

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Newsletter

June, 2015



Monthly Query:

As a meeting, how do we support the spiritual growth of our children, young Friends and young adult Friends? To what extent do we make this the whole meeting's responsibility? What opportunities do we make to learn from them as well as teach them?

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Monthly Worship Tip from the M&W Committee

Be sure to allow adequate time between spoken messages in meeting for worship, so that they may settle in the silence and be truly absorbed. In general, Friends counsel against speaking more than once in a meeting.

Upcoming Forum Schedule

June 7: Towards a Humane Immigration System

Leticia Benitez, AFSC Cary Fellow, will speak about her personal journey and about the work of the AFSC office in Greensboro on NC immigration policy. Moderator: Wendy Michener

June 14: A Sharing of Experiences

Friends from Orange County Correctional and members of the Meeting's Friends Transition Support Committee will talk about their experiences of being together. Moderator: Carolyn White

June 28: Review and Evaluation of the 2014-15 Forums

Wendy Michener (clerk) and other ARE Committee members will review the year's forums and request responses about their value. Suggestions for forum topics for next year are invited. Moderator: Wendy Michener

Quaker Books Summer Reading List 2015

See the FGC summer reading list online. If you do not have access to a computer, please contact Publications and Communications for this information.

<http://www.quakerbooks.org/list/summer-reading-2015>

Carrboro Students Raising Money For Dominican Republic

There is a recording of John Hite and Leah Simon with Aaron Keck on WCHL. Listen online: <http://chapelboro.com/news/pre-k-12-education/carrboro-students-raising-money-for-dominican-republic/>

IFC News and an Invitation

Crop Walk Results

In spite of a steady rain on April 19th, the CROP Walk went off as planned, and only a few walkers were deterred by the weather. The CHFAM had a respectable delegation including Lolly Dunlap with Savannah Crites and family; Naveed Moeed with Denver; Loretta and Marie Hopper; Gwynne Pomeroy; Andrea Wuerth with Herbert Struemper and family; Allison Campbell and family; Julia Cleaver; Carolyn Stuart; Karen Merrey; Alice Carlton; and Dave Curtin, who was our proud standard bearer. As usual, Asta and her grandson, Eric, were at the front of the line of walkers.

The purpose of this walk is to raise money for hunger/poverty alleviation programs locally and globally. This year our combined efforts raised a total of \$3,722. We sold an astounding 67 t-shirts for donations of \$576, all of which goes to IFC. Of the donations

received by walkers, 25% will go to our local IFC and 75% will go to the Church World Service for their projects.

Thank you to everyone who signed up to walk, sponsored a walker or bought a T-shirt.

Invitation

Our Friends Meeting, as part of our community service, prepares, and serves lunch once a month at the IFC Community Kitchen on West Rosemary Street (corner of N. Columbia and W. Rosemary)—on the first Thursday of every month from 9 am to 12:30 pm. Early volunteers prepare the menu from generous food supplies available and start preparing it with guidance from the shelter's staff. Volunteers coming a bit later help with meal preparation and serving.

This is a truly fun experience. It's amazing the nutritious meals we put together with food donated to the kitchen, and the more people we have to help through the morning, the merrier! We will be short-staffed over the summer, but the need is always there. So come and join the team for a couple of hours, parking is available in the adjoining lot, and have a lot of fun while doing good work! For more information contact Asta Crowe, Max and Ann Drake, or Dottie Heninger who are regular chefs at the Community House.

IFC Food Pantry

Donations to the IFC food basket in our foyer fell off dramatically after the holidays. However, the need never ends. Our business meeting agreed to a goal of 150 nonperishable food items or toiletries each month, but our food/toiletry donations have been way below that mark since January. We could easily meet or even surpass our goal if everyone gave 2-3 items a month. You don't need to make a special trip to the store; just select some staples from your own pantry. If you can't remember to do that, put some money into the IFC donations bag next to the bathroom door. A donation of only \$5 is counted as 3 items. All donations are picked up weekly by Karen Merrey, who takes them to the IFC Pantry on the following Friday.

Please donate to IFC as a way to help our less fortunate neighbors in Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

From the Finance Committee

Thank you to all who have contributed since July 1, 2014 to support the work of our Meeting. Some of you helped us by sending us your giving plans. Thank you. If you did, now is a good time to check your plan and send any remaining payment(s) before June 30. If you have not contributed to the Meeting this fiscal year or would like to make an additional contribution, we invite your financial support. Make a check out to: Chapel Hill Friends Meeting and place in the contributions box in the foyer or mail to: Treasurer, Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, 531 Raleigh Rd, Chapel Hill, NC, 27514. Gifts of all sizes help our Meeting thrive.

Fourth Sixth-Day Intergenerational Games

Every fourth Sixth-Day (for example, Friday, June 26) at 7:00, young-at-heart Friends of all ages gather for some fun. Tom and others bring games that can be enjoyed by all ages at all levels; Leslie brings a picture puzzle, and Friends (and friends of Friends) from six to ninety-six gather in small groups to enjoy. Please join us in the Schoolhouse!

Challenging Islamophobia and Racism

Forum: Challenging Islamophobia and Racism

When: Monday, June 15, 2015

Where: Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, Raleigh NC; 1801 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh NC 27605

We are witnessing an increase in Islamophobia (a hatred of Islam, Muslims and people who appear as Muslims) and attacks on people of color in North Carolina and around the country. The North Carolina-based Movement to End Racism and Islamophobia (MERI) will organize a forum to discuss how to challenge Islamophobia and racism. We will have speakers from diverse faith and ethnic backgrounds to talk about their work in challenging Islamophobia and racism.

Organized by MERI partner organizations:

[Muslims for Social Justice](#)

[Jewish Voice for Peace - North Carolina](#)

[Black Workers for Justice](#)

Abrahamic Initiative on the Middle East (AIME)

[NC Justice Center](#)

[MFSA NCC](#)

Peace and Justice Committee of Chapel Hill Friends

Co-sponsored by:

[North Carolina Council of Churches](#)

Coalition for Peace with Justice

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, NC

Learn more and RSVP below:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/844172598990812/>

A Message from Ruth Hamilton

Dear Friends,

It has been six months since our beloved youngest son, Brendan Wenberg, age 35, took his life in Austin, TX. You were informed as soon as it happened and I felt that giving updates to Chapel Hill Friends Meeting and to Durham Friends Meeting gave me support for the days ahead. Most of the time I was focused on the difficult details that have to be carried out when there is a sudden tragic death in the family. But we all got through this together. Brendan's memorial service was at Chapel Hill Friends Meeting for Nov. 22, 2014. The service was perfect in every way. Suzanne Mays played the lyre as we entered. My partner in Carolina Ha Ha, Rog Bates wrote the song, "Brendan's Art is for Everyone" and we all sang it together. Brendan's high school friends walked in together and filled an entire pew. Rev. Won Gong and Rev. Ginger of the Won Buddhist Temple offered an appropriate chant. Many friends and family shared humorously about Brendan and those who never met him thanked us for the biography we provided. Hank Elkins provided silver ribbon pins and spoke about the NAMI Campaign for the Brain and the CHFM Mental Health Initiative. We set up a slide show of Brendan's life during the reception. A sample of his art was on display. You all provided the delicious refreshments. I can say now that this day remains a comforting memory and you all helped to make it so.

That night after the memorial service, CHFM members and especially the Mental Health Group, provided food for our family dinner. It was very scrumptious food that also went home with my older son, Jack, and kept the younger family and friends well fed. After the meal, we sat around the wood stove and sang old time songs and hymns accompanied by long time friends playing guitar. This was a very healing night and most enjoyable.

The CHFM Mental Health Group also hosted a pot luck for us on Nov. 29. This was a time for me to share openly and to offer suggestions from my experience of how families suffering like us can be supported. Out of this meeting, I want to offer a few suggestions. First, please refer to the cause of death as "taking his/her own life" rather than "committing suicide." The latter connotes that a sin or crime has been committed. Second, please don't ask for details about how the death occurred. This can cause "copy cat" response and is difficult for the family members to keep repeating. Third, I reported at this time that the most helpful comment that I received was, "We will get through this together." The cards and emails I received were also much appreciated and comforting. From where I am now, I would like to add that probably one of the most difficult phases of the healing is happening now. After all the necessary details of probate, moving Brendan's business, and housing his girlfriend for three months, I realize how very tired I am and how much I miss Brendan.

I am now planning the South West Celebration of Brendan's Life on June 27, 2015, 2-4:30 pm. This will be held at Santa Fe Friends Meeting, 640 Canyon Rd., also famous for the artist galleries. It will be a gallery showing of Brendan's paintings, sculptures, and his t-shirts. It will also be a time for Brendan's many artist friends to share their memories. I look forward to having another event honoring Brendan, but at the same time I will miss all the

support I received from my Friends in NC. Go to Friends of Brendan Wenberg on Face Book for more details.

Around Sept. 15, I plan to return to the Triangle area and will look forward to seeing many of you. I will also be visiting the Riverside Cemetery in Smithfield, NC to see, for the first time, Brendan's memorial stone. It is here that Brendan shares a grave site with our beautiful two year old, Heather Lea, who died on Oct. 15, 1975. Here in NM, I put Brendan's ashes in a large ant hill on a mountain ridge at our desert house. I decorated it with crystals, beautiful minerals, and Tibetan peace flags. These memorial sites are part of my healing and also give me creative expression.

Thanks again for all you did to help us honor Brendan. Please continue to hold us all in the Light for our healing continues. Love to you all, Ruth Hamilton

Summer Camp for Quakers! FGC Gathering

Please consider attending Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering in NC, July 5-11, 2015. What is FGC Gathering? It's a wonderful summer "camp" for the spirit, hearts, and minds of Quakers of ALL ages - meeting in NC this year. "Taste the vibrancy and the variety that is available by immersing yourself in this community of Friends for a week." Experience the larger Quaker world, joining more than 1200 others from all over the country. Friends of all ages are welcome, childcare for young ones, daily programming for children through 8th grade, for teens, for YAF's (Young Adult Friends.) Parents may attend their own chosen daily workshops, worship, etc. while children and teens are engaged in their own programming. Concerts, fun, impromptu gatherings.....many worship opportunities. "We eagerly look forward to welcoming you—in person—at Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC, July 5-11, 2015. Theme for 2015: Seeking Wholeness." <https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>

Ride Sharing for the FGC Gathering in NC this Summer

If you would like to offer a ride to the FGC Gathering in Cullowhee, NC., July 5-11, or are in need of a ride, please contact Jan Hutton at janhutton1@gmail.com

Reminder: Hillsborough Worship Group

The Hillsborough Worship Group meets on Sundays at 11am at the Hillsborough Yoga Downtown studio at 121 West Margaret Lane. There is parking next door at the library. This group is under the care of the Durham Meeting and has a minute of support from our meeting.

Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
May 17, 2015

Worship and query: How do I prepare myself for meeting for worship so that I come with heart and mind prepared for worship? Is this inspiration carried over into my daily living?

Present: Matt Drake, Marilyn Dyer, Ruth Zalph, David Schneider, Dennis Hargrove, Richard Miller, Ben Ray, Lloyd Kramer, Wendy Michener, Dave Curtin, Alice Carlton, Jeff Brown, Faye Stanley, Chris Stanley, Ken Grogan, Hank Elkins, Nancy Elkins, Tom Ludlow, Matt Drake, Lynn Drake, Deb Gibbs, Ann Miller, Jan Hutton, Tom Munk, Jennifer Leeman, Tom McQuiston, Joyce Munk, Naveed Moeed, Paul Munk, Betty Flash, Tim Gurley, and Jerry Williams

1. Dennis Hargrove and Tim Gurley were attending for the first time.
2. The April minutes were approved as written.
3. The Clerk read a membership request from Eloise Grathwohl. A membership clearness committee is being established by M&W.
4. Carolyn Stuart presented Nomination Committee's proposed committee membership roster for 2015-2016 (enclosed). The Meeting for Worship with attention to Business will reconsider the nominations for approval in June. Publications and Records and Care and Counsel both still need an additional member. Nominations is waiting to identify members for Peace & Justice until after the Meeting discerns the committee's new role. Appreciation was expressed for the committee's good work.
5. Matt Drake presented the proposed 2015-16 budget (enclosed). The budget will be considered for approval in June. Next year's budget is based on this year's budget. We will not know until the end of Fiscal Year how closely last year's income and expenses matched last year's budget but they were close., Finance committee expects that income will be slightly higher than projected. The committee is working on upgrading its computer and software, and may come to the Meeting with a request for additional expenditures for these purposes during the year. Appreciation was expressed for the work of the Committee.

6. Benevolences were presented last month for consideration and are now being brought forward for approval. Naveed Moeed represented Peace & J, Jan Hutton represented Ministry & Worship, and Wendy Michener represented ARE. Naveed reported that some descriptions of the proposed benevolences had been update. Wendy reported that the Adult Religious Education Committee had considered and approved those under the care of that committee. The benevolence recommendations were approved (proposal included in last month's newsletter).
7. Jan Hutton presented a revised description of Shotts/Leadership Development Committee as follows:

The committee works to publicize, at least annually, the purposes and availability of these resources, to find opportunities for their use, to review applications for grants, and to suggest that recipients, whenever possible, share their supported experiences with the rest of the CHFM community. The meeting approved the revised description.
8. Naveed read an Epistle from Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, which had its first meeting in March 2015 (enclosed). As members, the start of this Yearly Meeting is momentous and offers an opportunity to be part of a gentle voice in these challenging times. We received the epistle with thanks.
9. Lynn Drake, co-clerk of Ministry and Worship, read a report on the Spiritual State of the Meeting Retreat (enclosed). Thanks were given to Naveed, Pam Schwingl, and Lloyd Kramer for planning and facilitating the retreat.
10. Naveed Moeed reported on the re-organization of Peace and Justice Committee. This was initially considered last month with the request that P&J confer with Publications and Communications (P&C). The Committee met with representatives from P&C. P&C is most concerned about overwhelming the listserv. In response to this concern, there will be a P&J calendar and events outside our Meeting's central concerns will be listed on the calendar. Existing guidelines will

continue to be followed for items that will be added to the listserv. P&J will work with P&C to maintain a list of concerned Friends and to manage how others access those Friends. The Meeting approved the revised description (reported in last month's newsletter). Thanks were expressed for the committee's thoughtful approach to considering and revising their role in the meeting given the bountiful number of issues of concern to members of our Meeting.

11. Announcements

- Meeting Directory is being updated. Please provide your information to Publications and Communications.
- Continue your contributions to the Meeting.
- Bring your contributions of nonperishable items to IFC.
- Consider registering for IFC; if you need a ride see Jan Hutton.
- Other upcoming events on the listserv were noted.
- Please consider volunteering to help with First Day School this summer. There is a sign up list on the Meeting Door. Only three people have signed up so far.
- Durham Circle of Support and Accountability is offering a series of classes. Speak to Richard Miller if you have questions.
- On June 15 there will be a forum on Islam-phobia on the UNC campus. Speak to Naveed if you have questions. The Meeting approved adding our name as endorsing the event.
- Memorial Day event at Extraordinary Ventures sponsored by Orange County Peace Coalition.

Givers of Time and Service

Clerk of the Meeting	Tom Munk
Recording Clerk	Robin Harper
Treasurer	Maura Murphy
Meeting Trustees	Emilie Condon
	Bettie Flash
	Lois Ann Hobbs
Recorder	Allie Scales
Correspondence Clerk	Emilie Condon
First Day School Coordinator	Leslie Rountree

Meeting Representatives

Carolina Friends School Board

Bill Jenkins	2016	Matt Drake	2017
Buffie Webber	2017	Pat Mann	2018 #

Quaker House Board

Maria Darlington	2016	Deborah Gibbs	2018
Richard Miller	2018	Curt Torell	2018 #

Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting Representatives

Emilie Condon	2016	Naveed Moeed	2017
Alice Carlton	2018		

Piedmont Friends Fellowship

Jeff Brown	2017	Margot Stern	2017
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Coalition of Clergy

Carolyn Stuart

Meeting Committees

Adult Religious Education

Wendy Michener	2016	Carolyn White	2017
Catherine Alguire	2017	Matt Drake	2017
Robert Lee	2017	Matt Cooper	2018
Max Drake	2018 #	Dirk Kelder	2018 #
Perry Martin	2018		

Archives Committee

Julia Cleaver		Robin Harper	
James Harper		Susan Inglis	
Allie Scales		Sharon Van Horn	

Buildings & Grounds

Don Hopper	2016 #	Wendy Michener	2016
Richard Miller	2016 #	Tom Smith	2016 #
Lynn Drake	2017 #	Bill Cleaver	2017 #
Dottie Heninger	2017	David Schneider	2018 #
John Hite (resident)	Ex-officio		

Care & Counsel

Madelyn Ashley	2016 #	Jennifer Leeman	2016
Gwynne Pomeroy	2016 #	Bill Schweke	2016 #
Kitty Bergel	2017	Tom Ludlow	2017
Deborah Gibbs	2018 #	Jeff Brown	2018 #
Bonnie Raphael	2018	Tom Munk (Clerk)	Ex-officio

Children's & Youth Religious Education

Kathleen McNeil	2016 #	Carolyn Stuart	2016
Lauren Hart	2017 #	John Hite	2017 #
Sean Chen	2018 #	Bonnie Ludlow	2018
Jasmine McKewen	2018	Laura Young	2018
Leslie Rountree (FDS Coordinator)	Ex-officio		

Finance

Loren Hintz	2016	Kitty Bergel	2017 #
Bob Durovich	2017 #	Emily Condon	2017
Asta Crowe	2017	Ann Miller	2017
Ric Shepard	2017	Mike Jokinen	2018
Tom Ludlow	2018 #	Maura Murphy (Treasurer)	Ex-Officio

Transition & Support

Tom McQuiston	2016	Richard Miller	2016
Joyce Munk	2016	Paul Munk	2016
David Schneider	2016	Emilie Condon	2017
Maria Darlington	2017	Hank Elkins	2017
Byron Stevens	2017	Sean Thompson	2017
Nancy Fisher	2018 #	Kuldip Kuwahara	2018
Rita Kuwahara	2018	Ann Shy	2018

Returning Citizens Financial Assistance Committee

Asta Crowe		Jennifer Leeman	
Nancy Milio		Richard Miller	
Gwynne Pomeroy		Pam Schwingl	

Hospitality

Alice Carlton	2016 #	Ann Kessemeier	2016
Wendy Michener	2016	Stuart Phillips	2016 #
Carolyn Stuart	2016 #	Allison Campbell	2017
Eloise Grathwohl	2017	Monica Severino	2017
Buffie Webber	2017 #	Sean Chen	2018
Nancy Fisher	2018 #	Elizabeth Taylor	2018

Inter-Faith Council Committee

Asta Crowe	2016	James Bartow	2016
Marie Hopper	2016 #	Emilie Condon	2017 #
Ann Drake	2017 #	Max Drake	2017
Dottie Heninger	2017	Carolyn Stuart	2017
Karen Merrey	2018 #		

Library

Cindy Bowen	2017	Karen Merrey	2017
David Curtin	2018	James Harper	2018 #
Mararet Vimmerstedt	2018		S

Ministry & Worship

Lloyd Kramer	2016 #	Jan Hutton	2017 #
Leslie Rountree	2017	Lynn Drake	2018 #
Marilyn Dyer	2018 #	Susan Inglis	2018 #
Pam Schwingl	2018 #	Faye Stanley	2018
Tom Munk (clerk)	Ex-officio		

Publications & Communications

Emily Buehler	2016 #	Sean Chen	2016
James Harper	2016 #	David Schneider	2016
Ed Bowen	2017 #	David Curtin	2017 #
Robin Harper (Recording Clerk)	Ex-Officio		

Mary and Claude Shotts/Leadership Development Fund

Lynn Drake	2017 #	Gwynn Pomeroy	2017 #
Jane Harwell	2018	Jan Hutton	2018 #
Roberto Quercia	2018 #		

Nominations

Karen Merrey	2015	Ken Grogan	2016
Jennifer Leeman	2016	Carolyn Stuart*	2016
Ed Bowen	2017	Sean Chen	2017
Joyce Munk	2017		

CHFM Draft Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

5/31/15

INCOME	2014-2015	2015-2016	Increase (Decrease)	% change
Contributions	64,900	68,565	3,665	5%
Building rental	1,500	500	(1,000)	-200%
Parking space rental	5,100	5,100	-	0%
Carry forward	1,500			
Miscellaneous (Interest income etc.)			-	
INCOME TOTAL	73,000	74,165	1,165	2%
EXPENSES	2014-2015	2015-2016	Increase (Decrease)	% change
Obligations:				
Bank Fees	50	50	-	0%
FDS Coordinator/Childcare	6,000	6,000	-	0%
Insurance	4,400	5,400	1,000	19%
Utilities	7,335	6,000	(1,335)	-22%
UBIT, Storm water Drainage Fee	1,100	1,100	-	0%
Obligations Total	18,885	18,550	(335)	-2%
Committees:				
Adult Religious Education	200	200	-	0%
Archives	-	200	200	100%
Buildings and Grounds	10,000	11,000	1,000	9%
Care and Counsel	100	100	-	0%
Children/Youth Religious Education	2,500	2,500	-	0%
Finance	50	50	-	0%
Friends Transition and Support	1,200	1,500	300	20%
Hospitality	300	300	-	0%
IFC	200	200	-	0%
Library	400	400	-	0%
Ministry and Worship	1,000	1,000	-	0%
Nominations	10	10	-	0%
Peace and Justice	300	300	-	0%
Publications and Communications	1,750	1,750	-	0%
Committees Total	18,010	19,510	1,500	8%
Annual and Continuing Funds				
Care and Counsel- continuing	500	500	-	0%
Contingency- annual	1,000	1,000	-	0%
Leadership Development- continuing	500	500	-	0%
Meeting for Suffering- annual	135	135	-	0%
National Quaker Service- continuing	2,000	2,000	-	0%
Physical Plant/Meetinghouse Renovation	4,000	4,000	-	0%
Returning Citizens Financial Assistance-continuing	1,000	1,000	-	0%
Youth Service Learning- continuing	800	800	-	0%
Other Total	9,935	9,935	-	0%
Benevolences:				
ARE- Guilford College Friends Center	125	125	-	0%
M&W- FGC, FJ, PFF, SotS, FLGBTQC	1,400	1,400	-	0%
P&J- IFC, CFS, QH, FCNL, AFSC, QEW, BQEF, & 7 others	24,645	24,645	-	0%
Benevolences Total	26,170	26,170	-	0%
EXPENSES TOTAL	73,000	74,165	1,165	2%

2015 Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting Epistle
From the First Annual Session Third Month, Fourteenth Day 2015

Greetings to Friends Everywhere,

In a spirit of joy and anticipation, and after years of discernment Piedmont Friends Fellowship was led to take under its care the formation of a new yearly meeting. Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM) emerged as a result of this nurture and we held our first Annual Session on Saturday afternoon, March 14th, 2015. PFYM intends to act as a 21st century yearly meeting well-grounded in Quaker tradition and history.

The yearly meeting intends to continue and build upon Piedmont Friends Fellowship's 47-year tradition of loving and inclusive fellowship. PFYM seeks to be a loving community of Friends in the Piedmont area and adjacent areas of North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina, guided by spirit, and deepening our experience of Quaker worship, faith, and practice. The new yearly meeting seeks to strengthen our service and witness to the world through broadened connections with wider Quaker organizations.

Piedmont Friends Fellowship held its spring retreat and annual meeting on March 13-15, 2015. Ninety-two adult Friends and twenty young Friends from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia gathered under budding maple trees and worshipped in the historic New Garden Friends Meetinghouse in Greensboro, NC. Friends greeted each other with excitement and joy, and enjoyed unity in both worship and fellowship.

Within this loving context on the afternoon of March 14, Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting convened its first Annual Session with 76 Friends in attendance. Five North Carolina monthly meetings, a Virginia monthly meeting and a South Carolina worship group minuted their affiliation with the new Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting: Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Fancy Gap (VA), New Garden, Raleigh, and Salem Creek Friends Meetings, and Upstate (SC) Worship Group. Friends then proceeded to establish basic elements of the

new yearly meeting through approval of recommendations from the Piedmont Friends Fellowship Yearly Meeting Formation Committee and the Interim Body of Representatives from affiliating meetings—groups that had been working jointly on these recommendations for two years. First to be approved were The Vision Statement and Core Elements, intended to clarify the guiding principles of the new yearly meeting. The last sentence of the Vision Statement reads, “Our primary goals are to nurture monthly meetings and worship groups by supporting spiritual growth and to witness to our collective truth in the wider world.” The Core Elements include inward experience of the spirit leading us to loving ways; Quaker practices of discernment, continuing revelation and outward expression of truth in our lives; inclusiveness and welcoming a diversity of individuals and families into our meetings; strengthening our monthly meetings and worship groups; holding to a simple and sufficient structure in the yearly meeting; and demonstrating transparency and openness in all of our actions. A copy of the Vision and Core Elements document is appended to this epistle.

Next PFYM approved a document which will serve as a guide to the relationship between Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting and Piedmont Friends Fellowship. The two entities will act in Friendly partnership, with the Fellowship developing programming (including youth programming), planning semi-annual workshops and retreats, maintaining a joint website, and handling finances. The Yearly Meeting will turn to the work of nurturing service to monthly meetings and strengthening service and witness in the world. Membership in the Yearly Meeting will require that the monthly meeting or worship group also begin or maintain active membership in the Fellowship.

The final basic elements put in place by the new yearly meeting were approval of a beginning Policy and Procedures Handbook and approval of Friends to serve in the three positions provided in that Handbook: Presiding Clerk, Assisting Clerk, and Recording Clerk. The Handbook also provides for an Interim Meeting of representatives from affiliating meetings and worship groups, which will meet quarterly to do the work of the yearly meeting between

The PFF/YM weekend retreat was rich with activity before and after the yearly meeting annual session. Friends participated in a sharing of our spiritual

stories, led by Mary Kay Glazer from Friends General Conference (FGC) traveling ministries. We met in pairs and small groups to answer a variety of queries around our spiritual experiences. One of the highlights of the entire weekend was the storytelling exercise on the history of Piedmont Friends Fellowship and creation of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, by way of two or three sentence contributions from over twenty different Friends who rose and spoke out of the silence.

We heard from Lynn and Steve Newsom, directors of Quaker House, which was born in 1969 from the efforts and discernment of Piedmont Friends Fellowship and continues to be a strong witness for peace and healing among military personnel. We also heard about the important work of the American Friends Service Committee in our area from AFSC Friend Lori Fernald Khamala, and the supportive services of FGC from visiting Friend, Eric Evans. Young Friends were treated to a campus tour of nearby Guilford College. Later, some of us participated in a musical drumming session and evening bonfire. Inspired by the yearly meeting annual session, some 18 Friends met to establish a yearly meeting ad hoc working group around local peace and social concerns activities in our various communities.

Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, in partnership with Piedmont Friends Fellowship, will continue our inward search for spiritual growth and outward witness and service to the world with much joyful unity.

Marian Beane
Presiding clerk

Marian.beane@gmail.com; 704 568 6920
<http://piedmontfriendsfellowship.org/>

**Annual Spiritual State of the Meeting Report
of the Chapel Hill Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
May 17, 2015**

We gathered in the school building on March 21, 2015, to reflect on the spiritual state of our Meeting in relation to our recent decision to join Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting and in appreciation of the various activities that have occurred during and since our 75th anniversary in 2012. The meeting consisted of three sets of queries and discussions described below.

We began by considering some organizations in the wider Quaker fellowship and their mission statements. In small groups, we answered the query, "How do we envision the meaning of our personal and corporate relationships with local and national Quaker groups?" Sharings on the responses to this query in the large group revealed a resonance with many of the mission statements, an excitement about the opportunities ahead to connect more fully with fellow travelers, a recognition of the chance to help shape the formation of the new Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, an awareness of the challenges of deepening relationships with those who are different from us, and a concern about the energy needed to make these commitments outside the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. One Friend spoke about seeing a great people gathered to influence North Carolina.

After reviewing the listing of activities that have occurred during and after the Meeting's 75th anniversary in 2012 and adding to that list (see attached), we responded to this query: "How have any of these programs deepened your understanding of Quakerism?" There was gratitude expressed for the care and thoroughness of the sub-committee on discernment about joining Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting that resulted in our coming together as a Meeting and the unity that was reached on this decision. Many other activities engaged in by the Meeting during the past three years have enhanced personal understanding of Quaker practices and testimonies, from listening and decision-making processes to clearness committees and conflict transformation. Our prison ministry and mental health advocacy have strengthened our Meeting.

As we considered together our spiritual growth within a wider context, there was an appreciation for how a living community functions where each participant has a role but we are united in vibrancy and our searching for truth. Our attempts to balance our inward work with our outward work strengthen us. When we are led by the Spirit, our actions start from the heart and are successful. We marveled at the contributions to our worship that our guests from the Orange Correctional Center have shared with us, from their messages to their music.

Our final query was, "How could your spiritual life or the spiritual life of the meeting be changed and/or enhanced by others within and beyond our meeting? Our state?" Comments included the anticipation of new opportunities to deepen our ability to be in the Light through our experiences in the larger Quaker community, the need to be wise in finding the balance between taking on the new and the right exercise of the old, the need to strengthen our commitment to nurture the families in our Meeting, and the desire to keep our center strong. There was a suggestion that we invite other Meetings to worship with us and we should go to worship with them. We will experience growth by being exposed to different works in both Meetings and individuals.

During our closing worship, we were advised to remember the example of Margaret Fell.

Calendar

(All events at Meetinghouse unless otherwise indicated.)

Sun. 6/7	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: Towards a Humane Immigration System
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Potluck & IFC donations
Tue. 6/9	7-8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Fri. 6/12	5-6pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
Sun. 6/14	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: A Sharing of Experiences
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
Mon. 6/15		Challenging Islamophobia and Racism (see page 4)
Tue. 6/16	7-8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Fri. 6/19	5-6pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
Sun. 6/21	8am	Meetinghouse open for worship
	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:00am	Meeting for Worship w/Attention to Business
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
Tue. 6/23	7-8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Fri. 6/26	5-6pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
	7pm	Intergenerational Games - Schoolhouse
Sun. 6/28	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: Towards a Humane Immigration System
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	noon	Families and Friends Affected by Mental Illness - Schoolhouse
	10pm	Deadline To Turn In Items For Newsletter!
Thur. 7/2	9am-1pm	CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter
Fri. 7/3	5-6pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
Sun. 7/5	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
		Reminder: no forums for the summer
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship - Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Potluck & IFC donations – Schoolhouse
Tue. 7/7	7-8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation - Call Hank Elkins
Fri. 7/10	5-6pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice - E. Franklin & Elliot Rd

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: Tom Munk (919) 537-9203
Resident: John Hite (919) 929-5377

- **Newsletter.** This newsletter is published every first Sunday under the care of the Publications and Records Committee. Paper copies are available at the Meetinghouse and a PDF is posted on the Meeting website, www.chapelhillfriends.org. 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. Please include "newsletter" in the subject line.
- **Listserv.** To send a news or "In the Light" announcement on the Meeting listserv, contact news@chapelhillfriends.org. Please include "listserv" or "in the light" in the subject line. This listserv goes to about 280 people. Do not submit personal information about someone else unless you know he/she wants to share. Subscribe to the listserv at www.chapelhillfriends.org/contact.html.
- **Website.** To get items posted on our website, send them to news@chapelhillfriends.org.