

# Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Newsletter: Tenth Month, 2023



Monthly Query: *What does simplicity mean to me?*

Monthly Worship Tip from the M&W Committee: *Friends who set aside time each day for meditation, personal prayer, or reflection often find it strengthens and deepens their experience with the living silence of meeting for worship. Such preparation readies the mind and opens one's heart and spirit to engage in deep communion with others.*

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## Upcoming Zoom Fora - 9:30 am

<https://www.chapelhillfriends.org/forums.html>

**October 1:** Celebrating Transgender and Non-Binary Friends: Concepts and Terminology. Facilitated by Astra Titus and Campo Larrick.

**October 8:** On Silent Worship. Facilitated by the Ministry and Worship Committee

**October 15:** MFWB

**October 22:** Celebrating Transgender and Non-Binary Friends: Spiritual and Personal Sharings.

**October 29:** The Pendle Hill Experience. Facilitator: Campo Larrick.

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## Upcoming Events

### NC Death Penalty: Call to Action, Sun, Oct 1, 4–6 pm

Quaker Harmon shares with Friends:

Peace and Social Concerns at Durham Friends Meeting is excited to host a forum on the NC Death Penalty with a Call to Action! We are delighted to have Elizabeth Hambourger, defense lawyer at the Center for Death Penalty Litigation, be our speaker and to show and discuss the 25 min film RacistRoots about NC's 400 year racist history that led to the death penalty. We hope that you can join us in signing a letter to Gov Cooper to commute death sentences and engage in social justice discussions.

We have a forum planned for **October 1, Sunday afternoon, 4-6 pm** to learn more and discuss this issue. Zoom link, snacks and childcare will be provided.

**First hour of forum 4 – 5 pm:**

- Introduction by Elizabeth Hambourger, well respected defense lawyer at Center for Death Penalty Litigation who worked on the Racist Roots project and leads Restorative Justice efforts
- Screening of the 25 min film RacistRoots
- Short Q&A
- CALL TO ACTION: sign the letter to Gov Cooper to commute death sentences to prison terms
- BREAK and snacks

**Second part of forum ending at 6 pm:**

- Breakout discussion groups – f/Friends gather with people already working directly with death row inmates, court accompaniment, restorative justice, RCND reentry teams, gun violence, gender discrimination, racial justice, failing schools, homelessness and increasing poverty and the list goes on.
- Wrap-up in large group

Any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact us at [dfm-psc@googlegroups.com](mailto:dfm-psc@googlegroups.com).

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## “Something To Say” Art Exhibit, through Oct 15



Dear Friends,

We have planned this year's “Something to Say” art exhibit for September 27 through October 15th. The exhibit will showcase the visual art and poetry of men who are incarcerated at Orange Correctional Center(OCC). The “Friends & Family” event will be held on Saturday, October 14th. In past years, the timing for this event was 4:30 to 7:30, but we will probably adjust the time, as sunset will be earlier!

We are so grateful to Margaret Lane Gallery for hosting the exhibit which will be held in the “green room” at the back of the gallery rather than the main room of the gallery. The “green room” is a light-filled, beautiful space with a back door that leads to the backyard of the gallery.

Like last year, we are inviting the men to submit poetry as well! One of the highlights of the Friends & Family event is the reading of the poems.

Once again, we hope to invite groups and organizations that support incarcerated people and returning citizens. It's a great opportunity for individuals and organizations to build connections and community!

If you would like to help us plan or participate in the Friends & Family event, please let me know at [sallyfreeman@earthlink.net](mailto:sallyfreeman@earthlink.net)

Thank you so much!  
Sally Freeman

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## “Something To Say” Friends & Family Gathering, Sat. Oct. 14, 2-5 pm

A celebration of creativity and community with those with the lived experience of incarceration and those who support them. The general public is welcome to join in!

- Something to Say 2023 art show, featuring art from the men at Orange Correctional Center
- 2:00 Live Music in the front yard of Margaret Lane Gallery
- 3:00 Poetry Reading - poems from poets residing at OCC
- Information - Organizations that support people who are
- incarcerated or re-entering will be present with information available
- Food and coffee!



## School of the Spirit Contemplative Retreat, Oct 26-29

The School of the Spirit is bringing back in-person contemplative retreats. We will be offering a retreat at the Avila Center in Durham, North Carolina, October 26-29, 2023. Using the theme *Thresholds as Invitations: A Contemplative Retreat in the Manner of Friends*, we will explore those moments of in-between, of possibility, of endings and beginnings. The retreat is a program of [The School of the Spirit](#) ministry.

During the retreat, participants will experience the distinctly Quaker manner of knowing solitude in community. Opening to change and unknowing as gifts takes faith and practice and community. We invite you to come and explore contemplative practices that can make thresholds more welcome invitations. There will be silent time for prayer and reflection, walks among the trees, and contemplative interaction with scripture. We will gather in worship and worship sharing, and participants may, if they wish, meet one-on-one with a retreat leader.

Thresholds as Invitations will be led by April Allison newly of the Durham Friends Meeting in North Carolina and Jan Blodgett former member of the School of the Spirit board. Scott Wagoner of High Point Friends Meeting in North Carolina will participate in leadership as part of the mentorship program.

REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN: [For more information, or to register](#). All are welcome; it is not necessary that you be a Quaker to participate. The retreat begins at 5 pm on Thursday, ending mid-day on Sunday. Flexible fees are available.

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## Piedmont Friends Fall Gathering, Sat, Oct 28, 11:00 to 3:30

You and your family are invited to join Piedmont Friends for fellowship and a family-friendly guided tour of the museum to learn about the impact of the 1960 Sit-In Movement. The museum commemorates the Feb. 1, 1960, beginning of sit-ins at a whites-only lunch counter in Greensboro, by the N.C. A&T Four college students, reflecting careful planning carried out with colleagues at Bennett College.

11:00 a.m. gather for fellowship (location TBD-local park or the museum)

Noon - Bring-your-own lunch

1:00 – 2:35 Museum Tour (95 minutes)

2:35 - 3:30 - Gather in museum classroom for reflections on tour

- \$20.00- Adults (payable via online donation with registration)
- Children and Students-FREE. Piedmont Friends is paying the entrance fee. Piedmont Friends will be paying the entrance fee for children and young adult students, and for the use of the meeting room at the museum.

- Parking: On Elm Street or in the Green Parking deck is about a block away and is free on weekends

REGISTRATION: [Piedmont Friends Fall Gathering 2023 Registration Form](#)

International Civil Rights Center & Museum  
134 S. Elm Street  
Greensboro, NC, 27401  
<https://www.sitinmovement.org>



## Announcements

### Piedmont Friends–Yearly Meeting & Fellowship Epistle

Ann Miller shares with Friends:

First Annual Session, Sixth Month, 2023 Greetings to Friends everywhere,

On the third day of the sixth month, Piedmont Friends–Yearly Meeting & Fellowship held its first Annual Session as a unified body on the Guilford College campus in Greensboro, North Carolina. It was a beautiful Saturday, allowing us to throw open the doors and windows of our space with joy as we gathered together in worship and cheerful fellowship.

The Friday evening prior we had gathered online to consider a series of queries designed to explore the weekend’s theme: “From Pandemic Isolation into Joyful Community.” In small groups Friends shared with heartfelt emotion the changes the COVID pandemic wrought in their lives and communities and expressed gratitude for the spiritual space that was being provided to reflect on this concern.

At Guilford College on Saturday morning, the plenary speaker Josh LeRoy, Chaplain of North Carolina’s Orange County Correctional Center in Hillsborough, used a story about a healing that Jesus performed to explore what can be learned by example in our efforts to heal our communities and our world. Clarity, creativity, faith, compassion, risk-taking and persistence were reflected in Jesus’ actions and those who had faith in him. Jesus asked not to be worshiped, but to be followed in deed – “go and do likewise.” Friends shared some of their own experiences of healing provided in or by their communities. Healing is not always at the hands

we expect and at times is from 'unexpected channels' where we may risk vulnerability but gain intimacy as we move forward from pandemic conditions into joyful community.

Following our time of fellowship over lunch, some Friends walked the Guilford campus with college staff to learn about its role in the rich local history of the Underground Railroad. Others participated in a poetry workshop exploring pandemic feelings, browsed the pop-up bookstore, napped outside under the trees, made use of repurposed supplies to make collages, or caught up with old and new F/friends.

In the afternoon, the Clerking Committee convened our first Annual Session as Piedmont Friends— Yearly Meeting & Fellowship, the combined body of Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting. Following the roll call of meetings, we heard highlights from our first year as a unified body that has focused on the priorities of: creating opportunities for Friends to gather, supporting Adult Young Friends, facilitating the continuing unification of Piedmont Friends, and creating opportunities for Friends to share common concerns and work together toward response and action.

The Spiritual State of the Meeting report spoke to the common thread among meetings of a deep need and desire for community. Meetings are seeking ways to build, rebuild and/or expand efforts to be more inclusive communities as we emerge from the worst of the pandemic. As we have found the exercise of preparing a spiritual condition report within our meetings and then collectively as the yearly meeting/fellowship to be a deepening experience we agreed to establish a standing committee to continue to coordinate this work.

We welcomed reports from organizations and committees that bind us to the wider body of Friends and remembered those Friends that have passed in the last year.

In our closing time together, Friends expressed thanks to the speakers and those who shared their gifts in the weekend's program offerings, the clerking committee and retreat planners, the efforts to have zero waste, volunteers who provided the excellent refreshments and bookstore, childcare provided by a Guilford student, the seamless technical assistance throughout the weekend, the beautiful setting at Guilford College, and the good weather.

Annual Sessions concluded with a time of worship and gratitude. Messages and ministry during the virtual Sunday morning worship spoke with gratitude to the opportunities the weekend provided to move from pandemic isolation and be among Friends in joyful community.

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## Rufus King: Academic Excellence Award & Convocation Speech

John Hite shares with Friends:

This is an award that Rufus King (who graduated high school 2 years ago), got from Durham Tech: <https://www.durhamtech.edu/academic-excellence-award>

And here is Rufus speaking at Durham Tech's recent 2023 Convocation: <https://m.youtube.com/live/qQEn7LNBLkA?feature=share> (Time stamp: 20:41 to 31:45)

He is very thoughtful and eloquent. He also does speak of his Chapel Hill Quaker community.

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## Have You Been to Pendle Hill?

Deborah Gibbs shares with Friends:

Have you spent time at Pendle Hill? For a possible upcoming forum, Adult Religious Education is thinking of a panel of Friends who have visited Pendle Hill for any length of time. We're especially looking for individuals who have participated in offerings other than those offered to new clerks. Please contact [are@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:are@chapelhillfriends.org).

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## Tell Congress: Pursue a Lasting Peace in Ukraine

Buzz Borchardt shares with Friends:

The following message is from the Friends Committee on National Legislation

The war in Ukraine had raged for over a year. Congress has responded by sending tens of billions of dollars in weapons and security assistance to Ukraine—including cluster bombs and depleted uranium munitions.

But this approach has not brought Ukraine nor the world closer to peace. We firmly believe Congress can play a constructive role in helping to end violence in Ukraine and worldwide. However, lawmakers seem locked in a false belief that they have only two ways to respond: provide unchecked military aid or no support for Ukraine at all.

[Today, on the International Day of Peace, we are calling for another way forward.](#)

Lasting peace can only be achieved through peaceful means. It's time for our leaders to support the difficult work of finding a negotiated resolution to the war in Ukraine rather than relying on a



harmful and futile militarized approach. [Urge Congress to support a diplomatic path out of the conflict rather than rely on endless military aid.](#)

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## The Peace Booth at the NC State Fair

Wendy Michener shares with Friends:

The NC Peace Booth has been a presence for peace at the NC State Fair for 72 years and brings a message of peace, social justice and nonviolence to thousands of people. It commonly has 3 petitions of NC concerns for Fair attenders to sign, crafts for the children, peace testimonies from local faiths for people to take and numerous exhibits for browsing.

The Peace Booth is staffed by volunteers. It is open 12 hours per day for the 11 days of the NC State Fair (**Oct. 12 -22**), requiring over 100 volunteers from civic organizations and numerous churches and faiths. **Volunteers staff the booth in pairs for a 2-hour shift and receive a free pass into the Fair.** There is a short training for volunteers to familiarize them with the materials and usual procedures. Congregations and civic groups can staff the booth as a group on specific days. We place a placard at the booth stating the group(s) staffing the booth that day.

The theme for this year is "Lets Talk Peace". You can find out more about the Peace Booth at <http://www.ncpeacebooth.org>. If you are interested, please contact Jon Arnold at [arnoldjon@bellsouth.net](mailto:arnoldjon@bellsouth.net) for more information.

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## Zoom Tech Hosts Wanted

Support Chapel Hill Friends Meeting's Zoom worship and forums by becoming a tech host. The role is much more simple than you would imagine. Trust us! We need your help and will train you. Please contact the Zoom Subcommittee if interested, or have questions: [zoom@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:zoom@chapelhillfriends.org).

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## The IFC Pantry Needs Food Items

Carolyn Stuart shares with Friends:

The Inter-Faith Council pantry continues to need donations of food items. Please think of the IFC as you do your grocery shopping! The basket in the meetinghouse foyer is available to receive your contributions on First Days. We are no longer offering last-Wednesday food donation pickups, as Friends tend now to either support the IFC through financial contributions or bring food items to the foyer on First Days.

Thank you.

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## Visiting the Meetinghouse During Covid

Building and Grounds shares with Friends:

As you know we've curtailed use of the meeting house during the pandemic. Occasionally, people have, and needed to, gone into the meeting house to support the few essential tasks of the meeting. We appreciate that those visits have been brief and infrequent. We do ask though that anyone that needs to go into the meeting house to please notify John Hite, by phone or text, prior to going. Thank you.

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## Newsletter & eNews Reminder

Please send items for the weekly eNews email and the monthly print Newsletter to [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org).

- The deadline for weekly eNews is Wednesday. Please put "**for eNews**" in the subject line.
- The deadline for the monthly print Newsletter is on the *last Sunday of the month*. Please put "**for Newsletter**" in the subject line.

To unsubscribe, email to [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org) with the subject line, Unsubscribe.

**Note:** If you think that you haven't received your weekly enews or monthly newsletter, it helps to add [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org) to your contacts. Otherwise it might go to your Spam folder (and likewise for other chapelhillfriends.org mailing lists such as [pfym@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:pfym@chapelhillfriends.org)).

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## Recurring Events

### Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light, 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 7-8:30 pm

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN Virtual Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Join us when you can for as long as you wish - from your own home.

Do you have a name or a group of people to add to - or remove from - the list of those we will hold in our hearts and prayers? If so, please send to: [prayers@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:prayers@chapelhillfriends.org). The list of names to be held in the Light will be renewed each month. Names must be resubmitted each month to be maintained on the list. We'll send an updated list on Wednesday afternoons. Thank you for joining us!

This virtual prayer service continues under the care of the Care and Counsel Committee and each week, a committee member will collect and post the names that are submitted and will read them aloud during the time of the service.

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### Pendle Hill Worship via Zoom, Daily, 8:30-9:10am

Pendle Hill Quaker Study, Retreat, and Conference Center is now opening their daily morning worship to everyone, by way of Zoom or phone. A lovely opportunity for gathered worship every morning. "A handful of Pendle Hill residents continue to gather daily in the Barn – from 8:30am to 9:10am Eastern Time – expanding the 90-year-long tradition of daily worship here on campus. Beginning the week of March 16, 2020, we started an experiment of opening the circle of worship to YOU in your home. You can join us here via Zoom."

<https://pendlehill.org/explore/worship/join-us-online-for-worship-in-the-barn/?bbblinkid=210290749&bbemailid=19903873&bbejrid=1408822779>

**Note:** The above link takes you *not* to the meeting but to a page of general instructions. Look for the sentence "You can join us via Zoom **here**, or by clicking on the image below."

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## Pray for Peace - From Friends House Moscow

Link to the Daily Meeting for Worship for Peace sponsored by FHM/FHMSA: (Friends House Moscow)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4165005614?pwd=NUtieEtqbDBYbjBrcGdMMzBKQ3drQT09>

Meeting ID: 416 500 5614

Passcode: 182805

The room opens at 8:45am Pacific time (10:45 EST); worship begins on the hour and ends an hour later. After worship there will be time to share brief thoughts that did not rise to the level of ministry. You may also want to rename yourself indicating your geographic location. There will be no audible indicator when one enters or leaves, and everyone will be muted on entry. Please leave yourself muted unless giving ministry.

Ministry may also be shared in the chat, but it is not the place for private conversations. If you are new to Quaker unprogrammed worship and wish to talk with someone about it, send a message to the host and someone can join you in a breakout room.

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# Business Meeting Minutes

**Chapel Hill Friends Meeting  
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business  
Minutes**

**9 am Sunday September 18, 2023**

**Online via Zoom**

**Ann Miller, Clerk, and Jennifer Leeman, Recording Clerk**

In attendance: Jeff Brown, David Waterman, John Pilgrim, Hank Elkins, Kate Fitch, Tori Toles, Carolyn White, Rob Jones, Jan Hutton, Campo Larrick, Carolyn Stuart, John Bell, Allie Scales, Naveed Moeed, Tom Munk, Lynn Drake, Matt Drake, Monteze Synder, Tom Ludlow, Colleen Fey, Alice Carton, Dave Curtin, Julia Cleaver, Buzz Borchardt, Dottie Heninger, John Hite, Wendy Michener, Lloyd Kramer, Paul Munk, Gwynne Pomeroy, Quaker Harmon, Deborah Gibbs, Ken Grogan, Jennifer Leeman, Ann Miller

1. We opened with worship and the query: In what ways do we support each other in our spiritual journeys?
2. Minutes of the July Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB) were approved as written.
3. Kate Fitch presented the Adult Religious Education Committee annual report. It is attached here as Appendix 1. Friends accepted the report with gratitude for their work and the richness of the forums.
4. Carolyn White presented a recommendation for membership for Robert Jones, Andrea Wood and familial membership for their sons, Rye and Emmer, in the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. Carolyn made the recommendation on behalf of the membership committee, which included Jennifer Leeman, Leslie Rountree, and Carolyn White. Carolyn read a biography of the family, which is Attached here as Appendix 2. Friends approved the recommendation with enthusiasm. The welcoming committee includes Jennifer Leeman, John Hite, and Julia Cleaver and will occur on the first first-day of October.
5. Jeff Brown presented a recommendation for membership for Leslie Basinger in the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. Jeff made the recommendation with joy and gratitude on behalf of the membership committee, which included Jasmine McKewen, Jeff Brown, and Alice Carlton. Jeff read a biography of Leslie, which is Attached here as Appendix 3. Friends approved the

recommendation with enthusiasm. The welcoming for Leslie will also occur on the first first-day of October.

6. Gwynne Pomeroy presented a recommendation for membership for Campo Larrick in the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. Gwynne made the recommendation on behalf of the membership committee, which included Matt Drake, Susan Inglis, and Matt Drake. Gwynne read a biography of Campo, which is attached here as Appendix 4. Friends approved the recommendation with enthusiasm. Gwynne agreed to be on the welcoming committee for Campo and to reach out to Susan Inglis and Campo to determine whether Campo's welcoming will also occur on the first first-day of October or at another time.

7. John Hite and Naveed Moeed presented the Buildings & Grounds Committee annual report. It is attached here as Appendix 5. Friends recognized, in particular, the amount of time Peter Malone has committed to the Meeting. One Friend requested that the early school be tested for radon. Friends accepted the report with great appreciation for their work and for the number of volunteer hours contributed by members of the committee.

8. Carolyn White presented nomination committee's recommendation of Susan Newcomer and Daniel Hill to join Finance Committee. A Friend expressed gratitude to Nominations and to the two new members of Finance. Friends approved the recommendation.

9. Carolyn White presented a report about the Triangle Interfaith Reproductive Justice Coalition. Susan Newcomer and Carolyn White have been attending meetings of the Coalition, with Julia Cleaver attending as she was able. The Coalition has been encouraging book discussions of *Trust Women*, and members of our meeting are starting a group to discuss the book. Carolyn shared the mission of the Coalition. It is attached here as Appendix 6. The next meeting is this coming Tuesday at our Meeting House, September 19, at 7:00 p.m. Friends should let Carolyn know if you would like to join that meeting. Friends approved the recommendation that the Meeting officially endorse the Triangle Interfaith Reproductive Justice Coalition.

10. Gwynne Pomeroy reported that the Finance committee annual report and the Treasurer FY 2022-23 report will be delayed until October. She further reported that we hired an accountant to keep track of our Meeting's books and Monteze Snyder is serving as treasurer. The two are working closely together to reconcile the numbers prior to presenting the report.

11. The clerk, Ann Miller, reported that she has appointed a naming committee to find new members for Nominations. The naming committee will include Dottie Heninger and Bonnie Raphael.

12. The clerk, Ann Miller, read the following report from the Schoolhouse Ad Hoc Committee:

The Schoolhouse Ad Hoc Committee met throughout the summer. One effort focused on learning about the condition of the schoolhouse. We employed a structural engineer to inspect the building and suggest any repairs. We are pleased to report that the engineer assured us the building structurally sound and can safely continue to house the preschool program.

Based on his findings, we met with two contractors to learn the possible cost of repairs.

We received reports from:

- H. Harrison Welch, PE, Stonewall Structural Engineering, PLLC, Raleigh, NC
- Drew Vallery, Advanced Structural Repair, LLC, Raleigh, NC
- Lucas Lobaugh, L&L Home Solutions, Mebane, NC

We share this information to begin conversations in the Meeting and with Carolina Friends School about the condition of the schoolhouse. We are not asking you to take any action at this time. More information will be forthcoming as we continue our work. If you have questions, send me an email. Matt Drake for the Schoolhouse Ad Hoc Committee: John Hite, Marie Hopper, Rob Jones, Lloyd Kramer, John Pilgrim, Monteze Snyder

In response to a Friend's question, the Clerk reported that estimates for repairs ranged from \$80,000 to \$125,000.

### 13. Announcements:

- Next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is planned for 9:00 AM on 10/15/2023. Piedmont Friends Fall Gathering is 10/28/23 11-330 pm including a tour of the International Civil Rights Center & Museum;
- "Something to Say" art exhibit for 9/27-10/15 at Margaret Lane Gallery
- School of the Spirit Contemplative Retreat, Oct 26-29
- the NC Peace Booth at the NC State Fair needs volunteers to staff it Oct. 12-22, 2023;
- Zoom tech hosts are needed, training is provided.
- Rufus King, a former First Day School student, got an academic excellence award and spoke at Durham Tech's convocation.

## Appendix 1

### **ARE Annual Report 2023**

The Adult Religious Education Committee works to enhance the spiritual life of the Meeting community and to nurture the spiritual and intellectual growth of Meeting members and attenders. Our primary task is to provide weekly forums on different topics connecting us to each other, our Quaker faith and practice, and to our role in the greater world. We ask committee clerks to suggest ideas for forum topics. We also consider suggestions from members and attenders, and ideas generated by ARE committee members.

Although forums have traditionally been suspended during summer months, we again offered a series of worship-sharings this year. Tom Munk, Calaway Rohloff, and John Bell organized a series on topics related to spiritual practices and ethical decision-making.

We attempt to provide a rich range of topics and periodically review the representation of different types of topics. Between late August of 2022 and mid-August of 2023, forums included personal sharing (2), political action (4), social issues (5), community nurturing (6), Spirit-led art (3), Quaker faith and practice (11), Quaker history (3), and updates from/information about community and Quaker organizations (6). As a community, we learned more about historical Quaker figures John Woolman, Mary Dyer, and Benjamin Lay. We heard updates from several Quaker and community organizations; IFC, Quaker House, Friends House Moscow, and Peaceful Schools NC. Social issues we discussed this year included immigration, reproductive justice and abortion, climate change, and incarceration. Among 38 forums, 6 were sponsored by committees and 13 featured outside speakers.

Since March of 2020, forums have been offered by Zoom. This has allowed us to engage a wider range of outside speakers, including those shown in the attached list. Participation in these zoom forums has been robust, typically between 20 and 30 attending. We thank the Zoom Working Group for their steadfast assistance, and encourage members and attenders to consider joining the tech host group.

ARE welcomes suggestions for forum topics as well as suggestions for improvement. We thank the committee clerks and Meeting members for their forum suggestions as well as their willingness to prepare and lead forums. The committee works with the Publications Committee and Ministry and Worship Committees to ensure that forums are announced in a timely fashion. Forums are listed in the newsletter, on the Meeting's website and announced at the rise of all Meetings for Worship.

In April we welcomed new member Calaway Rohloff and in August we welcomed additional new members Campo Larrick and Rebecca Estes. Continuing members are Deborah Gibbs, Tom Munk, Mark Toles, and John Bell. Kate Fitch continues as clerk for her second year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kate Fitch



Forum name & description	Presenter	Category
Summer reflections	Worship-sharing	Community nurturing
MFW with Attention to Animals	Worship-sharing	Community nurturing
Quaker Call to Action	Alice Carlton	Political action
Friendly Eights Small Group Planning	Dottie Henninger, Lynn Drake	Community nurturing
Western Sahara: The Other Occupation	Stephen Zunes	Social issues
All About Peaceful Schools NC	Christel Butchart	Community/Quaker orgs
Righteous Anger and the Work of Peace	Worship-sharing	Faith and practice
Local Quaker Writers	Panel	Arts
Book Sharing	Worship-sharing	Community nurturing
North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM)	Max Carter	Community/Quaker orgs
Gratitude & Alternative Gift Mart	Panel	Community nurturing
The Climate Crisis from A to Z	Steve Laning	Social issues
Friends Center of Moscow	Karen Porter	Community/Quaker orgs
Solstice Forum	Peter & Carolyn White	Community nurturing
Ronald Carnes Personal Sharing	Ronald Carnes	Personal sharing
Benjamin Lay, Quaker abolitionist	Tom McQuiston	Quaker history
Quaker House Update	Wayne Finegar	Community/Quaker orgs
Nurturing Spiritual Growth Among Incarcerated Persons	Josh Leroy	Social issues
Nicole Nettleton Personal Sharing	Nicole Nettleton	Personal sharing
Spirit-led visual art	Panel	Arts
Are Quakers Prepared for the New Congress?	Nancy Milio	Political action
Immigration Experiences	Mary Rider	Social issues
What Woman That Was: Poems for Mary Dyer	Anne Myles	Quaker history
Reproductive Health, Racial Equity, Abortion	Dick Grossman & Stan Becker	Political action, social issues
John Woolman	Lloyd Kramer & Mark Toles	Quaker history
F/friends in Unlikely Places	Bobby Trice FCNL	Faith and practice
IFC Update	Jackie Jenks	Community/Quaker orgs
NC WARN	Sally Robertson	Community/Quaker orgs, political action
Claire Bates	Clare Bates	Arts

Prayers for Healing Panel	Panel	Faith and practice
Quakers and Humor	Chuck Fager	Faith and practice
Summer forums: Needs of animals and humans	Worship-sharing	Faith and practice
Summer forums: Language	Worship-sharing	Faith and practice
Summer forums: Lazarus	Worship-sharing	Faith and practice
Summer forums: the Bible	Worship-sharing	Faith and practice
Summer forums: Conveniences	Worship-sharing	Faith and practice
Summer forums: Other religions	Worship-sharing	Faith and practice
Summer forums: What does it mean to be a Quaker	Worship-sharing	Faith and practice

## Appendix 2 Biography of the Robert Jones and Andrea Wood Family

Rob has a deep connection with the Quaker community; he is descended from Elizabeth Webb, a Quaker missionary who traveled and taught in England and America during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. He is from Silver Spring, Maryland, near Washington DC. He attended Sandy Spring Friends School in Maryland from lower school through graduation and even worked there as the Assistant Director of Admissions for the upper school after college. Rob has a long-standing history with Catoctin Quaker Camp, having attended as a camper and then serving as a counselor/staff in the Baltimore Yearly Meeting camping program for 10 years. He is currently on an advisory board for the program. Rob graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland with a degree in Biology and has a masters in Environmental Education through the Audubon Expedition Institute, where he spent 2 years traveling the United States camping out of a school bus.

Andrea was born in Joplin, Missouri and moved to Onslow County NC in 1985. Her parents and younger sister died of AIDS when she was young and she and her older brother, Chris, were placed in foster care; they were adopted in 1993 by their foster parents who took them to Pentecostal and Southern Baptist churches which she later rejected. She went to high school in Abilene, TX and came back to NC in 1999 to attend college at UNC-CH where she graduated with a BA in Political Science & Religious Studies. She put herself through college and has worked many jobs including in the libraries of UNC for 8 years (and, while living briefly in Boston, Harvard Law School library).

We met in 2008 while both doing grassroots work around sustainable agriculture, social justice and environmental justice. We have volunteered countless hours in service to our local community, whether that meant facilitating Crop mobs, organizing sustainability workshops and Urban Farm Tours with Carrboro Greenspace, or helping our friend Vimala Rajendran in her community kitchen and then to start her restaurant. We lived at and actively contributed to Bolin Creek Cooperative for 6 ½ years which operates on a consensus model. Rob grew oyster & shiitake mushrooms first as Woodfruit and then Understory Farm for the local farmers' markets. Andrea was the market manager of CH Farmers' Market, served as secretary on the first board of Go Conscious Earth helping our friend Godi Godar put 1 million acres of DRC rainforest under protection and was also formerly secretary on the board of Lands & Waters South. She has a certificate in Sustainable Vegetable Production from CCCC and is working on an advanced certificate in Native Plant Studies from the NC Botanical Gardens. Rob currently works in his family's EPA regulatory consulting business as a Senior Regulatory Analyst, specializing in biopesticides. We live in Carrboro and have 2 children: Rye, 9 years old, is a 4th grader at Emerson Waldorf School and Emmer, 6 years old, is a first grader at Carolina Friends School.

Rob first attended the CHFM meeting briefly in 2008 and was involved with Quaker EarthCare Witness. Even though we weren't married under the meeting, we received guidance from Mike and Marsha Green of Durham Friends Meeting and had a beautiful celebration of our union in 2012 at Lockridge Community with all the attendees signing a certificate in witness. We started to attend the meeting as a family in February 2020 just before the pandemic turned the world

upside down. Since the meeting house reopened we have attended regularly, first outdoors and then indoors. Rob serves on the CYRE committee and is on the schoolhouse ad hoc committee. Andrea is serving on the hospitality committee and was also on a sub committee for the grounds. And this year, our children spent their first summer at Catactin Quaker Camp while Rob volunteered his time in the kitchen. Rye had his first backpacking experience while Emmer helped out as a "staff mouse." We're happy to be officially joining the meeting as members. Thank you for welcoming us to the community!

### **Appendix 3** **Biography of Leslie Bassinger**

With joy and gratitude, the Ministry & Worship Committee is in unity to recommend Leslie Bassinger for membership in the Religious Society of Friends, Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. Our clearness committee consisted of Leslie, Alice Carlton, Jasmine McKewen and Jeff Brown.

Leslie became a regular attender in meetings for worship early in the pandemic via Zoom from her home in Fort Worth, Texas. She had attended meetings for worship during her time in graduate school at UNC Chapel Hill where she earned a degree in speech and language pathology. We are grateful that she found us on Zoom and engaged her husband, Ken, and children Johnathan (now 14) and Elizabeth (now 11) in worship and First Day School during the time we were not gathering in person.

We are even more grateful that Leslie and her family moved to Chapel Hill last year. Both children now attend Carolina Friends School, and the family is well engaged in our Chapel Hill Friends Meeting community. Leslie serves on Peace and Justice Committee, and the Racial Equity Subcommittee.

### **Appendix 4**

#### **Biography of Campo Larrick**

**Campo Larrick** (they/them) grew up in Chapel Hill, North Carolina (on Occaneechi, Lumbee, and Eno land). They attended Carolina Friends School for two years before graduating in 2017. Campo earned a degree in Social Work at Warren Wilson College in May 2021 and studied Indigenous social movements and community organizing throughout Southern Mexico in Fall 2019. After graduating from Warren Wilson, Campo completed the 2021-2022 Quaker Voluntary Service year in Boston, where they worked at the Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center. They also completed AFSC's Emerging Leaders for Liberation program in 2022 and deepened their Quaker faith in the most recent NEYM Nurturing Faithfulness cohort as well as in Pendle Hill's 2023 Spring Term. Campo has spent much of the past year at home to accompany their aging abuelos. They will begin a Master of Divinity program at Earlham School of Religion in Fall 2024. Campo cares deeply about being surrounded by trees, imagining worlds beyond binaries, and holding spaces where hearts/bodies/minds feel honored and loved.

## Appendix 5

### Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Buildings & Grounds (B&G) Annual Report for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year

The Building and Grounds Committee (B&G) oversees the condition and maintenance of the meetinghouse and the grounds. Most of this work is done by committee members. When there is need for professional work or larger projects B&G assesses the situation and makes recommendations to Meeting for Business. B&G oversees and works closely with the resident. With the help of the resident B&G oversees the use of the meetinghouse and the schoolhouse.

#### Resident

John Hite, as the meeting house resident, continued providing care and security for the meeting house, the meeting grounds and the Chapel Hill Friends Early School (CHES) as the pandemic continued. He supported the work of the Building and Grounds, the Library committee, First Day School Upper Pod and since the pandemic worked closely with and supported the Zoom ad hoc committee to enable hybrid Meeting for Worship. He liaises closely with aMinistry and Worship and the Hospitality committees. John served as our daily liaison with CHES assisting with a few school building issues which occurred outside of school hours. John once again organized and managed parking for UNC home football games which brings in monetary resources to our beloved community.

#### Committee Membership

- 2023-2024 Committee membership: Currently the committee members are: Kurt Hein, Wendy Michener, Tom Ludlow, Caroline Carmen (representing CHES/CFS) , Naveed Moeed (addition beginning 2023-2024) and co-clerks: John Hite and Peter Malone (with Naveed stepping into the role for 2023-2024)
- We, as a whole, are very appreciative of the various strengths, skills and background that each member brings to the committee.
- As of the end of the 2022-2023 fiscal year, Bill Cleaver and Monteze Snyder left the committee. We minuted with great gratitude the services of both these members.

#### Accomplished Tasks

- Please note that for the following indications of volunteer hours given are not sub-divided into time given by the resident, other members of Building and Grounds or other members/attenders of the Meeting. The majority of our work is done by the resident but on other projects (e.g. HVAC) significant volunteer time contribution is provided by members of Building and Grounds. In other areas the community comes together with many members and attenders of the Meeting volunteering hours on our Work Mornings.
- The porch refurbishment was started in late Autumn of 2022 and completed by early Spring of 2023. This consisted of roughly 100 person hours of work of which about 85% was contracted work and about 15% was volunteered by CHFM members and attenders.
- Remove bowed Paulownia (and two adjacent dead small trees) and pruning larger Paulownia drooping onto meetinghouse roof. For this work we contracted with Treeist for the removal itself. Preparation work was done by Building and Grounds. The

committee has determined that there is substantial work that needs to be done and maintained in the surrounding landscape to insure that the flora in our grounds is healthy, not being choked out by vines or pushed out by too much bamboo. This will be work that is ongoing. In 2022-2023 the work consisted of roughly 200 person-hours of work of which 10% was contracted and 90% was volunteered by CHFM members and /attenders

- Work Mornings (December 11th, 2022 & May 20th, 2023). The committee is very appreciative of those who come out for working together in community. In 2022-2023 the work consisted of roughly 80 person-hours of work 100% of which was volunteered by CHFM members and / attenders.
- Automated External Defibrillator (AED replacement): The previous AED needed new batteries, but due to discontinuation of the model and supply chain issues, we had to get a different model. It is by the elevator.
- Various numerous tasks completed: Door fixed, CO/Smoke Detectors tested and batteries replaced where appropriate, These tasks are usually completed by the resident on a set schedule.
- A major project for the committee has been to start upgrading our HVAC system for better airflow in the Meeting House in an era where we are more conscious of the health benefits inherent in better air-circulation and filtration. The impetus for this work has come in consultation with Ministry and Worship and we thank this committee for their spirit-led testing of the most appropriate methods for us to bring ourselves together in beloved community. The decision to embark on this project was taken by the meeting as a whole and agreed by the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. There are several phases of the work which include design, consultation, planning, implementation and testing. As with other projects of this size some of these phases can run in parallel. The project is currently underway and summary progress reports are sent to Ministry and Worship. The work has so far been 100% volunteer-led and has consumed over 200 person-hours of labor.

#### **Future Tasks (2023/2024)**

- Establishing a schedule of radon testing at appropriate times of the year
- Completing the HVAC project and evaluating future use of window-fans
- Ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the grounds and buildings
- Consideration of new major projects in the Meeting House itself
- Working with Carolina Friends School on the upkeep of the Early School building, especially as we approach the renewal of their lease

Lovingly submitted by B & G members: John Hite, Peter Malone, Caroline Carmen, Naveed Moed, Kurt Hein, Wendy Michener & Tom Ludlow

## Appendix 6

### **Mission, values and vision of the Triangle Interfaith Reproductive Justice Coalition:**

The mission/purpose of our Triangle Interfaith Reproductive Justice Coalition is to foster understanding, compassion, and advocacy for reproductive justice principles within a diverse and inclusive community.\* We believe that individuals should have the autonomy to make informed decisions about their reproductive health and family planning, while respecting the values and religious perspectives of everyone. Through education, dialogue, activism, and struggle, we strive to create a society where principles of reproductive justice are upheld and individuals are empowered to lead healthy, fulfilling lives in accordance with their own faith traditions and personal values.

#### Our Values

The Right to have a child.

The Right not to have a child.

The Right to raise a child in an economically sustainable environment.

The Right to bodily autonomy

#### Our Vision

We envision a North Carolina in which all residents have access to reproductive health care. Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of all persons, we strongly support the Constitutional Right of Religious Liberty and the right of each person to make reproductive health care decisions in accordance with their own conscience and faith beliefs, without stigma or shame.

**Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**

531 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Resident: John Hite (919) 929-5377