

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Newsletter



September 2009

Monthly Query:

“Are the Meeting’s concerns and energies adequately directed toward correcting social, economic, and political injustices, and to lessening the divisions of race, financial resources and opportunities? Are we careful that the use of Meeting funds is consistent with Friends’ testimonies?”

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Upcoming Forums

9:45am in the Meetinghouse

Sept. 6 “How the Friends General Conference gathering enriches my life in the meeting”

A panel of those who attended FGC will start a discussion on what moved them at the conference.

Sept. 13 “Quaker Conversations: Small Groups Building Community”

Dottie Henninger and Alice Carlton will lead a discussion on forming small groups in the meeting. From the Spiritual State of the Meeting gathering last winter, it seems clear that many want more opportunities for small groups in our meeting community. Let’s discuss this idea further at this forum. What small groups currently exist? What have been your experiences with small groups in the past? What small group experiences would you like now?

Sept. 27 “Young Friends Serving in other Cultures”

Our high school and college age youth will speak to how service enriched their spiritual lives

Oct. 4 “North Carolina’s Energy Future”

John Blackburn will discuss energy options and issues for NC.

From NC Warn:

Public Hearing and Information Session

About Duke Energy’s Rate Hikes

Tuesday, September 8, and Thursday, September 10

Duke Energy is requesting a 13.5 percent residential rate increase. This includes \$1 billion in up-front costs for the Cliffside coal-fired power plant, now under construction, and other rising costs of coal-fired electricity. This rate hike, if approved, would be on top of the 4.5 percent fuel cost increase (largely for coal) that the Commission just granted – for a total 18% rate increase for residential customers.

The Cliffside plant has been proven to be totally unnecessary. In fact, Duke is seeking thousands of new, outside customers to justify Cliffside. If completed in 2012, the new unit will spew out not only mercury and other

poisons, but 6 million tons of climate-disrupting CO2 a year – the equivalent of 1 million cars. Meanwhile, Duke Energy keeps fighting against genuine energy efficiency, which would make most of the rate increase unnecessary.

How is Duke getting away with this? Because the energy giant invests millions in our political and civic leaders every year.

Help offset Duke Energy's control over our democracy:

1) Attend an Information Session on Tuesday, September 8, 7:00 to 8:30pm at the downtown Durham public library auditorium, 300 N. Roxboro Street, hosted by NC WARN, Greenpeace, Democracy NC, Southern Energy Network, Interfaith Power & Light, Clean Water for NC and others.

- * Learn how this rate hike will be the first of many if Duke keeps building unnecessary coal and nuclear power plants.
- * Find out how a statewide efficiency campaign – NC SAVES ENERGY – eliminates the need for new plants and is the best approach to the climate crisis.
- * Learn how Duke Energy plays the political influence game – against you.
- * Prepare to speak at the hearing if you choose.
- * Meet other concerned citizens coming together to take a stand.

2) Attend the Durham Public Hearing held by the NC Utilities Commission on Thursday, September 10, 7:00pm at Durham City Hall, 101 City Hall Plaza.

- * Rally with us before the hearing – 6:30 outside the building entrance.
- * Make your case against the rate hike.
- * Support others by being in attendance.

3) Send comments – short or long – to NC Utilities Commission, Chair Ed Finley: finley@ncuc.net

Urge commissioners to deny Duke Energy's rate hike and revoke permission for the unneeded Cliffside power plant. We would be honored to have your help and support in this cause. Please let us know if you are attending the hearing or info session: jennie@ncsavesenergy.org. Tell your friends about hearings in other cities: <http://www.stopcliffside.org/news.php>.

New Class “Exploring Quakerism”

Begins Sunday, September 13

1:00-2:30pm in the Meetinghouse

The Adult Religious Education Committee is launching a monthly discussion on the history, spiritual traditions, and current directions of Quakerism. The discussions will take place on the following days: September 13, October 4, November 15, January 10, February 14 and March 14. Lloyd Kramer will be the facilitating leader at these discussion meetings, which will include an introductory overview of key themes and small group conversations.

Each session will focus on a chapter in the concise book by Pink Dandelion, “The Quakers: A Very Short Introduction.” Copies of the book are available for purchase (\$10 new, \$6 used) after the rise of Meeting. Participants will also be able to order sandwiches from the Mediterranean Deli. A sign-up sheet for this discussion series has been posted in the foyer. We look forward to a lively, thoughtful exploration of the history, contemporary challenges, and future of Quakerism. Contact Lloyd Kramer for more information (lskramer@mindspring.com).

Family Potluck

Saturday, September 19

5:00pm at the Schneider/Rountree Home

David Schneider, Leslie Rountree and their kids, Grace and Henry, invite you to join them at a First Day School Family Potluck at their home on Saturday, September 19. All are welcome. The address is 216 Maple Avenue in Carrboro. If you need directions, please call 932-7308.

Community Activists Honored

Sunday, September 20

3:00-4:00pm at Peace and Justice Plaza

The Town of Chapel Hill and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP will honor nine community activists on the anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington. Those to be honored include two of our own: Charlotte Adams and Mildred Ringwalt. A rally on August 28 included biographical tributes read by

members of the community.

Plan to attend this public unveiling of a tribute marker at Peace and Justice Plaza (outside the Franklin Street Post Office). There will be a reception at Chris and Sharon Ringwalt's home, 8 Cobb Terrace, following the unveiling of the Peace and Justice plaque. All are invited. Cobb Terrace is just down the street from the Peace and Justice plaza.

Lake Junaluska Peace Conference

Sunday-Tuesday, September 20-22

Participants are welcomed for the Second Annual Lake Junaluska Peace Conference that will be held September 20-22, 2009. The theme will be People of Faith Building Partnerships for Peace, bringing together persons from the three Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

The Peace Conference will celebrate our common heritage, examine what each Faith Tradition brings to the unified search for Peace, and explore ways we all can be more effective "Peace Builders" in our local communities. The outstanding list of speakers includes individuals who have been active and engaged on peace issues that the NC Council of Churches has sought to address, such as Middle East peace, torture, and just peacemaking:

Archbishop Elias Chacour from Palestine
Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Director of the Shalom Institute
Dr. Sayyid Syeed, National Muslim Director for Interfaith and Community Alliances
Dr. Lisa Schirch, Professor of Peace Building, Eastern Mennonite University

Registration can be completed online at www.lakejunaluska.com/peace.aspx. Additional information is available online, including a link for housing.

One-Day Introductory Compassionate Listening Trainings

Time: Saturdays, September 26 or October 24, 2009

9:30am-5:30pm at the Meetinghouse

Cost: \$25 - \$75 (sliding scale according to need, however, no one will be turned away)

Compassionate Listening is a foundational skill-set designed to empower individuals and communities to build powerful cultures of peace.

As peacemakers, we learn to move beyond a mindset that dehumanizes and demonizes the 'other', seeking instead to listen, to feel compassion for, and to see ourselves in the 'other', the 'other' in ourselves. The Compassionate Listening Project offers practices that reach deep into the heart of discord, teaching people to listen with a different "ear" to those around them. These workshops are based on the work of Quaker peacemaker and therapist, Gene Hoffman, and will be facilitated by CHFM member Jan Hutton.

Come explore these heart-based practices of Compassionate Listening:

- * Having compassion for oneself and others
- * Suspending judgment
- * Maintaining balance in the heat of conflict
- * Listening with the heart
- * Speaking from the heart with language that reflects a healing intention

Jan Hutton, MSW, a certified Compassionate Listening facilitator, believes in supporting wholeness in each human being. Over the last 38 years, she has served as a community organizer, social worker in hospice and hospital settings, meditation teacher, and, she hopes, a 'kind' person.

Contact Jan Hutton for more information and registration:
janhutton@earthlink.net, 919-967-1959

The Compassionate Listening Project: www.compassionatelistening.org

Immigration Conferences

First conference is Saturday, September 26

The NC Council of Churches is planning an ambitious series of free events for the fall, including six mini-conferences called “Immigration 101.” These mini-conferences will take an in-depth look at various elements of immigration, including local enforcement, education, the economy, and how people of faith can respond. Each event is free and open to the public.

This will be a great opportunity to learn more, to bring your friends, and to hear about efforts that are already underway in your area. Please join us as we work together to make North Carolina a more welcoming place.

Learn more at <http://www.welcometheimmigrant.org/>. Conference dates are as follows:

Charlotte - Saturday, September 26, 9:30am-12:00pm

Burlington - Saturday, October 24, 9:30am-12:00pm

Greenville - Saturday, November 7, 9:00am-12:30pm

Greensboro - Saturday, November 14, 9:30am-12:00pm

“Surplus of Wisdom” Book Giveaway

Sunday, September 27

The library committee has decided to schedule a book giveaway of surplus books. This will occur in the Meetinghouse library after the rise of early and late meetings on September 27.

Opportunity to Hear Bishop Spong!

Friday-Sunday, October 16-18

Episcopalian bishop John Spong will be speaking in Charlotte at the Myers Park Baptist Church. Rabbi Spiro has said of Spong that his luminous interpretations of Jesus’s humanity provide his readers, whether religious or non-religious, with an intellectually energizing and pioneering perspective. Spong integrates his controversial stands on the Bible, Jesus, theism, and morality into an intelligible body of thought based on critical thought rather than blind faith. Publishers Weekly named his “Why Christianity Must Change or Die” as the best book of the year. Dismissing the dispute about Jesus’s nature that

consumed the church's leadership for the first 500 years of Christian history as irrelevant, Spong proposes a new way of picturing the divine in Christ: as the ultimate dimension of a fulfilled humanity (from his "Jesus for the Non-Religious").

Marilyn Dyer will be attending the lectures and is seeking others who may also be interested in attending the event which has a fee of only \$10.00. A modest motel for two nights is nearby. Marilyn will drive. Please contact her at 918.3622 if you are interested.

FORGIVENESS

a retreat led by Sue Regan

Friday-Sunday, February 26-28, 2010

Save the weekend of February 26-28, 2010, for a meeting retreat. Sue Regan, a member of Rochester (NY) Friends Meeting and daughter of Ruth Koster (a CH meeting member who died in 2006), has been working in the area of forgiveness since 2002. It is part of her personal journey. She has led forgiveness workshops at Attica Prison, Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology, Friends General Conference Gatherings 2004 to 2009, Rochester Friends Meeting, and at retreat centers in Pennsylvania, California, and Old Chatham, New York. In the retreat, she discusses and leads participants in exercises in how being mindful of forgiveness and the act of forgiving can change how we feel and about others, ourselves, and on our health.

Further plans for this retreat will be announced in late Fall 2009 to possibly include preparation sessions in January and February. The opening Friday evening of the retreat will be open to all comers. The Saturday and Sunday afternoon portions of the retreat will likely be restricted to 30 registrants.

Sue Regan's retreat is the first of a series of events over the next couple of years planned by the Spiritual Enrichment ad hoc committee. The title given to this series is "Integrating the Inward and Outward Journeys." Among others, the committee hopes to invite John Calvi, a Quaker healer whose gift is the release of physical and emotional pain following trauma, and Dan Snyder, teacher and author of the recent Pendle Hill pamphlet "Quaker Witness as Sacrament."

The ad hoc Spiritual Enrichment committee is under the care of the Ministry & Worship and Adult Religious Education standing committees. It was established following the approval by Monthly Meeting in late 2007 of the disbursement of the monies bequeathed by Charlotte Adams and Gerry Gourley. This disbursement included monies for NC Choices for Youth, Quaker House of Fayetteville, and the stewardship of our meetinghouse, in addition to the spiritual enrichment of the Meeting.

The ad hoc Spiritual Enrichment committee meets on occasion at lunch times. It is currently looking for new members who would bring their gifts of creativity in the planning of these events. If interested, please contact either Hank Elkins (918-3504) or Mike Green (929-2339), co-clerks.

GI War Resister in Camp Lejeune Brig Needs Visitors

A call from Quaker House has come to us to help support Cliff Cornell, one of the first soldiers in Canada to be deported for his refusing to be deployed in the Iraq War. He got a 12-month sentence at the brig in Ft. Lejeune, in a room with 45 other prisoners of various charges. He desperately needs visitors.

Chuck Fager of Quaker House is hoping that several meetings will help Cliff through this very lonely and fearful time. Cliff's family and friends are nowhere close so friendly and supportive visitors are welcomed. Visitors' hours are noon to 3:00pm on Saturday, Sunday, or holidays. No pre-registration is necessary but you are required to get a pass at the entrance of the post and must show driver's license, auto registration, and auto insurance. Two or three may visit at a time so carpooling is possible. No gifts are allowed: that includes food, books, papers, etc.

You may also wish to send a letter of support to him at:

Cliff Cornell
Bldg. 1041, PSC 20140
Camp Lejeune, NC, 28542

Cliff will be in the brig until early February 2010, and his birthday is Oct. 8, in case you want to send him a card.

If you are flexible on when you can visit Cliff, please let Chuck Fager (chuckfager@aol.com or 910-323-3912) know so he can coordinate visits.

Otherwise, just go and give Cliff a chance to talk to a supportive, caring person. Other questions can be directed to Curt Torell. (Read more about Cliff at <http://www.couragetoresist.org/x/content/view/685/114/>)

Participate in Healthcare Reform

from the Peace & Social Concerns Committee

OUR VOICES CAN SAVE LIVES. NOW IS THE TIME.

An estimated 20,000 Americans die each year because they lack or are denied health insurance. An estimated 46 million Americans are uninsured and more lose their insurance each day as they lose their jobs and unemployment benefits in this recession. Approximately as many are underinsured. Half of personal bankruptcies are driven by medical costs. Premiums, co-pays, and out-of-pocket expenses are skyrocketing. Increasing numbers of employers are bailing out of employee coverage.

On August 11, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee sent the following message to Representative Price, Senator Burr, and Senator Hagan. "Our Quaker testimonies of equality, community, and simplicity tell us that health care is a human right. We ask our representatives in Washington to ensure that all of us receive the health care we need just as the citizens of other wealthy nations do. We particularly endorse Medicare for All or, at minimum, a robust public option."

Several Friends joined a Town Hall in Durham on August 13 and found, contrary to media reports, that the audience was overwhelmingly in favor of the reform proposals. They particularly registered our complaints with Rob Christenson of the News and Observer, whose report had focused on the anti-reform individuals. He admitted that he had not been in Durham and worded his front-page report poorly.

Friends joined the HkonJ coalition, the North Carolina Council of Churches, and others in Raleigh this past Sunday to support health care reform. Hundreds of supporters gathered, asking for "health care now." About sixty noisy counter-protesters gathered across the street. The satirical "Billionaires Against Healthcare," whose slogan is "Let Them Eat Advil," were first to speak. Some speakers addressed the disastrous effects of the current system for themselves and their families. Others spoke to the importance of North Carolina as a swing state in the health care debate. HKonJ's Reverend Barber, who

reminds some of us of Martin Luther King, Jr., gave another powerful speech: “We Need a Healing,” about the moral and religious dimensions of this issue. This speech can be read and a video of it seen on the Meeting’s website. We have thanked Channel 14 for their good, appropriately balanced coverage of the event: http://news14.com/content/top_stories/613956/health-reform-supporters—protesters-demonstrate-in-raleigh/?ap=1&Flash

Peace and Social concerns asks Meeting members to continue to press for meaningful reform. They believe that this is the time to speak our Truth. There are many ways you can do so. See the list below.

HOW TO SPEAK:

1. Go to whitehouse.gov/realitycheck to prepare yourself with facts regarding the many false claims currently being spread about current health care reform proposals.
2. Call and email President Obama to vigorously express our support for a government sponsored public option. (202) 456- 1414 or (202) 456-1111 or go on the web: WhiteHouse.gov/contact us.
3. Write and call Representative Price and ask that he join 64 other Congress members, including John Conyers, Dennis Kucinich, and North Carolina’s Mel Watts, who have gone on record stating they will not support any health reform legislation that does not include a PUBLIC OPTION. (See www.DemocratsforAmerica.org) Ask them, too, to vote for Anthony Wiener’s historic single payer Medicare for All amendment to HR 3200 on the House floor in September. This amendment will open the floor to the voices of our most heroic representatives and will provide the clearest and most cost-effective path to universal health care. Putting Single Payer Medicare for All in the public domain should strengthen the vote over a robust public option and derail any compromise.
4. The public option is at risk in the Senate. Call and Write Senator Kay Hagan and ask her to commit her full support for a robust public option.
5. Write and call the News & Observer asking them to cover more of the

people who support health reform. Just because we are civil doesn't mean we lack passion. Also send them personal stories that show why we need health care for everyone, not just those with "good" jobs. (919) 829-4515 or write your letter to The People's Forum, P.O. Box 191, Raleigh, NC 27602 or email Forum@newsobserver.com.

6. Share this message with your friends and neighbors. Help organize and participate in phone banks. Hold house parties and community gatherings. Great speakers are available to speak truth to power. Share your research and talking points.

State Legislature Passes Racial Justice Act

On August 7 the NAACP announced that the North Carolina State Legislature passed the North Carolina Racial Justice Act. This Act, the first of its kind, will allow inmates sentenced to death to challenge the racial fairness of their sentencing. The legislation passed into the hands of Governor Purdue. For more information, visit www.CommonDreams.org.

A Letter From the Crossing the Faith Divide Subcommittee

Letter from Muslim American Society of Raleigh read by Dr. Sameh Mobarek at our June 28 Forum on "A Muslim Response to President Obama's Cairo Speech":

"The speech was thoughtful and it was careful. It hit the right tones and it changed the tone. We see in this speech the opportunity to work hand in hand with other fellow citizens from all faiths and backgrounds to build a brighter future for our country and the whole world. In his Cairo speech, President Obama has extended what seems to be a historically unprecedented offer to defend and advance Muslim rights in our country and work with Muslims around the world for a better future. He also acknowledged the Islamic significant contributions for civilization and American history. The speech will more likely have a significant impact in reversing negative stereo-

typing of Muslims and portraying positive aspects of Islam. We hope and expect that our President continues to offer this publicly and fulfills his promise to serve people of all faiths. This speech truly marks a new beginning that cherishes the spirit of the values that the forefathers of our country have envisioned for this great nation and its people. We welcome the message and take this opportunity to remind everyone that our hand of cooperation has and will always be extended to people of good will and all faiths. We look forward to work with our President for whatever is best for this country and the whole world. We can also act as an effectively intermediary between America and the Muslim world.

“The question now is, ‘Will our President follow his speech with an action plan that would produce the positive results?’ Does he have enough power to counter all competing and conflicting special interest groups that have little or no regard to the common good of all people? Will he have the strength and courage to resist both in words and actions the outside powers supported by powerful insider lobbyists who are able to advance their agenda despite our country’s best interests including those of the Muslims in America and Muslims around the world?

“Our Prophet (PBUH, peace be upon him) said, ‘None of you will fulfill his faith until he or she loves for his brother or his sister that what he loves for himself or herself.’

“Our Prophet (PBUH) also said, ‘The most beloved to God are those who serve His Creation.’

“Our Prophet (PBUH) also said, ‘When you see an evil change it with your hand, and if you cannot change it with your tongue, and if you still cannot you change in your heart and this is the weakest form of faith.’

“Overall, President Obama displayed a deep knowledge of Islamic scripture, history, and views, and that, in itself, conveyed his respect far more than just saying, ‘I respect Islam and Muslims.’ I think this will be appreciated by many Muslims, even if they do not agree with the position he took.”

After reading this statement, Sameh spoke openly and compassionately about the importance of going back to what we share fundamentally in common both as human beings and in what Allah/God clearly instructs us to do. He urged that we talk to each other, in settings like our forum, so that we understand each other directly and not through distortions of media and those

who would distort or misuse religion for their own ends. We expressed gratitude for the time that Sameh spent with us.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

August 16, 2009

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Query: The meeting began with the query: “Are the Meeting’s concerns and energies adequately directed toward correcting social, economic, and political injustices, and to lessening the divisions of race, financial resources and opportunities? Are we careful that the use of Meeting funds is consistent with Friends’ testimonies?”

Welcome: The clerk welcomed first-time attenders Andrea Wuerth and Daniel Wright.

Approval: The meeting approved the minutes from the July 19, 2009, Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business as printed in the newsletter.

Spiritual Enrichment Ad Hoc Committee Report

Mike Green gave an update from the ad hoc committee working on Spiritual Enrichment. This ad hoc committee was created to determine how to use the money allocated from bequest funds for the spiritual enrichment of the meeting. They have agreed upon a theme of “Integrating the Inward and Outward Journeys” for a series of workshops and retreats over the next few years. The first retreat will be February 26-28, 2010, with Sue Regan (daughter of the late Ruth Koster, a meeting member) coming to lead a workshop on Forgiveness. The Friday evening session will be open to the public, but Sue has requested a maximum of 30 people for the more intimate workshop on Saturday and Sunday. More details will be forthcoming, including details about some preparatory gatherings before the workshop where we might consider different perspectives and readings on forgiveness to help prepare the ground for Sue. Mike also reported that the ad hoc

committee has lost some members and is looking for new members to help move this work forward. The committee also welcomes input on possible topics and speakers.

Several Friends spoke to how much they have appreciated workshops led by Sue Regan that they have attended in the past. A Friend expressed concern that more than the allotted 30 may want to attend. Friends thanked the ad hoc committee for its work with special appreciation to Jan Hutton for convening. Mike Green will now serve as convener.

Benevolences

The meeting continued its discussion of budgetary matters by considering the list of benevolences administered by Peace and Social Concerns, Ministry and Worship, and Adult Religious Education (attached). Together, these benevolences are a few hundred dollars short of the amount Finance Committee recommended for the meeting to stay within the \$68,000 budget we have approved. The recommendations from Ministry and Worship are the same as those presented this past spring. Peace and Social Concerns has made some changes in response to Friends concerns.

Hank Elkins, for Peace and Social Concerns, described briefly the decision making process for determining the funding amounts for each benevolence. In addition to the guidelines previously followed (preference for benevolences that are Quaker administered, involve meeting members, and are local) the committee also worked to increase our commitment to environmental concerns and also considered how the recession has affected the various groups.

After some discussion, the meeting approved funding the benevolence list as written, with the exception of increasing the contribution to Carolina Friends School (CFS) to its prior year level of \$8,370. The Meeting asks the Finance Committee to incorporate this change in the overall final budget.

Friends were reminded that the new practice of the Meeting (as of last year) is to begin paying benevolences in February, once we have a fairly good handle on what our income for the year will be.

Letter of support to Muslim community

Nancy Milio reported for the Crossing the Faith Divide sub-committee of Peace & Social Concerns. In response to the arrest of Daniel Boyd, the sub-committee recently sent a letter of support for the Muslim community to Khalilah Sabra, Executive Director of the Triangle Chapter of the Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation, with copies sent to other leaders in the local Muslim-American community (copy attached).

Nancy read a draft of a similar letter (copy attached) with a recommendation that it be sent to the local papers from the entire Meeting (rather than just the committee) to make our support more publicly known.

The meeting approved sending this letter to local papers and sending copies to our government representatives.

Buildings & Grounds Committee Report

The following report from Don Hopper, B&G Committee, was distributed as part of the agenda:

Report on B&G's use of \$7,950 in bequest money plus \$3,000 from the Physical Plant Reserve Fund for a total of \$10,950 to improve the environmental efficiency of the meetinghouse.

Project	Status	Cost
Add insulation to attic	Mostly done	\$2,625
HVAC mech. engr. consult	Completed	\$630
Replace resident apt. storm door	Completed	\$624.88
Replace meeting room sashes	Completed	\$5,851.85
Repair window sills	Completed	\$500
Close both fireplaces	In process	?
Total		<u>\$10,231.73</u>

\$10,950.00
 - 10,231.73

 \$ 718.27

Announcements

* Lloyd Kramer, for Adult Religious Education, announced that the committee will launch "Exploring Quakerism," a monthly series of meetings based on readings from Ben Pink Dandelion's book "Quakers, a short history." The first meeting will be on September 13. Sign-up sheets are on the Meetinghouse door.

* Our regular fall forums start next Sunday.

Closing

The meeting closed with a circle of silent worship.

Attending:

Max Drake, Ann Kessemeier, Judy Purvis, Carolyn Stuart, Jan Hutton, Mike Green, Wren Hendrickson, Maria Darlington, Lloyd Kramer, Daniel Wright, Emily Buehler, Terry Mehlman, Ken Grogan, Andrea Wuerth, Larry Tabor, Hank Maiden, Bettie Flash, Ann Miller, Pam Schwingl, James Harper, Robin Harper, Tom Munk, Lynn Drake, Marilyn A. Dyer, Matt Drake, Miriam Thompson, Nancy Elkins, Hank Elkins, Nancy Milio, John Hite, Jennifer Leeman (clerk), Marsha Green (recording clerk).

Benevolences

Peace and Social Concerns Recommended Benevolences Sorted by 2009 Amount (Revised July 12, 2009)

	2007	2008	2009
Interfaith Council.....	7,000	7,000	8,000
Carolina Friends School	7,880	8,370	7,000 *
(2007 increased to \$11,500 by Meeting)			
Quaker House.....	7,000	8,000	6,000
Friends Committee on National Legislation.....	1,400	1,500	2,000
Quaker Earthcare Witness.....	800	1,000	2,000

American Friends			
Service Committee.....	1,200	1,200	1,500
Bolivian Quaker Education			
Fund.....	0	600	1,000
Alamance/Orange Prison			
Ministry.....	400	400	400
NC Council of Churches.....	100	400	400
NC Warn.....	100	300	300
People of Faith Against			
Death Penalty.....	300	300	300
Right Sharing of World			
Resources.....	300	300	300
Schoolhouse of Wonder.....	300	0	50
Planned Parenthood of			
Central NC.....	0	100	50
Rural Southern Voice for Peace..	100	100	50
Orange Co. Peace Coalition.....	0	0	50
Habitat for Humanity Orange Co..	100	100	0
Food, Faith, Farms.....	400	0	0
Total.....	\$27,380	\$29,670	\$29,400

*August Meeting for Worship w/Attention to Business altered CFS benevolence to \$8,370

Ministry and Worship Recommended Benevolences

School of the Spirit Ministry.....	250
Friends General Conference (FGC).....	700
Piedmont Friends Fellowship (PFF).....	550
Friends Journal.....	200
Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, & Queer Concerns.....	150
Friends World Committee for Consultation.....	Not to be continued
Total.....	\$1,850

Friends can refer to the June 2009 newsletter on the Meeting's webpage for in-depth descriptions of each of the benevolences.

Adult Religious Education Recommended Benevolence

Friends Center at Guilford.....\$150

Letters in support of local Muslim community

[Letter to The News & Observer]

To the Editor:

Many other readers [Patrick O'Neill, N&O, 8-12-09] are disturbed by the timing and manner of the arrest of Daniel Boyd and his co-defendants as alleged terrorist. Coming just after the joyous celebration of the new mosque in Raleigh, at which high level elective and other officials—including the FBI and SBI—were represented, provoked an immediate harmful impact. Our Muslim brothers and sisters tell us of the fear and renewed alarm they felt. They speak of wariness of their efforts to reach out to the wider community, of students worried about returning to campus, and of travelers planning to return to the community: how will they be treated by officials, other citizens, and the media?

At a minimum, the timing of the arrests, and the distasteful excessive power displayed in talking Mrs. Boyd, represents a sad insensitivity and understanding of the wider impacts on the American Muslim community as it has tried to cope with the stereotyping and consequent discrimination it has had to endure, especially after 9/11.

We can only hope, and will carefully observe, whether the new Justice Department will adhere to the rule of law, including according the defendants their full Constitutional rights of examining the evident and confronting the witnesses against them. We hope the prosecution will not resort to the “state secrets privilege” and secrecy that were so often used by the previous Administration.

We urge the Triangle community to extend a hand to our Muslim members, and follow the example of our President.

Nancy Milio and Curt Torell
Bridging the Faith Divide Committee
Chapel Hill Friends Meeting [Quaker]
750 Weaver Dairy Rd, #2221, CH 27514-1443, 919.918.3637

[Letter to Khalilah Sabra]

Khalilah Sabra, Executive Director
Triangle Chapter, Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation
910 Jones Franklin Street, #110
Raleigh, NC, 27606

Dear Khalilah Sabra:

Our Chapel Hill Friends Meeting (Quaker) has been concerned by most of the media coverage and other actions surrounding the recent arrest of Daniel Boyd and his co-defendants and how that is affecting the Muslim community of Raleigh. On July 25, the Islamic Center of Raleigh proudly inaugurated its new Mosque and school inviting the larger community and welcoming visitors with warmth and grace. On the very next day, that joyous event was overshadowed by the Boyd arrests and a barrage of media sensationalism and frenzy.

Over the last year, our Meeting has been developing relationships with the local Muslim community in order to build bridges across our respective faiths and reach a deeper understanding of the common, core beliefs that hold us together. We have been impressed with the openness and acceptance of our Muslim brothers and sisters and have gained a better appreciation of Islam, the Qur'an and the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). At the same time, we realize more fully how the American Muslim community faces considerable discrimination and harassment from some government authorities as well as some private citizens. How the Boyd arrest was addressed in the media, the method by which Sabrina Boyd was lured from her house and detained, and the subsequent fear and distrust that has been fueled in the Muslim community is a great concern to us.

We want to assure you and your community of our continuing support through this difficult time. We await the outcome of Constitutional processes to determine the guilt or innocence of the accused. We hope, and will closely observe, the new Department of Justice and how it adheres to the rule of law, including due process, and whether it relies on the "state secrets" privilege or other abuses perpetrated by the previous Administration. At the same time, in the Quaker manner,

we hold “in the Light” those members of your community whose lives have been shaken by this event.

With deep concern and support,
Curt Torell and Nancy Milio, Co-clerks
Crossing the Faith Divide Subcommittee
Peace & Social Concerns, Chapel Hill Friends Meeting [Quaker]

cc: Moe El Gamel, President, NC Chapter, Muslim American Public Affairs Committee; Jihad Shawwa, officer, NC Chapter, Muslim American Public Affairs Committee; Hamdy Radwan, Director of Outreach, Muslim American Society; Editor, N&O [blind copy]

Directory Help Needed

Flash Addition!

Friends may be interested in knowing Lucille Hawk’s new address in Pennsylvania, since she’s just moved and may really be in need of letters from her old friends. It is:

Lucille Hawk
126 Every Lane
Lemont, PA 16851

Where Have All Our Old Friends Gone?

As you know (and are no doubt tired of hearing), Publications and Records is busily at work on the new directory. We have been in touch with all of the friends in the “non-resident” section of the directory that we can reach, to update their information. Below is a list of names of folks, whose information is too old and we can’t reach them, or sadly, none of us on this little committee knows who they are! Their names will likely be removed if their inclusion cannot be confirmed. Can you help us out? Do you know how to reach them? Should they still be listed? Do they still want to be listed? Any advice or information you can offer would be most appreciated. Please send your knowledge to news@chapelhillfriends.org. THANKS!

Annie Barrus, Gib Barrus, and Barbara Perin
Ameena Batada and Michael Brown
Tom Beeson and Taimi Olsen
Kelly Blasko
Ben Browne
Sarah Clegg
Conleth Crotser and Peter Crowley
Mary Crowley
Cheryl Crupi and Damian Makarushka
Bob and Deborah Cumming
Alice Doust
Bob and Margaret Fankhauser
Nick Fankhauser
Jonathan Fay and Family
Matthew Freytag and Kathryn Wistar
Carol Hoppe and Family
Margaret Hundley-Parker
Mary Jimenez
Lisa Knox
Kate Lawrence and Michael Wagner
Steve Lockett and Family
Rusty Maynard
Guian McKee and Joanna Vondrasek
Peter Millard and Emily Wesson
Alwyn Moss
Greg Nooney and Ibu Sugawara
Chris Prescott
Marilynn Richtarik
Alison Rieber
John Root, Leslie Scott, and Jason Root
Christine and David Rusch
David and Robin Wells
Laurel Zeiss

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
531 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514
929.5377

Meetings for Worship at 8:30 and 11:00am
Forum at 9:45am
Child Care from 9:30am-12:15pm
First Day School from 11:15am-12:00pm

Clerk of the Meeting: Jennifer Leeman (929.9135)
Resident: John Hite (929.5377)

This newsletter is published every first Sunday under the care of the Publications and Records Committee. The deadline for submissions is evening, last Sunday of the month. Please email submissions to news@chapelhillfriends.org, or call James and Robin Harper at 768.9870.

To send Meeting News and In The Light announcements via email, or to get your name on our listserv, contact news@chapelhillfriends.org.

This and past issues of the newsletter are available online at www.chapelhillfriends.org. To get items posted on our website, send the information to news@chapelhillfriends.org.

Monthly Query:

“Are the Meeting’s concerns and energies adequately directed toward correcting social, economic, and political injustices, and to lessening the divisions of race, financial resources and opportunities? Are we careful that the use of Meeting funds is consistent with Friends’ testimonies?”

Calendar: (All events at Meetinghouse unless otherwise indicated.)

Sun. 9/6	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum - “How FGC Gathering Enriches My Life...”
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Potluck & IFC (Rice is Nice!) - Schoolhouse
		Environmental Concerns Com. - Schoolhouse
Tue. 9/8	7:30-8:30pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Fri. 9/11	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot
Sun. 9/13	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum - “Quaker Conversations--Small Groups”
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	1-2:30pm	“Exploring Quakerism” - Lloyd Kramer
Tue. 9/15	7:30-8:30pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
		Call 768.9870 with directory updates!
Wed. 9/16	10am	Quaker Women’s Gathering - Bettie Flash’s Home
Fri. 9/18	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot
Sat. 9/19	5:00pm	Family Potluck - Schneider/Rountree Home
Sun. 9/20	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:30am	Meeting for Worship w/Attention to Business
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	3-4pm	Activists Honored - Peace & Justice Plaza; Reception following at Ringwalts’
Tue. 9/22	7:30-8:30pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Fri. 9/25	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot
Sat. 9/26	9:30am-5:30pm	Compassionate Listening Training - Jan Hutton
Sun. 9/27	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early) (Book Giveaway After)
	9:45am	Forum - “Young Friends Serving in Other Cultures”
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late) (Book Giveaway After)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	10pm	Deadline To Turn In Items For Newsletter!
Thu. 10/1	11am-1pm	CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter
Fri. 10/2	4:30-5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot
Sun. 10/4	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum - “NC’s Energy Future” - John Blackburn
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Potluck & IFC - Schoolhouse
		Environmental Concerns Com. - Schoolhouse
	1-2:30pm	“Exploring Quakerism” - Lloyd Kramer
Wed. 10/7	10am	Quaker Women’s Gathering - Bettie Flash’s Home