Chapel Hill

Friends Meeting Newsletter

April, 2017

Monthly Query:



How do I help to make the Meeting a safe and loving place?

Monthly Worship Tip from the M&W Committee

Not all vocal ministry will be equally meaningful to all present. Remember, ministry that does not speak to your condition may nevertheless be valuable to others. Be patient. Take care to separate the message from the minister.

Contents:

Upcoming Forum Schedule	2
Quaker Courtesies	2
A CHFM Silent Retreat: "Seeking Solitude in the Circle of Community"	
CROP Walk	3
"No Matter Where You Are From, We're Glad You're Our Neighbor" Yard Sign	3
First Day School Curriculum	4
FCNL's Spring Lobbying Weekend	4
News from School of the Spirit	5
All Five High School Graduates of Bolivian Quaker Residence Head toward	
University	5
Recent Additions to the Library	6
Friendly Sewing Repairs	8
Sign up for FCNL	9
BYO Plate	9
Reminder: Eno Friends Meeting of Hillsborough	9
Calling for Book Reviews	9
Friends House Moscow	9
Minutes from Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	10
(K. Porter transfer, Kirstein/Hundley transfer, J. Rioux membership, E. Rioux	
membership, Returning Citizens Financial Assistance Committee AR, P&J	
benevolence process & 2017 recommendations, PFF retreat, PFYM AR)	
Calendar	23

Upcoming Forum Schedule

Apr 2: Dissent, Discuss, Deal in the Age of Trump. Presented by Nancy Milio.

Apr 9: The Quaker Cooking Show—featuring the ingredients of the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Presented by Chef Matthias (Matt Drake).

Apr 23: Earth Day: Biodiversity: its importance to our planet and challenges. Peter White will lead a discussion about the importance of global biodiversity including reference to E. O. Wilson's book *Half Earth: "Our Planet's Fight for Life".*

April 30: Get Ready! Get Set! Here we GO! CHFM renovation preparation. Led by Don Hopper and Building and Grounds Committee members.

May 7: FDS—Graduation Forum. Presented by graduating seniors: Emma Hulbert, Grace Schneider, Emelia Stern.

Quaker Courtesies

During Meetings for Worship we enter into the living silence and speak as we are moved by the spirit. For this reason, we ask that if you are entering or needing to leave the meeting room while someone is speaking, please wait to do so until the speaker is finished.

A CHFM Silent Retreat: "Seeking Solitude in the Circle of Community"

On April 21–22, 2017, Chapel Hill Friends Meeting under the care of the Ministry and Worship Committee will be sponsoring a Silent Retreat entitled "Seeking Solitude in the Circle of Community."

This is a short retreat—beginning on Friday evening at 7–9 PM, and lasting through Saturday 9 AM–4:30 PM. Its purpose is to provide an opportunity to begin or sample the experience of grounding yourself in silence to hear your inner voice within a community of retreatants.

If you have an interest in attending this retreat, or want to talk with an organizer about it, please feel free to email Pam Schwingl, Pat Mann, or Jan Hutton: pschwingl@yahoo.com, patmmann60@gmail.com, janhutton1@gmail.com. One of them will be happy to arrange a time to talk, by email or phone. In addition, more detail about the retreat can be found on the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting website:

http://www.chapelhillfriends.org/PDF/CHFMSilentRetreat-2017.pdf

Due to space concerns, we must limit the number of people attending to 22. Please register for the retreat no later than April 17 by sending an email to Jan Hutton (janhutton1@gmail.com).

CROP Walk

Walk. Give. Change the World!

The annual CROP Walk will be held April 23, with registration at 1 PM and the walk at 2 PM. Register at our Meeting's online fundraising page at https://www.crophungerwalk.org/chapelhillnc/Member/MyPage/1081552/Chapel-Hill-Friends-Meeting. You can add your name to the team and your friends/relations can donate directly to you as part of our Friends' team. Last year we had a number of folks join our team—the more the merrier. Your children can do this, too!

T-shirts may be ordered by completing an order form and paying \$6 (additional donation would be great!) per shirt when you place your order. Asta Crowe and Dottie Heninger will be available in the lobby of the Meetinghouse with order forms. T-shirts will be available for pick up April 2, 9, and 16. All funds raised in selling T-shirts go directly to the IFC.

The IFC committee will have registration packets available for walkers April 2, 9, 16, and 23. All money raised by our walkers and their supporters will be split with three-quarters of the funds supporting the important work of Church World Services internationally. CWS supplies micronutrient packets, jerry cans for carrying water, training for farmers, seeds, and gardening supplies for community gardens. Last year, they provided stable sources of nutritious food for 50,217 global neighbors. The rest of the money raised in the CROP Walk remains local, supplying the food bank at IFC.

TO DONATE:

Go to https://www.crophungerwalk.org/chapelhillnc/Team/View/35887/Chapel-Hill-Friends-Meeting

Click on DONATE. You can either donate to the team as a whole or choose one of the walkers listed.

It is simplest and quickest to donate on line. If you prefer to sponsor someone in person, please let that person know, write a check to Church World Service (CWS)-CROP WALK, and give them the check to hand in with their "walker" packet, or give it to Asta Crowe.

Contact Asta Crowe (astacrowe@gmail.com) for more information or any questions.

Make a difference globally and locally: Fight hunger one step at a time!

"No Matter Where You Are From, We're Glad You're Our Neighbor" Yard Sign

Jan Hutton offers to Friends:

This yard sign was created by a Mennonite peace church and the message is in three different languages: Spanish, English, and Arabic. A progressive organization in Durham is selling these good-sized, sturdy Styrofoam signs for \$10.61 each; includes a metal holder:

https://squareup.com/store/twwnc/item/we-re-glad-you-re-our-neighbor-lawn-sign

First Day School Curriculum

AFSC has just released a new First Day School curriculum that includes a great module for young people to collect stories from older members of meeting. The curriculum is now available for download on the website. It would be a great introduction for any youth groups who might be interested in holding fundraisers in celebration of AFSC's 100 years.

https://www.afsc.org/document/afsc-centennial-first-day-school-curriculum.

FCNL's Spring Lobbying Weekend

Andrea Wuerth shares with Friends,

A delegation of youth from our meeting went to Washington, DC, March 18–21 for FCNL's Spring Lobbying Weekend. The focus was on upcoming health care legislation (the Republican Health Care bill; the budget) that includes major cuts to Medicaid recipients and to those receiving essential food assistance through SNAP (the program that replaced food stamps).

We were encouraged to focus on personal stories when we lobbied; time and again we were told that stories are the most effective way to voice our opposition to cuts. And so I would like to encourage you to add your stories—either your own experiences or those of people you know and/or work with—to the Facebook page I have created for that purpose. Then please tell as many people as you know to do the same. Once we have a series of stories, I will let our senators, reps and state reps know.

For those of you who would like to know more about these programs and the proposed cuts, please check out the FCNL website (www.fcnl.org). And know that despite the negative press supporters of cuts have generated, these programs are exceptionally successful in reaching the neediest, with very little fraud/waste. They are, in the words of the many staffers who spoke about them, lean and effective. It is important that people reject any efforts to change the administration of the SNAP program—NO block grants or per capita caps—since this will prevent the flexibility this entitlement program depends upon to meet the needs of people when health care costs and the economy in general fluctuate.

The Facebook page is called: Save Medicaid/SNAP NC https://www.facebook.com/TellYourStoriesNC/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Questions: andreawuerth@bellsouth.net

News from School of the Spirit

School of the Spirit (SotS) welcome Jim Herr, their next administrator. Earlier this month, Jim and Mike spent several days together passing the baton of SotS's administration.

Jim is a graduate of the 9th class of the On Being a Spiritual Nurturer program. In 2015, he joined the SotS Board. Recently he was invited to be the Person-of-Presence at a residency of the current Spiritual Nurturer class and tells of a profound opening. "While in worship with them, it became very clear to me that I must do whatever I can to sustain this organization which transforms lives for the benefit of the whole Religious Society of Friends." From that leading, Jim was moved to apply to be Mike's successor as SotS's Administrator.

On being offered the position, Jim was clear to make a radical change in his life. "I retired from my 20 years selling advertising space for a trade paper that goes to farmers. Now I look forward to tending the relationships with SotS as a daily spiritual discipline." Jim continues to be active in his monthly meeting in Lancaster, PA, as well as serving on Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Quaker Life Council and on the Board of Trustees of Friends Journal.

Mike's release from his service with SotS is accompanied with a deep bow to all who have supported him over 17 years. "Among the many take aways are those moments of grace, particularly as a teacher, when hearts (my own and others) were opened and expanded into a new appreciation of God's infinite love." Mike, with his wife Marsha, will be Friends-in-Residence in Auckland, New Zealand, for a year beginning in October later this year.

SotS is looking for teachers for On Being A Spiritual Nurturer. The deadline for the search is April 9. For information and application instructions: http://schoolofthespirit.org/about/opportunity-core-teacher/

All Five High School Graduates of the Bolivian Quaker Residence Head toward University

This year all of the five high school graduates of the Bolivian Quaker Residence, three girls and two boys, are pointed toward university studies. "What's so unusual about that?" you might ask. If these were middle class American students, post-secondary study would be normal, even expected, but for these rural Quaker students, the very idea of a university education is extraordinary. All the students in the residence come from extremely isolated rural areas, far from any secondary school. At home they customarily speak the indigenous language Aymara, not Spanish.

For the last four years, these students who graduated have been staying in a supervised Quaker residence sponsored by the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund and attending high school in Sorata, a town of about 19,000 residents. Nestled in a picturesque valley northwest of La Paz at an altitude of 8,783 feet, Sorata offers good secondary education.

It all started with Benito. About ten years ago, Benito, a young Quaker, living in a remote hamlet some two thousand feet above Sorata, enrolled in a Sorata high school. Monday through Friday he hiked down the mountain and back to his home, two hours each way. After finishing high school, Benito performed the additional extraordinary feat of attending and graduating from a university in La Paz. Few teenagers from remote areas seemed likely to follow Benito's example. To facilitate access to high school, Benito suggested establishing a residence in Sorata where students could stay Monday through Friday, study in a local high school, and avoid a long daily commute. When an expatriate offered to sell his spacious house at an attractive price, Quakers seized the opportunity to convert Benito's dream into reality.

The early days were not easy. Unprepared by their poor elementary schools, the students struggled academically. Few girls were attracted to the residence. Tuesday and Thursday nights were times to let off steam. The students, both boys and girls, played soccer on a lighted municipal field. Shockingly in this Latin culture, a girl proved to be the best soccer player. Things changed for the better when Alicia Lucasi returned from Chapel Hill to Bolivia in 2009 after teaching Spanish for a year a Carolina Friends School. Alicia met with the teachers and brought in tutors. Grades improved. More girls joined the residence, but the students didn't have much interest in going to the university. The catalysts were Quaker university scholarship students who journeyed from La Paz. "You can become agronomists, engineers, and nurses," insisted the university students. "Not only will you earn a lot more money. You can give back to the community."

This year's two male graduates will have to do one year of compulsory military service before university, but they insist they will not lose sight of their goal. Conscientious objection does not yet exist in Bolivia, though our scholarship students may want to change that. Already, they have established Alternative to Violence Workshops in the prisons and in the three major cities. Last year they inaugurated a new Quaker Center in La Paz. And to keep the fires burning, our university graduates, grateful for their own scholarships, are funding scholarships for their successors. Our Bolivian scholarship students are giving back.

Recent Additions to the Library

The sun my heart : from mindfulness to insight contemplation

Nhất Hạnh, Thích.

Berkeley, Calif. : Parallax Press, c1988. Section in library: Prayer & Meditation

Peace is every step: the path of mindfulness in everyday life

Thích Nhất Hanh

New York, N.Y.: Bantam Books, c1991. Section in library: Prayer & Meditation

A Quaker couple in Nazi Germany: Leonhard Friedrich survives Buchenwald Bailey, J. E. Brenda

York: Sessions, c1994.

Section in library: Social Concerns

Great world religions: Islam

Esposito, John L.

Chantilly, VA: Teaching Co., c2003.

Section in library: Religions and Religious Thought

Patience and Determination: Tools for ending torture and seeking accountability

Fager, Chuck

Fayetteville, NC.: Quaker House, c2009

Section in library: Social Concerns

The journal of Elias Hicks

Hicks, Elias

San Francisco: Inner Light Books, c2009.

Section in library: Biography

John Woolman and the affairs of truth: the journalist's essays, epistles, and ephemera

Woolman, John

San Francisco, Calif.: Inner Light Books, c 2010.

Section in library: Biography

Study War Some More (If You Want To Work For Peace.)

Chuck Fager

Fayetteville, NC.: Quaker House, c2010

Section in library: Peace

Extra Casualties: The Military Industrial Complex and the Uncounted Human Cost of War

Austin-Scoggins, Mia

Fayetteville, NC.: Quaker House, c2011

Section in library: Social Concerns

The early Quakers and the 'Kingdom of God': peace, testimony and revolution

Guiton. Gerard

San Francisco: Inner Light Books, c2012.

Section in library: Quaker History

The Essential Elias Hicks

Buckley, Paul

San Francisco, California: Inner Light Books, \$\dar{b}\$ 2013. 2013

Section in library: Biography

Angels of progress: a documentary history of the Progressive Friends 1822-1940

Fager, Charles

Durham, N.C.: Kimo Press, c2014.

Section in library: Quaker History

Remaking Friends: How Progressive Friends Changed Quakerism & Helped

Save America, 1822-1940

Fager, Charles

Durham, NC: Kimo Press, c2014. Section in library: Quaker History

Our life is love : the quaker spiritual journey

Martin, Marcelle

San Francisco, CA: Inner Light Books, c2015. Section in library: Quaker Faith & Practice

Selma 1965: The March That Changed The South: 50th Anniversary Edition

Fager, Charles

CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. 4th Edition. C2015.

Section in library: Social Concerns

Climate change : what everyone needs to know

Romm, Joseph

Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, c2016.

Section in library: Environment

Life lessons from a bad Quaker: a humble stumble toward simplicity and grace

Bill. J. Brent

Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon Press, c.2016.

Section in library: Quaker Faith & Practice

Third reconstruction: how a moral movement is overcoming the politics of division and

fear

Barber, II William J.

Boston: Beacon Press, c2017. Section in library: Social Concerns

Friendly Sewing Repairs

Do you have a favorite sweater that has been nibbled by a moth? A button that spontaneously popped off a shirt? A seam that split the last time you laughed hard? Bring it to us for a free stitching repair!

Several Quaker women who enjoy doing handwork meet monthly – our gatherings keep us in stitches – including quilting, knitting, embroidery, crochet, needlepoint or just plain old mending. If you have something that needs a little stitching repair, please bring the article to Meeting or contact Catherine Alguire at alguire.catherine@gmail.com. We would be very happy to do small handwork repairs for you during our monthly fellowship.

Sign up for FCNL

The Friends Committee on National Legislation lobbies on our behalf in Washington, DC. The P&J Committee encourages Friends to sign up for and respond to Friends Committee on National Legislation Action Alerts at http://act.fcnl.org/signup/signup-action-alerts.

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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. Those who do will be first in line for potluck. Thank you.

Reminder: Eno Friends Meeting of Hillsborough

The Eno Friends Meeting of Hillsborough meets on Sundays at 11 AM at the small building at 121 West Margaret Lane. There is parking next door at the library. This group has a minute of support from our meeting.

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. We are always looking for suggestions for new books to add to our library. Thank you. The Library Committee

Friends House Moscow

Friends House Moscow in the Russian Federation (www.friendshousemoscow.org) welcomes applicants with basic Russian language skills for 3-month internships. "Friends House Moscow funds projects for peace and civil society ... in a variety of areas including human rights, education, restorative justice, and non-violent communication [furthering] social goals such as grass-roots collaboration, equality and non-violence." Interested prospective applicants can contact FHM Board Member Karen Porter (in Carrboro) at karenporteresq@gmail.com for further information.

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, March 19, 2017 Matt Drake, Clerk, and Jennifer Leeman, Recording Clerk

Attendance: Cristobal Palmer, Faye Stanley, Chris Stanley, Alice Carton, Dave Curtin, Curt Torell, Richard Miller, Maria Darlington, Bobbie Ackley, Kitty Bergel, Dottie Heninger, Karen Porter, Ken Grogan, Deborah Gibbs, Ann Miller, Julia Cleaver, Robin Harper, James Harper, Carolyn White, Carolyn Stuart, Jan Hutton, Asta Crowe, Kristi Webb, Todd Woerner, Lynn Drake, Naveed Moeed, Tom Ludlow, Hank Elkins, Joyce Munk, Bettie Flash, Tom McQuiston, James Boney, Paul Munk, Ronald Carnes, Demoris Tucker, Christopher Baldwin, Maria Palmer, Matt Drake, Jennifer Leeman

- 1. Welcome, recognition of first time attenders, Cristobal Palmer, Maria Palmer, Demoris Tucker, and Ronald Carnes.
- 2. Minutes of the February 19, 2017 MWAB. The minutes were **Approved with corrections to the spelling of two attendee's names.** Grace Schneider's Conscientious Objector letter that was presented in February will be published in next month's newsletter.
- 3. Karen Porter has asked the Birmingham (PA) Monthly Meeting to transfer her membership to our Meeting. Matt read a letter from Birmingham Meeting in Pennsylvania transferring Karen's membership to our Meeting. A Friend spoke in recognition of Karen's long history of work for peace and justice. Karen shared about her journey to Quakerism and to our Meeting. She feels like our meeting is a homecoming and that this is where she belongs. **Friends approved Karen Porter's transfer.** The corresponding clerk, Emilie Condon, will write letters a) to inform the issuing meeting that CHFM has accepted the transfer of membership and b) to welcome the transferring member. A welcoming committee was formed that includes Alice Carlton (clerk), Hank Elkins, and Carolyn Stuart. Karen will provide a brief bio for the newsletter.
- 4. Joe Kirstein and Jo Ann Hundley requested a transfer of their membership to the University Presbyterian Church, Chapel Hill. **Friends approved the Clerk writing a letter of transfer.** Joe and Jo Ann were active in our Meeting years ago and while they have fond memories of our Meeting they enjoy attending the Presbyterian Church.
- 5. Jennifer Rioux requested membership. Matt Drake read Jennifer's letter requesting membership. As is our practice, he will send the letter to Ministry and Worship. Ministry and Worship will explore whether she is already a member of another meeting, a possibility referenced in her letter, and create a membership clearness committee as needed. She is also requesting familial membership for her son Lorenzo.
- 6. Evangeline Rioux requested membership. Matt Drake read Evangeline's letter, which will be sent to Ministry and Worship to create a membership clearness committee.
- 7. Returning Citizens Financial Assistance Committee annual report. Jennifer Leeman, Committee Clerk, read the report. At the request of Friends, she also explained that the fund was established about two years ago to provide support for men upon their release from Orange Correctional Center. **The report was accepted with gratitude.**

- 8. Peace & Justice Committee's (P&J) recommendation for a process for determining benevolences under their care. Naveed Moeed, Committee Co-clerk, read the proposal for a new process. He noted that Peace and Justice created a subcommittee to consider this process that included members of P&J, Naveed Moeed, Tom Munk, Nancy Elkins, and Hank Elkins, and the following at-large members - Asta Crowe, Jennifer Leeman, and Dorothy Heninger. The subcommittee considered the current process and considered what the benevolences and organizations that receive our support mean to us. About 30% of our Meeting funds go to benevolences. The subcommittee also considered input provided at during a worship sharing at a prior Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. The process applies to P&J benevolences. If a new benevolences is proposed by a Friend, it will go to business meeting to determine whether it should be considered by P&J or by one of the other two committees with benevolences (Adult Religious Education and Ministry & Worship. A concern was raised about requiring two forums a year, given the shortage of forum time. Two forums would be needed only in the initial year and one thereafter. A revision was suggested that the document state that P&J will "request forums", with understanding that allocation of forum time is under the purview of Adult Religious Education. The Meeting approved the new process with a revision that P&J will request forums. Gratitude was expressed for the work of the subcommittee. The process will be put in place for 2017-2018 benevolences. And the Meeting laid down the subcommittee.
- 8. Peace & Justice Committee's recommendation for the 2017 benevolences under their care. Naveed Moeed, Committee Co-clerk, presented the report. Naveed noted that the overall amount available for benevolences was reduced due to an earlier Meeting decision to contribute \$500 of benevolences to a project in Haiti. He requested that emergency funds not be spent out of benevolences in the future, and that the Meeting look at alternative ways to support emergency needs (individual donations, contingency funds, fund raiser). Naveed presented two possible distributions for benevolence spending in the current year budget (2016-2017). In the first, the benevolences are allocated similarly to this past year, with the reduction of \$500 in available funding spread across them. The second proposal reallocates funding to provide additional dollars for Quaker House, which has lost a major donor and is in dire need. P&J recommends the second budget, which takes money away from Carolina Friends School and People of Faith Against the Death Penalty and puts it toward Quaker House. Friends were encouraged to send their questions to P&J, including their perspectives on where else to cut to meet Quaker House needs. Curt Torell reported on yesterday's Quaker House board meeting where they learned that the crisis hotline workload has increased dramatically as reservists are being told that they will be called up. Curt also noted that our Meeting started Quaker House. P&J meets on the 2nd First Day of every month and would be good to get Friends' input prior to their next meeting. The decision on benevolence spending was held over to April.
- 9. Hospitality Committee annual report, Elizabeth Taylor, Co-clerk. Q & A. Deferred.
- 10. The Clerk, Matt Drake, thanked Friends who attended and helped support the Piedmont Friends Fellowship (PFF) Annual Retreat and Piedmont Yearly Meeting on March 10-12 at Carolina Friends School. Julia Cleaver reported that she was appointed to epistle committee for the retreat/meeting and asked Friends to let her know if they have something to share from their experience at the retreat/annual meeting.

11. Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM) annual report. Alice Carlton, PFYM representative, read the annual report. In addition to Alice Carlton, other Meeting representatives include Naveed Moeed and Emilie Condon. Friends accepted the report with appreciation. A Friend expressed appreciation for the work of the representatives and a request to keep the meeting informed. Another Friend asked about the PFYM handbook. The handbook is posted on the PFYM website. Naveed reported that he is a member of the handbook committee and that the PFYM plans to explore monthly meetings adopting it into their yearly meetings.

11. We closed with announcements followed by worship.

Grace Schneider's Conscientious Objector Letter

To the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting,

On October 28th, 2016, I officially relinquished my childhood. This came with some benefits: I could sign my own field trip permission forms for school, vote in the presidential election, and start coming up with excuses to get out of jury duty. My birthday was also a stark reminder of the reality my male peers had looming over their own celebrations; eighteen is the deadline of registration for the Selective Service. Currently, women do not have to register, so I was exempt on the grounds of my gender, but the whole circumstance got me thinking. This letter is the culmination of many months of just that.

I am opposed to my personal involvement in any and all war, whether I'm firing the weapon myself, or in any way aiding those that are. I was raised in a faith community where I was taught there is something sacred within each and every human being, without exception. To kill another person, directly or indirectly, kills what I was taught to value--human life.

I was reminded of this reality a few weeks ago when my best friend from nerd camp, informed me she had received a gun license. Now my friend, a young woman who does not eat meat unless the animal has been fairly raised and ethically slaughtered, is the last person I can see getting a gun license. And I have to admit, I felt betrayed.

I really, really don't like guns. Guns help people dehumanize each other. They allow us to kill one another at a physical distance, and with that physical distance, we can emotionally distance ourselves from the person whose life we are ending.

We often ask how people are able to slaughter their neighbors during a genocide. That is unthinkable to most of us: "How are you able to kill people you used to live next door to?"

We don't ask the same question of people in war. Maybe because we assume that war is not fought against our peers but those fundamentally different from us. War encourages dehumanization of the enemy. We teach people to not think of the human life they are silencing but of the dogma, the patriotism, the safety, the thrill, or the service. War is complex, but these do not justify the of killing people nor the destroying of communities.

My grandmother grew up near Munich, with her two older brothers. There's a picture of all of them hanging in our living room. I grew up hearing my grandmother's stories of how her brothers used to steal their dad's tools and blame her for the missing items.

As World War II dawned, my grandmother, her two brothers, and her mother fled Germany for England. See, my great-grandmother was English by birth, so they thought they could find refuge there. They did, my grandmother and her mother at least. The boys, who were German citizens of military age, were turned away.

So the question arises of who killed my uncles. Was it the soldier who shot at two Germans somewhere on the Russian front? Or was it England, when they turned them away, knowing that meant return to Germany and enlistment. They were my age.

I grew up asking who the people in the old photo were. And I grew up learning the story this way: "when you are older, you will be taught a narrative about the good guys and the bad guys. It's called war. Never forget, it is a just narrative." It's a belief that resonates with me to this day.

The person on the other side of the line has a life equally complex and valuable as my own. I don't ever want to forget that. So I don't ever want to participate in war.

Back to my friend, because her story really encapsulates a struggle I had while writing this letter. Not only is she incredibly smart and a terrible dancer, she's a Muslim living in rural North Carolina. And given the political climate of this past year, I can see why the strange looks she got as a child might have escalated into full-on glares.

To feel that you can be safe without a gun in your hands is a privilege. To feel like your life, and lives of those you care about, are safe without you participating in a war is a privilege. It does not mean conscientious objection is easy, but I feel the need to recognize those who face even greater consequences than I for maintaining such beliefs.

My friend went on the explain to me that she had offered to help a new boy find the room of a club he was looking for, only to discover said club was her school's rifle association. Attempting to leave, she was waylaid by her principal, the staff organizer of the club, who was overjoyed to see her supposed interest. You know those people who are bad at saying no? Yeah, that's my friend--especially when it comes to her principal. Despite being horrified, she sat through 7 hours of safety lectures, shot a clay plate, and made her principal's day. I asked her about it, she thinks she will take up art club. They meet on the same day, so she has an excuse to guit now.

It's not until you hear about being alone that you recognize the value of a community that supports you. And I am very, very lucky to have one in the Quaker Meeting. Please keep this letter on record as a declaration of my beliefs. Thank you for being part of this journey.

Sincerely, Grace Schneider, Sunday, February 19th, 2017

Karen Porter's Bio

Karen Porter has transferred membership from Birmingham Friends Meeting in West Chester, PA - https://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/birmingham-friends-meeting. She moved to Carrboro last summer to be near her son and his wife. A graduate of George Washington University and Northeastern University School of Law, she grew up in St. Albans, West Virginia. In 2002 she organized, then managed until recently, The Chester County Peace Movement in Pennsylvania and, before becoming a Quaker, was very active in the Episcopal Church. After working in corporate and insurance law and law school administration and publishing over a 40-year career, Karen has devoted her seven years of retirement to teaching Anglo/American law to foreign lawyers and graduate students in the U.S., but also primarily in Russia - www.pericles.ru. She is on the board of Friends House Moscow - www.friendshousemoscow.org, co-chairs Indivisible Orange County NC, and serves on two Carrboro Town boards.

Returning Citizens Financial Assistance Committee (ReCFAC) Report for April 2016 – March 2017

Since we last reported in March 2016, ReCFAC has approved \$991 to cover costs for items and services purchased to support returning citizens. We currently have \$1,042 in the ReCFAC account. Over the past year, the ReCFAC fund supported five returning citizens. The most common expenses were for clothing required for a new job, toiletries, phones, legal documentation, and bicycle supplies. One returning citizen required assistance with other legal expenses. We have deviated from our initial guidelines, which required that expenses be pre-approved by a support committee within the context of a comprehensive planning/budgeting process for the returning citizen. In practice, returning citizens have immediate needs upon release, and those needs cannot wait for a support circle to convene. As a result, we typically approve expenses after they have been made by those supporting returning citizens. To date, requests have been modest and well within expectations. We therefore are comfortable proceeding with an informal, adhoc approval process. Friends involved with the support for returning citizens have told us that the ReCFAC fund helps them to be able to say that the Meeting, and not the Friend, is covering the costs and making decisions about what will and will not be covered, which preserves the nature of their relationship with the returning citizen. Although this committee involves only a limited time investment from its members, the committee and the fund continue to play an important role. Submitted by Asta Crowe, Nancy Milio, Pam Schwingl, Richard Miller, Gwynne Pomeroy, Jennifer Leeman (clerk)

Jennifer Rioux's Membership Letter

March 10, 2017

Dear Ministry and Oversight:

At this time, myself and my children would like to request membership in the Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting. They will write letters on their own behalf as well.

I have been Quaker all my life, as my parents converted to Quakersim when I was a baby, due to the tumult brought about by their interfaith marriage. My father was Catholic and my mother was Methodist and the priest advised my father's family not to attend the wedding. This experience of religion becoming a barrier in relationships caused them to explore other faiths and they settled on Quakersim due to their commitments to pacifism and social justice. I began my life in the Detroit Monthly Meeting until the age of 7 when I moved to Maryland and became a member of the Sandy Spring Meeting. It's my understanding that my membership there may still be on the books. I have been back to Sandy Spring many, many times, where my parents have burial plots in the beautiful cemetery and where my Mother's ashes were interred in 2013.

My family came to live in Chapel Hill in 2002 and I was active as a First Day School Teacher until our departure due to job prospects elsewhere in 2010. We then began attending the Tucson Meeting, where I was still active with FDS and Hospitality from 2010 to 2013. In 2013, we moved to Albuquerque, where I had attended the Meeting from 1993-2001 during my years in graduate school. We stayed there for two years until 2015, when we moved back to Chapel Hill, hopefully to stay!

I also attended Quaker educational institutions, which are near and dear to my heart: George School and Friends World College. These experiences shaped me profoundly and have provided some of the guiding principles of my life and informed the decisions I have made. Now that we are back in Chapel Hill, where my kids began their lives and they have reconnected with the Meeting, it seems only right that we should seek to formalize our membership, as individuals and as a family.

I believe that formal membership will create a container for our spiritual pursuits and practices, which we have cultivated to be a critical component of our family life. As a mother, Quakerism has provided that nurturing space as my children and I have moved across the country and through many challenges in our lives. Our Quaker faith and practice have provided stability in difficult times, a sense of belonging and understanding, and simple repetitions of ritual that accounts for the rhythms we have committed to that shape our identities. I consider myself both spiritual and religious and Quakerism embraces both. Quakerism has been the lighthouse in a storm for me on many occasions, bringing me back to what matters most and to the guidance that I find in silent contemplative worship. Constantly seeking for the light within myself and others is often a challenging task, but the right spiritual task for me, and I commit to it again and again. I look forward to engaging in the membership consideration process with you.

Sincerely, Jennifer Rioux

Evangeline Rioux's Membership Letter

Dear Ministry and Worship Committee,

March 14, 2017

I am writing this letter to request an adult membership in this meeting. I am at the stage in my life in which I am beginning to plan for my life as a self-sufficient adult and I feel strongly that this meeting is something I would like to carry with me into my adult life. I have been attending this meeting since I was about two years old and even after my family and I moved away for six years, when I came back it still felt like home. Something that I find completely magical is the fact that the children I played with outside before we got the new playground are the exact same children I am currently planning service trips with. The parents whose houses I went to for all-girls Quaker sleepovers are the same parents who are still teaching first day school and still shaping my life. One of the things I value so much about Quakerism is the consistency. I have moved many times over the course of my life, attended many different schools, and met a lot of people. The place that never fails to make me feel welcome no matter whether in Tucson or Grand Rapids is the Meeting House. The people who never fail to make me feel like I have friends are Quakers.

In moments when all else in my life seems to be out of my control, whether it be homework or sports or friend drama or you name it, I always have a positive part of my Sundays to look forward to. When the topic of church comes up in conversation with my friends, they often treat church like an obligatory duty or even a punishment that they just have to get over with. I have never been able to relate to that. For me, meeting is a safe space in every sense of the word. I don't have to worry about what people think of me or what they see when they look at me because I know they see the Light. I don't have to worry about pretending to be someone I'm not or be interested in things that I'm not interested in, because the focus of first day school is taking our interests and finding ways to better the community in those areas. Most importantly however, when I am at meeting, the focus and the pressure is not on me at all. My primary focus is compassion for those around me and a will to give.

One of the fundamental principles in Quakerism, the idea that there is that of God in everyone, is a concept that I have tried to center every aspect of my life around. Attending monthly SAYF retreats for the past six months has allowed me a space in which to integrate my everyday life with my spiritual practice. The other Quaker teenagers that I have met through these retreats have inspired me in a way that I didn't know my peers could. The group of people that attend SAYF is so diverse yet so close-knit, that in some cases the Light within is the biggest thing two SAYFers have in common. In my opinion, a bond like that is so incredibly special because you will have a whole network of people who respect you and understand you as an individual long after you graduate the community. When I return home from a SAYF retreat, I find myself inside this bubble of Quaker love, and I used to think that I had to pop that bubble and return to the real world and I dreaded it. I learned however, that letting go of that feeling was not inevitable and I could in fact carry that Light with me to school and to work and everywhere I went. And that, I think, is the most valuable lesson I have learned from Quakerism so far. No matter where I am, or what's going on around me, I can always fall back on the generosity of my Friends.

Sincerely, Evangeline Rioux

Returning Citizens Financial Assistance Committee Annual Report

See page 14.

Peace and Justice Proposal for a New Process

BENEVOLENCES FOR CHAPEL HILL FRIENDS MEETING

MISSION:

The Chapel Hill Friends Meeting selects benevolences to support each year. This process starts in time to allow full participation and timely discernment before our budget preparation for the current fiscal year.

Meeting benevolences reflect the embrace of our Meeting and are not directed by individual preferences for giving. It is recognized that individuals within our Meeting have their own discretion to donate to their favorite charities. The purpose of Meeting benevolences is to provide support to organizations that are widely accepted as expressing our corporate values and commitments.

The Peace and Justice Committee will seek to maintain the following criteria for selecting new benevolences:

- Quaker organizations
- Local organizations that reflect our Meeting's values and that are widely embraced by activities in the Meeting
- Organizations that are well known to CHFM and have been presented to the Meeting (for example through: forums, announcements, individual/group involvement shared with the Meeting, participation on boards).

Each organization benefiting from a benevolent donation from the Meeting will be reviewed in detail every 3 years.

Peace and Justice will arrange a Benevolences subcommittee each year, with a rotating membership consisting of two members of Peace and Justice and two members of the Meeting at-large, appointed by Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. This subcommittee will:

- o Accept and thresh new benevolence nominations
- o Accept and thresh requests to have benevolences removed
- o Discern based on the information provided, the organization's financial state, alignment with corporate values of CHFM and the amount allocated to benevolences.

PROCESS:

August: Each year the Peace and Justice Committee will form a Benevolences sub-committee consisting of two members of Peace and Justice and two members of the Meeting at-large, appointed by Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

September: The Benevolences sub-committee will accept the nomination of organizations. Submissions will be provided using the form attached. This process will be publicized and the form made available on the Meeting website. In the first year of this process a forum will also be held at this time to introduce the process. Peace and Justice may repeat this in subsequent years based on need.

December: The period for accepting new benevolences for the current fiscal year shall end.

January: The Benevolence subcommittee will report on the nominated benevolences and prepare a statement noting the suggested amounts. The Peace and Justice Committee will hold a forum in January to review the principles for selecting benevolences and for assessing the Meeting's direction in naming benevolences. Prior to the forum a list of the recommended benevolences and suggested amounts will be published on the Meeting website.

- The forum will include the opportunity for Meeting members/attenders to discuss those benevolences which have been recommended
- Peace and Justice will make its final recommendation based on the information gathered above no later than mid-March. Peace and Justice will then make its recommendation to MWAB at the 3rd month MWAB.

<u>WHOM TO CONTACT:</u> Queries regarding this process or regarding benevolences in general should be addressed to peaceandjustice@chapelhillfriends.org

CHAPEL HILL FRIENDS MEETING – FORM FOR CONSIDERING BENEVOLENCES

ADDING A NEW BENEVOLENCE:
1) DATE
2) NAME
3) I would like to suggest that the following organization be considered to receive benevolences from CHFM:
4) Please describe briefly (no more than a paragraph) what this organization does:
5) It would be helpful for us to know if you attended the forum presented by Peace and Justice in September on the Benevolence process. (yes or no)
6) I have read the document about selecting benevolences. (yes or no)
7) CHECK ALL THAT APPLY: I support this organization because It is a Quaker organization; It reflects our Meeting's values and commitments It is well known to the Meeting through forums, member and attender engagement, etc.
8) Describe how the CHFM has become aware of this organization over the last year. Examples include: Have there been forums about the organization's work? Individual participation on the board of the organization? Meeting committee participation? Other Meeting engagement with the organization? Have

REMOVING AN EXISTING BENEVOLENCE

such involvements been shared with the Meeting?

9) I would like to suggest that the following organization be removed from the CHFM's list of benevolences. Explain why, indicating for instance criteria that are no longer being satisfied (e.g. no longer a Quaker organization, no longer fits Meeting values and commitments).

Queries regarding this form or regarding benevolences in general should be addressed to peaceandjustice@chapelhillfriends.org. Submit this form to Peace and Justice no later than December 15th.

Two Possible Distributions for Benevolence Spending

CHFM Beneveolences 2017 - same as last year (2016)

Benevolences Recommended by the Peace and Justice Committee	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Proportions 2016	Proportions 2017
Carolina Friends School	\$5,000	\$5,130	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$4,849	20.4%	20.0%
Interfaith Council	\$6,600	\$6,730	\$6,600	\$6,600	\$6,401	26.9%	26.4%
Quaker House	\$4,350	\$4,530	\$4,350	\$4,350	\$4,219	17.7%	17.4%
Friends Comm. on Natl. Legislation	\$2,650	\$2,730	\$2,650	\$2,650	\$2,570	10.8%	10.6%
Amer. Friends Service Committee	\$1,800	\$1,880	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,746	7.3%	7.2%
NC WARN	\$1,350	\$0	\$1,000	\$2,200	\$2,134	%0'6	8.8%
Bolivian Quaker Education Fund	\$670	\$750	\$670	\$670	\$650	2.7%	2.7%
Alamance/Orange Prison Ministry	\$270	\$320	\$270	\$370	\$328	1.5%	1.5%
People of Faith Against The Death Penalty	06\$	\$120	06\$	06\$	\$87	0.4%	0.4%
Right Sharing of World Resources	06\$	\$120	06\$	06\$	484	0.4%	0.4%
Orange County Justice United in Community Effort (Orange JUICE)	06\$	\$295	\$300	\$320	\$310	1.3%	1.3%
Planned Parenthood of Central NC	\$45	\$300	\$300	\$320	\$310	1.3%	1.3%
Orange County Peace Coalition	\$45	\$70	\$45	\$20	\$48	0.2%	0.2%
Total Recommended by the Peace & Justice Committee	\$24,620	\$24,645	\$24,645	\$24,510	\$23,770	100.0%	%6'26
Adjustment by the Meeting	0\$	\$0	0\$	0\$	\$500	%0.0	2.1%
							\$0
Friends General Conference - M&W	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$650	\$650		\$0
Friends Journal - M&W	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200		\$0
Piedmont Friends Fellowship - M&W	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$400	\$400		\$0
School of The Spirit - M&W	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200		\$0
FLGBTQC - M&W	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100		\$0
Friends Center at Guilford College - ARE	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150	\$150		\$0
Total Recommended M&W and ARE	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,700	\$1,700		\$0
Total	\$26,020	\$26,045	\$26,045	\$26,210	\$25,970		

CHFM Beneveolences 2017 - consideration for Quaker House

Benevolences Recommended by the Peace and Justice Committee	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Proportions 2016	Proportions 2017
Carolina Friends School	\$5,000	\$5,130	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$3,155	20.4%	13.0%
Interfaith Council	\$6,600	\$6,730	\$6,600	\$6,600	\$6,401	76.9%	26.4%
Quaker House	\$4,350	\$4,530	\$4,350	\$4,350	\$6,000	17.7%	24.7%
Friends Comm. on Natl. Legislation	\$2,650	\$2,730	\$2,650	\$2,650	\$2,570	10.8%	10.6%
Amer. Friends Service Committee	\$1,800	\$1,880	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,746	7.3%	%7.7
NC WARN	\$1,350	\$0	\$1,000	\$2,200	\$2,134	%0'6	%8'8
Bolivian Quaker Education Fund	029\$	\$750	\$670	\$670	\$650	2.7%	7.2%
Alamance/Orange Prison Ministry	\$270	\$320	\$270	\$370	\$328	1.5%	1.5%
People of Faith Against The Death Penalty	06\$	\$120	06\$	06\$	\$87	0.4%	%†'0
Right Sharing of World Resources	06\$	\$120	06\$	06\$	\$81	0.4%	%4′0
Orange County Justice United in Community Effort (Orange JUICE)	06\$	\$295	\$300	\$320	\$310	1.3%	1.3%
Planned Parenthood of Central NC	\$45	\$300	\$300	\$320	\$310	1.3%	1.3%
Orange County Peace Coalition	\$45	\$70	\$45	\$20	\$48	0.2%	0.2%
Total Recommended by the Peace & Justice Committee	\$24,620	\$24,645	\$24,645	\$24,510	\$23,770	100.0%	%6'26
Adjustment by the Meeting	0\$	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	%0'0	2.1%
							0\$
Friends General Conference - M&W	009\$	\$600	\$600	\$650	\$650		0\$
Friends Journal - M&W	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200		0\$
Piedmont Friends Fellowship - M&W	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$400	\$400		0\$
School of The Spirit - M&W	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200		0\$
FLGBTQC - M&W	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100		0\$
Friends Center at Guilford College - ARE	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150	\$150		\$0
Total Recommended M&W and ARE	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,700	\$1,700		\$0
Total	\$26,020	\$26,045	\$26,045	\$26,210	\$25,970		

Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting Representatives Annual Report March 2017

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting joined the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM) in 2015. PFYM is an openly inclusive Quaker yearly meeting seeking to be of service to monthly meetings and worship groups in the Piedmont region of North Carolina and adjacent areas in Virginia and South Carolina. PFYM relies on Piedmont Friends Fellowship (PFF) for fellowship programming in conjunction with the Yearly Meeting.

CHMM Representatives attend the four PFYM Interim Meetings in June, August (jointly with PFF Reps), November, and February to take care of business and plan the PFYM Annual Meeting which takes place the second weekend in March. The Reps communicate between CHMM and the PFYM.

PFYM member Meetings include Chapel Hill Meeting, Charlotte Meeting, Fancy Gap Meeting in Virginia, New Garden Meeting in Greensboro, Raleigh Meeting and Salem Creek Meeting in Winston-Salem and Upstate Meeting in South Carolina. At this year's Annual Meeting, we welcomed Abingdon Meeting in Virginia and Eno Friends Meeting in Hillsborough (newly recognized as a Monthly Meeting) to affiliation with PFYM. This brings our total Meetings to nine.

Marian Bean (Charlotte Meeting) serves as PFYM Clerk, Gary Hornsby (Salem Creek Meeting) as Assistant Clerk and Rising Clerk, and Julie Stafford (Charlotte Meeting) serves as Recording Clerk. There are several Committees/Working Groups: Policy & Procedures prepares the PFYM Handbook (a work in progress), Statistical & Status Reports collects Spiritual Condition and statistical/status reports, Communications & Website posts to the PFYM Website and tends to other communications needs, Peace & Social Concerns Witness is setting up a system for member Meetings to join together around issues of concern, Nominating Committee fills these committees, Naming Committee fills the Nominating Committee. There are also representatives to Quaker organizations including American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and Friends World Committee for Consultation.

At the PFYM Second Annual Meeting, a highlight this year was hearing each Meeting share out of the silence responses to the query: What has been most on the hearts of your meeting this year? Hearing these reports allows Meetings who may be struggling with some issues to discuss these with other Meetings who may have helpful experience to share. We also remembered those who have passed from out midst during this year. There is also an opportunity for individual meetings to bring social concerns and invite the Yearly Meeting to join in affirming these concerns. Two were brought this year, one from Raleigh Meeting in support of Guilford College's Every Campus a Refuge initiative, which we found unity to affirm, and one from Charlotte Meeting in support of the work of the NC Commission of inquiry on Torture, which was referred to Interim Meeting for further discernment. Concerns are best sent in advance to Interim Meeting for consideration before coming to the Annual Meeting. We appointed an Epistle Committee to write a summary of PFYM Annual Meeting that will be shared widely with others in the Quaker World. Reports from committees and working groups filled the rest of our time. During the mid-afternoon break, there were workshops by Quaker House, AFSC, FCNL, and FGC. We ended again with a group photo.

Submitted by Representatives: Alice Carlton, Emilie Condon, Naveed Moeed

Calendar

(All events at Meetinghouse unless otherwise indicated.)

Sun. 4/2 Tue. 4/4 Thur. 4/6 Fri. 4/7	8:30am 9:45am 11am 11am 12:30pm 7–8pm 9am–1pm 5–6pm	Meeting for Worship (Early) Forum: Dissent, Discuss, Deal Meeting for Worship (Late) Meeting for Worship—Carol Woods Potluck—Schoolhouse Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation—Call Hank Elkins CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter Vigil for Peace & Justice—E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
Sun. 4/9 Tue. 4/11 Fri. 4/14	8:30am 9:45am 11am 11am 7–8pm 5–6pm	Meeting for Worship (Early) Forum: Quaker Cooking Show Meeting for Worship (Late) Meeting for Worship—Carol Woods Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation—Call Hank Elkins Vigil for Peace & Justice—E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
Sun. 4/16 Tue. 4/18 Fri. 4/21 Fri. 4/21–Sa	8am 8:30am 9:00am 11am 11am 7–8pm 5–6pm at. 4/22	Meeting for Worship (Early) Meeting for Worship w/Attention to Business Meeting for Worship (Late) Meeting for Worship—Carol Woods Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation—Call Hank Elkins Vigil for Peace & Justice—E. Franklin & Elliot Rd Silent Retreat (see page 2)
Sun. 4/23 Fri. 4/28	8:30am 9:45am 11am 11am noon 2pm 5–6pm	Meeting for Worship (Early) Forum: Earth Day: Biodiversity Meeting for Worship (Late) Meeting for Worship—Carol Woods Families and Friends Affected by Mental Illness—Schoolhouse CROP Walk (see page 3) Vigil for Peace & Justice—E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
Sun. 4/30 Tue. 5/2 Thur. 5/4 Fri. 5/5	8:30am 9:45am 11am 11am 10pm 7–8pm 9am–1pm 5–6pm	Meeting for Worship (Early) Forum: CHFM Renovation Preparation Meeting for Worship (Late) Meeting for Worship—Carol Woods Deadline To Turn In Items For Newsletter! Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation—Call Hank Elkins CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter 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 11:00 AM
Forum at 9:45am; Child Care from 9:30 AM–12:15 PM
First Day School from 11:15 AM–12:00 PM
Clerk of the Meeting: Matt Drake (919) 968-0044
Resident: John Hite (919) 929-5377

- Newsletter. This newsletter is published every first Sunday under the care of the Publications and Communications 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 10 PM 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.
- E-news. To send a news or "In the Light" announcement in the Meeting's e-news, contact news@chapelhillfriends.org. Please include "e-news" or "in the light" in the subject line. This e-news goes to about 280 people. Do not submit personal information about someone else unless you know he/she wants to share. Subscribe to the e-news at www.chapelhillfriends.org/contact.html.
- Website. To get items posted on our website, send them to news@chapelhillfriends.org.