell

## Calendar

(All events at Meetinghouse unless otherwise indicated.)

<b>Sun. 8/7</b>	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods
	12:30pm	<b>Potluck &amp; IFC donations</b>
<b>Tue. 8/9</b>	7–8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation – Call Hank Elkins
<b>Fri. 8/12</b>	5–6pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd

<b>Sun. 8/14</b>	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Peace & Social Concerns Com. – Schoolhouse
Tue. 8/16	7–8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation – Call Hank Elkins
Wed. 8/17	10am–12pm	Quaker Women’s Gathering – Bettie Flash Home
	7pm	YRE Committee – Meetinghouse
Fri. 8/19	5–6pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
<b>Sun. 8/21</b>	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:30am	<b>Meeting for Worship w/Attention to Business</b>
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods
Tue. 8/23	7–8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation – Call Hank Elkins
Fri. 8/26	5–6pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
Sat. 8/27	6:30pm	Interfaith Iftar – United Church of Chapel Hill
<b>Sun. 8/28</b>	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: Living Quaker Testimonies
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Environmental Concerns Com. – Schoolhouse
	10pm	<b>Deadline To Turn In Items For Newsletter!</b>
Thur. 9/1	9am–1pm	CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter
Fri. 9/2	5–6pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice – E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
<b>Sun. 9/4</b>	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: tba
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship – Carol Woods
	12:30pm	<b>Potluck &amp; IFC donations – Schoolhouse</b>
Tue. 9/6	7–8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation – Call Hank Elkins
Wed. 9/7	10am–12pm	Quaker Women’s Gathering – Bettie Flash Home
Fri. 9/9	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](mailto: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](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org).

This and past issues of the newsletter are available online at [www.chapelhillfriends.org](http://www.chapelhillfriends.org). To get items posted on our website, send the information to [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org).