

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Newsletter

December, 2016



Monthly Query:

How do I strive to maintain the integrity of my inner and outer lives - in my spiritual journey, my work, and my family responsibilities? How do I manage my commitments in ways that enhance my integrity?

Monthly Worship Tip from the M&W Committee

Turn attention inward and listen in the silence for what the Spirit may reveal.

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Upcoming Forum Schedule

December 4: Personal sharing--Dottie Henninger. "Finding and living a life of meaning and purpose can sometimes be a sloppy process, in spite of a Quaker upbringing."

Moderator: Catherine Alguire

December 11: "Honoring the Winter Solstice." From their first recognition of the winter solstice, humans have found in this mystery a reason for hope and celebration. What better time to be present to the mystery of creation in its myriad forms, and to reconsider our place and purpose in the cosmic theatre of the divine? (edited from Dirk Spruyt, 1997). Bring, if you will, something representing something you will let go during this season of transition. Led by Faye Stanley and Carolyn White. Moderator:

December 25: No Forum

January 1, 2017: Small group sharing. Where do I turn to find hope for the future? How can my life be a beacon of hope for others?

January Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January newsletter will be Sunday, January 1 at 10 PM. This is a week later than usual, to avoid the Christmas holiday.

Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24, 5:30 PM in the Meetinghouse. Come early to enjoy about 30 minutes of holiday music performed by Dirk and Martha Kelder at 5 PM. The Christmas Eve Worship, for all Friends, attenders, and their families, will take place at 5:30 PM. We will begin with silent worship with one candle on the table in the center and lights off. As it becomes darker outside, and as the spirit moves us, each of us will light our own candle from the central candle and add our lighted candle to the table in silence and/or give whatever message we may feel led to share, slowly bringing light to the darkness. Bring a candle with a holder. Extra candles will be provided for those who forget to bring their own. Coordinated by the Ministry and Worship Committee.

Cell Phones in Meeting for Worship

How do we, as Friends, support the rich silence in our meeting for worship that takes us deep into listening inwardly, and often germinates vocal ministry and other leadings? We each have an opportunity to fully support our communal worship for one hour on First Day/Sunday. We ask you to please, as a gift to your community, either turn your cell phones off or put them in airplane mode for that one hour. With thanks, and for questions, Ministry and Worship Committee, ministryandworship@chapelhillfriends.org.

Islamophobia

A helpful cartoon: <http://bust.com/feminism/18544-stop-anti-muslim-hate-crime.html>

Upcoming FDS Activities

The Holidays are a special time for young Friends. All ages meet together from the First Day after Thanksgiving until the First Day after New Year's Day. We invite meeting members and attenders, as well as parents and children, to join in the merry making. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Kathleen at 919-448-8892 or kamcneil@email.unc.edu.

EVENTS and ACTIVITIES:

December 4: Ornament-Palooza. Leslie will lead a merry band of crafts persons in making decoration for the Meeting Christmas Tree, donated by Richard and Carolyn

December 11 (FDS): Christmas story time for our smallest Friends and Nativity Play organizing for 3rd grade through High School youth.

December 11, 5 PM: Students from the FDS will present a **Nativity play** at the Meeting Christmas Party (jointly hosted by CYRE and the Hospitality Committees). Food, carols, socializing, and a Nativity Play. Please join us!

December 18: Caroling at Carol Woods. Kathleen will lead; meet in the lower parking lot at 11 AM and carpool and caravan to Carol Woods. Song books and jingle bells provided.

Old Directories and Help Needed

Friends, the Archives Committee requests your assistance. If you have time to share, we could use your help with general sorting of documents, filing, and labeling. Please contact Robin Harper or Julia Cleaver if you are able to help.

We also are looking for old directories. On recent advice from the Friends Historical Collection at Guilford College, we have decided to collect as many of our old directories as we can find. We know there are those among you who have collected them over the years! If you would be willing to donate them to us, we would appreciate it. If you don't want to part with your collection, we'd also appreciate just being allowed to make copies of what you have and then return them to you. Please put any copies you can give in the Archives mailbox. If you would prefer to lend them, please see Robin or Julia.

The Election: Of Hate, Grief, and a New Story

Margie Brache shares with Friends, *The Election: Of Hate, Grief, and a New Story*, by Charles Eisenstein, available online at <http://charleseisenstein.net/hategriefandanewstory/>

Paris 2018 Gay Games

From August 4 to 12, 2018, Paris 2018 is hosting the tenth Gay Games, a celebration of diversity open to all--gay or straight, young or old, experienced or novice, athlete or artist. Imagine 15,000 people from all over the world participating in 36 sports and 14 cultural events, where everyone receives a participation medal. Learn more: www.paris2018.com.

Library News--Check This Out!

On Nov. 12 the Library committee met for the purpose of cataloging and shelving several new books, and for a general refresh of the shelves and storage in the Library. Below are listed some of the interesting new books to look out for! Thank you to Meeting members/attenders who recommend or provide books for the Library committee to consider.

We also had a mega reorganization of the shelves to move extraneous items out of the Library, such as empty boxes on high shelves, and find more appropriate homes within the meetinghouse for non-library items. It is difficult to keep the library pristine, given that it doubles as our fellowship hall at Meeting time, and has many flat surfaces, but we do ask folk to please work with the committee to keep the Library clear of personal effects and other non-bookish items. Check the lost and found if you are missing a pearl bracelet.

New Books (section in library)

Quakers and Nazis: inner light in outer darkness / Schmitt, Hans 1997 (Quaker History)

The Quakers: a very short introduction / Dandellion, Pink 2008 (Newcomers)

Conscientious Objection: Is This for You? Discerning a claim and documenting in with Selective Service--Teacher's Resource Guide / Torell, Curt 2016 (Social Concerns, Peace)

Help for Moral Injury: Strategies and Interventions / Yocum, Cecillia 2016 (Psychology, Peace)

Quaker reflections to light the future (a collection of pictures) / Tolles, F.B. 1967 (Young Friends)

Fit for freedom, not for friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the myth of racial justice / McDaniel, Donna 2009 (Quaker History)

Godless for God's sake: nontheism in contemporary Quakerism / Bolton, Davis 2006 (Quaker Faith & Practice)

Valiant friend: the life of Lucretia Mott / Bacon, Margaret Hope 1999 (Biography)

Quaker spirituality: selected writings / Steere, Douglas V. 1984 (Quaker Faith & Practice)

Faithful voices: oral readings, exploring beliefs in action / Schwartz, Ed 2006 (Quaker Faith & Practice)

Without apology: the heroes, the heritage and the hope of liberal Quakerism / Fager, Charles 1996 (Quaker Faith & Practice)

A lasting gift: the journal and selected writings of Sandra L. Cronk / Cronk, Sandra Lee 2009 (Biography)

Where should I stand?: a field guide for Monthly Meeting clerks / Boardman, Elizabeth F. 2008 (Quaker Faith & Practice)

Building Consensus: Conflict and Unity / Snyder, Monteze 2016 (Quaker Faith & Practice)

Time for peace / Ganguli, Janet 2003 (Young Friends)

QuakerSpeak Video on Political Activism

A Quaker vision for political activism--a QuakerSpeak video--is available for viewing at <http://quakerspeak.com/quaker-vision-political-activism/>.

Community Lobby Day for Criminal Justice Reform

In our December Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, we will be asked to unify in support of the Criminal Justice Reform statement of the Carolina Friends Upper School and to ask Rep. Price and Senators Burr and Tillis to support relevant legislation. Supporting documents can be found on our website.

<http://www.chapelhillfriends.org/BusinessMeeting/CriminalJusticeReform-3letters+Bills.pdf>
<http://www.chapelhillfriends.org/BusinessMeeting/CFSCriminalJusticeReformDeclaration.pdf>

This request has already been approved by the middle school and high school classes, and the Peace and Justice committee.

Prior to that time, between December 9 and 12, at the urging of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, I am attempting to arrange lobby meetings with the Representative and two Senators in North Carolina. I am maintaining a list of individuals interested in possibly joining me in those lobby visits. The list currently has 17 names. Please contact Tom Munk at 919-537-9023 or at munk.tom@gmail.com if you would like to join this enterprise.

Encouraging Thoughts

Several Friends at Meeting on November 10 found encouragement in these thoughts from radical historian Howard Zinn, and thought to share them:

"To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness. What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places—and there are so many—where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction. And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory."

Upcoming Quakerism 101 (Fondly Known as Q101)

Do you feel well grounded in your understanding of Quakerism? The Ministry and Worship Committee is planning our bi-annual Quakerism 101 and is particularly interested in making it easy for everyone in our Meeting to participate.

Quakerism 101 is a curriculum designed to familiarize members and attenders with the faith and practice of Friends. It covers Quaker history, beliefs, worship, social witness, decision-making and the application of Quaker faith to everyday life. We use a multi-

pronged approach with readings, videos, and both large and small group discussions, which also introduce you to other Friends and attenders. (There are no tests!) We plan to offer four two-hour sessions, every other week, over a period of eight weeks, beginning in January. Each session will run on two different days to maximize your attendance.

Please direct questions, or a desire to participate to ministryandworship@chapelhillfriends.org.

Letter from Carolina Friends School

Renee Prillaman, Interim Head of School at Carolina Friends School, shares the following:

I know from the many emails and conversations I had this week that our community is deeply feeling the reverberations of this election. Students have expressed a range of powerful emotions. Parents have written to either ask about how to talk to their children about the outcome of the race, regardless of their political views, or to offer resources for having those conversations. And staff have worked to balance their own responses to the election and make space for the range of reactions expressed by students.

In the midst of the intensity of this week, the one sure place I know to stand is in our philosophy and mission as a Quaker School. And while I know you have chosen to learn, work, and educate your children in this community because of our philosophy, it is worth underscoring in the wake of the election our deep and abiding commitment to inclusivity – to respecting each individual’s uniqueness, to knowing one another, and to be resolved to be open to differences in one another.

At its very core, CFS is an inclusive school community dedicated to diversity in race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status. Our work in the days ahead will include ensuring that students, families, and staff feel heard, safe, and cared for. We will lean on the practices of silence and peaceful resolution of conflict to reckon with the range of reactions present regarding the election. It is essential to recognize that, while we all feel the tensions that exist post-election, some in our community and in our country are feeling it more profoundly than others. We will stand with and encourage those students, families, and staff who are feeling their voices are marginalized and ally with them to ensure that they are able to make their truth heard. We will make sure they feel our hearts connected to theirs.

I ask the support of you all as we move forward. Let us all be models for one another and our children of what it means to see and value one another and to be peacemakers in a challenging world.

"Carolina Friends School is a vibrant and inclusive learning community empowering students to think critically, creatively, and independently. We foster active exploration and quiet reflection, individual endeavor and collaborative engagement. Inspired by Quaker values--pursuit of truth, respect for all, peaceful resolution of conflict, simplicity, the call to service--we teach our children that it is possible to change the world."

Update from Lou Killion

Happy Halloween! It's been about a month here in Saint Louis and I've been to Friends' Meeting three times. The Saint Louis Meeting is one of, I believe, only five Meetings in the state of Missouri. This Meeting is seated in an old brick building that looks like it used to be a Protestant church. It's tucked away in some ivy and trees in an unvisited part of downtown. Worship takes place in the large sanctuary with its high ceilings. They installed sound dampening paneling so that the sound of the space is far more intimate than its size. Despite the spaciousness, this is a somewhat smaller meeting. I'd say about 25 people come each week. They do have a monthly singing group and a Quaker hymnal! I did not know there was such a thing. How exciting!

I've been astounded by the amount of brickwork here. I never noticed it before because it was normal for me growing up, but now that I've been away from the city for six years it's taken me by surprise. There is a lot of clay in the soil. Evidently in the city's history, the German masons that settled here would compete in making complex and unique designs in their bricklaying and stone carving. The effort shows. That's all based on hearsay, I haven't read the history books yet. But the architectural ornamentation is a thing of beauty.

Dad starts radiation this week, and it'll be his first treatment. We'll just have to see what happens, but it's hard to be patient and calm. He's trying to order all his affairs before this process begins, but he let me know that having me live close by made the city feel like home to him. Just that makes the move worthwhile to me.

I hope that you all are well and I was glad to hear that Alice's surgery went well. Take care!

Update from School of the Spirit Ministry

We give thanks for the flourishing of the School of the Spirit Ministry this year! The On Being a Spiritual Nurturer class and our Contemplative Retreats have nourished the spiritual growth among Friends. We are alive to discerning a way forward:

- With long-time ministers retiring, the ministry is moving into a new phase of life.
- We now carry new responsibilities as a stand-alone non-profit.
- We are called to experiment in new ways to bring together those who hunger to be more faithful listeners and responders to the Inward Teacher.

We ask for your love, your prayers, and your financial support so that our branch of the Vine might continue to grow and to bear fruit. Questions? More information? Call: Michael Green at 919.391.0399. Email: info@schoolofthespirit.org. Visit: schoolofthespirit.org.

Musical Fundraiser

Carolyn White shares this fundraiser for the Seymour Senior Center: Celebrate the music of Bob Music with Peter White and the Bob Dylan Regulars. December 10, 2 PM at the Seymour Center. Tickets at the door: \$10.

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
November 20, 2016

Attending: Perry Martin, Kitty Bergel, Karen Hurka-Richardson, Tom Smith, Deborah Gibbs, Carolyn White, Maura Murphy, John Hite, Faye Stanley, Ben Ray, David Schneider, Leslie Rountree, Madelyn Ashley, Kurt Torell, Richard Miller, Dottie Heninger, Carolyn Stuart, James Harper, Robin Harper, Grace Schneider, CClanus Curry, Samuel Price, Jan Hutton, Ann Miller, Tom Ludlow, Naveed Moeed, Nancy Elkins, Hank Elkins, Tom Munk, Lloyd Kramer, Julia Cleaver, Mark Hulbert, Emma Hulbert, Merideth Thomlinson, Phoebe Hulbert, Stella, Lynn Drake, Matt Drake, Jennifer Leeman, Ric Shepherd, Roberto Quercia, Ann Shy, Don Hopper, Emilie Condon, Bettie Flash, Nancy Milio, Tom McQuiston, Paul Munk, Joyce Munk, Wendy Michener, Kathleen McNeil

We started with worship and the query: “Do my employment and daily activities allow for use of time and energy in spiritual growth and in service to the Religious Society of Friends?” One Friend spoke to the importance of integrating our Quaker Faith and Practice into our employment and daily activities, particularly in these challenging times.

We welcomed Karen Hurka-Richardson as a first time attender.

The Minutes of the October 16, 2016 Meeting with Attention to Business (MWAB) were approved as written

The Clerk reported as a follow up to last month’s MWAB that Finance Committee has decided that our \$500 contribution for the orphanage in Haiti will come from Benevolences.

The Clerk asked the meeting to approve Dave Curtin and Nancy Elkins to serve as the Naming Committee for Nominations Committees. MWAB approved. These Friends will bring nominations for three new members of Nominations Committee in December.

Lynn Drake, Co-clerk of Ministry & Worship Committee, noted highlights from the “Spiritual State of the Meeting” report. The report is organized around queries provided by Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting. A more in-depth report is available on the Meeting website. The report will be considered for approval at next month’s MWAB and then forwarded to Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting. Friends were encouraged to contact members of Ministry & Worship with input.

Emma Hulbert read her letter of Conscientious Objection. Many Friends spoke to thank Emma for her letter and for sharing her deeply held beliefs, after which we spent time in worship. Friends accepted Emma’s letter. Two trustees will sign the letter, and it will be placed in the Meeting’s lockbox. The letter together with these minutes serve as a record of the Meeting’s affirmation of Emma’s claim as a conscientious objector.

Last month we considered a recommendation from the Buildings and Grounds Committee to renovate the meetinghouse (lower level, upper level and outside in front). Don Hopper, Clerk of Buildings & Grounds Committee, provided answers to some of the questions raised last month, reporting that building a new building would cost up to \$1,000,000 and would have a large impact on our carbon foot print. A question was raised regarding aspects of the renovation that were essential to meeting the building code. Don noted aspects of the electrical wiring and compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (wider doors), and others. We do not however have to bring ourselves to code unless we do the renovations. Friends raised the question of whether the world has changed with the election in a way that changes our priorities. A Friend talked about building a home right after 911 and the importance of moving forward on

building a home that has ~~grounded~~ continued to ground her. Others spoke to the need to strengthen our community for now and the future. A Friend spoke to the need to honor the hundreds of hours that have gone into planning for this renovation. Another Friend reported that our operating expenses have increased over the years, and our benevolences have not, and asked about the opportunity costs of this renovation. What needs in the world are we not meeting by investing in our own space? The possibility of decreasing the extent of the renovation was also raised. Don noted that reductions in what is planned for the upstairs can still be made. The extent of the downstairs renovations would be harder to reduce because an architect has already been engaged. A question was asked about whether future parking needs have been considered. A Friend observed that we are close to our maximum of non-permeable surface, unless we switch from asphalt to another surface. The originally proposed minute was revised to commit to starting with the lower level. The following minute was brought forward and approved: The Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, in its Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on November 20, 2016, approved the goal of renovating the lower level of the Meeting House beginning in 2017, assuming funds are available. The following asked to have their names minuted as standing aside from the decision: Naveed Moeed who had concerns about doing the construction piecemeal, Madelyn Ashley who had concerns about the extravagance of the renovations downstairs, and Ben Ray who also had concerns about doing this piecemeal. Note was made that Building & Grounds would have some flexibility to do some renovations beyond the lower level if required or would be more efficient.

Tom Ludlow, member of the Meetinghouse Renovations Fundraising Subcommittee, brought forward the following minute: The Meetinghouse Renovations Fundraising Subcommittee recommends that the Meeting begin a fundraising campaign the afternoon of November 20, 2016 to raise the funds needed to renovate the lower level of the meetinghouse. Friends will be encouraged to contribute to the annual budget and, in addition, contribute to "the meetinghouse renovations fund." The meetinghouse renovations campaign will encourage gifts by December 31, 2016, by March 31, 2017, and March 31, 2018. If it appears that contributed funds will not be adequate to pay for the renovations, the Meetinghouse Renovations Fundraising Subcommittee will investigate and recommend alternatives to MWAB. The following additional information was shared. We currently have \$160,000 in savings for renovations, and we would need to raise \$70,000 additional to pay for the lower level renovation. The fundraising feasibility study indicates that much of that will likely be contributed. We may raise more money than is needed for the lower level to support future renovations.

The clerk brought our consideration of the above minute to a temporary close in order to prepare the room for the 11:00 AM meeting for worship.

Jan Hutton, Co-clerk of Ministry and Worship Committee, recommended membership for Karen Hurka-Richardson. Approved. A brief biography of Karen is available in the newsletter. Friends were invited to see Jan Hutton if they would like to participate in planning a welcoming for Karen.

Carolyn Stuart, Clerk of Nominating Committee requested approval for the nomination of Karen Hurka-Richardson and Barbara Williamson to the Adult Religious Education Committee. Approved.

Announcements

1. Kurt Torrell announced that his curriculum is available from Quaker House. The curriculum is titled, "Conscientious Objection: Is This for You? Discerning a Claim and Documenting it with Selective Services."
2. Tom Munk, Co-clerk of Peace & Justice Committee, is planning to meet with our Congressmen to advocate policy to reduce mass incarceration. Please see Tom for more information.
3. The following were messages were provided in the agenda: Give \$25 to Inte rFaith Council for a holiday meal for a family. Adult Religious Education's November 27 forum will be: "What we are

thankful for," Small group discussions led by First Day School students. Join us for Building & Grounds Committee's work morning (inside & out) at the meetinghouse, Saturday AM, December 3. Hospitality requests the donation of a good vacuum cleaner for potluck cleanup. (Contact Joanna Selim.) New Meeting Directories available in the foyer and as PDFs upon request. The Meeting Christmas Party will be 5:00PM, Sunday, Dec 11. The Christmas Eve candlelight service will be December 24, 5:00/5:30PM. There will be no First Day School program or nursery/childcare on Christmas Day, December 25th. Ministry & Worship will present Quakerism 101 starting in January. Let them know of your interest.

4. Dirk Spruyt "crossed the river" Wed. afternoon, November 16.
5. We closed with worship, holding Dirk in the Light.

Spiritual State of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Responses to PFYM Queries November 20, 2016

1. How has your Monthly Meeting experienced the working of the Spirit this year?

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting engages in the work of the Spirit both inwardly and outwardly. We bring the Spirit to our wider world via leadings, while at the same time, nurture it within our community. At our annual Spiritual State of the Meeting, many individuals expressed how the Meeting brought their lives into the Spirit. Here is an excerpt from one Friend's response:

Experiencing the work of the Spirit comes from the internal – not from me and also not of the world...I am challenged when there is an unexpected upheaval in my world that upsets my peace/Spirit, such as the death of a family member. During these challenges, I know deep down that I am part of a faith community of those who reach out to be present and this is grounded in Spirit. I think that we [CHFM] approach life from a place of peace and from a life centered in the Spirit. This is quite different from "out there."

Another Friend stated that because of mentoring by the Meeting, I have moved from "I" to "thee/thou" and now desires to model this to other people. The nurturing of the Meeting has helped this Friend to live the life of the Spirit out in the world.

Others found that committee service in the Meeting calls us back to the Spirit and to find the Spirit in other people. Friends experience the Spirit as they do good and necessary work such as filling a role or need identified in our community. Our members and attenders feel the Spirit as they get to know each other better through the communion of working together.

Friends also spoke of how direct work with others engages the Light. This was especially true for those who work with the children in the Meeting.

2. How does your Monthly Meeting reach out to others?

Our Meeting reaches out to those within our community as well as those beyond. Care is taken to nurture relationships outside the context of First Day worship. We sponsor "Quaker Eights" (small groups that share common interests), we host potlucks at our homes, we serve on support and clearness committees, and we share in the committee work of the Meeting.

Additionally, CHFM prints a monthly newsletter, maintains a website (chapelhillfriends.org) and three separate listservs which publish news and updates. Each First Day we allow for the sharing of joys, concerns and announcements at the close of each Meeting for Worship (MFW), and between early and late MFWs we sponsor forums on topics of interest during the academic school year. Our youth participate in Southern Appalachian Young Friends retreats as well as semi-annual CHFM youth retreats at Hyco Lake. We have begun to hold Meetings for Healing in response to events such as

the shootings in Orlando, Florida, and our nation's ongoing crisis of divisiveness that is expressed in our politics. Lastly, we host an annual clerk's retreat, Worship Sharing with Attention to Animals, and biannually, a Quakerism 101 course.

All these provide opportunities to build a sense of community. We make a point to reach out to new attenders, and be mindful that we are part of a community that is not homogeneous. We want to create an environment that values the freedom to speak to those differences.

In terms of those beyond our community, our affiliation with the Orange County Correctional Center continues to hugely enrich our Meeting life. We hold deep gratitude to those who are called to this ministry. We actively contribute time and financial support to the Carolina Friends School, Quaker House, the Interfaith Council, and many other worthy endeavors. Many within our Meeting volunteer or lobby with local, state, and national causes that reflect our testimonies.

3. What challenges has your Monthly Meeting faced this past year?

Various challenges surfaced within individual committees, some of which are summarized below. All of them point to the overarching challenge our Meeting faces: how to best allocate our finite resources of time, energy, and funds.

Finance committee asks, how do we manage the budget with the likelihood of lower-than-budgeted contributions? The uncertainty of the Meetinghouse renovation budget and needed level of subsequent fund-raising is a significant issue. Other concerns center on process: instructing committee clerks on appropriate procedures regarding financial issues and the complex financial aspects of the refugee resettlement project. They strive to protect the time and energy of our volunteer treasurer given the ever-expanding burden of tasks.

Children and Youth Religious Education (CYRE) committee shares that teen service trip to Haiti last year provided a great deal of energy and "lift" for the teens and the Meeting as a whole. Individuals' service trips have also added positively to the experience of all teens and the meeting. The service trip to Haiti challenged the Meeting to determine how to provide financial and emotional support to the 11 young people and adults who traveled to work at Fondation du Jesus. As CYRE considers a future trip, they seek to make use of all that we learned in this initial endeavor.

Additionally, the recruitment of First Day School (FDS) teachers and a healthy cohort of children and youth remains a challenge. We seek to create a place that 'grows families,' a place that nurtures parents and children and provides for them a spiritual home. This proves a challenge in a world with multiple demands on families' time and energy. We want to support our FDS Coordinator in her work.

Archives, a relatively new committee, comprises representatives from several of CHFM's standing committees. Attendance has not been consistent, so the committee struggles to accomplish its tasks. Members struggle to feel their work is valued or is taken seriously.

Ministry and Worship committee finds it challenging to maintain a "horizontal" relationship with other committees while endeavoring to fulfill its role in addressing conflicts within the Meeting.

Nurturing Spirit-led vocal ministry and deep listening during MFW continues to be an ongoing issue.

Given the breadth and depth of our Meeting's endeavors, our clerk is challenged by the time allotted for our monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (one and three quarter hours).

Allowing for worshipful consideration and seasoning of major decisions, the reception and discussion of annual reports and updates from 16 standing committees as well as other concerns within this constraint continues to be a master task.

4. Tell us about any leadings that your Monthly Meeting has that you are excited about, ambivalent about, or challenged by.

CHFM community has acted on several leadings this year: sponsoring a Syrian refugee family; planning renovations of the Meetinghouse; First Day School; encouraging and supporting our youth to register as conscientious objectors, working with the Orange County Correctional Center's

returning citizens; distributing “Make America Kind Again” buttons; making extra efforts to welcome newcomers and visitors. We feel that CHFM draws its inspiration and energy from Spirit. We are impressed by what committees in the Meeting are taking on. Some are doing a great deal of work to make this a vibrant community. But this carries with it a concern about how much the Meeting can embrace. How do we get the spiritual stamina needed to nurture us? Nominations Committee is challenged to get committee vacancies filled despite the excitement felt for new initiatives. We especially need to attend to the families in the Meeting so that they feel nurtured, not neglected. Are we growing and attracting new people to the Meeting? These are some of our challenges.

We understand the importance of deep, focused listening to one another, especially as we approach decisions on renovating the meetinghouse so that we can move forward in unity. Even where differences exist, we seek to find how God is leading us as a Meeting. We need to listen to the voices of all ages, especially those who are younger. We must be sensitive to our environmental impact, alternative uses for our funds, and a commitment to take the time to reach unity. We celebrate our ability to approach our differences with openness, tolerance and forgiveness.

Understanding our faith path and seeking God’s leading also mean that we may NOT be led to take on certain ministries. The Spirit is also present in the decisions not to take an action. It can be very difficult to discern God’s leadings in our personal lives. And it can be even more difficult to discern God’s leadings for the Meeting community. We need to be patient and to listen; not all work is ours to do.

5. How does your Monthly Meeting reflect the diversity it seeks? How have you celebrated or been challenged by the diversity that you aspire to?

While the leading to reach out to the inmates at the Orange County Correctional Facility was not driven by aspirations of diversity, it has enriched our meeting beyond measure in this regard, and in unexpected ways. The majority of men who are incarcerated at OCC are peoples of color and are often from challenged socioeconomic backgrounds. On any given First Day, as many as eight of these guests are in attendance at the 11 am Meeting for Worship. Their physical presence in our midst deepens our connection to communities beyond our own, and these men often express the Light in traditions from these communities. As a result, our Meetings for Worship sparkle with Light from across the spectrum.

One unexpected blessing their presence bestowed to our Meeting is a deeper and more open listening to different forms of worship. Historically, there has been some tension between the more Christ-centric and agnostic folks in our Meeting. The OCC visitors that speak to “Christ” have been met with genuine openness. This shift to seek and embrace the Light in all messages is a sign of real growth for our community.

Another dichotomy the OCC guests help to bridge is that between those of the more “inward, spiritual” and “outward, activist” of our Meeting Friends. Again, the OCC men bring those together. Their presence energizes both segments of our community.

Within individual committees, achieving diversity can be more of a challenge due to the demands of their work. For example, given the high task volume of the Finance committee, it is weighted with retired Friends. The Interfaith Council committee, which serves as both liaison to the Council and comprises volunteers at the Community Kitchen, has a similar make up, although they celebrate the membership of James Bartow, a “Millennial” Friend.

One particularly successful program in achieving and supporting diversity is our First Day School. The families in our meeting are diverse – blended families, families with adopted children, multi-racial families, families with same-gender parents, single parents, as well as more traditional families. In many respects, our CYRE committee reflects this diversity as many parents serve on it.

6. What kind of support would your Monthly Meeting like to see from PFYM?

We would like to see PFYM develop a teen/youth program to nurture and support the next generation of Friends.

It is our hope that PFYM will facilitate our member meetings' role as a resource for one another. Some of the topics that are of particular interest to the CHFM committees we heard from include:

- capital campaign fund-raising
- specific ways to support demanding roles (treasurer, committee and meeting clerks, First Day School Coordinator, etc.)
- good policies and practices to document the monthly meeting's historical record
- how to recruit enough First Day School teachers and support them
- ways to achieve that "critical mass" of families with children that is crucial to a vibrant First Day School and encourage consistent attendance
- how to determine the satisfaction of families with the religious education of their children

7. Share any additional information that you would like PFYM to know about your Monthly Meeting.

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting is a vibrant community with many initiatives underway: Syrian refugee resettlement, transition and support for newly released inmates from the Orange County Correctional Center, teen service trips abroad, proposed renovations to our Meetinghouse, and various advocacy efforts on the national, state and local levels, to name a few. We are happy to share with other member meetings what wisdom and practical knowledge we have gained in these pursuits. Be patient and forgive us if some of our members feel stretched too thin to take on additional work on behalf of the PFYM.

Lastly, in the words of one committee's response: "We are a jolly bunch!"

Submitted by the Ministry and Worship Committee

Letter of Conscientious Objection

Dear Friends,

I am here today to read you a letter that expresses my values and convictions on war in any form. Of course, as a female, I am not yet required to register with the Selective Service System on my 18th birthday. But, because I believe in gender equality, I believe it's important for me to write this letter both because men have no choice but to register, and also because if our country continues on its current course, women might well soon be required to register.

My values are Quaker values: Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality. SPICE. I have adopted these ideals as my own. Attending Quaker meeting every Sunday and having discussions about these testimonies, I was consistently drawn first and foremost to the testimony of Peace. In middle school, my friends started watching movies with violent scenes; good guy kills bad guy, evil blood is spilled, epic battles, and so forth. I could never watch; I would get up on the pretext of visiting the bathroom and sit in the kitchen alone. I did not refuse to watch these scenes out of squeamishness; that wasn't the reason they bothered me. I simply could not understand my peers' enjoyment of the depiction of violence. I now understand that my aversion to this violence stems from my refusal to condone violence, or even quietly stand by--regardless of whether it is the "evil" or the "good" suffering. Violence, I believe, is never the answer.

Last year, a few of my classmates and a teacher of mine went to a field to shoot guns. Not even at animals, simply at targets. I had an immediate and intense negative reaction to this, and declined to join. I did not even experience the slightest glimmer of excitement at the prospect of shooting a gun. Playing with something that has ruined so many lives is repulsive to me, especially when done for sheer entertainment. I could never hold a gun, because of its great potential for destruction. I cannot agree with, or take part in, any activity that is violent or is associated with violence, such as war and military conflict.

Therefore I am a pacifist. I believe there is no such thing as a “just” war. There is no grievance so great that a war is justified. Most wars are, beneath the surface, about money and power. Our leaders who start wars are not the ones on the battlefield; they instead are safe in their glass towers, separated from the gruesome consequences of their decisions.

I have been a vegetarian my entire life. I have never so much as tasted meat. Although meat and human life are not directly comparable, I believe it’s important to mention that even though my health has been compromised, and I was told by a medical Doctor that I had to eat meat for my health, I firmly declined. Eating a dead creature simply to enhance my well-being was not something I was, or am now, willing to live with. I refuse to directly or indirectly cause or condone the pain or death of another.

To reiterate, I cannot support or take part in any act of violence, be it war or otherwise, because I believe nothing good or just has ever come of war. As a Quaker, and more importantly as a human, I believe there is light, or goodness, in every person; Therefore I could never, will never, take part in, or support in any way, any action that might snuff another’s light into darkness. I dream of a world where everyone’s light can shine, together, in peace.

Sincerely,
Emma Hulbert

New Member Bio: Karen Hurka-Richardson

Karen was born and raised in Charlotte, NC. She studied history at UNC-CH and later received nursing degrees from Johns Hopkins and UNC-CH. While living in Baltimore, MD, she discovered Quakers and attended Homewood Friends. Currently, she lives in Chapel Hill and works as a nurse practitioner at Carolina Meadows. She is married to Ryan Richardson and has two "fur children" - a 5 year old Leonberger named Ruby and a fluffy tuxedo cat named Stanley. She enjoys reading, traveling, listening to music, needlepointing, and taking long walks.

Calendar

(All events at Meetinghouse unless otherwise indicated.)

Sun. 12/4 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)
9:45am Forum: Personal sharing--Dottie Henninger
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)
11am Meeting for Worship—Carol Woods
12:30pm Potluck—Schoolhouse
Tue. 12/6 7–8pm Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation—Call Hank Elkins
Fri. 12/9 4:30-5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice—E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
Sat. 12/10 2pm Musical fundraiser (see page 7)

Sun. 12/11 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)
9:45am Forum: Honoring the Winter Solstice
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)
11am Meeting for Worship—Carol Woods
5pm Nativity play (see page 3)
Tue. 12/13 7–8pm Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation—Call Hank Elkins
Fri. 12/16 4:30-5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice—E. Franklin & Elliot Rd

Sun. 12/18 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
11am Caroling at Carol Woods (see page 3)
Tue. 12/20 7–8pm Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation—Call Hank Elkins
Fri. 12/23 4:30-5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice—E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
Sat. 12/24 5:30pm Christmas Eve service (see page 2)

Sun. 12/25 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)
9:45am No Forum
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)
11am Meeting for Worship—Carol Woods
Fri. 12/30 4:30-5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice—E. Franklin & Elliot Rd

Sun. 1/1 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)
9:45am Forum: Small group sharing
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)
11am Meeting for Worship—Carol Woods
12:30pm Potluck—Schoolhouse
10pm Deadline To Turn In Items For Newsletter!
Tue. 1/5 7–8pm Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation—Call Hank Elkins
Thur. 1/7 9am–1pm CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter
Fri. 1/8 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: Tom Munk (919) 537-9203
Resident: John Hite (919) 929-5377

- **Newsletter.** This newsletter is published every first Sunday under the care of the Publications and Communications Committee. Paper copies are available at the Meetinghouse and a PDF is posted on the Meeting website, www.chapelhillfriends.org. 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. Please include “newsletter” in the subject line.

- **Listserv.** To send a news or "In the Light" announcement on the Meeting listserv, contact news@chapelhillfriends.org. Please include “listserv” or “in the light” in the subject line. This listserv goes to about 280 people. Do not submit personal information about someone else unless you know he/she wants to share. Subscribe to the listserv at www.chapelhillfriends.org/contact.html.

- **Website.** To get items posted on our website, send them to news@chapelhillfriends.org.