

Adult Religious Education Committee Annual Report
September 2019

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 our Quaker faith and practice and to our role in the greater world. We ask committee clerks to suggest ideas for forum topics and also consider suggestions from members and attenders. We attempt to provide a rich range of topics and spend a part of each committee meeting analyzing them. This year, many forums were held in the school house due to Meeting room renovations. Some forums fall into several categories. Over the past year, forums fell into these categories: personal sharing (5), Quaker Faith and practice (12), small group sharing (3), timely topics (6), outside speakers (5), social focus (6), wider community focus(9), CHFM committee (12), and community nurturing (7). Forum attendance ranges from 20 to 50 people with an average of 28 attending on a given Sunday.

The committee works with Publications Committee and Ministry and Worship Committee 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. 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. Child care is available during forum time.

ARE members(2018/19): Catherine Alguire, Max Drake, Debrorah Gibbs, Dirk Kelder, Perry Martin, Chris Stanley, Carolyn White (clerk), Andrea Wuerth

Aug 26: **"Breaking the Barriers to Accessible and Affordable Housing: Master Leasing in Orange County, Subletting with a Social Conscience."** Hank Elkins and Ronald Carnes of the Peace & Justice Committee

Sept 2: **"Summer reflections and autumn expectations."** Group sharing led by Dirk Kelder and Carolyn White.

Sept 9: **"Parenting and education in the 21st Century."** Brad Kershner, head of the CFS Early School

Sept 23: **"Clearness and Support Committees."** Members of Care and Counsel & Ministry and Worship committees.

Sept 30: **CHFM Renovation Update.** Members of Buildings & Grounds committee

Oct 7: **"Historic Eno Burying Ground."** Larry Barker of the Eno Friends Meeting (Hillsborough), and John Bell

Oct 14 : **"Quakers challenging Trumpism"**. Nancy Milio

Oct 28:" **How can we help the IFC feed vulnerable families in our community?"** Jackie Jenks, Executive Director of IFC

Nov 4:"**A View of Iran from A Persona non Grata.**" Dr. Kadivar, Professor of Religious Studies

Nov 11: **"Sanctuary."** Lori Fernald Khamala and Karen Porter, sponsored by the Peace & Justice Committee

Nov 25: **Thankfulness and Gratitude.** The children and youth of the CHFM First Day School

Dec 2: **"Meeting for Worship: How Do I Know I am Led to Speak?"** Madelyn Ashley, Ministry and Worship Committee.

Dec 23: **Holiday singing.** Led by Faye Stanley

Dec 30: **Small Group Reflections** led by Carolyn White

Jan 6: **"HEAR YE, HEAR YE, READ ALL ABOUT IT! Nine years in the making!"** It's the newly published *Faith and Practice*. Led by Matt Drake

Jan 13: **Benevolences.** Led by Hank Elkins and the Peace and Justice Committee

Jan 27: **"We CAN eat locally and humanely!"** Led by Suzanne and Hue Nelson-Karreman

Feb 3: **"Quaker 8's: Fostering a Sense of Community."** Care and Counsel committee and led by Jennifer Leeman and Tom Munk.

Feb 10: **Wounded Healers.** Led by William "Mecca" Elmore and other men who were formerly residents of the Orange County Correctional facility.

Feb 24: **Quaker House - ongoing and new activities.** Kindra Bradley, Director of Quaker House

Mar 3: **TALKING ABOUT WHAT NO ONE WANTS TO TALK ABOUT: WHAT TO DO WHEN SHOTS ARE FIRED...**Or when some other emergency happens. Facilitated by Matt Drake, John Hite and Jan Hutton.

Mar 10: **Yemen, Authorization for the Use of Military Force, and FCNL Advocacy teams.** Tom Munk and Curt Torell

Mar 24: **The Gift of Being Prepared.** Care and Counsel committee

Mar 30: **Personal sharing** by Tom McQuiston

Apr 7: **"Building Institutional Capacity for True Inclusion".** Karen Cumberbatch, Director of Carolina Friends School

Apr 14: **The Early Days of Chapel Hill Friends Meeting** by Lois Ann Hobbs

Apr 21: (Easter) NO FORUM. *Piedmont Friends Fellowship annual spring meeting at Carolina Friends School in Durham.*

Apr 28: **Worship Sharing with Attention to Animals.** Led by Robin Harper

May 5: **Personal sharing** by Carolyn Stuart

May 12: NO FORUM (*parking at CHFM is limited due to UNC graduation*)

May 26: (Memorial Day weekend)

Jun 2: **"Quakers Working in Divided Government"**. Nancy Milio

Jun 9: **Friends House Moscow.** Karen Porter, CHFM member and former FHM Board member

Jun 23: **Friendly Summer Perusals Redux.** Carolyn White and Dirk Kelder of the Adult Religious Education committee