

# Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Newsletter

December, 2015



## Monthly Query:

*How do I cherish and protect the natural world, of which all people are a living part?*

## Contents:

Upcoming Forum Schedule .....	2
Christmas Eve Service .....	2
Upcoming IFC Events and News.....	2
Choosing Love in a Season of Fear .....	3
Interested in Animal Welfare?.....	3
Syrian Refugee Crisis .....	4
On Being - Omid Safi on Quaker Carolina Friends School.....	4
PFYM Message to Paris Friends .....	4
Joys and Concerns: A Three-Month Trial Addition to Meeting for Worship.....	5
Recipe for Joanna Selim's Mom's Lemon Bars .....	6
From the Archives Committee .....	6
Alternatives to Violence Project Training .....	7
What are the kids up to?? .....	8
BYO Plate .....	9
Calling for Book Reviews.....	9
Hillsborough Friends Worship Group .....	10
<b>Minutes from Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business .....</b>	<b>11</b>
(Ric Shepherd membership, Naming committee, ARE report, Shotts/ Leadership Development Fund report, Finance report, C&C statement on requests for money, hearing system, welcoming brochure from M&W)	
Calendar .....	19

## Monthly Worship Tip from the M&W Committee

Turn attention inward and listen in the silence for what the Spirit may reveal.

## Upcoming Forum Schedule

### **December 6** – “Breaking the Silence: Mental Health and Our Meeting”

With Alice Carlton, Dave Curtin, Hank Elkins, Tom Ludlow, and Robert Lee from the Mental Health Group. Moderator: Max Drake

### **December 13** – “A Personal Sharing with Nancy Fisher”

Nancy will talk about growing up Old Order Amish, what led her to leave, and what led her to Quakers and Chapel Hill Meeting. Moderator: Wendy Michener

### **December 27** – "Being in the Darkness, Moving to the Light"

An opportunity to share (in small groups or as a whole) our recent experiences and our hopes for the New Year in a gentle, open Meeting. Wendy Michener, Facilitator. Moderator: Dirk Kelder

## Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 24, 2015—in our Meetinghouse

Come early to enjoy about 30 minutes of holiday music performed by Dirk and Martha Kelder at 5pm. The Christmas Eve Worship, for all Friends, attenders, and their families, will take place at 5:30pm. 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. 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.

## Upcoming IFC Events and News

### **Holiday Meals**

You can share your good fortune with less fortunate neighbors by donating \$25 to IFC to subsidize their holiday meals. This year, the IFC will provide holiday dinners to at least 700 families at Thanksgiving and Christmas (Hanukkah or Kwanzaa). A gift of only \$25 helps the IFC offer a family a holiday dinner—a turkey or ham, mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, bread and dessert. Special arrangements are made to provide meals for shut-ins. People who did not sign up in time can come on the last distribution day to receive unclaimed meals. Please write “holiday meals” on the subject line of your check. You can drop it in the IFC donation bag in the foyer or mail it to IFC, 110 W. Main Street, Carrboro, NC 27510.

### **Bradshaw Quartet Benefit Concert**

Thursday, December 31, 7:00pm – 8:30pm

United Church of Chapel Hill, 1321 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

## **Stewards Fund Challenge**

The trustees of The Stewards Fund issued a \$92,625 challenge grant to the IFC Board of Directors. This grant is designed to help raise funds from new donors, increased gifts from existing donors, and funds from lapsed donors. The challenge period ends December 31. If by December 31st the IFC has raised \$92,625 in gifts from new and lapsed donors, or increased gifts from existing donors, The Stewards Fund will match that amount dollar for dollar.

Here's how it works:

- If you've never given to IFC, any donation you make from now until the end of the year will be matched, effectively doubling the impact of your gift.
- Increased donation is defined as the difference between the total of this year's gifts and last year's gifts. So, if you gave \$100 last year and you give \$150 this year, \$50 will be matched.
- Funds from lapsed donors are defined as funds received during the challenge period from a donor who has not given within the past eighteen months.

## **Choosing Love in a Season of Fear**

Jan Hutton shares with Friends,

A F/friend of mine who belongs to New York Yearly Meeting, shared this link with me. It's a powerful, loving and oh-so Quakerly statement, from New England Yearly Meeting, in response to the recent attacks.

Choosing Love in a Season of Fear: New England Quakers Respond to the Paris Attacks:  
<http://www.neym.org/news/choosing-love-season-fear-new-england-quakers-respond-paris-attacks>

## **Interested in Animal Welfare?**

Robin Harper asks of Friends:

Friends, I'm looking for people who are interested in animal rights and animals welfare who might be willing to serve on a SHORT-TERM ad hoc committee to explore this issue. As you know, of the 20 or so benevolences that CHFM supports there is not one that goes to any kind of animal welfare organization, be they wild animals, farm animals, or pets. All have a human focus. While we love people, we share the planet with other species, too! If you would like to meet to explore this initiative, please let me know: robinwharper@gmail.com, or 919.606.4574. I see this as a start-up, exploratory, ad hoc committee, that will probably only meet a few times. So no long-term commitment is needed. If you are interested in the issue, but don't have time to meet, I'd still love to hear your thoughts via email or phone message. Thank you!

## Syrian Refugee Crisis

Miriam Thompson and Ruth Zalph urge Friends who are concerned about the Syrian refugee crisis to call their elected representatives. You can ask for a response.

Numbers to call:

1. Governor McCrory (who decided to deny welcome to Syrian refugees), 919-814-2000.
2. David Price (who has stood up for welcoming refugees to NC), 202-225-1784 or 919-859-5999.

## On Being - Omid Safi on Quaker Carolina Friends School

Jan Hutton shares with Friends,

Omid Safi, a Muslim scholar who teaches at Duke and whose children attend CFS, also writes a weekly column for the national award winning program "On Being." The November 12 column is a beautiful testament not only to CFS, but to Quakers.

<http://www.onbeing.org/blog/omid-safi-flavored-with-rumis-poetry-and-pizza/8114>

## PFYM Message to Paris Friends

*The following message, in French and English, was sent to the Paris friends meeting soon after the Paris attack. This message was also shared with all member meetings of PFYM and was read at our meeting for worship.*

### **PFYM Message of November 17, 2015 (English)**

Les Amis de Paris,

We extend our heartfelt greetings to the souls of Paris.

Over this year, the founding year of our tender Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting in March, our hearts have been broken over escalating violence in our communities.

May love be around you, including ours, as you bear the shocks of the recent tragic attacks, and of those raw memories of January.

We borrow the words of Antoine de Saint-Exupery:

"On ne voit bien qu'avec le cour." [We see well only with the heart.]

We send our love.

Peace be the journey.

Marian Beane,  
Clerk, Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting

## **PFYM message of November 17th 2015 (French)**

Amis de Paris,

Nous souhaitons nos compliments du cœur les plus profonds à toutes les âmes de Paris.

Depuis l'établissement de notre nouvelle assemblée annuelle (Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting) qui s'est tenu pour la première fois pendant le mois de Mars 2015, nos cœurs ont été brisés à cause de la violence croissante dans nos deux communautés.

Nous souhaitons que l'amour vous entoure, y compris le nôtre, en cette période d'évènements choquants et navrants, des assauts tragiques ainsi que les souvenirs bruts de Janvier passé.

Nous empruntons les mots d'Antoine de Saint-Exupéry:  
"On ne voit bien qu'avec le cœur."

Nos amitiés sincères à tout le monde! Prenez soins de vous!

Marian Beane,  
Clerk, Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting  
Email: [marian.beane@gmail.com](mailto:marian.beane@gmail.com)

## **Joys and Concerns: A Three-Month Trial Addition to Meeting for Worship**

In response to a request from the Care and Council Committee, the Ministry and Worship Committee will begin, in December, a three-month trial period of including time for the sharing of joys and concerns each First day. Just before the close of late worship, the Closer will ask if there are requests for the Meeting to hold in the light those for whom we have special concerns, including one's self. For example, "Please hold 'George Fox' in the light as he heals from back surgery." After meeting for worship has closed, and as we have introductions of visitors, the Closer will ask those who have special joys to share them with the Meeting, interspersed with the introductions. Brevity is very much appreciated for both your expressions of concerns and joys. We hope that these sharings will enhance our opportunities to build a stronger community of worshipers. The Ministry and Worship Committee will evaluate this after the trial period. We are grateful for your participation and patience as we explore this addition to our worship experience. Your comments will be welcome in our evaluation of this change.

The Ministry and Worship Committee: [ministryandworship@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:ministryandworship@chapelhillfriends.org)

## Recipe for Joanna Selim's Mom's Lemon Bars

*At the welcoming for Eloise Grathwohl as a new member of the Meeting, Joanna Selim brought lemon bars that were delicious. She had many folks asking her for the recipe. Unfortunately, no one took down the names of the people who wanted this recipe so we are printing it here. This recipe has not been sanctioned by any nutritionist but the lemon bars were wonderful! From Lynn Drake on behalf of Joanna Selim.*

2 cups flour  
4 ½ Tbsp. Sugar  
¼ tsp salt  
1 ½ sticks butter—cut in small pieces  
1 tsp vanilla  
1 ½ cups brown sugar  
1 ½ cups coarsely chopped pecans  
1 ½ cups shredded coconut  
1 box confectioner's sugar  
6 ½ Tbsp. fresh lemon juice—this is juice from about 3 lemons depending on their size  
3 lemons, zested

Mix flour, sugar, and salt in processor, process in the butter until it begins to clump together a bit. If it is under processed it will be too powdery; too processed, it will be too lumpy and hard to press. Press into a 15x10 inch (approximate) pan lined with greased foil (I use a cookie sheet with sides). If you use a heavy cookie sheet rather than a thinner one you will need to bake it slightly longer. Bake at 350 for 12 minutes, until just lightly browned on edges.

Meanwhile mix butter, brown sugar, pecans, coconut, and vanilla. Pour over hot crust and spread gently if needed till even. Bake 20-23 minutes until firm.

Meanwhile mix lemon juice, confectioners' sugar, and lemon zest (you may use a little more lemon juice, it should be a loose spreading consistency, but still a bit stiff and white not runny). Spread over warm bars. Cool completely. Chill or freeze if not serving within a couple of days. Cut and serve. Usually cut these in squares then triangles. This recipe makes a lot, I've never counted. They are always a big hit. These freeze beautifully. I always keep some in my freezer and take them out when I need a dessert.

## From the Archives Committee

The Archives Committee keeps a record of the life of our Meeting. Friends are asked to share information about doings that involve Members and attenders of our Meeting, including correspondences, online posts, obits and newspaper clippings. Friends can either put them in the Archives mailbox or send them to the committee at [archives@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:archives@chapelhillfriends.org).

# Alternatives to Violence Project Training

Quaker House is sponsoring a Basic Alternatives to Violence Project Training (the intro course), January 15-17, Quaker House, 223 Hillside Ave, 910-323-3912, [qpr@quaker.org](mailto:qpr@quaker.org). There are a very nearby (walking distance) motel and hotel, and Quaker House has one bed available. Please see flyer for further information.



The Licensed Professional Counselors Association of North Carolina and the National Association of Social Workers approve CEU's for this training.

## Alternatives to Violence Project Training January 15-17, 2016

*The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) is a training program enabling participants to deal with potentially violent situations in new & creative ways.*

**Location:** Quaker House, 223 Hillside Ave., Fayetteville, NC

An AVP workshop can help you to:

- manage strong feelings such as anger and fear
- deal more effectively with risk and danger
- build good relationships with other people
- communicate well in difficult situations
- recognize the skills you already have and learn new ones
- be true to yourself while respecting other people
- understand why conflict happens



**Need more information? contact Lynn Newsom at: [qpr@quaker.org](mailto:qpr@quaker.org) or 910-323-3912**

Workshop times are Friday from 6-9 pm,  
Saturday from 9-8 pm, and Sunday from 12-4 pm. Meals are provided.

**January 15-17, BASIC:** Initial workshop focuses on community building, communication skills, and conflict resolution. Required for Advanced workshops. This is Martin Luther King, Jr., week-end. We wish to honor Dr. King by conducting our workshops on his memorial week-end.

**This workshop earns 18 contact hours for full participation**

**FEE:** \$75 (includes meals). Scholarships available for military, Quakers, students and need-based.

Contact Lynn Newsom for information on scholarships.

**To register: [qpr@quaker.org](mailto:qpr@quaker.org) limited space, waiting list provided**

This is an experiential learning model that is valuable for Social Workers, Counselors, Psychologists, Clergy, Court Counselors, Teachers, School counselors, Case Managers, Military Personnel, Law Enforcement, Substance Abuse Professionals, Physicians, Nurses, Students and other members of the behavioral health and health care providers community.

**Facilitators:** John Shuford, MBA, EdS, CCTP, Lead AVP Facilitator/Mentor; Lynn Newsom, MA; Deborah Bromiley, Lead AVP facilitator; Curt Torell, M.Div, Ph.D

*AVP started in prisons in the USA in 1975, and now also operates in communities, schools, colleges, refugee camps and conflict situations worldwide. More about AVP: [www.avpinternational.org](http://www.avpinternational.org)*

LPCANC and Quaker House are cosponsors of this program. This co-sponsorship has been approved by NBCC. LPCANC is an NBCC Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 5807. The ACEP solely is responsible for awarding of NBCC credit.

# What are the kids up to??

## FDS HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

From Leslie Rountree, FDS Coordinator

The holidays are upon us! Beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving, First Day School will begin its annual slate of group activities. All kids will meet in the multipurpose room, except on potluck Sundays.

### December 6th

It's Potluck Sunday! (Don't forget to bring your own plate and utensils from home.) It's also our annual Ornament-palooza! We will string popcorn and cranberries, make beeswax and origami ornaments, colorful paper chains, ribbon "poinsettias," peace doves, clove apples and more, and then we will decorate a Christmas tree in the multipurpose room to welcome the season. Adult volunteers are more than welcome to join in the fun. Please let Leslie know if you would like to help that morning. Look for the opening of the Alternative Gift Mart this week at potluck.

### December 13th

Kathleen McNeil will lead a rehearsal of our Nativity play, presented later that evening. We have roles of all kinds and for all ages: angels, stars, Jesus' family, innkeepers, the shepherds, the wise men and every critter imaginable. It's creative chaos at its best. Adult helpers would be greatly appreciated.

### December 13th, 5:00 PM

Join us for our annual CHFM Holiday Party! It's a festive evening of finger foods, caroling, and fellowship, not to mention our fabulous "Nativity" play. Please bring canned goods to build a "Christmas tree" for the Interfaith Council. Also, we will have our annual Giving Tree, where people can create a gift "coupon" to hang on the tree which others may choose to take. It may be as simple as loaning a pickup truck, babysitting...the possibilities are limited only by your creativity.

### December 20th, 11:00 AM

It's time for our annual caroling trip to Carol Woods Retirement Community. Bring your voices! Bring your guitars! Ukuleles! Jing Tinklers! Flu Floopers! Tar Tinkers! Who Hoovers! We will assemble at the main entrance lobby at 11:00 AM. If you know a resident who would like to be visited, please let Leslie know and she will add them to the list. Hot cider and cookies will be served at the end.

### December 24th, 5:30 PM

Christmas Eve Worship, for all Friends, attenders, and their families, will take place in the Meetinghouse. Come early to enjoy about 30 minutes of holiday music performed by Dirk Kelder and Martha Kelder. 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. Come join us for this lovely tradition!

### **December 27th**

Did you get a board game as a gift? Bring it along -- there will be lots of folks to play it with you at the Intergenerational Board Game morning. Tom Munk will bring a selection from his vast collection of groovy and geeky games as well. Thanks, Tom!

### **December 31st, 7:00 PM**

Join us for our annual New Years' Eve alcohol-free celebration! We'll gather from 7:00 pm until midnight for intergenerational games and puzzles. More details to come.

### **January 3rd**

It's the first Potluck Sunday of the new year. Don't forget to bring your own plates, cups, and utensils. High school teens will be closing late Meeting this week. The children's job will be to dismantle the holiday tree and make pinecone feeders for the birds and other critters on the property using the unstrung popcorn and cranberries, sun butter, and birdseed. It's a sweet way to start the year!

If you have any questions about all of the fun FDS activities, just ask Leslie. We will begin our Old Testament unit the second week in January.

Happy times ahead!

## **BYO Plate**

We celebrate the often large attendance at potluck and we thank the meeting for continued help with potluck cleanup. However, large attendance does create a lot of dishes to wash. Therefore, we request that Friends bring their own plates, cutlery, and glasses to potluck and take them home to wash. We know of other groups that use this practice successfully and we propose it as another way to be environmentally friendly. We recognize not everyone will remember to do so. Those who do will be allowed to be first in line for potluck. Thank you.

## **Calling for Book Reviews**

Have you read an inspiring book from the Meeting library lately? Or have you read a book we don't have in the library that you feel would be worthwhile to have in the collection? The Library committee would like to invite members and attenders to consider writing brief book reviews for the newsletter. Share the insight or inspiration you received from your readings. Please send a copy of your review to the library committee as well at [library@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:library@chapelhillfriends.org). We are always looking for suggestions for new books to add to our library. Thank you. The Library Committee

## **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**  
**15 November 2015**  
**Minutes**

**Tom Munk, Clerk; Robin Harper, Recording Clerk**

**Worship and query:** *Do I live in thankful awareness of God's constant presence in my life? Am I sensitive and obedient to the leadings of the Holy Spirit?*

**1. Welcome, recognition of first-time attenders, review of agenda—Clerk**

We welcomed first-time attenders Terry Poole and John Connick.

**2. Approval of October minutes—Clerk**

*Approved.*

**3. Report from Ric Shepherd's clearness committee for membership—Lynn Drake (BIO ATTACHED)**

Lloyd Kramer, Eloise Grathwohl, Madelyn Ashley, and Lynn Drake served on Ric's committee. Ministry & Worship joyfully recommend Ric for membership.

*Approved.*

Lynn and Matt Drake and Tom Munk will serve on his welcoming committee.

**4. Naming Committee needed to find two new members for the Nominations Committee—Clerk**

Since the Nominations Committee does not nominate members for itself, our practice is to form a Naming Committee to find new members for the Nominations Committee when they are needed. The remaining members of the Nominations Committee are Carolyn Stuart, Jennifer Leeman, Ken Grogan, Ed Bowen, Joyce Munk, and Sean Chen. Carolyn articulated the need on the committee for Friends who have knowledge of the full body of our Meeting, and a good sense of individuals' gifts.

Carolyn White and Deborah Gibbs agreed to serve on the Naming Committee.

*Approved.*

**5. Annual Report, Adult Religious Education Committee—Carolyn White (ATTACHED)**

Carolyn read the report, and Friends expressed thanks to the committee for reaching out to other committees for their input. Thanks were also expressed for the great variety of forums offered.

Carolyn also addressed some questions that were asked. Regarding getting the word out on upcoming forums, efforts have been made to get the early forum of each month into the previous month's newsletter, as well as getting the list of forums into the meeting closer's box sooner. Regarding the CDs made of the forums, it does not appear that they are being used much, so they are trying to bring their availability to Friends' attention.

*The report was accepted with gratitude.*

**6. Annual Report, Mary and Claude Shotts/Leadership Development Fund—Jan Hutton (ATTACHED)**

*The report was accepted with gratitude.*

**7. Annual Report, Finance Committee—Kitty Bergel (ATTACHED)**

*The report was accepted with gratitude.*

**8. Proposed statement from Care & Counsel on requests for money from the Meeting—Jeff Brown (ATTACHED)**

This concern came to C&C more than a year ago, in response to people outside of the Meeting asking for financial help. This statement rose out of a need to provide guidance to Friends, not to dictate their response. C&C proposes posting this statement in the Foyer for ready assistance for Friends. Jeff brought this statement to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business last month, and has brought it again today with some of Friends' proposed changes made.

Jeff read this most recent draft, and more suggestions were made, including various ways the statement might be publicized and the need to clearly state its source.

After much discussion, we approved the following:

1. Remove final sentence from the document.
2. Add that it was presented by C&C, and approved at MWAB.
3. Discuss within C&C possible ways to disseminate the document, and bring a recommendation back to MWAB.

*Approved.*

## 9. Hearing System for Meeting—Don Hopper

Don presented Building & Grounds' suggestion for solving what has been a long-term problem for our Meeting—the inability of many Friends to hear what is being said. Don suggested installing a system similar to what is used by the Durham Friends Meeting. He spoke with a Durham Friend who is willing to advise us on this project. We could easily install it now, then remove it during renovation, and re-install it afterward. Installing pre-renovation would give us a chance to test the system, which consists of:

1. four small mics that would hang from the ceiling
2. a mixing device
3. a transmitting device
4. four listening “loops” or headphones

We could take it a step farther and install a loop or wire around the meeting room that would transmit directly to Friends' T-coil hearing aids, and they wouldn't have to wear or use additional devices. If people do not have T-coil hearing aids, we could easily get more than 4 headphones if they are needed.

The cost would probably be around \$2500 for these pieces of equipment, but could be as much as \$5000. Don explained that the unknown variable is the cost of the loop that would run around the room. B&G could find the money in its renovation budget. Matt Drake reported that there is other money available as well--\$1800 left over from previous bequest money, and about \$90,000 in our checking account.

There was some discussion around the system used at Carol Woods, which got mixed reviews. A Friend remarked that the only system that would really guarantee that everyone could hear would be to directly mic all speakers—mics hanging from the ceiling are not going to completely solve the problem. Might we at least want to consider direct mics for use during the forums? Another Friend noted that, at another church, hand-held microphones caused their own problems because non-professional (and even some professional) speakers do not speak into them consistently.

Those with hearing difficulties pleaded for some improvement soon. Clerk thanked those with hearing aids for sharing, and asked them if they have further comments to be in communication with B&G.

We authorized B&G to proceed with this project, and gave them license to spend up to \$5000, seeking the Finance Committee's help in finding the most appropriate sources of that money.

*Approved.*

## 10. Updated welcoming brochure from Ministry & Worship—Lynn Drake

M&W has worked to revise the Meeting's welcoming pamphlet. Lynn offered special appreciation to Lloyd who was one of the main editors of the pamphlet, adding language from the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting vision statement. Much discernment and long discussion went into the revision of this pamphlet, which was last updated in 2008.

*Friends expressed appreciation for their work.*

## 11. Announcements from the listserv—Clerk

- Request from Archives Committee for materials
- Welcoming for Eloise Grathwohl today at rise of Meeting
- All-school Meeting for Worship at Carolina Friends School, Tuesday, Nov. 17
- Discussion on "Building Mutual Solidarity from Palestine to Durham," Tuesday, Nov. 17, 5:00pm
- Work day for raking next Sunday, Nov. 22, at rise of Meeting
- Saturday after Thanksgiving, Intergenerational Game Night in the schoolhouse at 7:00pm
- Animal Welfare Initiative—contact Robin Harper if you're interested
- Trial period of adding Joys and Concerns at the end of Meeting, beginning in December
- Sign up for the Thanksgiving Potluck on the door
- Contribute holiday meals to the IFC

Other announcements:

- Mental Health group meeting, next Sunday, Nov. 22, at rise of Meeting
- Last weekend PFF had a very successful retreat, with a moving program on immigration—article coming in the next newsletter
- Forum next Sunday, Nov. 22: "The Power of Clearness Committees," presented by M&W and C&C
- Alice Woodbury is nearing the end of her life, and welcomes visitors
- Dirk Spruyt's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday was well celebrated by many Friends on Nov. 14
- Welcome to Ric Shepherd as a new member

## We closed with worship.

**Attending:** Marilyn Dyer, James Harper, Carolyn White, Dottie Heninger, Deborah Gibbs, Carolyn Stuart, Ben Ray, Jennifer Leeman, Kitty Bergel, Chris Stanley, Faye Stanley, Geoff Medcalf, Ken Grogan, Richard Miller, Emilie Condon, Terry Poole, David Schneider, Jeff Brown, Jan Hutton, Matt Drake, Lynn Drake, Tom Ludlow, Wendy Michener, Paul Munk, Joyce Munk, Jerry L. Lester, Larry Hatfield, Madelyn Ashley, Sharod Perry, Dave Curtin, Alice Carlton, Bettie Flash, Ric Shepherd, Perry Martin, Dirk Spruyt, John Connick

## RIC SHEPHERD'S BIOGRAPHY

Ric Shepherd was born in Salem Massachusetts and grew up in Lynnfield, about ten miles north of Boston. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1970 with a BA in Geology and Physics. After a few years active duty in the Navy and the a few more as a Production Supervisor at Texas Instruments he went on to Northeastern University in Boston earning a Masters Degree in Accounting. While then working at the international accounting firm Price Waterhouse he passed the CPA exam and obtained his license as a Certified Public Accountant. The next 45 years have been in various positions as a CPA. Ric moved to the triangle in 1988, is currently unmarried and has three adult children ranging in ages from 24 to 31. Avocations include photography, travel, and pursuing the spiritual aspect of the human existence.

### ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT NOVEMBER 2015

The Adult Religious Education Committee works to enhance the spiritual life of the Meeting community and the spiritual growth of Meeting members by providing weekly forums on different topics connecting us to our Quaker faith and practice. Forums can be about a timely topic, such as the conflict in Palestine; a presentation from a Meeting committee, such as Building and Grounds or Interfaith Council Committee; an exploration about Quaker Faith and Practice, such as vocal ministry; small group sharings; or personal sharings. This year we had our first "Meeting for Worship with Attention to Animals," held on the playground with a variety of animals and participants of all ages present. The ARE committee asks for forum suggestions from Meeting committee clerks and listens to Meeting members for topic ideas. At the end of June each year, ARE presents a forum that invites the Meeting community to review and evaluate the year's forums and suggest new ones. All forums are recorded and are available as CD's in the library. Descriptions of upcoming forums are posted on the Meeting's website under the FORUMS tab, printed in the Meeting newsletter, and posted above the contributions box in the foyer. We appreciate the Publications and Communications Committee for keeping the Meeting community informed about forums.

ARE members: Catherine Alguire, Matt Drake, Max Drake, Dirk Kelder, Perry Martin, Wendy Michener, Carolyn White (clerk)

### 2014-15 FORUMS

August 24 – "Labor in North Carolina," led by Tom McQuiston and Miriam Thompson

August 31 – "The Current War in Gaza," an open discussion

September 7 – "Moral Injury," led by Lynn and Steve Newsom, co-directors of Quaker House in Fayetteville

September 14 – "Meeting house Renovations," led by Don Hopper, Clerk, B&G

September 28 – "Listening as Spiritual Hospitality," led by Jan Hutton and Naveed Moeed, M&W

October 5 – "Quaker Issues in the Election," presented by Nancy Milio

October 12 – "Conflict Transformation," with Heather Cook and Peter Phillips, Friends from New York YM

October 26 – "Personal Sharing," by John Hite

November 2 – "Renovating the Ground Floor of the Meetinghouse," led by Don Hopper, Clerk, B&G

November 9 - "Interfaith Council Update," led by John Dorward, Interfaith Council Executive Director

November 23 – "Spiritual Growth Experiences, 2014 FGC Summer Gathering," led by Jennifer Leeman and  
Wendy Michener

November 30 – "Evolution and How It is Going to Affect Us," led by Dirk Spruyt

December 7 – "New Quaker Priorities in the New Congress," with Nancy Milio

December 14 – "Christmas Giving and Receiving," small group sharing led by Matt Drake

December 28 – "Singing from Your Center," facilitated by Robert Lee

January 4 – "Spiritual New Year Resolutions," led by Matt Drake

January 11 – “Monteverdi Friends School, Costa Rica,” presented by Jim Palmer  
 January 24 – “Renovating the Meeting house,” Don Hopper, Clerk, B&G  
 February 1- “Progressive Friends,” with Chuck Fager, author  
 February 8 – “Progressive Friends,” led by Chuck Fager  
 February 22 – “Vocal Ministry,” facilitated by M&W members Lynn Drake, Jan Hutton, and Leslie Rountree  
 March 1: “Personal Sharing,” presented by Dirk Spruyt  
 March 8: “Being Met at Meeting,” facilitated by Dirk Kelder  
 March 22: “FGC Summer Gathering, 2015,” with Amanda Godwin, Jan Hutton and Wendy Michener  
 March 29: “Personal Sharing,” with Curt Torell  
 April 5: “Resurrection, Rebirth . . . Easter,” with Robert Lee, Wendy Michener, and Naveed Moeed  
 April 12: “The Promise of an Ecological Civilization,” with Herman Greene, President, CH Center for Ecozoic Societies  
 April 26: “Why Does the Israel-Palestine Violence Keep Returning?” presented by Ruth Zalph  
 May 3: “Blessing of the Animals,” a Worship Sharing with Attention to Animals led by Robin Harper  
 May 10: “Spiritual Reading, Musical Reflections, and Group Conversation,” with Dirk Kelder  
 May 24: “Action on Quaker Values in a Conservative Environment, as expressed through FCNL,” by Nancy Milio  
 May 31: “Welcome to the Chapel Hill Early School,” presented by Sue Caldwell Donaldson, CHES Head Teacher  
 June 7: “Towards a Humane Immigration System,” by Leticia Benitez, AFSC Cary Fellow in Greensboro  
 June 14: “A Sharing of Experiences,” with friends from Orange County Correctional and members of the Meeting's Friends Transition Support Committee  
 June 28 – “Review and Evaluation of the 2014-15 Forums,” led by the ARE Committee

#### SHOTTS MEMORIAL AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT, 2014-2015

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 1982 from funds donated by members of the Shotts family, 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.

On April 29, 2015, Chapel Hill Friends Meeting transferred our committee’s funds from Sun Trust to BB&T. In terms of greater meeting efficiency, our CHFM Treasurer, Maura Murphy, now writes all checks to committee recipients rather than our committee treasurer. The current combined balance of both the Shotts Memorial Fund and the Leadership Development Fund is \$5,217.94 Friends Fiduciary manages the investments for the Shotts Memorial Fund, and our current balance is \$31,484.55. From this fund, we receive approximately \$1200 a year in interest to give out, including a disbursement in June and December.

To stem some possible confusion about which grants flow, from which fund, we would like to explain. Since we get requests any time and want to be able to respond quickly so that those requesting assistance can make their plans accordingly, we make the grants from whichever fund has sufficient capital to cover the grant with some money remaining in that fund.



The annual Friends General Conference Gathering was held in Cullowhee, NC in July 2015. The Shotts Memorial Fund gladly helped support Jan Hutton, Wendy Michener, Sean Chen, and two other Friends in attending (this included three children of two recipients.) Our Meeting's financial support opened the door for these Friends to request additional support from Piedmont Friends Fellowship. One cannot request funds from PFF unless the recipient's home meeting has already contributed. Additionally, one CHFM Friend received assistance in attending a September 2015, School of the Spirit retreat in Durham.

The Leadership Development Fund, in the beginning of fiscal year 2015, was happy to support Wendy Michener in her participation in an Organizing Against Racism (OAR) workshop in September 2015.

Our total disbursements, including both funds, from October 2014 to October 2015, were \$1200.

Ongoing committee discernments include our feelings/concerns about funding somebody twice versus spreading the funds more broadly; supporting the young members of the meeting versus the older members; how we decide on how much to fund given the total cost of the activity... among others. We do not have definitive guidelines regarding any of these issues, but they seem to be in our discernments and in our ultimate funding decisions.

Over the last fiscal year, our committee maintained a low profile in expectation of possible sizeable requests from the 2015 Quaker Pilgrimage and the CHFM teens' Haiti service trip. As it happens, the Pilgrimage was canceled and our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business discerned a \$4000 contribution to the teens' trip. To renew our members' and attenders' awareness of this wonderful resource, the Shotts Memorial/Leadership Development Committee will publish, on the listserv and in the newsletter in January 2016, a still very-appropriate article from 2012, sharing our mission to support our CHFM community. Additionally, the Adult Religious Education Committee will schedule a 2016 forum slot to share toward the same end as the article. We hope to have former recipients briefly share their experiences, offering a flavor of the range of opportunities to seed the ground for others to consider and apply.

We thanked Stuart Phillips for her years of service and contributed wisdom to our committee and gladly welcomed Jane Harwell as a new member.

Respectfully submitted by the Shotts Memorial/Leadership Development Committee: Jan Hutton, Clerk; Lynn Drake (Treasurer), Jane Harwell, Gwynne Pomeroy, and Roberto Quercia

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2015

Your Finance Committee has the responsibility to provide oversight of the financial affairs of the Meeting. We work closely with the Meeting Treasurer, Maura Murphy. Throughout last year she reported to us monthly on income and expenses. We assisted her in the preparation of the 2014-15 fiscal year report and in the quarterly reports to the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB). We also worked closely with the clerks of the Meeting's committees. They kept us updated on their committees' financial needs and expenses.

The financial condition of the Meeting is good. During the 12 months ended June 30, 2015, total income was higher than expected and Meeting expenses lower than budgeted. The result was an "overage," most of which was placed in the Meetinghouse Renovation Fund. Of particular note was the fact that Friends contributed \$ 76,883 and \$73,866 was spent during the fiscal year.

Maura Murphy continued her responsibilities as Treasurer for the fiscal year. A major accomplishment has occurred this year with the selection of new software to allow the meeting to manage the member and attendee information as well as the contributions given. She continued to institute new monthly reports to the committee and on-going record keeping to assist in our fundraising task. With her help we developed a new presentation of the budget, which we believe conveys the financial position of the Meeting in a clearer fashion.

Leslie Rountree, First Day School Coordinator, and Stacey Seawall, Child Care Provider, are working as employees for withholding and payroll tax reasons.

A significant function of the Finance Committee continues to be the encouragement of contributions. We have instituted a series of steps that involve informing the Meeting community about the Meeting's financial goals, inviting Friends to contribute, thanking them for their support, and providing them with a contribution record for their income tax reporting. Committee members were actively involved in the continuing fundraising effort throughout the fall of 2014 and into the winter of 2015.

As noted in the Treasurer's Report, approximately 46.5% of the Meetings financial assets are held in a Consolidated Mutual Fund managed by Friends Fiduciary Corporation in Philadelphia, PA. Their summer 2015 newsletter shows that they earned an impressive 10.72% return on investment over the last five years. The Finance Committee continues to monitor their returns and to allocate our funds among our investment, checking, savings, and Meetinghouse renovation accounts. We thank those who contributed for their generosity. We encourage Friends to contribute regularly to the Meeting and to consider including the Meeting as a bequest in their wills.

The 2014-15 members of the Finance Committee were: Kitty Bergel, Matt Drake (clerk), Emilie Condon, Asta Crowe, Bob Durovich, Loren Hintz, Tom Ludlow, Ann Miller, Ric Shepherd and Maura Murphy (Treasurer and ex officio member).

#### CHAPEL HILL FRIENDS MEETING FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

Like many places of worship and faith based organizations, Chapel Hill Friends Meeting does not give cash contributions to organizations or individuals directly on request. Because the Meeting has limited resources, there are no funds set aside for needs not identified by a careful process.

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting manages financial contributions to organizations and individuals carefully and lovingly. For consistency, fairness, clarity, and integrity, the members and attenders of the Meeting trust and abide by formal processes that

- accept financial contributions from members and attenders in support of the Meeting community,
- identify needs in an annual budget process,
- discern how much money to commit to internal operations, Quaker organizations, other organizations involved in peace, justice, and social well-being, and categories of assistance available to Meeting members and attenders including leadership development, and support for returning citizens, and
- make contributions according to the Meeting budget, guidelines, and testimonies (simplicity, peace, integrity, equality, and community) in processes overseen by various Meeting committees.

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting provides financial support to the Interfaith Council (IFC) and encourages individuals in urgent need to seek assistance from IFC as a first contact.

Interfaith Council  
110 W. Main Street, Carrboro, NC 27510, 919 929-6380  
info@ifcmailbox.org  
<http://www.ifcweb.org/>

As always, Friends may offer information, encouraging words, or prayer to people who seek assistance.

# Calendar

*(All events at Meetinghouse unless otherwise indicated.)*

- Sun. 12/6** 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)  
9:45am Forum: Breaking the Silence: Mental Health and Our Meeting  
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)  
11am Meeting for Worship—Carol Woods  
12:30pm Potluck, Ornaments, Alt Gift Mart (see page 8)—Schoolhouse  
Tue. 12/8 7–8pm Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation—Call Hank Elkins  
Fri. 12/11 4:30-5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice—E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
- Sun. 12/13** 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)  
9:45am Forum: A Personal Sharing with Nancy Fisher  
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)  
11am Meeting for Worship—Carol Woods  
5pm Holiday Party—Schoolhouse (see page 8)  
Tue. 12/15 7–8pm Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation—Call Hank Elkins  
Fri. 12/18 4:30-5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice—E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
- Sun. 12/20** 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  
11am Caroling at Carol Woods—meet at Schoolhouse (see page 8)  
Tue. 12/22 7–8pm Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation—Call Hank Elkins  
Thurs. 12/24 5:30pm Christmas Eve Service (see page 2)  
Fri. 12/25 4:30-5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice—E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
- Sun. 12/27** 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)  
9:45am Forum: Being in the Darkness, Moving to the Light  
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)  
11am Meeting for Worship—Carol Woods  
noon Families and Friends Affected by Mental Illness—Schoolhouse  
7pm (?) Intergenerational Board Games—Schoolhouse (see page 9)  
10pm Deadline To Turn In Items For Newsletter!  
Sun. 12/31 7pm New Year’s Eve Celebration (see page 9)  
Fri. 1/1 4:30-5:30pm Vigil for Peace & Justice—E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
- Sun. 1/3** 8:30am Meeting for Worship (Early)  
9:45am Forum: tbd  
11am Meeting for Worship (Late)  
11am Meeting for Worship—Carol Woods  
12:30pm Potluck—Schoolhouse  
Tue. 1/5 7–8pm Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation—Call Hank Elkins  
Thur. 1/7 9am–1pm CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter

**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](http://www.chapelhillfriends.org). The deadline for submissions is 10pm on the last Sunday of the month. Email submissions to [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.chapelhillfriends.org/contact.html).
- Website. To get items posted on our website, send them to [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org).