

# Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Newsletter: First Month, 2024



Monthly Query: *What am I grateful for and how do I express my gratitude?*

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.*

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## Upcoming Zoom Fora

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

**January 7:** Peaceful Opposition in Ukraine  
Led by Felip Daza Sierra

**January 14:** The Peace Testimony Today  
A Worship sharing

**January 21:** MFWB

**January 28:** Discussion of “By Hands Now Known – Jim Crow’s Executioners”  
Book by Margaret Burnham. Facilitated by Lloyd Kramer as part of our response to  
the [Woolman Hill Anti Racism Remonstrance](#)

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## Upcoming Events

### Changing Times: An Online Conference, Jan. 18-21

Rebecca Estes shares with Friends:

In these changing times, how is spirit rising among us? Join us for an online conference sponsored by Friends General Conference. There are many challenges before us in this new year. This conference, Changing Times, is an opportunity to gather with one another and seek our path forward.

[Registration is Open!](#)

The themes express the many choices and questions before us.

- Friday's theme: **Growing Closer to Spirit** (How will we sustain and deepen our connection to Spirit?)
- Saturday's theme: **Changing Structures in Changing Times** (How will we strengthen our Monthly and Yearly Meetings to support our community in these times of climate change, war and political strife?)
- Saturday's theme: **Next Steps in Becoming and Actively Anti-Racist Community** (How will we work together to find a way through racism to the blessed community we know is possible?)
- Sunday's theme: **Speak and Be Heard** (How will we structure our religious community?)

Changing Times is an opportunity to explore these questions, visit the webpage for more information: [Changing Times](#)

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### Quaker Study Tour to Bolivia, July 11-24

Pam Schwingl shares with Friends:

Bolivian Quaker Education Fund (BQEF) is sponsoring a two-week tour of Bolivia and its rich culture and astounding natural beauty, July 11-24, 2024. This trip will include an added emphasis on studying climate change and its impact.

Come to learn about Bolivia's history and culture, from pre-Incan traditions to the emergence of modern Bolivia. Travelers will visit Quaker communities in the Altiplano region to witness environmental adaptations in the high plains. Participants will fly into Sucre, a UNESCO World Heritage site and former capital. The itinerary will include La Paz, Lake Poopó (site of the award-winning Bolivian film *Utama*), Quaker communities in the Altiplano, the pre-Incan ruins of Tiwanaku, and Lake Titicaca, ending in the capital city of La Paz.

The tour will be co-led by BQEF Scholarships Program Coordinator and professor Alicia Lucasi, Dr. Stanley Blanco, M.D., the founder of a non-profit to improve Bolivian children's health who is also a tour leader and international aid manager, and Gustavo Cordoba, Ph.D., a BQEF board member and volcanologist who has studied climate risk. Former graduates of our scholarship program will be among those presenting and assisting with the tour.

The tour is inspired by the work of Jennie M. Ratcliffe, Ph.D, an environmental research scientist, activist, and Quaker who makes connections between peace, justice, and ecological sustainability in her book, *Nothing Lowly in the Universe: An Integral Approach to the Ecological Crisis*.

Trip price is \$2200. Registration and first deposit of \$700 are due by February 1, 2024, 2 nd payment of \$750 is due by March 15, 2024, final payment of \$750 is due by May 1, 2024. Payments are non-refundable unless we can fill your spot from the waitlist, or if the trip is cancelled by BQEF. For more information email [gst.bolivia@gmail.com](mailto:gst.bolivia@gmail.com).

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## Announcements

### Gaza Update from American Friends Service Committee

Betsy Brinson shares with Friends:

(updated Jan. 5): Nearly 23,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's attacks on Gaza, and over 10,000 more are estimated to be buried under the rubble. More than 1.93 million have been displaced from their homes. AFSC is working to provide humanitarian relief to displaced people as conditions allow. Join AFSC in calling for an immediate and permanent cease-fire, and demand unconditional humanitarian access into Gaza. [Read AFSC's full update on the situation in Gaza here](#)

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## Your Quaker Wish?

Yes, we're talking about you, if you're a CHFM member or attender!  
(Yes, you!)

The Shotts/Leadership Development Committee offers (non-need-based) financial support to enrich and develop the lives of individuals with a relationship to the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. These opportunities include education, training, and service.

But, wait there's more!

The Leadership Development fund provides (non-need-based) financial support to benefit the spiritual life of the Meeting through the enhancement of leadership capabilities in individuals. Could this be you? The Shotts/Leadership Dev. Committee would welcome your questions or applications: [Shotts-leadershipfunds@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:Shotts-leadershipfunds@chapelhillfriends.org)

Please include the following information:

- Your name and your relationship to the Meeting
  - The name, date(s), and place of the event/activity that you will be attending
  - A short description of the activity, and a short note about how it will enrich your life and/or the spiritual life of the meeting. What is it that excites you about the opportunity for which you are applying for funds?
  - The cost of your participation in the activity or event, how much you plan to pay and how much you are requesting from the fund.
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## Report from the Triangle Interfaith Reproductive Justice Coalition

Carolyn White shares with Friends:

The Triangle Interfaith Reproductive Justice Coalition, of which Chapel Hill Friends Meeting is a partner, has a new website that provides information about abortion policy and access in our state as well as ways to get involved. Click [HERE](#) to access the website.

**First action on January 22:** Come honor the anniversary of Roe v. Wade with a rally and press conference at the NC General Assembly Building (16 West Jones St, Raleigh), January 22, 2024 at 10 AM. Faith leaders, representatives from Planned Parenthood and other reproductive organizations will talk about the basic need for bodily autonomy and the end of bans on our bodies. Congregations from around the Triangle will participate.

Please join us! There are places to park around the Legislative Building, or use the link to sign up for a bus leaving from Chapel Hill around 8:30 AM. The cost is \$20. Click [HERE](#) to sign up for the bus to the rally.

If you have any questions, contact Carolyn White at [chwhitenc@gmail.com](mailto:chwhitenc@gmail.com)

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## Updates from FCNL

Wendy Michener shares with Friends:

Here is the link to FCNL's review of their (and our) work in 2023.

They are feeling progress is happening on war/guns vs words/bargaining to settle international conflicts and naturally they've been in the thick of that discussion.

[www.fcnl.org/updates](http://www.fcnl.org/updates)

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## Stewarding Our Time

Wendy Michener shares with Friends:

At MWAB I spoke about authorizing a small committee for the purpose of responding to requests for support (of the "sign here" variety) that require quick action that is difficult within our system.

Here is an article in Friends Journal that offers a possible appropriate way to do this.

[Stewarding Our Time - Friends Journal](#)

They actually call the new idea "Nimble Responders". They are people authorized to look at a petition or letter and discern if it fits with our known and acknowledged shared feelings on the matter. If they discern that the issue is settled among us, they could go on to discern if it is right for our Meeting to sign it.

I think the writers are on to something good.

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## Adult Enrichment Experiences at Carolina Friends School

Carolina Friends School invites Chapel Hill Friends members to join other F/friends for these Adult Enrichment experiences.

### **EXPERIENTIAL ANATOMY WITH ANNIE AND LEAH: RECOGNIZING AND REPATTERNING MOVEMENT**

Attend one or both sessions to explore how your body moves and can move more safely and efficiently. January 6-7, 2024

### **THE BELOVED COMMUNITY JOURNEY**

Explore civil rights history and contemporary racial justice issues in Birmingham, Selma, Montgomery, Tuskegee, and Atlanta. March 5-10, 2024

### **THE QUAKER JOURNEY**

Explore the early history of Quakerism, retracing the steps of George Fox and Margaret Fell, in the beautiful Lake District of northern England. June 23-30, 2024

Please find details at [cfsnc.org/AdultEnrichment](https://cfsnc.org/AdultEnrichment), spread the word, and join us for adventure, learning, and reflection together in community.

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## FCNL's Statement on Reproductive Health Care and Abortion

Hank Elkins shares with Friends:

FCNL's Policy Statement, *The World We Seek*, serves as our foundational document, outlining FCNL's broad policy positions. After the Supreme Court's ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the Policy Committee of FCNL's General Committee heard concern from Friends around the country about FCNL's lack of position on the issue of abortion. In early 2023, the Policy Committee invited Friends to engage their meeting or church in worship and discernment about this issue. We received more than 300 responses, which guided the Policy Committee as they developed a recommendation. After much discernment, the General Committee approved the following language at its November 2023 Annual Meeting.

III.2.6. Health Care. Universal access to affordable, effective, comprehensive health care is a right and is necessary to allow all people to fulfill their potential. Comprehensive health care includes primary, acute, reproductive, and long-term care, including prescription drugs, as well as mental health and substance abuse treatment. To ensure access, health services should be provided where an individual's needs can best be met. Our country can only maintain and improve the physical and mental health of its population with affordable health care that covers

the entire life span, from prenatal to end-of-life care. Public health services, which protect us all, require robust federal support.

III.2.7. Reproductive health and abortion. Quakers recognize that human life is sacred, and that Spirit can guide us individually and collectively. Based on these beliefs, members of the Religious Society of Friends have come to different conclusions regarding abortion. FCNL supports individual discernment in a spirit of love and truth in making reproductive healthcare decisions, as we do in other areas of conscientious moral choice. Government must ensure that people have the legal right to make these decisions. We oppose the criminalization of people seeking, undergoing, or involved in abortion services. We support equitable access to abortion services. FCNL also supports policies that reduce unwanted pregnancies by ensuring equitable access to contraception, sex education, family planning, fertility and adoption services, and support for all who decide to have children.

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## Video on Quaker Indigenous Boarding Schools

Betsy Brinson and Dottie Heninger share with Friends:

"Most Quakers still don't know our history as participants in this enterprise of forced assimilation of Native people," Paula Palmer says. "So the first thing that we have to do is learn the truth."

In this video, Paula discusses Friends' role in the traumas inflicted on the Indigenous peoples of North America since the arrival of European colonists—particularly in the administration of boarding schools where Native children were forced to abandon their heritage and embrace the ways of White Christian culture, where they would never be truly accepted as equals.

[WATCH NOW](#)

Although it's easy to "shake our fingers" at previous generations, Paula warns us that retroactive judgment isn't enough—Quakers today need to hold themselves accountable as well. "As we think about work that we do today as Friends," she says, "we need to examine our own attitudes and make sure that ways that we are trying to do good in the world are not also coming out of a sense of superiority."

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## InterFath Council Committee Is Seeking Volunteers

We invite anyone interested in becoming, or knowing more about being an IFC Committee Member to please contact Carolyn White.

We welcome volunteers to help with food preparation and service at ICF every second Thursday for lunch: 10a - 1p, and/or every second Friday for dinner 4p-6:30p. Volunteers are welcome for part of the shift, or the full shift.



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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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## Inter-Faith Council Pantry Needs Donated Food Items

Please consider IFC's needs when doing your shopping. There is a basket in the meetinghouse foyer for food donations. IFC has requested the following food items: coffee, hot chocolate, canned protein, canned pork and beans, canned soup (not vegetable), boxed cereal, cake mixes, instant foods, ramen noodles. 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).



## 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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### Meeting for Worship with Attention to Peace in Palestine. Thursdays, 5:30pm

Betsy Brinson shares with Friends:

You are invited to join Meeting for Worship with Attention to Peace in Palestine and Israel at 5:30 p.m. ET / 2:30 p.m. PT. We will continue to meet weekly on Thursdays at this time, at least through the months of January and February, or until a permanent ceasefire is reached.

Join on Zoom:

<https://afsc-org.zoom.us/j/85831333364?pwd=VEtPTUZuYk5hTHV2OGs1VzRkY0ZKUT09>

Meeting ID: 858 3133 3364

Passcode: 759311

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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/?bblinkid=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, Daily

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 November 19, 2023**  
**Online via Zoom**  
**Ann Miller, Clerk, and Susan Inglis, Recording Clerk**

In attendance:

Betsy Brinson, Jeff Brown, Ann Miller, Carolyn Stuart, Richard Miller, Matt Drake, Lynn Drake, Shanna, Tom Ludlow, Campo Larrick, Tori Toles, Susan Newcomer, Hart Pillow, Monteze Snyder, Dottie Heninger, David Waterman, Peter Malone, Wendy Michener, Tom Munk, Margaret Vimmerstedt, Jan Hutton, Carolyn White, Hank Elkins, John Hite, Julia Cleaver, Buzz Borchardt, Susan Newcomer, Astra Titus, Quaker Harmon, Rob Jones, Ken Grogan, Susan Peterson, Nancy Milio, Colleen Fey, Ann Miller, Susan Inglis

1. The Clerk opened the meeting with worship and shared the query: How do we look at the world around us and find the Light and find the Joy?

2. The Clerk welcomed Friends and shared the agenda. There were no first-time attenders.

3. Susan had prepared the Minutes of the November Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB). They were considered and approved.

4. Jan Hutton presented the Shotts Leadership Fund committee annual report. It is attached here as Appendix 1. Friends accepted the report.

5. Matt Drake provided an Update from the Ad Hoc Schoolhouse Committee, adding to what was reported and minuted last month:

Matt Drake, Rob Jones and Lloyd Kramer from the Schoolhouse Ad Hoc Committee met on November 28 with Caroline Carman, Karen Cumberbatch, Emily Lunne, and Mark Shanahan from CFS. We agreed to obtain quotes on studies of the drainage situation on CHFMs property. We also reviewed the 2002 CHFMs-CFS Agreement identifying content that should be removed or added in a new agreement. Karen reviewed the outline of the 2019 agreement between the Durham Friends Meeting and will send us a copy. We will meet again on January 16.

The Schoolhouse Ad Hoc Committee met on December 10. Matt reported on the site visit by Keith Locker of Shamrock Waterproofing. We agreed that we need a site visit from another company for comparison purposes and will ask CFS to arrange a visit by a drainage company they utilize. We reviewed the 2019 DFM-CFS agreement and identified aspects we may utilize in our agreement plus other aspects unique to our agreement with CFS. We will meet again on January 21.

6. Carolyn White presented a Summary of Spiritual State of the Meeting gathering. It is attached here as Appendix 2. Friends accepted the report.

7. Dottie Heninger presented the memorial minute for Bonnie Ludlow. It is attached here as Appendix 3. Friends approved the minute.

8. Dottie Heninger presented the memorial minute for Cindy Bowen. It is attached here as Appendix 4. Friends approved the minute. Friends also expressed their appreciation to Dottie for composing memorial minutes so beautifully.

9. John Hite presented an Update from Buildings & Grounds committee on HVAC work and made a request for approval of \$8,500 for the ongoing work. Peter Malone responded to Friends' questions, clarifying that what has been done so far includes having put the equipment we already owned into the attic, into a tight space, which necessitated adding flooring then re-locating pre-existing ductwork, plumbing, and wiring, a process that presented multiple intersections of interference and was vexing. As we prepare for the inspection of this phase, we need drawings and a commitment that we can move ahead with funding for the work. Peter also described several details of the design and choices made for energy-efficiency. Friends were reminded that we knew the project would need more money, but we did not know how much or when. This request now is a result of intentional efficiency planning. Friends expressed much appreciation for all the time and expertise that Peter and the rest of the committee have contributed, and for the savings their work will bring to our operation once the project is complete. Friends approved the request.

10. The Clerk called for other concerns of members, unseasoned concerns to be identified only and simply heard or referred.

- Wendy Michener described an item from Friends Journal called Nimble Reporters, about committees appointed specifically to respond nimbly, and suggested we might consider having one.
- Monteze Snyder expressed Finance Committee's gratitude for recent contributions from friends as a result of an appeal, but noted we are not out of the woods yet. We still have an urgent need for more money for our operating budget.

Announcements:

- John Hite reminded Friends of the Alternative Gift Mart in progress now, and also urged Friends to prioritize contributions to the Meeting so that we can meet our budget.

- Those who have volunteered to help with in-house tech hosting for blended Meetings are asked to email Quaker Harmon.
- Our Christmas Eve service will begin at 5, with music, worship at 5:30.
- Next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is planned for 9:00 AM on 1/21/2024.

## Appendix 1

# Shotts/Leadership Dev. Committee Annual Report

The Mary and Claude Shotts/Leadership Development Funds 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 provides financial support to enrich and develop the lives of individuals with a relationship to the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. The Leadership Development Fund provides grants to benefit the spiritual life of the Meeting through the enhancement of leadership capabilities in individuals. It should be noted that these funds are available to standing committees in the Meeting to support honoraria awarded to outside speakers who may be here for special events and programs open to the Meeting community.

Friends Fiduciary manages the investments for the Shotts Memorial Fund, and the current principal balance is \$37,907.32 which is slightly higher than last year's figure. Grants from the Leadership Development Fund are given from money carried over from prior years and, if requested, from annual allocations approved by the Meeting for Worship with attention to business. Both of these funds are in a single account at Truist, previously known as BB&T. For the fiscal year covered by this report (2022-2023), we dispersed \$2175 in toto. These grants included support for three Friends to attend Pendle Hill workshops or ongoing programming. Two grants were also given for attendance at separate racial justice workshops.

We encourage Friends to stay alert to opportunities, including those with fees charged, that may be of interest to you. Financial support is NOT need-based but is the Meeting's opportunity to support the spiritual and leadership development of our Meeting family.

Profuse thanks are offered to Asta Crowe and Lynn Drake for their caring stewardship, as co-clerks, of this committee during the height of the pandemic. And thanks also to Catherine Alguire for her many years of service to the committee.

Jan Hutton, Clerk, on behalf of members Asta Crowe, Lynn Drake, Ken Grogan, Susan Inglis, and Roberto Quercia.

## Appendix 2 Spiritual State of the Meeting 2023 Summary

On November 11, 2023, 26 members and attenders of Chapel Hill Friends Meeting (CHFM) convened via Zoom to consider several queries sent by Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting and Fellowship. We gathered in 5 small groups with one person volunteering as a note taker for each group. Below are summaries of our responses to the queries.

*How has your meeting experienced the work of the spirit this year?*

Friends felt their spiritual lives enhanced by many factors, including: weekly forums sponsored by the Adult Religious Education committee (ARE), especially summer forums; the numbers of new attenders, many younger; blended MFW; the willingness of members to share on topics such as race and gender; small groups or Quaker 8's; Prayers for healing and holding in the Light; First Day School; shaking hands at in-person MFW; the resumption of potlucks; reconnecting with each other, especially at in person MFW.

*What has been most meaningful in your participation in the meeting this year?*

Friends felt the richness of meeting this year in many ways: feeling connected with one another by participating in in-person MFW, gathering together to celebrate special events, feeling part of an inter-generational community; meeting new people at the rise of MFW or in breakout rooms on Zoom. Friends expressed their appreciation of newcomers who have enriched our community with new perspectives on the meaning of Quaker testimonies. Others mentioned finding meaning in committee work; participating in different meetings for worship (8:15 AM and Zoom); Prayers for healing; Meeting for Worship with attention to Business and seeing how Quakers disagree; learning about friends who are transitioning; continuing our relationships with the men from Orange Correctional Center.

*What leading have you felt for yourself? For the meeting?*

Some friends reflected that their lives are too busy and would appreciate time to follow leadings. Others mentioned their involvement in committees, clearness committees and a faithfulness group. Friends mentioned appreciating each day, taking part in a silent retreat, leading a book discussion, writing a book, expressing an uncomfortable position on a committee. Friends also mentioned putting more back into the community and drawing on experiences or talents to enhance the vitality of the meeting. For the meeting, our leadings included our continuing work with Orange Correctional Center, reproductive health initiatives, a minute on Israel/Palestine, FCNL lobbying and racial equity.



## **Bonnie Burke Ludlow**

**October 13, 1940 – August 24, 2023**

It was a First Day like any other in 2012. But it turned out to be special: The Ludlows arrived in Chapel Hill! They drove up and parked their car in our small Chapel Hill Friends Meeting's parking lot. Their arrival became a blessing to our Meeting, as they were soon integral to our community. Bonnie joined as a member of our Meeting in April 2020. Tom, her devoted husband of 57 years transferred his membership from Shrewsbury, NJ in 2013. Every summer, Bonnie and Tom returned to the home they built in the Adirondacks. While away from Chapel Hill they faithfully attended CHFM via Zoom.

Bonnie's vocal ministry in Meeting for Worship was often stories of love at work. In her professional life as a social worker, she employed these same abilities to reach out, listen, and embrace her clients. She earned her MSW in 1966 and held positions working in NYC public child welfare foster care system, a NJ private child mental health agency, and as director of the first 25 federally funded child abuse programs out of Elizabeth, New Jersey. Most of her career, however, was devoted to private practice as a therapist for families, children, and marriages.

Bonnie's middle name should be Connection. It was her life force. As her son Jerry noted: "She could talk to a wall, and it would talk back to her!" Bonnie saw an encounter with a stranger (grocery clerk, neighbor, anyone) as an opportunity to make a new friend. At her Celebration of Life, held November 18 at CHFM, her many friends from Galloway Ridge and the Fearington Community, as well as family and friends far away attending via Zoom, gave messages often describing how they first met Bonnie. Clearly an unforgettable event. The close and deep friendships she maintained are testament to her loving spirit. Her inherent trust was the foundation of her joy and love of connecting. She cherished a special loving bond with her grand-daughter, Isla, Jerry and his wife, Carrie.

At her memorial service a Friend read “Meditation before Kaddish.” The last stanza echoed Bonnie’s wisdom: “Love doesn’t die, people do. / so, when all that’s left of me is love, / give me away.” We will miss Bonnie.

## Cynthia Field Bowen

December 1959 – October 2023

Cindy was a beloved member of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. She and her devoted husband, Ed, joined our meeting in December 2012. Cindy participated fully in our Meeting. She was a member of the Library Committee where she brought a positive, “can do” enthusiasm to even the most routine duties of checking in new books. Soon after they became Meeting members, they joined a Quaker Eights group for dinners in each other’s homes.

Cindy spread her caring attitude to many others in her wider community. She had a particular affinity for children and established friendships with many in her neighborhood. Her charity work focused on ending hunger and improving child nutrition. Her skill in bringing people together to solve problems was invaluable to the many charities she worked with. Her interest in food was also clear in her well-earned reputation as an excellent cook in her own home where friends were warmly welcomed. When not dining in, she and Ed enjoyed exploring different restaurants with friends and family. Hers was a busy and meaningful life.

A life cut short due to a brain tumor she battled for nine years. Enduring many rounds of surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation, she maintained a hopeful outlook. Ed, her loyal caregiver, tended to her throughout her illness. Each was a blessing to the other throughout their 41 years of marriage.

A celebration of Cindy’s life was held on November 12 at Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. Her family in Indiana attended via Zoom, while her many friends joined in person. Messages from her brothers James and Robert Fields and her sister Rebecca Guire revealed the close relationships she had with them. Her family clearly included Ed as their own. A Friend sang “Give Yourself to Love” which captured the extraordinary love Cindy gave her friends. One line expressed Cindy’s wisdom: “Love has made a circle that holds us all inside. / Where strangers are as family, loneliness can’t hide.”

Neighbors from her extended community recounted their loving experiences of Cindy: how she helped each of them in unique and sensitive ways; how they laughed together. After the service a Friend commented that she had not known anybody with so many best friends! That was Cindy. We will continue to hold Ed in the embrace of our CHFM community.

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

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