

# Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Newsletter: Third Month, 2024



Monthly Query: *In what ways do I support the Meeting's encouragement of spiritual growth, the work of its committees, the upkeep of its property and its ministries beyond the Meeting?*

Monthly Worship Tip from the M&W Committee: *If you feel moved to speak in meeting for worship, take a moment to test your message. Is it from the Inward Light? Is it meant only for me, or for the entire Meeting?*

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## Upcoming Zoom Fora

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

### **March 3:** Temporary Farm Workers in NC

Few workers struggle harder than farmworkers in North Carolina. They battle harsh weather conditions, dismal living conditions, and low wages. A progressive group organizing [H2A workers](#) is trying to build collective power and change those conditions. Hear [Leticia Zavala](#) and [Lori Fernald Khamala](#) from the group called It's Our Future / El Futuro Es Nuestro tell us of their courageous struggle and how we can join their effort. For more information, visit the group's website <https://elfuturoesnuestro.org/>

### **March 10:** IFC Update with Jackie Jenks

### **March 17:** MFWB

### **March 24:** TBD

### **March 31:** TBD

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## Upcoming Events

### Memorial Service at Carol Woods for Mahia Ivey, Sun March 3, 1:30pm

Longtime member of our meeting Mahla Ivey died this week at Carol Woods where she had resided since 2001. She was 94. There will be a memorial service to mourn her loss and celebrate her life on Sunday March 3 at 1:30pm in the multipurpose room of Carol Woods building 5 with a reception to follow in the Carolina Room. This memorial service will be held under the care of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. All Friends who knew Mahla are invited to attend.

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### Threshing Session to Determine FCNL Priorities, Thurs March 7, 7:00 pm

Astra Titus shares with Friends:

It's once again time for our Meeting to inform FCNL of the legislative priorities that most resonate with CHFM.

Peace and Justice will hold a threshing session on March 7th at 7pm over Zoom to discuss which priorities seem most important for CHFM and to finalize the priorities to send to FCNL

Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83885770665?pwd=cCTie8LMD4quPatKCuPjcE31o4dxkj.1>

Please use the link below to read the FCNL priorities and click on the 5 priorities you think are most imperative. Please submit your responses no later than March 1st.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSedTHBWkbaKS4AAAtL8y1LDtMRKwotgFmVVmBIYPwOsyNozNeA/viewform?usp=sharing>

If you would like to understand FCNL's process for choosing its legislative priorities, visit here:

<https://www.fcnl.org/about/world-we-seek/legislative-priorities>.

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## Alternatives to Violence Program Workshop, March 15-17

Save the date! Peace & Social Concerns Committee of Durham Friends Meeting is sponsoring an intensive (15 hours) experiential Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) workshop!

Looking for a way to find peace within and without in 2024? Want to engage with others to explore ways to reduce conflict? Since its first workshop in 1975, the Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) has empowered attendees to live nonviolent lives through experiential workshops in personal growth and creative conflict resolution. The registration fee is \$20 for the weekend starting Friday evening, 3/15 through Sunday late afternoon at Durham Friends Meeting. If interested please email [dfm-psc@googlegroups.com](mailto:dfm-psc@googlegroups.com).

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## CROP Hunger Walk, Sunday March 26, 2:30pm

Ways to participate in the Crop Walk:

1. Please donate or register for the walk at:  
<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/chapel-hill-friends-meeting>  
There you can find the button to donate to the Friends' Team, and/or join the team of walkers.
2. Donate via check or cash. Please give to Tori Toles or Carolyn White. Checks should be made out to CWS/CROP.
3. Buy a t-shirt for \$10.00 each. Tori will be selling them before and after Meeting.
4. Or, simply participate by walking with us on Sunday March 26th at 2:30pm at the Carrboro Town Commons.

Thank you!

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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

### Donations Needed to Support the Work Of Our Meeting

As a Meeting this year we agreed to raise income from contributions and parking to cover our operational expenses, including benevolences. Our Meeting is not on target to meet its 2023-24 budget. In order to not cut back on our expenditures, please consider giving to the meeting today, either by writing a check to the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting and mailed to:

Treasurer  
Chapel Hill Friends Meeting  
531 Raleigh Rd.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

or online at <https://www.chapelhillfriends.org/donate.html>

WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU!

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## Giving to CHFM?

We will have a NEW ONLINE DONATIONS link by March 31. We're testing the system now and will let you know when the new donate link will be live. You'll register your credit/debit account information on the new payment www site. The updated donate button on the CHFM www site will take you to the page to do this. Stay tuned for update and details! Questions? Email Monteze Snyder at [treasurer@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:treasurer@chapelhillfriends.org).

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## Learn How Eviction Hearings Work

Betsy Brinson shares with Friends:

American Friends Service Committee is currently monitoring eviction court proceedings in Guilford County, which boasts a population of 541,299, ranking it as the third-most populous county in North Carolina. By engaging volunteers, community members, and faith leaders in Court Watch, observers can gain insights into the eviction process across various courtrooms.

Recruiting volunteers to observe court sessions, track legal procedures, and enhance our comprehension of eviction matters is crucial. Many individuals have never experienced a courtroom setting firsthand, often forming their perceptions from media portrayals. Through Court Watch, scrutiny and assessment are ensured, shedding light on the realities of our legal system. By collecting data, revealing narratives, identifying patterns, and highlighting issues, volunteers play a vital role in presenting observations to local policymakers and the public, driving the need for reform.

If you are interested in attending a court session please contact Betsy Brinson at [betsybrinson422@gmail.com](mailto:betsybrinson422@gmail.com). Sessions are usually Tuesday afternoons at the Greensboro County Courthouse. Depending on interest, we can ride together or go separately. I do not envision CHFM being active volunteers with the Greensboro project on account of distance but who knows? For now this is primarily an educational opportunity for you to learn and see what AFSC is doing.

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## Info on the 339 Manumissions Quaker Project

Pam Schwingl shares with Friends:

Jennie Ratcliffe from Durham Friends Meeting recently told me of the 339 Manumission Project out of Haverford College.. The idea of the project is to trace the lives of 339 individuals who were owned and then freed by Quakers. This is a reparation process to recognize and apologize for slavery amongst Friends and to research what happened to these individuals.

Avis McClinton, the Black archivist involved with the project, was interviewed by the Friends Journal last July, and this piece was in that edition in July. See the article and the interview: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/confronting-the-legacy-of-quaker-slavery/>

From the article:

"We should start conversations about Quaker accountability and ensure African Americans are included in them. We also believe that Quakers should financially support and assist in the effort of the 339 Manumissions and Beyond Project and similar efforts as a form of reparative healing. And we believe that American Quakers owe an apology to African Americans for their involvement in the Atlantic slave trade and for all the harm that it caused."

Also, Here is a link to a piece on the project from the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting site: <https://www.pym.org/event/the-339-manumissions-and-beyond-project-a-search-for-descendants-of-formerly-enslaved-africans/>.

To donate to this project, go to: <https://friendsfiduciary.org/339-manumissions-beyond/>

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## Nimble Responders - Does the Meeting Need a New Protocol?

Wendy Michener shares with Friends:

Were you at the MWAB when our Clerk revealed that she had signed a letter in the name of CHFM before it could come to Business Meeting? It was an Opposition to the Death Penalty plea to our Governor and the deadline was quicker than Quaker process generally allows. She felt it was important that CHFM be on the list of signers, so she did it and then told us what she had done. Meeting agreed and approved, after the fact.

But she had to go outside of our protocols to do it. Then I read an article in Friends Journal that was about having a protocol for exactly this sort of thing! Here it is [Stewarding Our Time - Friends Journal](#)

It came up as an item in the last Business Meeting for discussion and has been given to Ministry and Worship for consideration.

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## Four Freedom Riders Vindicated and Remembered

Betsy Brinson shares with Friends:

A 75-year-old journey toward justice ended on Friday, June 17, (2022) in the Hillsborough courtroom where it all began. Superior Court Judge Allen Baddour vacated the convictions of

four Freedom Riders — three of whom were wrongfully convicted of disorderly conduct in 1947 and sentenced to hard labor.

The history-making move was officially recorded on June 17 in a special court session of the Orange County Superior Court. Judge Baddour's orders state the men had been convicted under a state statute that violates the U.S. Constitution.

More than 100 spectators, including family members of the Freedom Riders, Orange County elected officials and concerned citizens crowded into the courtroom last Friday to witness Judge Baddour's issuing a motion for appropriate relief, which dismissed all charges against Igal Roodenko — a Jewish activist; Joseph A. Felmet; Andrew Johnson — Felmet's Black seatmate, and Bayard Rustin, the trailblazing civil rights leader credited with organizing the 1963 March on Washington.

[https://thelocalreporter.press/after-75-years-freedom-riders-vindicated-in-orange-county/?utm\\_source=ReviveOldPost&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR0uudAAE-F5JGHuh8BmUGKQOaDrrJPcx7MTjmNRyUXi3\\_kqf2kKsFPQhgg](https://thelocalreporter.press/after-75-years-freedom-riders-vindicated-in-orange-county/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR0uudAAE-F5JGHuh8BmUGKQOaDrrJPcx7MTjmNRyUXi3_kqf2kKsFPQhgg)

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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.

### **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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## 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* 6 pm.
- The deadline for the monthly print Newsletter is on the *last day of the month*.

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).

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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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### Worship with Attention to Gaza, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12-12:30pm

Staff from Quaker Voluntary Service are holding space every Tuesday and Thursday at 12-12:30pm on Zoom for Worship with Attention to Gaza. It is a really lovely space to worship alongside other concerned Friends of all ages to hold in tenderness the war, its impact, and our relationship to it. There is a query offered at the beginning of each worship space with time for introductions and fellowship after. All are welcome, here is the link to register:

<https://lu.ma/qvsworshipwithattentiontogaza>

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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 February 18, 2024  
Online via Zoom  
Ann Miller, Clerk, and Susan Inglis, Recording Clerk**

In attendance: Jeff Brown, Buzz Borchardt, Lynn Drake, Matt Drake, Monteze Snyder, Peter Malone, Jan Hutton, Hart Pillow, Kate Vinita Fitch, Tom Munk, Allie Scales, Jennifer Leeman, Pam Schwingl, Ken Grogan, David Waterman, Wendy Michener, Susan Peterson, Gwynne Pomeroy, Lloyd Kramer, Rob Jones, Julia Cleaver, Alice Carlton, Dave Curtin, Jasmine McKewen, John Hite, Dottie Henninger, Emilie Condon, Quaker Harmon, Roger Henderson, Nancy Milio, Hank Elkins, Susan Newcomer, Betsy Brinson, Colleen Fey, Calaway Rohloff, Annette Broadwell, Susan Inglis, Ann Miller

1. Ann Miller, as Clerk, opened the meeting with worship and presented the Query: How do I help overcome the contemporary effects of past and present injustice and discrimination?
2. Ann welcomed Friends and reviewed the agenda. There were no first-time attenders.
3. Susan presented the Minutes of the January 2024 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB) with a revision to correct them. They were considered and approved.
4. Pam Schwingl, FCNCL representative, presented the annual report. It is attached here as Appendix 1. Friends expressed appreciation of the committee's work and accepted the report.

5. Jan Hutton, for the Shotts/Leadership Development Fund presented a renewed mission statement. Part of the statement was omitted from the definition within the last 10 years, the committee will restore this section on the website so that it reads thus:

The Mary and Claude Shotts Memorial Fund (est.1973) is an endowment from the Shotts family, the annual interest from which provides 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. The Leadership Development fund (est.1982), funded annually through an allocation from the meeting's operating budget, provides financial support to benefit the spiritual life of the Meeting through the enhancement of leadership capabilities in individuals. This includes Leadership Development Funds being made available to standing committees of the meeting in support of programming that furthers the spiritual and leadership development of the meeting as a whole.

Although these two funds originate from separate sources, the available funds are combined into one account from which grants are made. These funds are not need-based. Since we receive requests any time and want to be able to respond quickly so that those requesting assistance can make their plans accordingly, we make the grants from whichever fund has sufficient account balance to cover the grant with some money remaining in that fund." Grants are awarded through discernment of applications by members appointed to this committee.

Members and attenders of the Meeting are strongly encouraged to consider applying for funding support from the Shotts Memorial and Leadership Development funds. These are YOUR funds. Friends are welcome to talk with committee members ahead of time to explore the viability of their request. If you are interested in applying for assistance from these funds, write to the Committee at: [shotts-leadershipfunds@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:shotts-leadershipfunds@chapelhillfriends.org)

Friends appreciated the renewal of this text and the work of the committee.

6. Jasmine McKewen, for Children and Youth Religious Education Committee, presented the annual report. It is attached here as Appendix 2. Friends discussed how participation in First-Day School has varied over recent decades and expressed appreciation of the committee and teachers. Friends also noted what an important legacy our meeting's support of our youth is: children raised in our meeting are spreading Quaker values throughout the world, whether they are currently active in a Meeting or not. Friends accepted the report.

7. Ann Miller, as Clerk, presented a certificate from Bloomington Monthly Meeting of Friends for the transfer of David Waterman's membership to Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. Friends expressed their delight and noted how much they appreciate working with David and having him in our community. The transfer was approved with enthusiasm.

8. Wendy Michener's the idea of a "Nimble Friends" group was briefly discussed. This was referred to Ministry and Worship Committee for further discernment.

9. Gwynne Pomeroy provided updates from the Finance committee:  
- The IRS situation about UBIT tax filing has been resolved without fines, and we don't have to file to be designated as a 501c3 corporation. But the Finance Committee is considering new information that may support filing for that designation anyway.

- The "Giving Stock" document has been updated on the Meeting website.
- Committee clerks will soon receive a request from Finance Committee for information to plan for their budgets for the next fiscal year. Careful reporting is important because donations are lagging, we have had unexpected expenses, and the budget process may be especially challenging this year.

10. Ann Miller, as Clerk, called for other recently emerged concerns of members, to be identified only and simply heard or referred. Friend noted the absence of a plaque for Lois Ann Hobbs, and it was clarified that it is in process. Friend suggested we read the book *Caste* and see the film *Origin*. Friend expressed appreciation for the Ministry & Worship and Hospitality committees for their work in planning and successfully presenting our annual retreat. Friends expressed great appreciation for the retreat content, and especially the important fact that the day left us with a question, "What is our legacy going to be?" Lloyd Kramer, who led the retreat noted that he wanted to stress his appreciation to all members of the Ministry and Worship committee for their contributions to the Retreat; and Jeff Brown went to collect the food for the lunch. Hospitality also contributed as did the Anti-racism committee; and everyone who attended the retreat contributed in valuable ways as well.

11. Ann Miller as Clerk noted out next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is planned for 9:00 AM on 3/17/2024.

#### Announcements:

- Piedmont Friends Spring Gathering, Saturday, 4/6/24 at the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum in Gibsonville, NC
- The Nominations Committee seeks to identify and call forth the gifts and talents of attenders and members of our Meeting for service within the Meeting and in the larger community. Nominations committee is in the process of filling committee vacancies. Please spend time in discernment about where your gifts, talents and time can be of service to the Meeting community. Please contact [nominations@chfm.org](mailto:nominations@chfm.org)

## Appendix 1

### Annual Report (2023) of Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL) of Representatives to Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

February 11, 2024

FCNCL has been functioning since October 2019 under the care of the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting. In 2023 FCNCL continued to educate ourselves and our participants about the NC General Assembly (NCGA) and to advocate for legislation that promotes Quaker values.

Pam Schwingl, David Waterman, and Wendy Michener are currently the FCNCL representatives from the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting.

Policy Priorities and Actions.

At the end of 2023, the NC Legislature was wrapping up the “long session”, or the first year of a two-year cycle. During this time, FCNCL’s policy priorities have been: 1) Equal Access to Quality Public Education; 2) Protecting Participation in the Democratic Process for All; 3) Concern for the Health and Safety of All North Carolina Residents; 4) Protecting the Environment; and 5) Criminal justice reform.

The Policy Committee followed a number of topics over the past year by studying the issues, preparing fast sheets and sending action alerts, communicating with Monthly Meetings and encouraging our participants to write letters to newspaper editors and to their representatives in the legislature.

Topics we have followed and/or sent out Action Alerts for over this past year include:

- Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act
- PFAS Firefighting Foam and Gear Bill
- Opposition to the Death Penalty and supporting commutation of death sentences
- Restriction of Voting Rights
- Restriction of the rights of the LGBTQ+ community
- Private school voucher increases (two action alerts)
- Legislation concerning Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) (comments on permitting)
- Medicaid Expansion (activating it in a timely manner).

During 2024’s “short session” we intend to follow developments around these topics and when the time is appropriate, to advocate action with our own membership as well as through partnerships with other allied organizations.

On March 22, 2023 we coordinated the Medicaid Expansion focused FCNCL Lobby Day at the legislature in Raleigh, NC during which 27 registrants from several areas in the state attended. Medicaid Expansion was a primary focus in the preceding two years, and we were very happy that this legislation could move forward such that NC now stands with most other states in the U.S. in extending medicaid to a broader population of citizens.

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Outreach and Training. FCNCL has made it a priority to reach out to monthly and yearly meetings urging them to hold discussions on abortion rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and racial equity issues. We have suggested that meetings create Minutes on the commutation of

death sentences, and that individuals write letters to the editor or write op-eds. In June, 2023, the Strategic Advocacy and Engagement Committee held a training session with 21 registrants on "Learning by Doing: How to Lobby Your Legislators on Education." During 2023, FCNCL published 4 quarterly newsletters, and is currently working to expand the content to include reflections by various FCNCL Friends, reports from FCNCL committees, and information about other organizations doing similar work.

The FCNCL website contains much valuable information including newsletters, our Anti-Racism statement, archived Action Alerts, Fact Sheets, our Legislative Priorities for the

2023-2024 legislative session, and announcements/materials for the annual meeting. Building Partnerships. FCNCL has been in discussion and collaboration with several organizations which share our priorities, including:

- Down Home NC
- Audubon Society
- NC Realtors
- NC Council of Churches
- NC Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty vigils
- Public Schools First NC
- The Carter Center

Contributions and expenses. The organization has no paid staff but is powered by volunteers from meetings across the state of North Carolina. The total reported contributions to FCNCL from meetings and individuals amounted to \$3400. We ended the year with a balance of \$9,585.07.

Future Plans. FCNCL is currently planning to sponsor a screening of the documentary on the impact of the waste lagoons in Eastern Carolina called "The Smell of Money", in the spring of 2024. We have had contact with the producer and are in the process of making arrangements with a venue in Chapel Hill; and perhaps more widely using streaming. Another state-wide FCNCL Lobby/Advocacy Day in Raleigh will take place this spring, and we are awaiting on developments around several bills/issues to set a specific date. Once this is set, we welcome Meeting members and attenders to join us! More information will be available soon.

FCNCL welcomes any who are committed to Quaker advocacy in NC to visit a committee meeting; craft policy Alerts and fact sheets; help the Communications group develop and issue announcements; send friends to FCNCL's website to grow our membership; and most importantly -- respond to Alerts and build relationships with your representatives!

Respectfully submitted, Pam Schwingl, Assistant Presiding Clerk, FCNCL



Appendix 2  
**Children's and Youth Religious Education Committee Annual Report**

**February 2023-February 2024**

The Children's and Youth Religious Education (CYRE) Committee is responsible for the development, oversight, and support of curricula and activities for young Friends in preschool through high school. CYRE is also responsible for childcare in the nursery. In addition to supporting the First Day School (FDS) program and two paid staff positions (FDS Coordinator and Childcare Provider), the committee recruits teachers, selects materials, assesses progress, clarifies goals and objectives, oversees a budget, and communicates with the Ministry and Worship Committee. In summary, the CYRE Committee nurtures the spiritual development of children and teens and their families, and works to integrate families and young Friends into the life of the meeting. For the past year, we have been holding FDS on the playground as weather permits. We have used the multi-purpose room in the schoolhouse when the indoor temperature was preferable. We have continued to meet as a committee using Zoom.

Jasmine McKewen continued to serve as clerk. Ziva Danneker joined the committee as a new member. Continuing members are: Kara GrawOzburn, Rob Jones, Jennifer Leeman, Leslie Rountree, Stacey Sewall. Kathleen McNeil (FDS Coordinator) serves on the committee as an ex-officio member.

*First Day School (FDS) program*

We have continued to have participation from families with children ranging in age from 2 to high school during the last year. Attendance has continued to be lower and less consistent than during pre-pandemic times but has remained steady since the reopening of in-person FDS. Children up until high school have been meeting as one group and highschoolers have been meeting separately.

The Lower and Middle Pod continue to convene as one group at 11am each First Day. Children range in age from three to twelve. The teachers have included Kathleen McNeil, Mark Hulbert, Jasmine McKewen, Andrea Wuerth, Carolyn Stuart, Jennifer Leeman, Leslie Rountree, and Julie Feickert. There has been attendance of somewhere between two and twelve children each week in person. Additionally, Tom Munk leads the FDS students in games once a month.

Upper Pod generally consists of those students of high school age. The teachers are John Hite, Lori Khamala, and Herbert Struemper. The teens led the whole FDS to organize the alternative gift mart. They raised \$5,298.00 dollars for various charities.

The curriculum is composed of four parts:

Bible Studies (January through Easter) which alternates between the Old Testament and the New Testament. In 2023, students studied the New Testament.

Multicultural Unit: (Sunday after Easter through the end of the school year) We talked about traditions in Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and a variety of indigenous people's traditions.

Quakerism (late August until Sunday before Thanksgiving). Students studied Quaker history, testimonies and practices.

Holiday Activities (Sunday after Thanksgiving through the first Sunday in January). Carolyn Stuart led young Friends in creating cards for Quakers at Carol Woods who are not regular meeting attendees, and for men at Orange Correctional Center who worship with us. They also made ornaments with Leslie Rountree, performed a nativity play, and made bird feeders to welcome the New Year. Additionally, the teens participated in a white elephant gift exchange with John Hite and Lori Khamala.

Bible Studies (January and February, to be continued until Easter Sunday). Young Friends are currently studying the Old Testament.

#### *Nursery Care*

Nursery care has been provided by Stacey Sewall. She also assists with curriculum planning as well as working with little ones on the playground as necessary.

#### *Participation in the Larger Meeting*

FDS led a gratitude forum the week of Thanksgiving. FDS partners with Tom Munk for intergenerational board game fun the first First Day of each month.

#### *Collaboration with Friends outside of our Meeting*

In January, we had a great visit from some local Unitarian Universalist youth. We visited Judea Reform Temple for our multicultural field trip last spring.

#### *Building Family Connections*

FDS held two family gatherings at Mark Hulburt's home outdoors: one in spring and one in fall. Kathleen McNeil hosted a game night while parents were meeting for Quaker 8's.

#### *Teen Activities*

The teens coordinated The Alternative Gift Mart. The CHFM teens are also partnering with Durham Friends Meeting teens for joint activities. Conscientious Objector curriculum is impeccably and thoroughly presented each year by Curt Torell, with continual support from John Hite.

#### *Looking Forward*

We are delighted to have had the continued participation of approximately ten families in FDS activities and a stable group of teachers during the past year. We look forward to renewing our connections with more families in the coming year and continuing to build closer relationships among our meeting families in our work of integrating families and children into the lives of the meeting as a whole.

Respectfully submitted by the CYRE committee: Jasmine McKewen (clerk), Kathleen McNeil (FDS Coordinator, ex-officio), Stacey Sewall, Leslie Rountree, Rob Jones, Jennifer Leeman, Kara GrawOzburn and Ziva Danneker.

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