

## **Dirk Spruyt**

**October 15, 1925 – November 16, 2017**

Dirk was a large presence in our Meeting. Earlier at Swarthmore College he formed a student Quaker Meeting and later helped form the Dartmouth, NH Meeting. He came to Chapel Hill in 1967 and transferred his membership on April 1, 1968 from Hanover Friends Meeting.

Dirk participated with the War Resisters League, and faithfully attended Peace and Social Concerns Committee meetings at CHFM. He was well known in Meeting for his yearly Winter Solstice forums. He also served as clerk during his time at CHFM. In his later years, his concern for the environment became the focus of his social justice work. Throughout his time at CHFM he served on many clearness committees. He was a central force in considerations surrounding the building of the Schoolhouse in the early 1990's.

Dirk married June Sponberg under the care of the Cambridge Friends Meeting. This marriage resulted in the birth of four boys, Christopher, Eric, Peter, and Alan who participated in First Day School at CHFM. Their marriage eventually ended in divorce. He later joined with Perry Skinner Martin under the care of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting on March 11, 2006. This was a joyous occasion and helped solidify our welcoming of Perry to our Meeting. They enjoyed eleven years together.

Dirk's commitment to the Quaker values of simplicity, community, and stewardship of the environment was an inspiration to all who knew him. Although he served in the Navy in World War II, his pacifism became the leading that formed much of the rest of his life. He clearly embraced the Quaker faith in continuing revelation. Even in his death he encouraged others to learn from his experience of intentionally dying with dignity, once his quality of life had deteriorated from the assaults of Parkinson's Disease.

Dirk was one of a kind! We will not likely see another like him.

