

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Newsletter

First Month, 2020

Monthly Query: How do I live in the power of that Light and Spirit that takes away the occasion of all wars?

Monthly Worship Tip from the M&W Committee: Waiting in silent expectation and prayer for guidance from the Light Within is the basis for our Meeting for Worship

Upcoming Forum Schedule –

January 5 - Tom Ludlow - Personal sharing.

January 12 - Making Them Visible: Recognizing, Supporting, and Advocating for Children of Incarcerated and Returning Parents - Please join us as we talk with Melissa Radcliff from Our Children's Place about the program's work to build a community where children of incarcerated parents are recognized, supported rather than shamed and stigmatized, and encouraged to share their stories.

January 19 - No Forum - Meeting With Attention to Business at 9 a.m.

January 26 - CHFM Renovations: Past and Future - Building and Grounds offers a renovation update, to share plans and gather inputs on short and long term work on the Meetinghouse and grounds.

Organizing Against Racism, Feb. 14-15 - Emilie Condon shares with Friends:

Phase I - Racial Equity Workshop
February 14-15 (Friday/Saturday) 9am-5pm
First Baptist Church
106 North Roberson Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

We are partnering with the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Branch of the NAACP, the Orange County Health Equity Council, and First Baptist Church to bring the next REI Phase I workshop to Orange County!

Moving the focus from individual bigotry and bias, the REI Phase I workshop presents a historical, cultural, structural, and institutional analysis. REI believes that organizations often work for equity with multiple understandings of racism that rely more on personal feelings and popular opinion. Please share with your networks. Register:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07egpplqu0504e4490&oseq=&c=&ch=>

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.



Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Minutes
9 am, December 15, 2019
Chris Stanley, Clerk, and Alice Carlton, Recording Clerk

Attendance: Alice Carlton, Chris Stanley, Dave Curtin, Hank Elkins, Matt Drake, Lynn Drake, Jeff Brown, Hart Pillow, Carolyn Stuart, Dottie Heninger, Jennifer Leeman, Tom Munk, Ken Grogan, Pat Mann, Betsy Brinson, John Hite, Asta Crowe, Jan Hutton, Mike Jokinen, Julia Cleaver, Tom Ludlow, Max Drake, Carolyn White, Deborah Gibbs, Faye Stanley, Wendy Michener, Richard Miller, Joyce Munk, Paul Munk, Andrei Royster, Dirk Kelder, Buffie Webber.

1. Opening worship and query: What am I and our meeting doing to reduce polarization in the larger community?
2. Welcome, recognition of first-time attenders (none present), review of agenda.
3. The minutes from November were approved as written.
4. Hank Elkins, Peace & Justice Committee (P&J), reported on the formation of a subcommittee made up of members of Buildings & Grounds (B&G), Carolina Friends School (CFS) (Mark Shanahan), Finance, P&J, and Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW). They have consulted Durham Meeting about their solar panels. There is a google group to share information and three companies from which to solicit estimates. They will keep us informed as they work.
5. Jeff Brown, Co-clerk, Ministry & Worship Committee (M&W), presented the spiritual condition report for Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM). The report was accepted as written. (See attached.)
6. P&J Benevolence subcommittee proposal will be revised and presented in January. A worship sharing was held Wednesday, Dec. 4. Tom Munk, Clerk, P&J, reported that this subcommittee will meet on January 2, 2020 (Tom Munk, Matt Drake, Dottie Heninger and Joyce Sandy) and invites anyone to share their thoughts. Friends were encouraged to share concerns if they haven't had the opportunity until now. A Friend wants to have our benevolences reflect our concern for the climate crisis and support for Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL). Another expressed concern for the time it takes to deal with benevolences. Friends have had trouble finding the benevolence report on our web site. It is posted under committees, P&J. Another spoke to process and reminded us we can change it as circumstances change. Another spoke of the importance of supporting FCNCL, which can address concerns related to NC prisons and alternative energy (there is currently a moratorium on the development of wind power in NC). Another proposed we honor the work of this subcommittee and be mindful of the costs of the contention this issue brings to our community. We are all attempting to do good work. Maintaining good relationships is primary.
7. Jan Hutton, Co-clerk, M&W, provided an update on the Emergency Preparedness efforts. We have purchased a defibrillator (AED) and installed it on the wall. Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) bracelets are available through Orange Co Emergency Medical Services. Members are encouraged to communicate their wishes for resuscitation during an emergency. We will offer Coronary Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and AED training in the new year. In the event of an emergency, we will call 911 and do the best we can as "Good Samaritans" until they arrive. We accepted the report with gratitude.
8. Carolyn Stuart, Co-clerk, presented the Care and Counsel Committee Annual Report. (See attached.) P&J is working on mapping members homes to facilitate car-pooling. We approved this report with minor corrections and gratitude.
9. The Treasurer's quarterly report will be made in January.
10. Next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB) will be January 19, 2020.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Advocacy team lobbied to encourage the ending of Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) of 2002 but, sadly, did not succeed. Several initiatives failed to avoid giving the Pentagon a blank check. Friends are encouraged to call David Price to express our disapproval.
- B. New button: Humankind be both.
- C. B&G Committee is close to a decision about replacing the roof. It may be done during winter break.
- D. Christmas party is at 5 pm today.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Spiritual Condition Report 2019

Although we feel nurtured by the gathered silence, we are often too busy. Many concerns are expressed in worship. We struggle to balance the political/spiritual messages and to slow down to make room for spirituality. For the most part, we feel safe in our community where we come to ground and center ourselves. We seek to be grounded in peace rather than in pieces.

As a community, we have been stretched thin. Nominations Committee has difficulty filling committee vacancies at times. Yet we recognize that, compared to some other meetings, we are a large and diverse community. We are family! As a large meeting, we struggle to create ways to get to know each other. Our Care & Counsel Committee's clearness and support committees and Quaker 8s groups have proven to be a powerful channel for the workings of the spirit. One Quaker 8s group was conducted entirely in Spanish, using the Claremont dialogue process to respond to our monthly query. The renovations to the Meeting room have been a disruption but were much needed. We are generous with our benevolences, yet the annual decision-making process can be stressful.

The children in our First Day School (FDS) are in our hearts. It is an ongoing challenge to teach them about Quakerism. Another challenge is when parents arrive late and their children miss the experience of worship in the first 15 minutes. The new practice of singing before Meeting and with the children is going well and has been well received.

The presence of current and former residents of Orange Correctional Center (OCC) spiritually enriches us. Not only do they bring racial/ethnic diversity, they also bring socioeconomic diversity. One challenge we continue to address is how best to acquaint our OCC and other visitors/newcomers with the ways of Friends' worship. We need to revisit the testimonies and offer Quakerism 101 again. Integrating families of young children (many parents teach First Day School) and reaching out to young adult visitors to welcome them can be a challenge.

We appreciate our involvement in Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM) and are grateful we have good representation. It is an ongoing challenge to break out of our isolation and to make PFYM more alive for Chapel Hill Friends Meeting (CHFM). Visiting other Meetings could help. The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) advocacy groups help to acquaint us with other Friends. We celebrate the new Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL) as another way to get to know other Friends and take our message into the wider world. We need to leave our island and participate in other Quaker groups such as PFYM, Friends General Conference Gathering (FGC), Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF), inter-visitation, etc. The Shotts/Leadership Development Fund is available to underwrite participation in these groups.

There is a real sense of urgency and concern for the climate crisis. We have a newly formed Quaker Earthcare Witness group which has led to increased attendance at our Peace & Justice Committee meetings. We have had two community climate groups, Citizens Climate Collaborative and Extinction

Rebellion Chapelboro, offer forums for us. We are beginning to explore the possibilities of installing solar panels.

Overall, we seek a balance of inward spirituality and outward action. We cherish our community and want it to be a place where we all feel safe and can receive support when needed.

Appendix 2

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Care and Counsel Committee Annual Report—2019

Providing pastoral care for our Meeting members and attenders, the Care and Counsel Committee convened several Clearness Committees (career related, marriage related, and personal concerns or transitions related) and longer-termed Support Committees, all the while maintaining a clear commitment to both open-hearted, spirit led-and non-judgmental listening and confidentiality.

During 2019, we have also sponsored a series of Forums—one devoted to the formation of small groups interested in various topics, one devoted to end-of-life considerations and procedures and one devoted to overcoming stigma attached to mental health issues in order to get the help needed. We felt that all three forums were both successful and valuable to the overall well-being of our meeting and might be worthy of future revisits. In addition, we are making plans for a forum next spring on improving the relationship between individuals and the planet we live on. We assisted families in providing memorial services for Claire Kunkel and Mack Ivey at Carol Woods and for Bill Jenkins and Jean Hulbert at the Meetinghouse.

We have revised or participated in the revision of our description on-line and in future Meeting Directories, in providing an introduction to the documents supplied on our website dealing with end-of-life issues and a document dealing with celebrations of birth, graduation, and death for the Meeting. Care and Counsel wishes to express appreciation to Carolyn White, Recorder, and Dottie Heninger for their work on the memorial book, which is now up-to-date.

We have initiated or participated in Meal Trains or in coordinating the provision of individuals who need transportation to Meeting events.

This summer, Jennifer Leeman and Matt Drake (ex officio) rotated off our committee as we welcomed new members Carolyn Stuart (now co-clerk), Julia Cleaver, and Chris Stanley (ex officio). Our current membership also includes Lynn Drake, Pat Mann, Ann Miller, Tom Munk, Tom Ludlow, Jasmine McKewen and Bonnie Raphael (co-clerk).

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.