

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Newsletter

Twelfth Month, 2019

Monthly Query: What am I and our meeting doing to reduce polarization in the larger community?

Monthly Worship Tip from the M&W Committee: When taking in another's vocal ministry, take a moment to test your own reactions. Where do they come from? Are you listening through to the Light behind the message? If you find yourself struggling with another's words, search for the Love behind the words.



Upcoming Forum Schedule –

December 8 - Home Grown Poetry from Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Three Meeting poets (Dirk Kelder, Alice Carlton, and Kitty Bergel) will read their own poems, followed by a short question/comment period.

December 15 - No Forum

Meeting With Attention to Business at 9 a.m.

December 22 - Holiday Sing

Come join your Meeting community in singing the songs of the season, reflecting the stories of our tradition, and the love and giving that the season represents. Peter White and Faye Stanley will lead us in beloved holiday songs. If you have a special favorite, let them know by the end of November!

December 29 - The Winter Solstice

How the shortest days of the year connect us to our place in nature. Seasonal worship sharing, led by Carolyn and Peter White

African Art Market, Dec 14-15

Annalee Harkins shares with Friends:
Astonishing variety of unique, handmade gifts at every price point, starting at \$2! Proceeds go to Amina's Gift, an NGO providing for the educational and medical needs of children in the villages where the art is created. December 14 -15 from noon - 4 pm at 52 Dogwood Acres Dr, Chapel Hill 27516.

Annual Christmas Party, Dec 15

Chapel Hill Early School: 5-7 pm

There will be food, singing, and a play, put on by First Day School children and youth (players are asked to arrive at 4:15 to have time to prepare costumes for the play). Eggnog and cider are provided and the rest is potluck (finger-type food.) The teens will also present something special to be announced. We would like to emphasize that this event is not just for families with children. It is for ALL of Meeting and is a wonderful occasion for intergenerational connection and bonding.

Under the care of the Children's and Youth Religious Education and Hospitality Committees.

Mack Ivey attended CHFM for many years before moving to Carol Woods in 2001. He died Nov. 24 from complications of Parkinson's Disease. He is survived by his wife Mahla.

Reverend Sally Poland, mother of Jennifer Leeman and grandmother of Rachel Leeman-Munk and Samuel Leeman-Munk died on the day after Thanksgiving.

Christmas Eve Worship, Tuesday, Dec 24

All Friends, attenders, and their families are invited to share in our Chapel Hill Friends' Christmas Eve Worship. Friends are encouraged to come at 5pm to enjoy beautiful seasonal music with Peter White as preparation for our candlelight worship. At 5:30 we will begin 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.

Interfaith Council to Provide Holiday Meal

The Interfaith Council for Social Services will provide a holiday meal - including a turkey or ham with all the fixin's - for members of our community who would otherwise go without this holiday season. You can make this happen! Just write a check for \$25 (or more!) with "holiday meals" on the memo line and put it in the envelope in the foyer at Meeting. You can also make a donation to the IFC [online](#). Thank you! Your generosity will be greatly appreciated!

Study Tour to Bolivia

Pam Schwingl shares with Friends:

The Bolivia Quaker Education Fund (BQEF) is sponsoring a study tour to Bolivia in July of 2020 to promote cross-cultural and trans-continental Quaker exchange with an emphasis on studying climate change from a South American perspective. It's exciting to us that some former graduates of our scholarship program will be among those presenting and helping with the tour.

For more information and details about the 2020 Quaker Study Tour, please visit the BQEF [website](#), which includes information about dates, a provisional itinerary, information about tour leaders, registration information and an application form. While we are very concerned about the ongoing political unrest in Bolivia which has impacted life for most everyone in the El Alto and La Paz areas, at this time we are moving forward with our plans for the trip as we are hoping that the situation may be more settled by July. Please contact Pam Schwingl for more information - 919-943-0961 or pschwingl82@gmail.com.

Message Regarding Benevolences From Clerk Of Meeting

Friends – At our November Business Meeting, the Benevolences Subcommittee of the Peace and Justice Committee presented its proposal for a revised benevolence process and it will be posted on the website with the minutes of that meeting in the December [newsletter](#). The proposed process establishes donation percentages that are based on our history and focuses on the organizations that our Meeting was instrumental in creating. Please read through the proposal for the details. This proposal is in response to concerns raised within our community that the annual determination of amounts for each organization has become contentious and difficult and is preventing the giving process from being joyful and positive. Concerns have also been raised that establishing the proposed percentages decreases our ability to react to changing conditions and revelations. Both views are deeply held. It is our task as a Quaker community to hold the concerns raised in a spirit of love and to look for divine guidance to find a way forward that provides the greatest sense of unity possible. We will be considering this further at our next Business Meeting on December 15th and need your participation. Discernment is the work of our Meeting and the Spirit favors the well-prepared. Please take some time to read the proposal and to consider it carefully and hold our community in the Light as we look for a way to open to lead us forward. In Peace. - Chris

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention To Business
9 am, November 17, 2019
Chris Stanley, Clerk; Alice Carlton, Recording Clerk

Attendance: Alice Carlton, Chris Stanley, David Curtin, Hank Elkins, Joyce Sandy, Lam B. Sandy, Faye Stanley, Deborah Hoodinan, Lois Ann Hobbs, Asta Crowe, Karen Porter, Ken Grogan, Jan Hutton, Tom Munk, Jennifer Leeman, Dottie Heninger, Timothy Fogarty, Carolyn White, Lloyd Kramer, Julia Cleaver, John "the Quaker" Hite, Gwynne Pomeroy, Ann Miller, Monteze Snyder, Kitty Bergel, Richard Miller, Carolyn Stuart, Emilie Condon, Lynn Drake, Matt Drake.

1. Opening worship and query: "How do I show my concern for the improvement of education in my community?"
2. Welcome and recognition of first time attenders: Joyce and Lam B. Sandy, Deborah Hoodinan, and review of agenda.
3. The October minutes were approved as written.
4. From last month, we again considered the proposal from Peace & Justice Committee that a subcommittee be set up to investigate the possibility of installing solar panels on the Meetinghouse, made of representatives from Carolina Friends School (CFS), Buildings & Grounds Committee (B&G), Peace & Justice Committee (P&J), Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), Finance and other interesting Meeting members. Brad Kershner, head of CFS early school, will participate if needed. Mark Shanahan, Facilities Manager of CFS, would possibility like to be included. We approved the formation of such a subcommittee with P&J taking the lead in convening it.
5. Asta Crowe, Co-clerk, Mary and Claude Shotts Memorial/Leadership Development Fund presented the annual report. (See appendix 1.) A question was raised about being in touch with the Shotts family. That communication will be pursued. We accepted the report with appreciation.
6. Tom Munk, Clerk, P&J, presented a proposal for benevolences from the subcommittee which will be held over for decision next month. P&J discussed it at length and was not in unity (see appendix 2). Several Friends spoke to the tension stimulated by this issue and the desire to put our energy to other uses. One Friend asked that it return to P&J for further threshing. This proposal will be further considered next month.
7. Jeff Brown, Co-clerk of Ministry and Worship Committee, presented the annual report (see appendix 3). One Friend asked if we could create a program for Friends who wish to deepen their Quaker Spiritual life. Such a program is in process of being considered. Another Friend spoke highly of the recent pilgrimage to Philadelphia. We accepted this report with gratitude.
8. Tim Fogarty for P&J reported on identification of an appropriate organization to receive the \$250 that Meeting approved to support suffering people in the Bahamas. After some research, Mercy Corp International was selected. They bring long term expertise from many disasters, they collaborate with local organizations, they help the local people learn to desalinate water, 87% of their budget goes into programming, they have integrated locals into their team in every country (see appendix 4). We accepted this recommendation with appreciation.
9. Karen Porter, Clerk of P&J, reported about the new organization Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL), born from and under the spiritual care of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM). Karen is co-clerk of the FCNCL Policy Committee and requests input on legislative priorities. Those she has received so far include: gerrymandering and voter suppression, climate change, unions, affordable housing, mass incarceration, outlawing private prisons, Alternatives to Violence Program and restorative justice in prisons, abolishment of the death penalty, and educational concerns. When the NC legislature convenes, these priorities will be influenced by proposed legislation. Current Chapel Hill Friends Meeting (CHFM) representatives to FCNCL are Karen Porter, Naveed Moeed, Richard Miller and Betsy Fenhagen.

10. Ann Miller, Finance Committee, reported we are on track. Further details next month.

11. Next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be Sunday, Dec 15, 2019 at 9 am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. University of North Carolina Coal fired plant talk Saturday, Nov. 23 at Chapel Hill Public Library at 10 am.

B. Tom Munk and Curt Torrel reported on a trip to DC to lobby Congress about the repeal of the Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF). Pressure needs to be placed on Senators Burr and Tillis to repeal this law.

C. The Trojan Women play continues. There will be a silent auction. This production is a fund raiser for Quaker House.

D. Work morning Dec. 7, please come.

E. Pecans ordered for the Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry fund raiser have been delayed.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Shotts Memorial and Leadership Development Fund Committee Annual Report

2018-2019

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 year-end principal balance is \$35,221.44. From this fund, we received \$1,278 in interest income for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Our fund balance in our BB&T account at the end of the fiscal year 2018-19 was \$2,317.68, carried forward to FY2019-20.

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. Grants made for the 2018 - 2019 fiscal year totaled \$2,503. The committee received \$200 for the Leadership fund for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Thirty Friends received support during the year, 22 of whom participated in the Piedmont Friends Fellowship Annual Meeting in March. Activities included attendance at Friends General Conference; FCNL Lobby Day on immigration in Washington DC. ; School of the Spirit retreat at the Avila Retreat Center; participation in the Poor People's Campaign in Washington DC.

Many thanks for the members of the committee. Monteze Snyder cycled off for FY'20, and we express our thanks to her for her excellent stewardship. Our current committee is served by Lynn Drake and Asta Crowe (co-clerk), Catherine Alguire, Ken Grogan, Susan Inglis, Roberto Quercia.

Appendix 2

To the Peace and Justice Committee, Karen Porter, Clerk

In peace and love, we the members of the ad hoc committee appointed by the September 22, 2019 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business recommend in unity to the P&J committee that it send the following minute forward to the November Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. We are Matt Drake, Dottie Heninger, and Tom Munk. The 4th appointee, Joyce Sandy was unable to attend the October 20 committee meeting in which we united on the recommendations

Recommendation for a Modified Benevolence Process

We are deeply grateful that our Meeting shares so much of its income with others, often 35 to 40% of the total. We celebrate this ongoing commitment. Oversight of the Meeting's benevolences is shared among three committees: Library, Ministry and Worship, and Peace and Justice. The focus here is on the benevolences currently overseen by the Peace and Justice Committee (P&C).

We are grateful for the Meeting's historic support of five organizations: American Friends Service Committee, Carolina Friends School, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Interfaith Council for Social Services, and Quaker House. The Meeting has provided substantial support for each of these organizations for more than thirty-five years.

Over the last ten years, these five received an average of 84% of the total benevolences currently overseen by P&J. We recommend that these five legacy organizations continue to receive 84% of the Meeting's total benevolences currently overseen by P&J.

To determine the amount given to each of the five we averaged the percentage each has received annually from the Meeting over the last ten years. The resulting percentages are as follows.

- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): 7%
- Carolina Friends School (CFS) Tuition Aid: 19%
- Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): 10%
- InterFaith Council for Social Services (IFC): 26%
- Quaker House: 22%

Oversight of the benevolences to the Meeting's legacy recipients will be accomplished by asking the following to present annual reports to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB):

- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): a Meeting Friend active in the AFSC named by the Meeting Clerk
- Carolina Friends School (CFS) Tuition Aid Fund: a Meeting appointee to the CFS Board of Trustees selected by the appointees
- Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): a Meeting Friend active in the FCNL selected by the Meeting Clerk
- InterFaith Council for Social Services (IFC): a Meeting appointee to the InterFaith Council Committee selected by the appointees
- Quaker House: a Meeting appointee to the Quaker House Board of Directors selected by the appointees

The P&J Committee will unite each year on the recipients of the remaining 16% of the Meeting's annual P&J benevolence total and recommend recipients and amounts to the MWAB for approval. P&J will continue to meet the following guidelines for their benevolence decisions as stated in previous P&J reports: "Meeting

benevolences MUST be either (a) Quaker-affiliated organizations, or (b) local organizations that reflect our Meeting's values and with which members of the Meeting are closely involved." P&J will be responsible for oversight of the benevolences they recommend, annually reporting their findings to MWAB.

Appendix 3 Ministry and Worship Annual Report 2018-2019

Reviewing the activities of the Ministry and Worship Committee this past year, we celebrate the cooperation and collaboration with other Meeting committees, Meeting members and attenders, and others who inspire our work and service. Our responsibility is to support the spiritual life of the Meeting with concern for the quality of our Meetings for Worship, Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business, and including a number of other roles, described below.

Recurring activities of Ministry and Worship include:

- The annual September Clerks' Gathering, attended by 18, including 5 non-clerks; Planning for the Clerks' Retreat involves working with the Clerk of the Meeting on the agenda and inviting ideas from Committee Clerks on topics of interest for the retreat and then learning about the discernment and spiritual opportunity of clerking a committee;
- The October Spiritual State of the Meeting gathering, attended by 15; The Spiritual State of the Meeting allows us to reflect on issues while sharing deeply with others on queries prompted by the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting;
- At the request of Yearly Meeting, each October we count the overall number of Friends and attenders in attendance at both Early and Late Meetings for Worship throughout that month; this October we averaged 6 attendees at Early Meeting and 64 at Late Meeting.
- Our annual Christmas Eve Worship;
- Worship Sharing with Attention to Animals (guided by the Animal Welfare Subcommittee);
- Meeting for Worship with Attention to Graduating Seniors (however, there were no seniors this year);
- Forums, including in 2019, "Talking About What No One Wants to Talk About";
- Sending our monthly minutes to the Archives Committee dropbox for eventual inclusion, digitally, at Guilford College;
- Discerning queries for each month of the year used in the e-news, newsletter, and read in the first part of Meeting for Worship;
- Participation on clearness committees for membership and coordinating transfers of membership;

We welcomed Paul Munk, Joyce Munk, Betsy Fenhagen this year;

- Working with Children and Youth Religious Education Committee (CYRE) to coordinate the teens closing Late Meeting in months having 5 Sundays and offering an experiential and informational program on membership to the teens;
- Consulting with the Peace & Justice Committee on benevolences.
- Designating a Closer for every meeting for worship.

M&W collaborated with Care & Counsel, CYRE, and Hospitality to create a document describing celebration practices for babies, grandbabies, and college graduates.

M&W began exploring opportunities for informing newcomers who seek more information. Resources for programming include Quakerism 101 documents on the Meeting website, Friends General Conference materials, and QuakerSpeak videos online.

An ad hoc committee researched and addressed the safety measures including the topic of mass shootings and emergency preparedness at CHFM (and in everyday life). The Meeting purchased a defibrillator for the Meeting House, and plans are underway for Meeting-supported training for CPR and the AED device.

After much discernment in cooperation with M&W and CYRE, an ad hoc group initiated and is organizing five minutes of singing prior to Late Meeting for Worship for a three-month trial period beginning in October.

Some of the continuing concerns of the M&W committee include: quality of vocal ministry, nurturance of Meeting committees, and attention to the quality of worship, including processes for beginning and ending worship, and the brevity of shared announcements.

M&W expresses gratitude for the new CHFM website and the content added or transferred from the old site.

With great appreciation, we thanked departing member Faye Stanley for her faithful service.

Jan Hutton and Jeff Brown, co-clerks for the Ministry and Worship Committee, Madelyn Ashley, Kitty Bergel, Alice Carlton, Leslie Rountree and Chris Stanley, *ex-officio*.

Appendix 4

From Tim Fogarty to the Peace and Social Concerns and the Finance committees

In the past month, examining the work of various governmental and non-governmental disaster relief and reconstruction agencies working in the Bahamas after hurricane Dorian; It is clear that imported subsistence supplies are not a critical need at the present moment as there are several national and international governmental agencies addressing the initial crisis and several additional national and international non-governmental agencies presently working in the worst damaged areas.

After reviewing much of the recent press releases from all of the above I have determined that the organization exhibiting the best approach to not only helping the initial crisis but providing assistance of a longer term recovery is **Mercy Corps International**. An International NGO with Headquarters in the United States with regional offices on all the continents and projects currently in 41 countries. I recommend them for several reasons.

- Even though they have been in the Bahamas only since Hurricane Dorian, they bring the experience of long term successes with disaster assistance and recovery from multiple sites in more than 40 countries around the globe during the last 40 years.
- From their beginning work in the Bahamas they began to work with other international NGOs and local organizations. Moving from bringing barges full of freshwater to the Bahamas to helping the local people learn about desalinizing and purifying water as they develop in-country desalinization and water-treatment plants.
- Because 87% of their financial resources go directly into program expenses, they have earned the highest ratings for efficiency, accountability and transparency from charity watchdog groups such as Charity Navigator and the Better Business Bureau & Wise Giving Alliance.
- They have integrated locals into their teams in every country where they work.

I have not found any comparatively excellent organization in all four criteria and for that reason I recommend that we send the money to Mercy Corps as soon as approved by the Meeting with attention to business,

Submitted by Tim Fogarty 10-25-19

Intergenerational Games

Please join us on the First Sunday of each month for Intergenerational Games following potluck, after the rise of Meeting.

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

Resident: John Hite (919) 929-5377 Newsletter.