

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Newsletter

January, 2012



Monthly Query:

How do I identify, develop, and use my particular gifts for the good of all?

Contents:

Upcoming Forum Schedule	1
Important Change in Time of Business Meeting	2
Conversations in Preparation for Ben Pink Dandelion.....	2
Friend Looking for Work.....	3
“A Quaker Path to Muslim Engagement” Posted Online	3
Update on Schoolhouse Construction	3
Compassionate Listening: Healing Our World From the Inside Out.....	4
FCG Gathering: Plan Ahead	4
Follow Up to Forum with Occupy Chapel Hill	5
Report on Quaker House - December 2011	5
Report from Graeme Durovich on Her “Gap Year” in North India.....	6
Free E-book Available Online	7
Directory Updates	7
Minutes from Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	8
Calendar	15

Upcoming Forum Schedule

January 1 "The Elm Tree Dance" - facilitated by Jennifer Leeman

The Elm Tree Dance is a Community celebration to recognize the sacredness of the natural world and ask for its healing. With Dirk Spruyt, Perry Martin, and other members of the Environmental Concerns Committee.

January 8 "Quaker Heroes", an inter-generational forum - Children from First Day School (CRE) will talk about who their Quaker Heroes are and why.

Important: Change in Time of Business Meeting

At the December 18 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Friends came to unity on the following minute: Friends approved the recommendation from Ministry & Worship to change the time of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business to 9 AM beginning in January. The resident will make sure that the Meeting room is available for worship at 8 AM on third Sundays. After hearing several concerns, we will encourage attenders to arrive promptly and enter quietly so that worship is disturbed as little as possible. M&W will listen for how Friends experience this and suggest adjustments as needed.

As we look forward to more time to consider our business in worship, we also realize the impact this will have on attenders to early Meeting for Worship. Although the “official” starting time for early Meeting will remain 8:30, the Meeting room will be available at 8 AM for worship. The greeter will make sure that those attenders arriving after 8 wait until 8:30 to enter the Meeting room. The clerk will close the Meeting at 9 AM and move into Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Attenders coming to Business Meeting are encouraged to enter the Meeting house quietly so there is minimal disruption to worship.

Conversations in Preparation for Ben Pink Dandelion

(Conversations to prepare for the workshop with Ben Pink Dandelion in November, 2012)

The Ministry and Worship Committee is launching a new series of conversations on the history and contemporary practices of Liberal Quakerism. These conversations will become part of our shared celebration and reflection as we mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting’s celebration that will reflect on the meaning of “Spiritual Nurture and Community.”

The conversations will take place between 1:00 and 3:00 PM on the following First Days in 2012: February 12, March 11, April 8, May 6, September 9, and October 14. Lloyd Kramer will lead the conversations, which will focus on pamphlets that Ben Pink Dandelion has written in recent years. We’ll begin with “Celebrating the Quaker Way” (Feb. 12, March 11) and continue with discussions of “Confident Quakerism” (April 8, May 6). We’ll also explore other readings in the fall as we prepare for a daylong workshop with Ben Dandelion and Deborah Shaw on Saturday, November 10, 2012.

Participants will be invited to bring a simple brown-bag lunch and begin a time of sharing after the rise of late Meeting for Worship on each of the “conversation days” (except on potluck day May 6). Then we’ll gather at 1:00 PM for discussion of the provocative themes in each pamphlet. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Meeting House foyer; and you may also indicate your interest in the workshops by sending an e-mail to ministryandworship@chapelhillfriends.org.

The Ministry and Worship committee will provide low-cost copies (total cost: \$5) of the pamphlets for everyone who wants to join this ongoing, open-ended discussion of the past, present, and future of Quaker beliefs and action.

Friend Looking for Work

Submitted by Asta Crowe

Our friend Reggie has recently been released from Orange Correctional Center and is looking for work. Several Friends have worked with Reggie, helping him get back on his feet. Many Friends will have met him on Sunday mornings when he attends Meeting for Worship. He is living in Carrboro and needs work. He's done yard work and general assistance for several people in the community and comes with high praise for his enthusiasm and hard work.

If you have any yard work or odd jobs that you'd like help with, please keep Reggie in mind. He's looking for full time work but jobs are hard to find in this economy, and it's especially challenging for people with criminal records. You can contact him through Asta Crowe (933-4564; astacrowe@gmail.com)

“A Quaker Path to Muslim Engagement” Posted Online

FCNL posted on the issues section of its web site the article, "A Quaker Path to Muslim Engagement: Lessons from a Work in Progress" describing some of our meeting's work with our local Muslim community. We hope this extends our message and experience to the wider Friends community and that others will reach out to their Muslim brothers and sisters as our meeting has. Go to: http://fcnl.org/issues/religious_freedom/muslim_engagement/

Update on Schoolhouse Construction

Submitted by Sue Donaldson

On Tuesday [in November], Ellen, the architect, Scotty, the builder and Kirk, the site manager met with me about the addition. The good and surprising news is that they will start sometime next week!.

They will lay down a "gravel" layer so that the trucks will not get stuck in the mud. They will need 3 parking spots facing the UNC lot for pickup trucks so I will put cones out Monday morning. Kirk said that they will be mindful of our daily schedule especially our times of quiet. He also said that he may do some work on Saturdays but that he would let me know in advance so I could check with the Meeting to be sure it wouldn't cause any conflict.

They predict it will take 8-10 weeks depending on the weather and any unforeseen problems. The plans are the same as the ones we saw in the past except for the placement of one window in the storage area. I have a set of the plans in case anyone would like to look at it.

Thank you for your support in this and please let me know if you have any concerns or questions.

Compassionate Listening: Healing Our World from the Inside Out

Saturday, February 11, Fearington Village, Pittsboro

Submitted by Jan Hutton

Compassionate Listening is an act of personal, social and spiritual transformation. Strengthen your capacity to connect with the humanity of each person whose path you cross, whether or not you share the same values and behaviors.

Explore the Core practices of Compassionate Listening, www.compassionatelistening.org/

- Humanize and connect with people who “trigger” you
- Shift from reactivity to compassion
- Suspend judgment
- Nurture compassion for yourself and others

A one-day training will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2012, 9am-5pm, in Fearington Village, Pittsboro, NC: <http://www.compassionatelistening.org/calendar/introductory-trainings/2232/pittsboro-nc-jan-hutton-2>

Suggested donation is \$35 -\$75, based on your ability to pay (if money is an issue, please talk to me!) Contact Jan Hutton for information: janhutton@earthlink.net, 919.967.1959. Contact Education hours for Social Workers will be available.

I'm a member of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting and am very grateful to have a minute of support from the Meeting for my ministry with The Compassionate Listening Project. Over the last 40 years, I've served as a community organizer, social worker in hospice and hospital settings, meditation teacher, and I hope, a 'kind' person.

FGC Gathering: Plan Ahead

July 1-7, Kingston RI

It's not too soon to get excited about next summer's FGC Gathering, "All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir" in Kingston, Rhode Island. Evening programs include The Spirit of Mediation: Conflict Transformation in Divided Societies; All Together Now: A community sing for all ages; Interest Groups (consider submitting an interest group proposal by May 7); A Land Twice Promised: a moving story of Israeli and Palestinian women; and The Fire and the Hammer, a performance of a Quaker choral composition featuring readings from George Fox's journal, and choral pieces based on the readings (consider joining the choir!)

There is no tent camping on campus at the 2012 Gathering, and public campgrounds fill up since Rhode Island is a major tourist destination. Tent campers should make reservations now.

A list of workshops with short descriptions and the 2012 fee schedule are coming in January. Read about the gathering at <http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/>. Sign up for emails updates at <http://www.fgcquaker.org/subscribe>.

Follow Up to Forum with Occupy Chapel Hill

Submitted by Alice Carlton

Friends who want to keep up with Occupy Chapel Hill please note the web site is: <http://occupychapelhill.org>. To subscribe to the OCH general listserv (announcements, events, meetings, minutes and other info directly related to Occupy Chapel Hill): <https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/occupychapelhill> (click on Subscribe on the left.) To subscribe to the OCH discussion listserv (a place for participants to discuss and share thoughts on Occupy, politics, the economy, environment, activism, and anything else that seems relevant to the Occupy movement): <https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/occupychapelhill-discussion> (click on Subscribe on the left.)

Report on Quaker House – December 2011

Quaker House Director Chuck Fager will be retiring in November, 2012. Chuck served as director for the past ten years, providing strong leadership, building relationships, raising funds and carrying out the mission of Quaker House. The search process for a new director is near completion, and we hope an announcement can be made in January.

In the past year, Quaker House has been active in supporting the GI Rights Hotline and counselors Steve Woolford and Lenore Yarger. The number of calls has been increasing, with more callers experiencing mental or physical health problems or expressing interest in conscientious objector status. The Military Industrial Complex at 50 Conference at Guilford College last January that Chuck organized led to a spin off conference in Charlottesville, VA in September. Many of the conference papers can be found at <http://warisacrime.org/mic50papers>. Chuck continues to work with N.C. Stop Torture Now to expose and put a stop to the “torture flights” operated by Aero Contractors from the Johnston County airport. While it appears that wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are winding down, the shift to secret wars, drones, private contractors, and Special Ops accelerates. And who knows about Iran! Meanwhile, the attention of the Occupy Wall Street movement has yet to link the calamitous effect of military spending on our economy.

Quaker House continues to receive support from individuals and meetings, but the level of contributions has fallen a bit below last year’s levels. With no endowment and less than six months in reserve funds, fund raising is an ongoing effort. We are fortunate to have steady support from many individuals and meetings, but funding remains a concern, especially as we transition to a new director, which will require a period of overlap for orientation. The current board is seeking to play a more active role in development. Member meetings will be asked to nominate Friends with experience in non-profit organizations to serve on the board and also Friends from a younger cohort. If interested, contact one of our representatives.

If you wish more information, contact CHFQM Quaker House board representatives: Maria Darlington, Tom McQuiston, Pam Schwingl, Curt Torell, and Ruth Zalph.

Report from Graeme Durovich on her “Gap Year” in North India, 2010-2011

Submitted by Graeme Durovich

Note: Graeme originally requested a grant from the Shotts Funds to go to Tajikistan where she would teach in a Waldorf School. Due to political developments, she was unable to follow through on her original plans and went to India instead, where she had a very rich and rewarding experience, as reported below.

Last year I had the extraordinary opportunity to live and work within a North Indian village with PardadaPardadi Educational Society. Ten years ago, Sam Singh retired and returned to his village to begin a school, PardadaPardadi, with the hope of improving the local villagers' lives. The school provides rural girls from the lowest sectors of society with both vocational training and academic education. A couple of years ago Sam discovered a community on the outskirts of his village that he never knew existed, the Kanjar community. Traditionally members of this community were semi-nomadic and made their living through illicit means. To an extent this is still true today. Frequently by the end of an art period, half of the crayons the girls had been using would be gone. I quickly discovered the girls were collecting them in their uniforms to take home. As I learned, stealing is a normal, everyday activity for these children, and one they don't think twice about. They see no wrong in it. Rather it is their right, as Kanjars, to thief.

A year ago at PardadaPardadi I developed an introductory program primarily for the Kanjari girls. I worked with the teachers to create a curriculum and daily schedule for these children who were accustomed to being relatively free to do whatever they wanted all day long. When I wasn't working with the teachers or teaching the girls, I consulted with their families and worked to resolve the issues preventing the girls from attending school daily. Through the help of other volunteers, the community now also has clean water, solar lamps and a community toilet facility.

The ways in which I benefited from my experiences in India are unquantifiable. PardadaPardadi introduced me to the complexities of poverty, creative approaches for overcoming challenges presented by poverty, and sensitive ways to interact with and create positive change within a predominantly closed community.

Occasionally during my time in India I spent a day or two in complete solitude. Living very simply as a woman in a place with very limited access to the outside world had a huge impact on what I was able to do in my free time. I led a fairly monastic lifestyle, especially on the weekends. These times of solitude and contemplation led me to a more tranquil state of being, which I am working to maintain now that I've returned to the US. As a result, I have a stronger, more accepting sense of my inner self and am far less influenced by outer forces. In the end it is perhaps most exciting to look back and see the changes I effected in the Kanjar community.

Earlier this fall, I applied for funding from my college in hopes of being able to return this January to PardadaPardadi during Wellesley College's Winter session. Yesterday I learned that I received the travel grant. I am thrilled to return to India to see how the school is progressing and to work with the teachers and students once more. I am greatly appreciative of all the support I received from the Meeting, including the funding I received from the Mary and Claude Shotts Memorial Fund that helped make this incredible opportunity possible.

With deep gratitude,
Graeme Durovich

Free E-book Available Online

P&R received the following email inviting Friends to read a book that is posted online:

Dear Chapel Hill Religious Society of Friends,

I appreciated the monthly query in your newsletter:

"How does my life reflect the joy of living in the Spirit?"

There is a free ebook, "Love Breathing," which is available at www.howtoLoveGod.org. It describes in detail how one person practices living in the joy of Spirit.

The book relates methods to help people practice loving God better in their daily life.

These methods have initiated a wondrous change in my own relationship with God. Now I feel inspired to share them with others. Hence this message to you all.

With deep respect and
In Christ's love,
Eric Munro
emunro94304@yahoo.com

Directory Updates

Ruth Zalph
New email: ragingrannieruth@yahoo.com

**Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
December 18, 2011**

Carolyn White, clerk; Robin Harper, recording clerk

Worship and query: How does my life reflect the joy of living in the Spirit? In what ways does my daily life demonstrate Friends' testimonies so that others might want to follow them?

One Friend spoke to the way that living our testimonies can really inspire others.

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

Welcome to first time attender Jimmy Farris.

After the clerk asked after the comfort of Friends, we approved lowering the meeting room temperature to 68 degrees.

2. Review of minutes for Nov. 20 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business and Nov. 3 Appointed Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Approved.

3. Annual Report from Care & Counsel—Chris Stanley (Attached)

Minor correction of the report: the addition of Joseph Drust as Leo's father.

In addition to the report, Chris reported that Marilyn Dyer is now back in her apartment after suffering a fractured shoulder from a fall.

Accepted with great gratitude.

4. Recommendation from Ministry & Worship to change time for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business to 9:00am—Jan Hutton

Jan gave highlights of M&W's discussion around making this change. The main reason for considering the change is the lack of time we have to consider issues prayerfully. Historically, MWAB has been held on a weekday evening and on Sunday afternoon, the latter having no end time, which meant that as people trickled away as they grew tired, less and less people were making decisions for the whole Meeting. M&W researched newsletters to compare attendance at these various times, and found that numbers have exponentially increased since moving the time to between meetings for worship. In an informal poll, both regular and sporadic attenders of early meeting have expressed support of changing the time, and are willing to be flexible in their own worship (coming early to get the full hour, if desired).

Questions were asked about the specific logistics of how it will be handled. Jan responded that worship begins as soon as one person begins worshipping. She confirmed that John will have the meetinghouse open and ready by 8:00, for those who desire it, although the official start time of early meeting will still be 8:30, to avoid confusion. The greeter will inform any newcomers to early meeting. Jan acknowledged that there will be a bit of a stir at 9:00, as people enter for MWAB. If the change is approved, an article about the change will appear in the newsletter and on the listserv, to prepare people.

Past clerks agreed that they often felt they did not have enough time to properly sit with questions. Time is needed not necessarily for “doing business,” but to allow more space in doing the business, for prayer and listening.

Many questions were raised about the trickling in of attenders causing disruptions to worship in early meeting. After much discussion, it was decided that we would “live into” this change, giving us a chance to be aware of how we affect each other as we live in community. There will likely be further discussion as we experience it and see what, if any, alterations need to be made.

Friends approved the recommendation from M&W to change the time for MWAB to 9:00am beginning in January. The resident will make sure that the Meeting room is ready for worship at 8:00am on third Sundays. After hearing several concerns, we will encourage attenders to arrive promptly and enter quietly, so that worship is disturbed as little as possible. M&W will listen for how Friends experience this and suggest adjustments as needed.

5. Report on 75th anniversary celebrations—Lloyd Kramer (Attached)

Friends expressed appreciation and enthusiasm for the committee’s work and plans.

6. Peace & Social Concerns request to support campaign—Sarah Grimme (Attached)

This campaign culminates with a Feb. 20 town hall meeting in Raleigh, hosted by NC Peace Action and American Friends Service Committee, regarding restoring our local communities by bringing funds back that have been used to pay for the war. P&SC asks the Meeting to join the campaign to restore communities and bring war dollars home.

Approved.

7. Update from Finance Committee (Matt Drake)

Reporting briefly, Matt said that our goal is \$64,000. So far we have either received or been promised \$52,000. If Friends can continue donating and we receive an additional \$12,000, we will have reached our goal.

8. Messages and Announcements:

- Christmas Party: tonight, 5:00–7:00pm
- Christmas Eve candlelight service, 5:30pm
- January 1 Forum: Elm Tree Dance – A community celebration to recognize the sacredness of the natural world and ask for its healing. With Dirk Spruyt, Perry Martin, and other members of the Environmental Concerns Committee.
- January 21: Foreclosure Prevention Clinic at University Methodist Church. Ann Shy is working on this; see her for details.
- Work has begun or will begin soon on adding the Early School storeroom to the back side of the schoolhouse

Worship and greeting

Attending: Perry Martin, Wren Hendrickson, Lloyd Kramer, Jan Hutton, Carolyn Stuart, Richard Miller, James Harper, Dirk Kelder, Bettie Flash, Kitty Bergel, Karen Merrey, Ruth

Zalph, Emilie Condon, Nancy Elkins, Judy Purvis, Julius A. Holt, Ken Grogan, Nancy Milio, Sarah Grimme, John Hite, Jimmy Farris, Tom McQuiston, Dottie Heninger, Chris Stanley, Faye Stanley, Hank Elkins, Paul Munk, Matt Drake, Lynn Drake, Joyce Munk, Rodney Burrell, Jennifer Leeman, Deborah Gibbs

Annual Report of the Care and Counsel Committee November 13, 2011

The Care and Counsel Committee is responsible for the oversight of pastoral care of each Meeting member and attender and is concerned with each one's spiritual and physical welfare. In its work, the committee is mindful of the need for privacy and confidentiality.

Early in 2010, Care and Counsel began efforts to better document the processes for handling our responsibilities, to provide information for future members and to insure that we handle our duties effectively. We have been working on descriptions of what is needed for each of the activities under our responsibility and continue those efforts to understand what is needed and establish ways to handle each situation in a complete and timely way.

In fulfilling our committee responsibilities, members of Care and Counsel participated in several clearness committees for membership and support committees that met for a variety of purposes. We also helped arrange Memorial Services, family gatherings to inter ashes in the Memorial Garden and assisted with finding resources to assist those with special needs.

We are pleased to receive occasional end-of-life instructions or CO letters from our community of worshipers and we made efforts to better organize those and made a list of those we have on file. Marilyn Dyer has continued working with the Meeting's Memorial Book to ensure that all deaths of Meeting members and attenders are appropriately recorded with brief biographies. If you have remembrances you would like to contribute, please contact Marilyn.

Under the care of the Care and Counsel Committee, Jan Hutton has continued to offer Compassionate Listening workshops. She has met regularly with her support committee.

We note with sadness the deaths of these Meeting members and attenders: Linda Di Lorenzo, Sue Fletcher, Kay Eager, Margaret Heyboer and Martin Doherty. Care and Counsel has looked for opportunities to assist the families of these members of our community as they adjust to the loss of their loved ones. We have also tried to find ways to support the family of Ian and Allie Scales as they work to help Ian recover from strokes and major heart surgery.

In the Spring, we celebrated baby dedications for Leo, son of Marie Hopper and Joseph Drust, and Adrian, son of Savannah Crites and Holly Dunlop. Our community looks forward to being part of their lives and providing love and support. In the Fall, Care and Counsel presented a Forum on Clearness Committees that was well attended and well received.

We are grateful for the service of Lynn Drake, who completed her term on the Care and Counsel Committee, and we note that her contributions have been greatly missed. We are happy to have been joined by Bill Schweke.

The work of the Care and Counsel Committee is shared by many others in our Meeting who are not members of the committee. We appreciate this assistance in providing love and support for one another in this blessed community.

Chris Stanley, clerk, for Madelyn Ashley, David Brower, Julia Cleaver, Marilyn Dyer, Beth Kurtz–Costes, Perry Martin, Gwynne Pomeroy, Bill Schweke and Carolyn White, ex–officio.

CHFM 75TH ANNIVERSARY: SPIRITUAL NURTURE AND COMMUNITY: MAKING A PLACE FOR DEEPER THINGS TO HAPPEN

The Ministry and Workshop Committee invites each of you to join us in several activities we have planned to celebrate our Meeting's 75th anniversary:

Forum on 1/22/12 with Deborah Shaw from Guilford to introduce and provide an overview for upcoming forums, for a course taught by Lloyd Kramer, and for a one–day workshop with Ben Pink Dandelion. Title: “Spiritual Nurture and Accompaniment: Making a Place for Deeper Things to Happen.” [NOTE: Deborah would welcome participation by our teens in this forum.]

Forum on 2/ 5/12 to launch the year's activities and to brainstorm ideas: panel of committee conveners will discuss the query: “As we go about the work of the Meeting, how does (might) my committee contribute to its spiritual nurture and community?”

Forum on 3/25/12 to review and connect all the ideas and projects launched in January and to provide a bridge into the activities and events scheduled to for the rest of the year.

Course taught by Lloyd Kramer meeting on 2/12, 3/11/, 4/8, 5/6 . . . 9/9 and 10/14 from 1–3 to lead up to the BPD workshop: “SEEKING THE QUAKER WAY.” Will include readings of “Celebrating the Quaker Way”, “Confident Quakerism”, etc. Sign–up sheet is posted on the Meetinghouse door—please indicate whether supervised children's activities will be needed in order for you to participate.

Creation of a tapestry or a quilt to commemorate our history and influences.

Ben Pink Dandelion workshop on Saturday, 11/10/12 at Meetinghouse—(9:30–12:30 and 1:30 to 4:30, perhaps with a potluck following at someone's home at 5:30 that evening)

MORNING SESSION: LIVING THE QUAKER WAY: WHY WE DO THINGS THE WAY WE DO.

AFTERNOON SESSION: BUILDING QUAKER COMMUNITY FOR THE NEXT 75 YEARS.

Forum the day after the BPD workshop (11/11/12) reflecting and expanding on its contents

Forum on 12/9/12 to wrap up and plan for the future development of our best ideas

Celebrations

- 1) an event (**February potluck 2/5/15**) marking our anniversary and acquainting attendees with coming events and Meeting activities.

- 2) an **intergenerational picnic** for our members and attenders + all others who rent or use our meeting house--perhaps on the 4th Saturday in April from 3-6 or 4-7.
- 3) **Intergenerational Outings**—during summer, perhaps—visit to Pathway to Freedom and/or Sword of Peace and/or Quaker House—to revisit our influences and impact.
- 4) **Hands-On Intergenerational Project** benefitting our Meetinghouse or one of our ministries to commemorate this anniversary in a material way.

Restore Our Communities/ Bring the War Dollars Home Campaign Peace & Social Concerns Committee

Dear Colleagues:

Restore Our Communities/ Bring the War Dollars Home is a grassroots North Carolina campaign to mobilize public support for a reallocation of our national resources away from war and militarism and towards human and domestic needs. The choices are now that stark as the Super Committee drama makes clear. Congress is weighing the Pentagon budget against cuts to Social Security, jobs programs, and other safety net programs. Watch carefully to see which comes out ahead.

At the same time, our nation is suffering a severe economic slump made more painful by federal, state, and local budget cuts. Unemployment is high, schools are being neglected, veterans' needs have not been fully funded, immigration policy is being militarized, our very future on Earth is at risk due to climate change, and investments critical to our economic well-being are not being made—and are even being cut. It is in these areas where “American interests” and true security lie, and we are becoming increasingly insecure.

REORDERING PRIORITIES

A reallocation of taxpayer money, away from weapons and wars, is needed to create a sustainable economy that meets the needs of all Americans and responds to the aspirations of the poor around the world. Expanding the military while threatening cuts to the social safety net drains our treasury and hurts vulnerable citizens. We call for a reordering of priorities from our policy makers at all levels of government.

Consider this: North Carolina taxpayers' share for just the war in Afghanistan in 2011 is \$3 billion. With that amount of money we could hire 55,437 elementary school teachers or provide 532,198 college students with scholarships for a year. The trade-offs are clear.

This campaign comes together on three fundamental policy directions needed to restore our communities and the health of our society:

- End the wars (and demilitarize foreign policy.)
- Save services (including entitlements, education, health, and environmental protection.)
- Provide constructive sustainable jobs (that serve our true security needs.)

There are many problems to address in our society. We support many other important causes and coalitions. This campaign, however, highlights what is often forgotten, i.e. that war and militarism have local consequences and they exact tradeoffs that weaken a democratic and just society.

North Carolina's Restore Our Communities/ Bring the War Dollars Home campaign has already had notable successes. A town hall meeting in Durham has led to:

- resolutions from the city council and county commissioners in Durham,
- a strongly stated letter from 20 General Assembly Representatives and Senators sent to the US Congress and Senators, and
- new campaigns in Raleigh, Chapel Hill, Asheville, and Alamance County.

Similar campaigns have generated resolutions from the US Council of Mayors, the City Council of Los Angeles, Eugene OR, Baltimore, MD and Harford, CT. When local officials recognize that painful cuts in local spending are provoked by deficit producing wars and weapons systems, their voices will grow.

Please join us by signing your organization on to this campaign to "Bring the War Dollars Home/ Restore Our Communities".

The next big event will be a Town Hall Meeting **February 20, 2012 in Raleigh** and will bring together US Congressional representatives with local leaders to see how the war in Afghanistan in particular, and a militarized foreign policy in general, is costing too much in lives and treasure.

As an endorser of the campaign and of this event, your organization is joining with others to say it's time to "bring the war dollars home and restore our communities". The program will include time on the agenda for a representative of each endorsing organization to speak very briefly about how the budget cuts have affected your programs and if applicable, how individuals have suffered as a result. We ask that you encourage your constituents and contacts to attend the **February 20, 2012 Town Hall Meeting** in Raleigh as a statement of **support for reducing war and military spending in favor of funding community needs**. The statement of purpose for the event is below.

We would like to include your name on the publicity for that event, as well as reserve your space on the program, so please let us hear from you by January 15. Please contact Betsy Crites to affirm your participation.

Attached are additional ideas for possible activities to expand the campaign.

By working together we can amplify our voices.

In Solidarity,

Betsy Crites, Director, NC Peace Action, (director@ncpeaceaction.org, (919) 381-5969), and Ann Lennon, Director, American Friends Service Committee, Carolinas Office (alennon@afsc.org, (336) 854-0633)

Statement of Purpose for February 20 Town Hall Meeting in Raleigh:

- To generate media attention to the growing public support for ending the wars.
- To broaden the circle of actively engaged public officials opposed to the wars.
- To introduce a concrete legislative initiative as an organizing tool.
- To tie in and strengthen the overall campaign to reorder our nation's priorities.

**North Carolina Restore Our Communities Campaign
Examples of Possible Internal Organizational Activities**

Category	Significance	Examples of Activities
Campaign Endorsement	The organization takes a formal and public position in support of prioritizing funding for human needs over excessive military spending.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Endorse the campaign: Approve use of your organization’s name on agreed upon actions and events, e.g. the Feb. 20 Town Hall Meeting in Raleigh. Speak at the event. •Identify a group contact person for occasional consultation •Make a statement (e.g., from chair or president of group) in support of moving funds from military spending to local communities. •Sign a letter (that would come from all campaign endorsers) to the NC Congressional delegation, asking to fund local needs and reduce military spending. •Pass a resolution within your organization endorsing moving funds from military spending to local communities and post on your website.
Outreach to & Education of Own Group	Everyone becomes better informed on the issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hold a workshop or forum for organization members on local needs/Federal budget priorities/military spending •Include information about the campaign in your newsletter.
Local Legislative Advocacy	Members of Congress feel pressure from local elected officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Help persuade local legislators (e.g., County Council members, town mayors) to sign a letter addressed to the NC congressional delegation asking for more funds for local governments and a corresponding cut in the military budget •Advocate for city, county and state resolutions demanding more funds from Federal taxes for local needs, less money for the military budget

Cosponsor (or sponsor) Events	Community-wide engagement develops a broad constituency in support of funding local needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Host a film or speaker related to the goals of the campaign •Help promote other events related to the “Restore Our Communities” goals.
-------------------------------	---	--

Calendar

(All events at Meetinghouse unless otherwise indicated.)

Sun. 1/1	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: the Elm Tree Dance
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Potluck & IFC donations
Tue. 1/3	7-8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Wed. 1/4	10am-12pm	Quaker Women’s Gathering - Bettie Flash Home
Fri. 1/6	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
Sun. 1/8	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: Quaker Heroes
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Peace & Social Concerns Com. - Schoolhouse
Tue. 1/10	7-8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Fri. 1/13	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
Sun. 1/15	8am	Meetinghouse open for worship
	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:00am	Meeting for Worship w/Attention to Business
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
Tue. 1/17	7-8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Wed. 1/18	10am-12pm	Quaker Women’s Gathering - Bettie Flash Home
Fri. 1/20	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
Sun. 1/22	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: tba
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Environmental Concerns Com. - Schoolhouse
Tue. 1/24	7-8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Fri. 1/27	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd

Sun. 1/29	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: tba
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Environmental Concerns Com. - Schoolhouse
	10pm	Deadline To Turn In Items For Newsletter!
Wed. 2/1	10am-12pm	Quaker Women's Gathering - Bettie Flash Home
Thur. 2/2	9am-1pm	CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter
Fri. 2/3	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
Sun. 2/5	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: tba
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Potluck & IFC donations – Schoolhouse
Tue. 2/7	7-8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Fri. 2/10	4:30-5:30pm	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 (919) 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 (919) 967-4926
Resident: John Hite (919) 929-5377

- This newsletter is published every first Sunday under the care of the Publications and Records Committee. The deadline for submissions is 10pm on the last Sunday of the month. Email submissions to news@chapelhillfriends.org or call Emily Buehler, (919) 475-5756.
- To send news on the Meeting Listserv or as an In The Light announcement, or to receive the Listserv announcements, contact news@chapelhillfriends.org.
- PDFs of all newsletters are available online at www.chapelhillfriends.org.
- To get items posted on our website, send them to news@chapelhillfriends.org.