

ARE Annual Report 2020  
September 2020

The Adult Religious Education Committee works to enhance the spiritual life of the Meeting community and to nurture the spiritual and intellectual growth of Meeting members. One of our main functions is to provide weekly forums on different topics connecting us to each other, our Quaker faith and practice, and to our role in the greater world. We ask committee clerks to suggest ideas for forum topics. We also consider suggestions from members and attenders, and ideas generated by committee members.

We attempt to provide a rich range of topics and periodically review the representation of different types of topics. Some forums fall into several categories. Between fall of 2019 and spring of 2020, forums fell into these categories: personal sharing (4), Quaker faith and practice (12), small group sharing (5), timely topics (5), outside speakers (8), social focus (6), wider community focus (4), CHFM committee (9), and community nurturing (8).

The committee works with the Publications Committee and Ministry and Worship Committees to ensure that forums are announced in a timely fashion. Forums are listed in the newsletter, on the Meeting's website and announced at the rise of both Meetings for Worship. Normally, upcoming forums are also listed above the donation box in the foyer.

The committee welcomes suggestions for forum topics as well as suggestions for improvement. We thank the committee clerks and Meeting members for their forum suggestions as well as their willingness to prepare and lead. We invite Friends to attend the forums as a handy and valuable way to enrich their spiritual lives. Normally, child care is available during forum time.

This year the Adult Religious Education Committee had the unique challenge of adapting forums following the pandemic shutdown. After cancelling only one forum, we moved to remote meetings, with wonderful support from the Zoom working group. Responding to our need for community during these isolating months, ARE continued offering forums during the summer months, when they have not traditionally been held due to low attendance.

Although we have not kept attendance records, participation in these zoom forums frequently exceeds 40 persons and is probably larger on average than our in-person forums. Another benefit is that meeting electronically has made it easier for outside presenters to speak, including staff from Quaker House, and Derek Smith from NC A&T. Some of the zoom-enabled forums were particularly delightful because of the format, including Worship Sharing with Attention to Animals, and the First Day School Reunion.

In July we appreciated the contributions of departing committee members, Catherine Alguire, Dirk Kelder, and Carolyn White. We welcomed new members Lori Fernald Kahmala, Tom Munk, and Mark Toles. Continuing members are Max Drake, Deborah Gibbs (clerk), Jennifer Leeman, and Naveed Moeed.

**Forums for August 2019 through July 2020 are listed below.**

Aug 25: **Summer Reflections.** Small group sharing

Sept 1: **Labor Today,** Tom McQuiston.

Sept 8: **Justice United,** Devin Ross, Justice United.

Sept 22: **The Book of Revelation.** Wes Daniels, Director of Friends Center at Guilford.

Sept 29: **Earth in Crisis: How to Respond?** Hart Pillow, Dirk Kelder and Betsy Downing, members of Citizens Climate Collaborative group.

Oct 6: **Making sense and making peace in the midst of chaos: Integrating psychology and cosmology to heal the culture wars,** Brad Kershner, Head, Chapel Hill Early School.

Oct 13: **FCNL peace and justice update,** Nancy Milio.

Oct 27: **Mental Illness and Addiction: The effect of stigma on our ability to listen without judgment and share with courage,** Tom Ludlow

Nov 3: **Heading for Extinction and What to do About It,** Betsey Downing and Nate Abel, Extinction Rebellion (XR)

Nov 10: **Storytelling - ending violence in our own families,** Judith Valerie, Professional storyteller.

Nov 24: **Gratitude Forum,** featuring first day school students.

Dec 1: **Intentional Gifting,** CHFM teens.

Dec 8: **Home grown poetry from Chapel Hill Friends Meeting.** Dirk Kelder, Alice Carlton, and Kitty Bergel.

Dec 22: **Holiday sing,** Peter White and Faye Stanley.

Dec 29: **The winter solstice: How the shortest days of the year connect us to our place in nature.** Carolyn and Peter White.

Jan 5: **Personal Sharing,** Tom Ludlow.

Jan 12: **Making Them Visible: Recognizing, Supporting, and Advocating for Children of Incarcerated and Returning Parents**, Melissa Radcliff, Our Children's Place.

Jan 26: **CHFM Renovations: Past and Future**, Bob Durovich for Building and Grounds.

Feb 2: **Complicating Legacies: Slavery, Equity, & Inclusion on a Southern Quaker Campus**. Krishauna Hines-Gaither, Guilford College's Associate Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Gwen Gosney Erickson, Quaker Librarian and Archivist.

Feb 9: **Opportunities to be engaged in the wider Quaker world**. Meeting members representing Friends General Conference, Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, School of the Spirit and Pendle Hill.

Feb 23: **Quakerism, the foundation of Carolina Friends School**, Joanna Sisk Purvis. CFS staff, students, and board members.

Mar 1: **Personal sharing**: Nancy Milio.

Mar 8: **Spiritual Self-Care**: Kitty Bergel, Leslie Rountree, Jeff Brown of Ministry and Worship Committee.

Mar 22: cancelled

Mar 29: **How to Listen for a Leading**, Quakerspeak video with small group discussion.

April 5: **Quakers and the Inner Light**, small group discussion.

April 12: **Quakers and Mental Health**. Quakerspeak video with small group discussion.

Apr 26: **Worship Sharing with Attention to Animals**.

May 3: Gems in the Ashes: **Healing disease and division**, Nancy Milio.

May 10: **Honoring our mothers and mother figures**, worship sharing.

May 24: **IFC Update**, Jackie Jenks, Director of the Interfaith Council.

May 31: **Traveling with simplicity**, John Hite.

June 7: **Forum with attention to graduation**, with graduating seniors Phoebe Hulbert, Will King, and Lily Wuerth.

June 14: **Congressional update**, Rep. David Price

June 28: **Elias Hicks and the Collapse of Quaker Unity in early 19th-Century America**, Lloyd Kramer.

July 5: **What to African Americans is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July?** Derick K. Smith, A&T University.

July 12: **First Day School Reunion**. Graduates of our Meeting's First Day School program across the decades.

July 26: **Books, television, and podcasts that you have enjoyed during the lock down and that speak to your Quaker values**. Group discussion.

August 2: **Sharing poetry that has meant something to you in these times**. Group sharing.

August 9: **What is your daily spiritual practice and how do you integrate it into your day?** Group sharing.