

Chapel Hill

# Friends Meeting Newsletter

Twelfth Month, 2017



## Monthly Query:

*Does my life embody integrity and simplicity?*

## 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

Dec 3: **“Carolina Friends School: new head, Karen Cumberbatch.”** CHFM has been involved with CFS since its inception in 1962. Come meet the new head of the school, Karen Cumberbatch, as she shares with us what led her to NC, what she has discovered since arriving this summer and what her vision is for the school.

Dec 10: **“Kindra Bradley, the new Quaker House director.”** Quaker House has been “A Place of Peace in a Military City” since 1969. Kindra Bradley will share with us what led her to Fayetteville as well as programs and happenings at Quaker House.

Dec 17: Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at 9:00

Dec 24: **No Forum** – Morning worship and evening Christmas Eve worship

Dec 31: **“Endings and Beginnings: the Solstice and the turning of the year.”** Led by Perry Martin, Peter White and Carolyn White.

Jan 7, 2018: **“The Quaker Way of Reaching Decisions in the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.”** Led by Matt Drake, CHFM Clerk. A discussion of some of the opportunities and challenges in applying the Quaker decision-making process.

Jan 14: **“Making Our Voices Heard Through Letters to the Editor.”** Led by Curt Torrell. Letters to the Editor and OpEds are still proven vehicles to influence public opinion, and they influence how newspapers cover issues. This forum will provide concrete tips, handouts, and some motivators to help us put our faith into practice and effect social and political change.

Jan 21: Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at 9:00

Jan 28: **“2017-18 Benevolences Proposal. A Listening.”** Led by Tom Munk and members of the Peace & Justice Committee. P&J will present a review of the principles and process for selecting benevolences and listen to Meeting feedback on a proposed list of benevolences and amounts.

## House Concurrent Resolution 81

Action: **Call or fax Congressman David Price** to remove military forces from unauthorized hostilities in Yemen: co-sponsor House Concurrent Resolution 81, a bipartisan resolution backed by FCNL, which calls for the U.S. to remove unauthorized military forces from Yemen. Resolution of Peace and Justice Committee: “We, the Peace and Justice Committee of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, encourage Rep. David Price to co-sponsor H. Con. Res. 81 directing the President to remove U.S. Armed Forces from unauthorized hostilities in the Republic of Yemen.”

.....Congressman David Price **Telephone (202) 225-1784, Facsimile (202) 225-2014**

## An opportunity to support Casey Webber and his co-defendants:

Friends, please take three minutes to support our young Friend Casey Webber by asking the Justice Department to drop charges against the J20 defendants:

[http://act.freepress.net/sign/internet\\_j20/?source=share](http://act.freepress.net/sign/internet_j20/?source=share)

Ideas, suggestions, questions invited about renovating the Meeting room - Don Hopper, B&G Clerk, invites your ideas, suggestions, questions, thoughts, concerns, etc. about renovating the Meeting room. Email him at: [donald.hopper@gmail.com](mailto:donald.hopper@gmail.com)

## It's time to plan your trip to Quaker country in England!

Lynn Drake for the Quaker Journey Planning Committee writes:

Carolina Friends School is sponsoring a Quaker Journey to England next July 22-29, 2018. This is an opportunity to visit interesting sites that have been part of our Quaker history and do it in the company of Friends from Durham Friends Meeting, Carolina Friends School community, and the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. Registration is now open! Reserve your place before the tour group fills up. There is information about the itinerary and registration forms on the CFS website here: <http://www.cfsnc.org/cfs-education/extended-learning/quaker-journey>.

Several Friends from our Meeting participated in the last Quaker Journey and would be happy to talk to you about it.

## Next Conversation on Equity: December 5

Wendy Michener shares with Friends: The next Conversation on Equity will be Tuesday, December 5, from 6:30-8:00 at the Chapel Hill Public Library. This group invites people who A) know their stuff and B) can give a good lecture. Dr. Sheldon Lanier, Ed.D, Director of Equity Leadership/AVID for CHCCS will present "**The Black Image in the White Mind: Educational Consequences of Media Racism.**" This conversation will explore racial stereotypes of African American males in the media and how these stereotypes impact the treatment and academic achievement of students of color. This session will also provide an analysis of the historical and structural practices that have allowed institutional racism in the media to flourish.

## "Our Stake as White People in Racial Equity": Dec. 5, 7pm

Stacey Sewall shares with Friends: The Hate-Free Schools Coalition in Orange County will be hosting a talk by Dr. Tema Okun titled "Our Stake as White People in Racial Equity" on Tuesday, December 5 at 7 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Hillsborough, 1710 Old NC 10. Tema is an engaging, warm, inspiring speaker. She has spent over 30 years working with and for organizations, schools, and community-based institutions on issues of racial justice and equity. Tema co-leads the Teaching for Equity Fellows Program at Duke University, which works with faculty seeking to develop stronger skills both teaching about race and racism and across lines of race, class, and gender, and is currently teaching an Educational Policy and Practices undergraduate course at Wake Forest University. The HFSC welcomes people from across Orange County in joining us in tackling issues of racial justice in the Orange County Schools.

## Meeting Christmas Party, December 10 at 5:00 pm - 'Tis the season; Let the merriment begin!

Join Friends, young and old, at the meeting Christmas Party on Sunday, December 10, 5:00 pm in the multipurpose room of the schoolhouse. Please bring finger food to share. We'll have warm cider, caroling, the children's play and entertainment by our youth. There will also be a Giving Tree providing an opportunity for you to give and select a gift of time and expertise (for example, help editing a document, a home-made pie, babysitting, or yard work). The teens will have the Alternative Gift Mart ready for your holiday shopping. We look forward to seeing all there. Questions? Contact Carolyn Stuart ([stuartc@elon.edu](mailto:stuartc@elon.edu)), John Hite ([johthequaker@yahoo.com](mailto:johthequaker@yahoo.com)) or Kathleen McNeil ([kamcneil@email.unc.edu](mailto:kamcneil@email.unc.edu)).

**Christmas Eve Service: Sun Dec. 24, 5pm** - All Friends, attenders, and their families are invited to share in our Christmas Eve Worship. Friends are encouraged to come at 5pm to enjoy beautiful seasonal music with Dirk and Martha Kelder as preparation for our candlelight worship. At 5:30 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.

## Mini-grants are available from Quaker Earthcare Witness

QEW has grants available for Friends' organizations who want to enhance their physical/spiritual relationship with the Earth. We offer matching grants of up to \$500 each to support projects consistent with QEW values. Application deadlines are May 1 and October 1. To learn more, go to: <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/article/quaker-earthcare-witness-mini-grants>

## A prayer of hope and perseverance from Michael Eric Dyson's book *Tears We Cannot Stop*. [Curt Torrell read this during Meeting for Worship on Nov. 26]

*Oh God, the hour is dark. The suffering great. But we will not give up. We will not surrender. We will not surrender because we have endured the last of spite and the whip of hate on our backs. We will not surrender because our mothers and fathers, and their mothers and fathers, and their mothers and fathers, and their mothers and fathers, too, believed in you, believed in us, believed that no obstacle put in their way could stop them. They believed that grace you gave them for their journeys would outlast any challenge in their hearts and minds. We will not surrender because your enduring and indestructible Word feeds the souls of our people. We will not surrender because blackness is a gift that has blessed the world beyond compare. Our minds and hearts, and our tongues and bodies, too, have made Earth a better place to live. We will not surrender because we have survived. Oh God, we are not naive. We know, just as white American knows, that our legion, multiple, complicated, adaptable, triumphant blackness threatens whiteness. Oh God, you placed a paradox in our midst like a rainbow at the end of a storm: if we are to understand America we must understand blackness. Oh Lord, black folk are everything; we are every possibility of American, even human, identity made real. That means we are everywhere, just like our white brothers and sisters. We are going nowhere. We are your children too. We will survive. We are America.*

## Public hearings on NC's role in our state and federal program of torture

On behalf of Quaker House, we remind everyone that the North Carolina Commission of Inquiry on Torture (NCCIT), an independent non-profit and non-governmental commission, will be conducting public hearings on NC's role in our state and federal program of torture. These hearings are free and open to the public and will be held at the Raleigh Convention Center, 500 S. Salisbury St., Raleigh, on Thursday, Nov. 30 from 9am - 5pm and Friday, Dec. 1 from 9am - 3pm. For more information go to their website at [www.nccit.org](http://www.nccit.org) or to RSVP (not required) and other inquiries to [info@nccit.org](mailto:info@nccit.org). This is a significant step in exposing the immoral, illegal, and ineffective use of torture.

## Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Agenda for the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Minutes, November 19, 2017

Attendance: Perry Martin, Carolyn White, Alice Carlton, Dave Curtin, Monteze Snyder, Bettie Flash, Richard Miller, Jennifer Leeman, Matt Drake, Ben Ray, Faye Stanley, Emilie Condon, James Harper, Robin Harper, Gwynne Pomeroy, Tom Ludlow, Karen Porter, Ken Grogan, Carolyn Stuart, Dottie Heninger, Pat Mann, Pam Schwingl, Wendy Michener, Don Hopper, Sean Chen, Lori Fernald Khamala, Asta Crowe, Joyce Johnson, Camille Berry, Lois Ann Hobbs, Lynn Drake, Catherine Alguire, Jan Hutton, Tom Munk, Devin Brown, Carlos Humter, Emanuel Kearney, Maria Darlington, Tom McQuiston, Paul Munk, Ann Miller, Jasmine M , Joanna Selim, Julia Cleaver

1. We opened with worship and the query: "Do I contribute generously within my means to the funding of the Meeting?" Friends spoke to how much they value our meeting community and how it supports us as we go out to act in the world. Friends also spoke to how they are discerning what they will give to the meeting and to other organizations. Friends recognized the work our youth do this time of year to select the organizations they will support through the alternative gift mart and also the work of our Meeting's Benevolence Subcommittee, which is discerning this year's benevolences. We often feel ambivalent about money, particularly its use by our government in ways that are counter to our beliefs and values. Friends appreciated the opportunity to think about the positive power of money to do good in the world.

2. We recognized three first time attenders, to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB): Lori Fernald Khamala, Joyce Johnson, Camille Berry
3. Minutes of the October 15, 2017 MWAB were reviewed. **The October 15, 2017 minutes were accepted as written.**
4. Matt Drake, Clerk, recommended David Curtin and Bonnie Raphael to serve as the Naming Committee. The Naming Committee serves a roughly two month term for the purpose of recommending Friends to join the Nominations Committee. **We approved David Curtin and Bonnie Raphael to serve as the Naming Committee.**
5. Dottie Heninger, Nominations Committee member, recommended Ronald Carnes and Hongmin Ahn for the Hospitality Committee. **We approved Ronald Carnes and Hongmin Ahn to serve on the Hospitality Committee.**
6. Jan Hutton, Clerk of the Mary & Claude Shotts/Leadership Development Fund, read the committee's annual report (attached). Friends expressed gratitude for the work the committee has done to increase the number receiving funds to attend educational/enrichment opportunities. Friends also noted that this success is coupled with a reduction in the amount of money in the fund. The funds are not needs based and all may apply. The committee is wrestling with how to continue to be generous in supporting Friends. Friends asked whether 10% of money left to the Meeting in wills is still being donated to the fund. Research will be needed to answer the question. **We accepted the annual report of the Mary & Claude Shotts/Leadership Development Fund with gratitude.**
7. Matt Drake, Clerk, read a letter from Lori Fernald Khamala and Sean Chen asking to be married under the care of the Meeting (attached). **The letter was referred to the Care and Counsel Committee to create a marriage clearness committee.**
8. Matt Drake, Clerk, read a letter from Sean Chen, Tallulah Chen, and Matilda Chen asking to join the Meeting, Sean and Tallulah as members and Matilda as a familial member (attached). A question was raised about teens joining the Meeting. A taskforce of Ministry & Worship has been exploring how the Meeting handles familial members, and they are strongly in support of teens becoming members prior to their heading into the wider world. **The letter was referred to the Ministry and Worship Committee to create clearness for membership committees.**
9. Don Hopper, Clerk of Building and Grounds Committee, provided an update on the renovations of the lower level of the meetinghouse. January is the anticipated completion date. The sheetrock is complete and almost all cabinets are installed. The painters arrive tomorrow. Friends expressed appreciation for Don and the Building and Grounds Committee's work.
10. Alice Carlton, Ministry and Worship Committee member, read a report of the Spiritual State of the Meeting meeting that was held on October 21, 2017 (attached). An amendment to the report was agreed to, noting that our Meeting also includes members of the Jewish and Muslim faiths and non-theists. **The report was approved as amended and will be sent to Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting.**
11. Joanna Selim, Hospitality Committee Co-Clerk, presented a request that Meeting committees assist Hospitality by providing a "greeter" on a regular basis for the 11:00 AM Meeting for Worship. **Matt will circulate Hospitality's request to committee clerks.**  
The Committee also requested suggestions from the Meeting community for refreshing the entrance (foyer) to the meetinghouse to enhance the feeling of the space to be more welcoming. Ideas generated within Hospitality committee include having live plants, consolidating the paper notices, removing one of the tables, putting a colorful "Welcome" sign on the wall (perhaps made by the First Day School), replacing the name tag tapestry, and improving the lighting. Please give your ideas to a Hospitality member or email Joanna at [joannaselim@gmail.com](mailto:joannaselim@gmail.com) or Elizabeth Taylor at [etlodo@gmail.com](mailto:etlodo@gmail.com).
12. Carolyn Stuart, Co-Clerk of Children and Youth Religious Education Committee, invited all to attend the Meeting Christmas Party on December 10, 5:00 PM in the schoolhouse. Friends are asked to bring finger foods. There will be

a giving tree, a Christmas play, and a time to share the joy of the season. This is an opportunity to join with our young families and children.

13. Matt Drake, Clerk, reported on two letters received. The first is from the Church of Reconciliation who have decided to become a host sanctuary church and are asking for support from other worship communities. Matt is passing the letter on to Peace & Justice Committee. Matt also received a letter from the Steering Committee of Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) inviting adults to serve as "FANS" (Friendly Adults Nurturers) at Young Friends retreats. He is passing the letter on to Children and Youth Religious Education Committee. Sean is currently a FAN and Tom Munk has been previously. Both spoke to the value of serving as a FAN as a spiritual experience and an opportunity to see the powerful community the youth create for themselves. Tallulah Chen is co-clerk of SAYF.

#### 14. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Hospitality Committee welcomes Meeting members or attenders to invite others in the meeting to their Thanksgiving meal and also invites those looking for a Thanksgiving meal in a Friend's home to contact them. Please contact Joanna Selim at [joannaselim@gmail.com](mailto:joannaselim@gmail.com).
- The Christmas Eve candlelight event will be held at 5:00 PM on December 24.
- Richard Miller reported on yesterday's workday to begin to cleaning up the Quaker Cemetery in Hillsborough. John Bell is leading this effort and much more work needs to be done.
- Buildings and Grounds continues to invite your thoughts on meeting room renovations. Contact Don Hopper at [donald.hopper@gmail.com](mailto:donald.hopper@gmail.com) or tell a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

15. The meeting ended with worship.

Addenda – Letters and reports read into the Meeting minutes:

## **Shotts Memorial and Leadership Development Fund Committee Annual Report, 2016-2017**

The Mary and Claude Shotts/Leadership Development committee oversees two funds to support the leadings of Friends, both members and attenders, to enrich and deepen their capacity for leadership within the Meeting, the local community, and the Religious Society of Friends.

The Mary and Claude Shotts Memorial Fund, established in 1973 from funds donated by members of the Shotts family, provides financial support to enrich and develop the lives of individuals with a relationship to the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. Grants from this fund are distributed from the interest earned on principal.

The Leadership Development Fund, established in 1982, provides grants to benefit the spiritual life of the Meeting through the enhancement of leadership capabilities in individuals. Grants from this fund are distributed from money carried over from prior years and from annual allocations approved by the monthly meeting.

Friends Fiduciary manages the investments for the Shotts Memorial Fund, and our current balance is \$33,768.20.. From this fund, we receive approximately \$1200 total, in interest, divided between June and December, to give out each year as disbursements. Our current funds' balance in our BB&T account is \$2962.66.

Because of concerns about supporting a common awareness that the support of the Shotts/Leadership funds is not "need based", the Committee made additional efforts to communicate information about the funds through the newsletter, listserv, speaking with individual Friends, and a Forum. We are happy to report that this resulted in a considerable number of Friends receiving support during the 2016-2017 FY, as noted below.

Pam Schwingl and Pat Mann for attendance at a School of the Spirit Silent Retreat; Jeff Brown, as the new Clerk of Piedmont Friends Fellowship, to attend a Pendle Hill Clerking workshop; Ann Shy, Jim Palmer, Emily Buehler, Stacy

Seawall and Jamie Jacobs for participation in a Racial Equity Training, Phase 1; Maura Murphy, Carolyn White, in their roles of service on various CHFM committees, to attend a ServantKeeper software workshop; ten members and attenders supported in their attendance at the PFF/PFYM March annual retreat; Emma Hulbert, Phoebe Hulbert, and Evangeline Rioux participated in the FCNL Teen Lobbying weekend in Washington DC; Catherine Alguire and Wendy Michener attended the 2017 FGC Gathering in Niagara Falls, NY; Claire Bates attended the Ben Lomond Center for a program entitled, "The applicability of the Friend's tradition in working on social change today."; supported two teens in their attendance at the SAYMA June annual retreat.

Our total disbursements for the 2016 - 2017 fiscal year were \$4,537. We were left with a balance of approximately \$500 and requested \$2000 from CHFM, to be included in the 2017- 2018 budget; this was approved.

With our great thanks, longtime committee members, Lynn Drake and Gwynne Pomeroy, cycled off. Respectfully submitted by the Shotts Memorial/Leadership Development Committee: Jan Hutton, Clerk; Lori Fernald Khamala, Lloyd Kramer, Roberto Quercia, Monteze Snyder, and Catherine Alguire.

Email, October 25:

We, Sean Chen and Lori Khamala, are writing to seek clearness to get married under the care of the Meeting.

We have both felt nourished by the Chapel Hill Meeting both individually and as a couple. In fact, as we were discerning whether or not to move in together, we sought a clearness committee under the care of the Meeting, and that brought us the clarity we needed to move forward in joining our families a year and a half ago.

In April, Sean and I felt clear to get legally married, and we did that at the Orange County Courthouse with our parents and children present as witnesses.

In addition to the legal proceedings, we would like to pursue marriage under the care of the Meeting. We know that marriage is not just an individual commitment to each other, but also has a role in the community. We are seeking a clearness committee, and if we and the Meeting are clear in proceeding, we would also joyfully request a wedding oversight committee and we would invite Friends to join us in a Quaker wedding and celebration of our union next April.

Please let us know how we should proceed.

In thanks and with love,

Lori & Sean

## **Spiritual State of the Meeting summary report**

Friends gathered on Saturday, October 21, 2017, to consider the spiritual state of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. This report is a reflection of the sharings on these queries:

*1) What brings you to the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting? What were you hoping for? How have our Worship/Committees/Programming nurtured you:*

*\*spiritual life \*social witness \*gifts \*family*

*2) What do you appreciate about our Meeting? What challenges do you believe we face as a Quaker community?*

*3) What do we want to share and learn from other Meetings in Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting?*

Friends in the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting come from many different backgrounds: Baptist, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Non-Theist, Presbyterian, Unitarian, programmed Friends Churches, or other unprogrammed Meetings. Some come with a partner, some come when attending school at UNC. All are seeking a place to deepen their spiritual lives, quiet the noise from the world, and share in community. They have found a place where they can discover their gifts and

have them nurtured, a place they can bring their children knowing they will be loved and valued. Sitting in silence can be transformational. As one Friend said, "I am a changed person because of the Meeting."

Appreciation for our Meeting runs deep and wide. Some are looking for a venue for social activism. Some value the activism of others even if it is not their own leading at this time. There is much appreciation for the guests from Orange Correctional Center (OCC) who enrich our community in many ways, especially through their participation in Meetings for Worship. Some find the early worship with greater silence and less vocal ministry especially appealing. Older Friends who struggle with hearing loss find the efforts to address this issue with our new sound amplification system helpful. We all have different abilities and leadings. Many express gratitude that we are not told what we have to do and believe. The diversity of beliefs is a strength. Others come for renewal and don't want to be drained by too many announcements and too much focus on social action. Yet many feel kinship with the kindred spirits they find in Meeting. It is family.

One challenge we face is how to encourage spiritual connections on Sunday mornings that go beyond superficial greetings. Small groups like committees, interest groups, and clearness committees can help with this. Many in Chapel Hill Meeting are grey haired. How do we support and develop the community of young people? When we need to spend money to renovate our building, differing opinions can be difficult to manage. How can we make these decisions in love for one another and not leave unresolved feelings? Chatter in the library and foyer can disturb those settling in for worship. How can we ease the transition from visiting as we arrive and move into silent worship? How can we keep the Meeting room at a comfortable temperature and make it a pleasant and uplifting space? Some people feel we work ourselves too hard. How can we support good self-care? How do we balance the focus on the world with the need for a safe haven? A big challenge is how to relate to our fractured world, how to reach across the divide to others with differing views, how to connect our faith to practice. There is talk of having a retreat to address our rage/grief about the current political situation. Would Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting be a place for this to happen?

We recognize the importance of our membership in Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Yearly Meeting. We wonder what other Meetings are doing to build community, to have deeper relations. How do we encourage more Friends to attend PFF/YM? Can we organize car pools, have worship on Sundays with PFF/YM rather than at CHFM? We also wonder how other Meetings embrace their faith and put it into practice. Through the Concerned Friends program, we want to respond to social concerns of interest and coordinate our efforts with other Meetings. PFYM may create opportunities for committee clerks to get together to talk/brainstorm/compare notes, etc. We would like to share what we have done and hear what other Meetings are doing. We look forward to deepening our connections with each other in PFF/YM.

November 3, 2017 Alice Carlton and Lynn Drake for the Ministry and Worship Committee

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## 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 on First Days at 8:30 and 11:00 AM

Forum at 9:45am; Child Care from 9:30 AM–12:15 PM

First Day School from 11:15 AM–12:00 PM

Clerk of the Meeting: Matt Drake (919) 968-0044

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](http://www.chapelhillfriends.org). The deadline for submissions is 10 PM on the last Sunday of the month. Email submissions to [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org) or call Peter Malone, (919) 270-4456. Please include "newsletter" in the subject line.

- E-news. To send a news or "In the Light" announcement in the Meeting's e-news, contact [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org). Please include "e-news" or "in the light" in the subject line. This e-news goes to about 280 people. Do not submit personal information about someone else unless you know he/she wants to share. Subscribe to the e-news at [www.chapelhillfriends.org/contact.html](http://www.chapelhillfriends.org/contact.html).

- Website. To get items posted on our website, send them to [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org).