

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Newsletter

December, 2011



Monthly Query:

How does my life reflect the joy of living in the Spirit? In what ways does my daily life demonstrate Friends' testimonies so that others might want to follow them?

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Upcoming Forum Schedule

December 4: "The History and Use of Queries in Quakerism" - presentation and discussion led by Lloyd Kramer

December 11: "Can Muslims Be Patriotic?" - Samar Shawa and Iyad Hindi will speak about the intra-Muslim and interfaith work they are doing

December 25: to be determined, possibly a forum for Christmas music and celebration

January 1: (starting at 10 am instead of 9:45 am) The Elm Tree Dance, facilitated by Jennifer Leeman

January 8: "Quaker Heroes", an inter-generational forum - Children from First Day School (CRE) will talk about who their Quaker Heroes are and why

December EnviroTip:

Christmas is a joyful holiday, offering hope in the promise of new life. As we celebrate with our loved ones, let us remember not to be wasteful of our resources. We can choose reusable bags and boxes over wrapping paper, reusable cloth ribbons over plastic bows, and reusing existing gifts from our homes and second hand stores. We can shop mindfully, considering the care of the workers and earth that brought us these goods. Sustainably gathered and fair trade gifts help us to support one another, offering hope and the possibility of rebirth to the world in which we live.

We're Dreaming of a Green Christmas! Your Environmental Committee

Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24, 5:30 pm, Meetinghouse

The Christmas Eve service will take place on Saturday, December 24 at 5:30 pm. We will begin with silent worship with one candle on the table in the center and lights off. As it becomes darker outside, and as the spirit moves us, each of us will light our own candle from the central candle and add our lighted candle to the table in silence and/or give whatever message we may feel led to share, slowly bringing light to the darkness. After about 45 minutes, we will close with singing "Silent Night" and other carols as the spirit moves us. Children are welcome to worship with us. Bring a candle with a holder. Extra candles will be provided for those who forget to bring their own. Coordinated by the Ministry and Worship Committee.

Advent Worship

Come join us to celebrate the Advent season as we approach Christmas. We will gather at 7:30 pm to about 8:30 pm at the following dates/locations to have some worship and a chance to share on various themes related to the season:

- Wednesday, November 30h – Mann/Schwingl's home
- Wednesday, December 7th – Mann/Schwingl's home
- Wednesday, December 14th – Drakes' home
- Wednesday, December 21st – Drakes' home

Please see Judy Purvis for any questions or for directions.

IFC News: IFC Food Pantry Needs Holiday Meals

The Inter-Faith Council plans to give more than 900 holiday dinners this season, the most to date. The Council's holiday meal program donates a Thanksgiving dinner, a Christmas dinner, or both to families in need. The meal includes turkey or ham, vegetables, stuffing,

bread, and a dessert. Donations of \$25 are used to buy food at grocery stores to be distributed before each holiday. "Last year we donated 450 Thanksgiving dinners and 450 Christmas dinners to families in Orange County," said John Dorwood, holiday dinner donation coordinator of the Inter-Faith Council. "We want to surpass that this year."

Will you share your Thanksgiving or Christmas with a needy family? It's simple. Print out a coupon at <http://www.ifcweb.org/HolidayCoupon.pdf> and send it along with a check for \$25 to: John Dorwood, Inter-Faith Council for Social Service, 110 W. Main Street D, Carrboro, NC 27510. (Or just send the check to John with a note that it's for a holiday meal.) Or pay by credit card. Call 929-6380, ext. 14 for John or ext. 12 for Frances. Thank you!

IFC News: Donations Matched Through Dec. 31

The Steward's Fund has issued a challenge. If the IFC raises \$100,000 in donations from new donors or increased donations from current or lapsed donors, the Fund will match the \$100,000 dollar for dollar. The deadline is December 31.

Send a check with "steward's challenge" in the memo area to Inter-Faith Council for Social Service, 110 W. Main Street D, Carrboro, NC 27510. Or pay by credit card. Call 929-6380, ext. 14 for John or ext. 12 for Frances. Thank you!

New Year's Eve Concert to Benefit IFC Saturday, December 31, 7 pm, United Church of Chapel Hill

Another concert benefiting IFC will be held on December 31, 2011 in the sanctuary of United Church of Chapel Hill, located at 1321 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Chapel Hill. The Road Home Band will play a joyous mix of folk, bluegrass, and old time music beginning at 7 p.m. Attendees are asked to make a cash donation.

A Request Regarding Announcements at the Rise of Meeting Submitted by the Ministry and Worship Committee

Concerns have been voiced about the length and number of announcements at the rise of meeting for worship. The Ministry and Worship Committee would like to request our community's help with honoring these concerns. We would ask that your announcement, if made from the floor, be brief and concise, and have direct relevance to our meeting's interests or concerns. If your announcement needs greater spaciousness of explanation than "brief and concise," please send the longer version to our meeting's listserv so that many more of our community may be present to it: news@chapelhillfriends.org

We will continue to hone this process as time passes. Thank you for working together to support a path that, we hope, will meet the needs of all those attending.

Upcoming First Day School Activities

Sunday, December 4 It's our annual homemade ornament-palooza! Come make popcorn and cranberry strings, origami birds, clove apples, beeswax "cookies," glittered pinecones, colored paper chains, bead snowflakes, peace doves, felt ornaments, and more! Mulled cider and cookies provided. While this is our most popular activity for both the kids AND many of our teachers, it is open to anyone in Meeting who enjoys crafts. Let's get our tree decorated in time for the monthly potluck!

This week marks the launch of our middle schooler's annual Alternative Gift Mart. Find a wonderful gift that gives twice: honor a loved one with a donation to one of the worthy charities chosen by our class. The Gift Mart will be "open" during the monthly potluck meal, as well as the next two Sundays at the rise of late Meeting for Worship.

Sunday, December 11 Join us as we sing Christmas carols and songs in the multi-purpose room, led by Jochen Wachter. Good practice for next weekend's caroling outing!

Saturday, December 17, 1 - 3 pm FDS caroling returns to Carol Woods. All voices are welcome. Meet Leslie Rountree at the entrance to the main building of Carol Woods Retirement Village at 1 pm for an afternoon of singing and serenading CHFM member residents, staff... basically anyone who'll listen to us! Many thanks to Michael Grathwohl for his guitar accompaniment. Attention parents: do you have holiday errands to run that afternoon? You may drop your kids off with Leslie at the entrance, and pick them up there at 3 pm as well. Dress warmly as we will be in and out of buildings throughout the campus.

Sunday, December 18 FDS kids will rehearse for the annual Nativity story play that will be presented later that evening at the Holiday party.

Sunday, December 18, 5 pm The CHFM holiday party begins with a delicious finger food potluck. After everyone has settled in, the children will then present their annual Nativity story play, this year accompanied by an ensemble of middle school musicians. We also are bringing back a past party tradition this year, the Giving Tree. Throughout the party, Friends write down a gift that they would freely give to another on a paper ornament, and then hang it on the tree. The gift may be a service, a lesson, a handmade or homemade item...that sort of thing. All ages may participate. At the end of the party, all may choose a gift from the tree to redeem at a later date.

Saturday, December 24 The annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Meeting for Worship begins at 5:30 pm. You may bring your own candle, or use one of those provided. Don't miss this service -- it's really beautiful.

Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day. There is no First Day School activity planned during 11 am Meeting for Worship, however, childcare will be available.

Saturday, December 31 While away New Year's Eve with F(f)riends at the annual board game marathon and white elephant gift exchange party, hosted by John Hite in the

multipurpose room. Bring those chia pets and other oddities (gaily wrapped, please) that need a new home to exchange for someone else's (ahem) treasures. Giggles and excellent noshes guaranteed. Time to be announced.

January 1 First Day School pods will meet together one last time to plan their forum presentation on Quaker Heroes.

January 8 Our forum, Quaker Heroes, will be presented by the First Day School children at 10 am. Come learn from our kids!

Learn About Occupy Chapel Hill

Submitted by Alice Carlton

Sunday afternoon [November 6] a few Friends visited Occupy Chapel Hill and presented our minute of support approved at the Evening Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business last Thursday. If any Friends feel led to help out the Occupy Chapel Hill group, visit their web site for the list of needs at www.occupychapelhill.org. If you have time to get more involved, join one of their working groups. Learn all about what they are up to on their web site.

School of the Spirit Program

Sunday, December 4, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Durham Friends Meeting

Would you like to know more about the School of the Spirit program? There will be an informational session at Durham Friends Meeting, Sunday, December 4, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. All three core teachers and a number of members of past classes will be there. If you would like more information, talk to Judy Purvis.

CFS Main Campus Open House

Sunday, December 4, 2 to 4 pm, CFS Main Campus

Carolina Friends School invites Chapel Hill Friends to visit during Main Campus Open House, Sunday, December 4, from 2 to 4 pm. Although the primary purpose of the open house is for admission, we also welcome visits from Friends who'd like to know more about the school. Kids are welcome! Drop in any time between 2 and 4 for Early, Lower, or Middle School. An Upper School panel starts at 2:30. Please sign in at the gym. With questions, please contact Kathleen Davidson (kdavidson@cfsnc.org).

Diane Randall of FCNL in Chapel Hill / Durham

Monday, December 5, 1 pm and 3 pm

The General Secretary of Friends Committee on National Legislation, Diane Randall, will speak in Chapel Hill on December 5. FCNL is a nonpartisan, nonsectarian Quaker group lobbying for peace and justice. There will be a presentation at Elders for Peace from 1 to 2 pm at Carol Woods. At 3 pm, she will speak at The Forest at Duke Auditorium, 2701

Pickett Rd., Durham. “We have seen what the moneyed lobbyists of K Street can do. Now come and see what YOU can do as a citizen lobbying for PEACE and JUSTICE!”

A Brief Summary of Alternative Gift Ideas

Submitted by Emily Buehler

With holiday shopping season upon us, you may be tempted to buy, buy, buy. If you'd like to give loved ones gifts, without spending or creating more clutter in the world, here are some options to consider.

-**Alternative gifts** (i.e., charitable donations in honor of someone) are a great use for your gift-buying dollars. You can pick local charities or global ones. It's nice to pick a charity that matches the recipient, for example, donate to SEEDS for a gardener, or to the animal shelter for a pet lover. Our FDS will be hosting an alternative gift mart in December. Use websites like CharityNavigator.org to determine the efficacy of global organizations.

-If you're not comfortable making the switch to alternative gifts, try giving an **alternative gift with a small tangible gift** (like a chocolate bar).

-A gift of **service** supports a local worker while making the recipient's life easier. For example, give someone a hair cut, a gym membership, or an offer to pay for or help with a home repair they have been meaning to get done.

-**Consumable gifts** are always well-appreciated and do not add clutter to the recipient's life. Put together a gift basket, or get a gift certificate to a local restaurant.

-If you love gift-giving, consider limiting spending to **under \$5**. This can force creativity that results in a fun morning opening presents.

-Or, consider giving “**White Elephant**” gifts, where everyone gives something they already own and no longer want.

Reuse 101: 2011 Christmas Cards = 2012 Gift Tags

Submitted by Emily Buehler



Remember to save your Christmas cards for next year! If the back of the image is blank, you can trim it into a “to-and-from” tag for use next year. Punch a hole and tie on a piece of yarn. Sometimes you can get multiple tags out of one card. You can also make gift tags out of old photos or junk mail. Get more ideas at http://www.thriftyfun.com/tf/Make_Your_Own/Gifts/Making-Your-Own-Gift-Tags.html.

Christmas or other holiday cards can also be turned into gift boxes, baskets, puppets, journals, ornaments, luminaries, and more. Get ideas at <http://www.squidoo.com/recycleholidaycards>.

**Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Appointed
November 3, 2011
Carolyn White, clerk; Robin Harper, recording clerk**

Worship and Query: How do my words and actions demonstrate Friends' principles and testimonies to people inside and outside of the Meeting?

One Friend spoke of Ruth Zalph, and how she truly lives and embodies Friends' testimonies.

One Friend offered this quote from Thich Nhat Hanh: "What we most need to do is hear within us the sounds of the earth crying."

Others talked about the sacrifices needed to protect our planet and slow climate change; for example, eating plant-based foods is the single most effective thing we can do as individuals to slow climate change. The change does not have to be painful, and it can be joyful, if we change our mindset.

Ruth Zalph offered a donation of yarn she has, if in exchange Friends would make a contribution to Quaker House.

1. Minute in support of Occupy Chapel Hill—Tom Munk

"The Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends wishes to express our support for the Occupy Chapel Hill movement insofar as it exemplifies our values of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, and equality."

This minute was brought by those who attended Francis Coyle and Ruth Zalph's talk about their experiences at Occupy Washington, D.C., and Occupy Chapel Hill: Alice Carlton, David Curtin, Dirk Kelder, Maria Darlington, Tom Munk, Bettie Flash, Emily Nelson, Buffie Webber, and Andy Nelson. They would like to present this minute to the protestors, as well as in a letter to the editor of the Chapel Hill News.

Friends approved the minute, and approved P&SC distributing the minute as they see fit.

2. Benevolences:

**Benevolences recommended by P&SC committee—Sarah Grimme (Attached)
Benevolences recommended by Ministry and Worship and ARE—Judy Purvis (Attached)**

At the June MFB, the Meeting approved an annual budget of \$64,000 with \$29,220 designated for benevolences. This amount is to be shared among benevolences for the wider Quaker community as well as local and regional organizations. At the June 2 MFB, appointed, the ad hoc committee on benevolences presented their recommendations. Although the Meeting did not come to unity on accepting their recommendations, Peace and Social Concerns and Ministry and Worship used the following guidelines to evaluate their benevolences:

All committees overseeing benevolences are asked to consider the following guidelines when evaluating the benevolences under their care:

- Start with the list and amount of benevolence from the previous year.
- Take into account the financial status of the Meeting
- Seek guidance in worship regarding whether benevolences should be added to the list, whether there are benevolences we are no longer led to support and whether the amount we gave last year is still appropriate.
- Research and share with the Meeting the current activities and financial status of each proposed benevolence.
- Give preference to benevolences that: are Quaker-administered or led, are actively supported by Meeting member donations of time, and are local.
- Recognize that some benevolences receive substantial sums from us, sums that make a difference in their ability to carry out their mission. Others receive small sums, sums that are more a token of our support than substantial contributions to their effort.

Judy reported that M&W decided to reduce their benevolences by the same percentage that the budget has been reduced overall, except for Friends Journal, which is in a somewhat more precarious position financially than the others. PFF took the biggest hit, because they don't have a lot of expenses at this time.

After Sarah reported, several Friends had questions or concerns regarding particular organizations, including the Triangle Land Conservancy, Quaker House, and CFS. Some felt we had not fully considered our priorities as a community, for the future of the world, in making this list. Friends spoke eloquently about their passion for various groups and their causes, particularly those whose focus is the environment.

One Friend asked us to remember that we do our business in worship. MWAB is not a committee meeting. We are here seeking answers in a spirit of communal worship.

P&SC responded that this year there were many desperate, immediate needs that the community is facing, that they felt they had to address: hunger, lack of shelter, and the death penalty is at a critical juncture right now. But they also paid particular attention to benevolences with an environmental focus, because they do care about the future of the planet. One area of reduction was Carolina Friends School, because their endowment has grown, as well as their contribution base, and these two factors led to the decision to decrease our gift to them.

M&W also responded to questions by pointing out that the 75 year celebration of our Meeting is coming up, and they are focusing on where we've been, where we are, and where we're going as themes. This milestone will be a good time to talk about our priorities, as a Meeting and within the larger Society of Friends. It will give us a chance to look at the bigger picture, not just this year's distributions. We need to decide our priorities for the future, rather than just looking at what we do year to year.

Many Friends expressed tremendous thanks for the tough work the committees had to do to come up with the Benevolence recommendations and distributions. We were reminded that we can give on our own, in places that the Meeting is not giving as much as we would like. Friends remarked that our benevolences are powerful, but not as powerful as our individual actions, when we really live our beliefs. We have entrusted this work to these three committees, and they have served us well and to the best of their abilities.

Friends approved the benevolence budget as presented.

Worship and greeting

Attending: Matt Drake, Lynn Drake, Judy Purvis, Ryan Jarrell, Micheal P. Jokinen, Karen Merrey, Nancy Elkins, Jennifer Leeman, Tom Munk, Alice Carlton, Ken Grogan, Hank Elkins, Ann Shy, Pat Mann, Sarah Grimme, Ruth Zalph, Dirk Spruyt, Perry Martin, Pam Schwingl

Benevolences recommended by P&SC	2007-8	2008-9	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Carolina Friends School	7880	8370	7000	7000	5700
Interfaith Council	7000	7000	8000	8000	7500
Quaker House	7000	8000	6000	5000	4500
FCNL	1400	1500	2000	3500	3000
AFSC	1200	1200	1500	2500	2000
Quaker Earthcare Witness	800	1000	2000	2000	1500
NC Warn	100	300	300	2000	1500
Bolivian Quaker Ed Fund	0	600	1000	1000	750
Alamance/Orange Prison Ministry	400	400	400	400	300
NC Council of Churches	100	400	400	500	200
People of Faith against the Death Penalty	300	300	300	200	200
Right Sharing of the World Resources	300	300	300	200	100
Orange JUICE	0	0	0	100	100
Schoolhouse of Wonder	300	0	50	50	0
Planned Parenthood of Central NC	0	100	50	50	50
Rural Southern Voice for Peace	100	100	50	50	0
Orange County Peace Coalition	0	0	50	50	50
Transition Towns Carrboro/CH	0	0	0	50	20
Triangle Land Conservancy	0	0	0	50	0
Total Rec by P&SC	27380	29670	29400	32700	27270
Benevolences rec by M & W and ARE					
FGC			700	700	650
Friends Journal			200	200	200
PFF			550	550	400
School of the Spirit			250	250	200
FLGBTQC			150	150	100
Friends Center at Guilford College			150	150	150
Total Rec by M & W & ARE			2000	2000	1700
Total approved by Meeting	31000	29670	32770	34700	29170

**Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
November 20, 2011**

Jennifer Leeman, clerk; Robin Harper, recording clerk

Worship and query: How do my words and actions demonstrate Friends' principles and beliefs to people inside and outside of the Meeting?

One Friend spoke, saying messages should be spontaneous and come from worship, but only be given after thoughtful consideration.

1. Welcome, recognition of first time attenders, review of agenda

The clerk recognized first time attenders Trudy Gildea and Emily Harper

2. Review of minutes for October Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Approved.

3. Annual Report of Finance—Matt Drake (Attached)

Curt Torell shared thanks from the Juma'ah prayer group for our waiving the building rental fees for their use.

Friends expressed appreciation to the committee for all their work.

Accepted with gratitude.

4. Conscientious Objector letter by Jessica Harper (Attached)

Many Friends expressed thanks to Jessica—for being an example to the younger children, for showing us that violence knows no gender, for reminding us that we all have the opportunity to witness in some way—and reminded her that the Meeting supports her as she goes forward in her life.

Jessica gave permission for her letter to be posted on the NC Choices for Youth website.

James Harper expressed thanks to the Meeting, for its support of Jessica and her family over the years.

Jessica's letter was accepted with gratitude, and the Meeting affirmed her in her intentions to be a conscientious objector.

5. Annual Report of Adult Religious Education—Dan Darnell (Attached)

Friends expressed gratitude for the way the work of ARE enriches all our lives.

Accepted with gratitude.

6. Annual Report of Leadership/Shott's Fund—Asta Crowe (Attached)

Friends are urged to apply to this fund; money is available.

Accepted with gratitude.

7. Nominations Report—Jeff Brown

The committee nominates Matt Drake to serve on the CFS Board. CHFM is allocated 4 seats on the CFS board. Other members are Buffie Webber, Hugh Meriwether, and there is still one vacant position.

The committee also nominates Emily Nelson, Brian Stuhlmuller, and Tom Smith to serve on the Ad hoc Building Renovations Committee. The first tasks of this ad hoc committee will be to confirm the list of renovation items to assess; research renovation items to identify features, options, concerns, and solutions; prioritize the items for near term and longer term; obtain cost estimates for priority items; and assist with the process of engaging contractors when funds are available.

Also, Karen Merrey is nominated to serve on Hospitality.

All nominations were approved.

8. Update from Building and Grounds—Don Hopper

Don gave us a run-down of the preceding month's activities:

- Week 1—The new foyer ceiling was installed, which included insulation and new LED lights.
- Week 2—The old furnace was removed, and space was made for carpenters to add 3.5" to the underside of the rafters over meeting room.
- Week 3—Insulation was blown in.
- Week 4—The new HVAC equipment (considerably larger for better efficiency) was installed. We now have basically two units, one for when the building has low capacity and one for when it has high capacity. There is also now better capacity for fresh air intake.

Lights in meeting room will not be able to be switched out until we do the work on this ceiling.

Next work slated is for downstairs, pending meetings with contractors and examining budgets.

Accepted with thanks.

9. Bridging the Faith Divide update—Curt Torell (Attached)

Accepted with appreciation.

10. Messages and Announcements:

- Thanksgiving Worship and potluck at noon, sign up to bring a dish
- Jan. 8, 2012, Forum: Children and young people present Quaker heroes
- There are many CRE events scheduled for the holidays:

Friday, Nov. 25, 5:00pm until ?

Post-Thanksgiving evening of potluck leftovers and board games in the multi-purpose room—all welcome.

Saturday, Nov. 26

Volunteers are needed to help with football parking at UNC's last game of the season.

Sunday, Nov. 27

Preschoolers through 5th graders will be making holiday cards for shut-ins and prisoners.

Sunday, Dec. 4

Annual Homemade Ornament-palooza! Open to anyone in Meeting who enjoys making crafts. Also the beginning of the annual Alternative Gift Mart, which will be open during potluck as well as at the rise of meeting, through Dec. 18.

Sunday, Dec. 11

Christmas carols and songs in the multi-purpose room.

Saturday, Dec. 17, 1:00–3:00pm

First Day School caroling returns to Carol Woods. All voices are welcome!

Sunday, Dec. 18, 5:00 pm

The CHFM Holiday Party, featuring a finger food potluck, the children's annual Nativity story play (accompanied by an ensemble of middle school musicians), and the Giving Tree (for all ages).

Saturday, Dec. 31, time TBA

Annual board game marathon and white elephant gift exchange party, hosted by John Hite in the multipurpose room.

- Speakers today on the Occupy Chapel Hill movement, 1:00–3:00pm at Peace & Justice Plaza
- Nov. 27, 2011, Forum: Occupy Chapel Hill
- Advent programs beginning Nov. 30, 7:30pm, location varies—see Judy Purvis

Worship and greeting

Attending: Alice Carlton, Ann Kessemeier, Max Drake, Marilyn A. Dyer, Trudy Gildea (Columbus, Missouri), Perry Martin, Dirk Spruyt, Curt Torell, Asta Crowe, Allie Scales, Ken Grogan, Ryan Jarrell, Leslie Rountree, Grace Schneider, John Hite, Don Hopper, Anne Smith, Dottie Heninger, Kitty Bergel, Dan Darnell, Bettie Flash, Jeff Brown, Pat Mann, James Harper, Emily Harper, Jessica Harper, Matt Drake, Lynn Drake, Judy Purvis, Nancy Elkins, Hank Elkins, Maria Darlington, Ann Miller, Emily Buehler, Stuart Phillips, Nancy Milio, Emilie Condon

**FINANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT for July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011
November 20, 2011**

Finance works closely with the Meeting Treasurer, Judy Purvis. Throughout the year she reported to us monthly on income and expenses. We assisted Judy as she prepared the report on the 2009–10 fiscal year report and quarterly reports to the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB). In July, August and September, 2010, we focused on paying the final bills, completing the benevolence payments, and closing out the 2009–10 fiscal year. Together, we reviewed our checking and investment accounts. Also in July we minuted our gratitude to Asta Crowe and Buffie Webber, retiring members of Finance Committee.

In the fall of 2010, Finance began close communications with B&G as they worked on plans to “seal the envelope,” etc. of the meetinghouse. We began work with two law students from the UNC Law School Community Development Clinic on a variety of issues. In October, we prepared and mailed invitations to Friends to contribute to the Meeting and to tell us about their plans to give during the rest of the fiscal year. The letters were followed by listserv, after Meeting for Worship announcements, and personal telephone/email reminders. In early December we sent a note to Friends who had not

yet responded encouraging their support of the Meeting. In November we learned from the law students that the Meeting needed to pay “unrelated business income” taxes on the income gained from football parking revenue. This led to many research, IRS form completion, and letter writing tasks over the next several months, concluding with an explanatory letter to IRS in April. We also reported on Finance Committee’s work and the Meeting’s budget process to the November Clerks’ workshop and began work on an explanation of “How to Give Stock to the Meeting.” (It’s now on the Meeting’s website.)

During the winter of 2011, Finance mailed notes to all contributors thanking them for and stating the amount of their calendar year 2010 contributions – for individual income tax records. We analyzed contribution and giving plan data and authorized the Treasurer to pay one-half of the benevolences. We began communicating with committee clerks about their current expenses, plans for the rest of the fiscal year, and plans for next fiscal year expenditures. The Treasurer began quarterly payments of UBIT taxes. We coordinated with ARE and M&W about the use of remaining bequest dollars (approx. half to 75th Anniversary programs and half to meeting room renovations) and began work on a set of instructions for any Meeting Treasurer to use when the Meeting hires an employee. (Law students are now reviewing a draft of the instructions.)

In the spring we reported to the MWAB on our analysis of the Meeting’s income streams, the financial resources that will be needed for budgeted expenditures and to begin renovating the meetinghouse, and recommended changes to the 2011–12 budget. Meeting approved continuing the presentation of balanced budgets, basing the budget on unrestricted contributions, and placing building rental income into the Physical Plant Fund. MWAB also approved Finance’s recommendation that football parking income be used for the Young Friends’ retreat and program expenses and UBIT taxes with any remainder to be placed in the Meeting’s checking account. Uses of that account will be reported to MWAB by Finance. The committee continued work on a calendar of Treasurer and Finance responsibilities, tasks, and deadlines to guide us through the year. In June 2011 we received a final report from the law students and thanked them for their excellent assistance.

The Meeting is in good financial health. The Committee continues to be grateful to all the Friends who support the Meeting financially. Your contributions make the work of the Meeting possible and the giving plans you share with Finance help us pay bills and fund the benevolences in a timely fashion.

Finance Committee: Jim Bartow, Kitty Bergel, David Brower, Matt Drake (clerk), Bob Durovich, Mike Jokinen, Ann Miller, Brian Stuhlmuller, Judy Purvis (Treasurer)

JESSICA HARPER CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR LETTER

Dear Friends,

In light of our approaching 18th birthday, my male peers have been required by law to fill out a selective service form, and many have considered conscientious objection. Although I am female, and am not required to do either, I am interested in doing so to take a stand for males and females alike. I write this letter to show through my faith and personal mind that I have no wish to see myself, or others of my generation engaging in

any conflict simply because my country calls it my "patriotic duty." Though I am only 17, I have lived long enough to see the violence and destruction, and I do not wish to take part in it. I am stating now, to the Friends meeting that I am personally opposed to any participation in a war and would seek claim as a conscientious objector.

Saying this I would like to explain why. Since my father met my stepmother Robin, my sister, my father and I attended her place of worship. I was six. This was The Society of Friends–Quakers–or the "oatmeal people" as my friends sometimes joke. Since then I have grown into their beliefs, finding pieces of myself along the way. We are people of peace and simplicity, and a society that does not believe in violence. Yes, it is true that I have not held these beliefs my entire life, and though I may still be searching for myself, I do know that I agree with what Quakers stand for. It was not until I found this faith, I was able to put a name to my beliefs. But even before I found my place in this faith, I have been a non–confrontational person–except maybe to my sister, but that is a different story. I was never someone to fight or get in an argument; in fact I find I try to avoid it. My nature was never one of destruction or violence. This is one reason I found the Society of Friends receiving.

I find that I am very thankful to live in a land of the freedom and home of the brave. But as such, I do not understand why we must kill in the name of that? Why gain things by fear and brute strength, rather than by words of wisdom and empathy. Why must we pretend to be "God" to these reduced oil countries, when at home we cannot even agree on a bill to help our sick and elderly? We may have fought for our freedoms not so long ago, but why must we continue to fight when our freedom is not even at stake? When I hear on the news that these men and women give up their lives to protect our freedoms, I am confused. Our freedom is not at stake, our dignity is.

I do hope that our country never returns to the draft and that we realize there are other ways then asking for our sons and daughters to fight. I live for the day that this country is able to look down on war and violence just as we looked down on prejudice, apathy and inequality. So let this letter and this meeting be my witness, that if the day were to come when the names are drawn and the weapons are ready, I will fight to open the eyes of America, not to take another life in the name of America.

Sincerely,
Jessica Harper
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Annual Report
2010 – 2011

A principal way that ARE strives to contribute to and enrich the spiritual life of the meeting is largely by organizing and facilitating forums. During this past period the committee has worked at clarifying the process by which proposals for forums are considered so as to enhance the quality of forums and to maintain a balance in the type of programs presented. The committee has regarded forums as being more than educational or informative in purpose but rather as a form of worship sharing that

reflects the spiritual life and social action of the meeting. In that sense each forum has elements of both faith and practice highlighted in the forum in which participants speak to the leanings that inspired their work or spiritual journey. Secondly, the committee has asked presenters to incorporate specific ways that participants can be engaged in the forum, often by planning time for questions and comments, worship sharing, or small group discussions. Thirdly by asking for a brief outline and title for the forum the committee is better able to consider how the forum would enrich the meeting and be focused enough to engage participants effectively.

The forums at the beginning of the year i.e., in August, are intentionally oriented around what it means to be a Quaker. This has included personal sharings by members, historical perspectives of well known Quakers such as John Woolman, and a more current view of what a Quaker education offers. ARE feels it is important to arrange for personal sharings on a regular basis throughout the year. Forums this year have promoted understanding what Quaker decision making is about, becoming familiar with the history of our own meeting, and appreciating what our meeting has to offer to members and attenders. Forums also reflect the involvement of the meeting in social justice concerns, environmental concerns, and with engaging other religious communities. Updates about the lobbying efforts of the FCNL, an invitation to U.S. Congressman David Price to speak about defense spending, and highlighting social justice issues with the UNC housekeepers are examples. There have also been several forums facilitated by the Bridging the Faith Divide committee encouraging engagement with our Muslim neighbors. Please see the attached list of forums (below) during 2010 - 2011 for a complete description of the forums presented.

ARE has many opportunities to collaborate with other committees within the Meeting and strives to be responsive to and supportive of the work of these committees. We have collaborated with the Library committee to create a process for recording, cataloguing, and checking out audio recordings of forums. We have been working recently with Children's Religious Education to incorporate some inter-generational involvement in the forums. Forums provide a good context or "forum" for other committees to educate the Meeting as a whole about their purpose and work. Upcoming forums will help with the celebration of our Meeting's 75th anniversary.

The ARE committee regularly reminds itself of the importance of listening wholeheartedly and patiently to each other and being open to an unfolding of wisdom as our process. We feel fortunate both for the fellowship within this committee and for the vibrant and very rich input from the Meeting at large, without which our work would flounder.

During 2010 - 2011 our members have included Jan Hutton, Hank Elkins, Nancy Elkins, Dirk Kelder, Mary Bastin, Francis Coyle, Bill Schweke, Andy Nelson and Dan Darnell (clerk). Current members are Dirk Kelder, Andy Nelson, Emily Nelson, Barbara Williamson, Marilyn Dyer, and Dan Darnell (clerk).

ADDENDUM: FORUMS 2010-11

Aug. 22 "Faith and Practice - Why and How I am a Quaker." Tom Munk, Marsha Green and Pat Mann sharing personal experiences of faith and practice

- Aug 29 "Quaker Education" Andrea Wuerth, clerk of CRE and Andy Nelson, ARE member and public school teacher.
- Sept. 5 "John Woolman: Why does he still challenge us today?" Bill Schweke and Lloyd Kramer
- Sept. 12 "John Woolman Speaks to Our Time, Part II", a continuation of the Sept. 5th forum on Woolman, Bill Schweke and Jeff Brown
- Sept. 26 "Unfinished Business: Quaker Lobby Challenges", current issues being addressed by Friends Committee on National Legislation; Nancy Milio
- Oct. 3 "Against the Tide", post prison adjustment, coordinated by Asta Crowe and Hank Elkins
- Oct. 10 Buffy Weber – personal sharing
- Oct. 24 Update on Quaker House and Succession Planning – Curt Torrell
- Oct. 31 "Muslim Sisters: Reaching Out to the Community". presentation by Millie Khatria Azariah, CFS parent, coordinated by Nancy Milio
- Nov. 7 personal sharing – Judy Purvis
- Nov. 14 "Quaker Advocacy in Palestine" – Betsy Brinson and Gordon Davies
- Nov. 28 Questions of Faith – small group discussions facilitated by Jan Hutton and Dan Darnell
- Dec. 5 personal sharing, Barbara Williamson
- Dec. 12 Housekeeper forum – facilitated by Tom Munk
- Jan. 2 Renewal in the New Year – small group discussions on related spiritual queries
- Jan. 9 Personal sharing – Pam Schwingl
- Jan. 23 "Quaker decision-making: It's not consensus – It's the Quaker way." – Matt Drake
- Jan. 30 An American Muslim's Journey in Iran – an interfaith outreach presented by Rose Aslan who has recently traveled in Iran
- Feb. 6 Beating our Swords into Ploughshares: A conversation with David Price
- Feb. 13 Dimensions of Light – Dirk Kelder
- Feb. 27 personal sharing – Perry Martin
- Mar. 6 "The Survival of Quaker Priorities in the New Political Environment" – Nancy Milio to present
- Mar. 13 Documentary on the history of the CHFM – film by Linda DeLorenzo and discussion
- Mar. 27 Follow up to the Spiritual State of the Meeting held earlier in March
- Apr. 3 Inter Faith Council
- Apr. 10 "Food, Friends, and Faith" – Jennifer Leeman, Ruth Kurtz-Costes
- Apr. 24 Earth Day – Andy Nelson and Environmental Concerns committee
- May 1 Journey of an American Muslim from Christianity to Al-Islam
- May 8 Quaker Earth Care Witness – Ruth Hamilton
- May 22 Asking Questions About God: Does God Exist? – George Baroff Ph.D.
- May 29 Nuclear Energy, Coal and Climate: from Japan to N.C. Legislature, Pete MacDowell, of NC W.A.R.N.
- Jun 5 Carolina Friends School – Mike Hanas and Rene Prillaman
- Jun 12 Graduation forum

**SPECIAL FUNDS COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011**

The Mary and Claude Shotts/Leadership Development 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, established in 1973, provides financial assistance to enrich and develop the lives of individuals with a relationship to the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. Grants from this fund are distributed from the interest earned on principal.

The Leadership Development Fund, established in 1982, provides financial aid to benefit the spiritual life of the Meeting through the enhancement of leadership capabilities in individuals. Grants from this fund are distributed from money carried over from prior years and from annual allocations approved by the monthly meeting.

In the fiscal year, 2010-2011, the committee approved one grant of \$700 from the Shotts Memorial Fund, to Jessica Harper for her work with Cosmic Volunteers in Guatemala. Funds distributed in the 2009-2010 fiscal year for attendance at Baltimore Yearly Meeting were refunded to the Shotts Fund as the trip was canceled.

Five grants totaling \$1,808 were approved from the Leadership Development fund: Terry Mehlman to attend Piedmont Friends Fellowship and FLGBTQC meetings; Ruth Hamilton to attend the Quaker Earth Care Witness conference in Chicago; Carolyn White and Robin Harper to attend a clerk's workshop at Pendle Hill; Tristan Green to continue his work with Safe Passage in Guatemala.

We encourage Friends to apply to the Shotts and Leadership Development Funds. Guidelines can be found in a brochure available in the foyer and online on the Meeting's website. In particular, with the 2012 summer gathering of FGC at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, RI this summer, we encourage members and attenders who are in need of financial assistance to apply to the funds. Applying to the Meeting for support is normally a prerequisite for also seeking financial support from Piedmont Friends Fellowship and from Friends General Conference.

Respectfully submitted by the Shotts/Leadership Committee: Asta Crowe, Clerk;
Linda Drake, Stuart Phillips, Gwynne Pomeroy, Leslie Rountree, Treasurer

**Leadership Development Fund and Mary
and Claude Shotts Memorial Fund
Summary of Activity
July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011**

(see next page)

Leadership Development Fund Activity		
<i>Beginning Balance July 1, 2010</i>		\$3,816.81
<i>Deposits</i>		
Interest earned on Sun Trust checking account	2.04	
Allocation from CHFM Meeting budget 2010-2011	2,000.00	
<i>Total receipts</i>	2,002.04	
<i>Subtotal (beginning balance plus deposits)</i>		\$5,818.85
<i>Grants</i>		
Five grants	1,808.00	
<i>Available Leadership Development checking account balance (6/30/11)</i>		\$4,010.85
<i>Certificate of Deposit at Sun Trust (matures 8/21/12)</i>		\$5,212.76
<i>Total Leadership Dev. Funds at Sun Trust Bank</i>		\$9,223.61

Shotts Memorial Fund Activity		
<i>Beginning Balance July 1, 2010</i>		\$1,727.02
<i>Deposits</i>		
Friends Fiduciary December payment*	687.82	
Friends Fiduciary June payment*	622.81	
<i>Total receipts</i>	1,310.63	
<i>Subtotal (beginning balance plus deposits)</i>		\$3,037.65
<i>Grants</i>		
One grant	700.00	
<i>Available Shotts Memorial Fund balance (6/30/11)</i>		\$2,3037.65

***The Friends Fiduciary Corporation manages the Shotts Memorial Fund.
The fund's market value as of 6/30/11 was \$27,172.09.**

BRIDGING THE FAITH DIVIDE, UNDER THE CARE OF PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS Nov. 20, 2011 Report to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Afghanistan Sister School Partnership First Graduation:

Sixteen students, four of them are girls, are in the first graduating class from the Tob Chi School. Carolina Friends School (CFS) is sending graduation gifts. Each family will receive a 5-liter can of cooking oil to acknowledge their sacrifice in sending their child to the school (families who allow their children to go to school sacrifice having that child work to support the family). Also each of the girls will receive a winter weight head scarf, and the boys will receive a pair of winter gloves. CFS told the Tob Chi students that they were having a special Meeting for Worship with attention to their graduation and asked them what they would like to be held in the light. They requested to hold peace and harmony in the light, for them and for the entire world. (See extended report below for background and fuller elaboration of the partnership.)

Friday Juma'ah Prayers Moved to UNC Student Union:

Beginning in November, the Juma'ah prayers held in our meetinghouse moved to the Student Union at UNC. During the past eleven months (the first held on Dec. 24, 2010), attendance by UNC students blossomed but participation from the wider Chapel Hill/Durham Muslim community stayed limited. A survey by their members encouraged the move to the UNC, and now as many as 35 students and staff attend.

The Muslim community extended its deep appreciation for our hosting these prayers. In addition to a place for worship, their experience led to a structure for Juma'ah prayers, which carried over to their new location, that invited Imans from a wide and diverse range of sects and Muslim communities to offer the khutba (sermon). They also held a Muslim wedding in our Meetinghouse. In turn, we built strong relationships and met new members of the Muslim community; some presenting forums for our meeting. These associations carried over to other interfaith work, including local dialogue groups and the most recent Consultative Event of AIME (Abrahamic Faith Leaders for a Just Peace for Israelis and Palestinians). Over the course of this year, the spirit of our meeting conveyed a message that we are open, welcoming, and supportive. And they know that we are here to stand alongside them as "way opens."

Forum on Dec. 11, "Can a Muslim be Patriotic?":

Samar Shawa and Iyad Hindi's forum will be on Dec. 11. They will talk about their work in the Muslim community to build leadership and action on issues we share.

Consultative Event Held on Oct. 24 at Judea Reform Synagogue, Durham:

The first AIME (Abrahamic Faith Leaders for a Just Peace for Israelis and Palestinians) Consultative Event, Staking Common Ground, was attended by over 40 local faith leaders, including 8 UNC and NCSU student leaders from their campus faith communities. Its purpose was to sponsor a gathering of Abrahamic faith leaders to share, contemplate, and reinforce common core values and theology in order to shine a light towards a collaborative, political engagement for a just peace in the Middle East. In small groups, participants shared what they found attractive and inspiring in each other's religions, what convictions and values they found in common, how those tenants

informed international laws and obligations in human rights conventions, and what common goals and strategies all faiths might pursue, locally and internationally, in the quest for a just and lasting peace for Israelis and Palestinians.

Other:

We submitted articles about the meeting's work with Muslims to Christian Century, Friends Journal (which did not respond), Sojourners Magazine, and the FCNL website. The last two groups were receptive, and we hope to have our experiences shared with a wider audience soon.

Extended Report and Background:

The Afghan Sister Schools Partnership (ASSP) was started by a group of CFS parents almost ten years ago. It grew out of a desire to offer our children a response other than war to the events of September 11, 2001. We saw the moment as an opportunity to put peace education into action, by giving our children a different way of understanding the situation and appreciating Islam and Afghanistan.

Our activities focus on the Top Chi Village School, now a K-12 coeducational school located in Bamiyan Province. When the program started the children in Top Chi attended school in an old waste water facility. The initial school was built in 2004 with 8 classrooms, some 400 students and classes going up to the 8th grade. The school was then extended to include High School albeit in the same facility. Now with help from Save the Children Japan 8 more classrooms are being added as well as a more sanitary facilities and a boundary wall. The student population has expanded to over 800 and the first class of 16 seniors, 12 boys and 4 girls, will graduate in November 2011.

Funds raised by CFS, mostly via pizza lunches (over 50 thousand pieces!), have been used in Afghanistan to furnish classrooms, equip playgrounds, refurbish sanitary and classroom facilities, support teacher training, provide health and safety education, establish a library, provide lab equipment and teacher training for the science program, and provide the first graduating class with certificates and gifts of cooking oil and gloves (for the boys) and winter scarves (for the girls). Funds are also used to support the on-going letter exchange program between the students for such things as translation, postage and transport.

CFS students from preschool through high school have been involved in pen pal relationships, peace-quilt exchanges, fundraisers, and a variety of in-class and out of class learning opportunities about Islam and Afghan culture. The project educates students about cultural differences underlying conflict in the world and seeks a more peaceful world through building understanding and friendship among the sister school students.

Calendar

(All events at Meetinghouse unless otherwise indicated.)

- Sun. 12/4** 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)
9:45am Forum: Queries in Quakerism
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)
11am Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
12:30pm Potluck & IFC donations & FDS alternative gift mart
2-4pm CFS Open House - CFS Main Campus (see page 5)
6:30pm School of the Spirit - Durham Friends Meeting (see page 5)
- Mon. 12/5 1 and 3pm Diane Randall of FCNL speaks (see page 5)
- Tue. 12/6 7-8pm Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
- Wed. 12/7 10am-12pm Quaker Women's Gathering - Bettie Flash Home
7:30pm Advent Worship (see page 2)
- Fri. 12/9 1:05pm Jumu'ah prayers (moved to UNC Student Union)
4:30-5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
- Sun. 12/11** 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)
9:45am Forum: Can Muslims Be Patriotic?
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)
11am Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
12:30pm FDS alternative gift mart
12:30pm Peace & Social Concerns Com. - Schoolhouse
- Tue. 12/13 7-8pm Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
- Wed. 12/14 7:30pm Advent Worship (see page 2)
- Fri. 12/16 1:05pm Jumu'ah prayers (moved to UNC Student Union)
4:30-5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
- Sat. 12/17 1-3pm FDS Caroling - Carol Woods (see page 4)
- Sun. 12/18** 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
12:30pm FDS alternative gift mart
5pm Holiday Party - Schoolhouse
- Tue. 12/20 7-8pm Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
- Wed. 12/21 10am-12pm Quaker Women's Gathering - Bettie Flash Home
7pm YRE Committee - Meetinghouse
7:30pm Advent Worship (see page 2)
- Fri. 12/23 1:05pm Jumu'ah prayers (moved to UNC Student Union)
4:30-5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
- Sat. 12/24 5:30pm Christmas Eve Service
- Sun. 12/25** 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)
9:45am Forum: tbd
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---|
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods |
| | 12:30pm | Environmental Concerns Com. - Schoolhouse |
| | 10pm | Deadline To Turn In Items For Newsletter! |
| Fri. 12/30 | 1:05pm | Jumu'ah prayers (moved to UNC Student Union) |
| | 4:30-5:30pm | Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd |
| Sat. 12/31 | tbd | Board Games & Gift Swap- Schoolhouse (see page 4) |
| | 7pm | Benefit concert for IFC (see page 3) |
| Sun. 1/1 | 8:30am | Meeting for Worship (Early) |
| | 10am | Forum: The Elm Tree Dance (note start time) |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship (Late) |
| | 11am | Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods |
| | 12:30pm | Potluck & IFC donations – Schoolhouse |
| Tue. 1/3 | 7-8pm | Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins |
| Wed. 1/4 | 10am-12pm | Quaker Women's Gathering - Bettie Flash Home |
| Thur. 1/5 | 9am-1pm | CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter |
| Fri. 1/7 | 1:05pm | Jumu'ah prayers (moved to UNC Student Union) |
| | 4:30-5:30pm | Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd |
| Sun. 1/8 | 9:45am | Forum: Quaker Heros with the FDS |



Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
531 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514 (919) 929-5377

Meetings for Worship 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: Carolyn White (919) 967-4926
Resident: John Hite (919) 929-5377

- This newsletter is published every first Sunday under the care of the Publications and Records Committee. The deadline for submissions is 10pm on the last Sunday of the month. Email submissions to news@chapelhillfriends.org or call Emily Buehler, (919) 475-5756.
- To send news on the Meeting Listserv or as an In The Light announcement, or to receive the Listserv announcements, contact news@chapelhillfriends.org.
- PDFs of all newsletters are available online at www.chapelhillfriends.org.
- To get items posted on our website, send them to news@chapelhillfriends.org.