

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Newsletter

February, 2016



Monthly Query:

Do we recognize that we speak through our inaction as well as our action?

Monthly Worship Tip from the M&W Committee

Is the hour of meeting for worship the only time in the week you seek to nourish your spiritual life?

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Upcoming Forum Schedule

February 7 – “My Faith and Transgender Journey from Rural NC to the Present.”

Angel Collie, Assistant Director of the UNC LGBTQ Center. Moderator: Max Drake.

February 14 – “My Love for You Will Never Die, But I Might.” On Valentine's Day, we'll discuss a unique gift for those nearest to us--planning for when we die or are no longer able care for ourselves. Resources and options for planning, factors that may impede us, potential action steps. Led by Care & Counsel Committee members. Moderator: Matt Drake.

February 28 – “Affordable Housing, a Living Wage, Tenants’ Rights, and More--What Justice United is doing to make our community a more just and peaceful place for all to live." Speaker: Devin Ross, Director of Orange County Justice United. Moderator: Wendy Michener.

March 6 – “Recognizing Your Spiritual Gifts and Those of Others--How can the use of your gifts help you and our Meeting grow?" Nominations Committee, Carolyn Stuart, clerk. Moderator: Perry Martin.

March 13 – "Reflections on the Roles that Money and Investing Play in our Lives--Do our money-related activities support our goals for a better world?" Speaker: Mark Hulbert. Mark writes *The Hulbert Financial Digest*, tracking the advice of over 180 stock and mutual fund investment newsletters.

March 27 – Easter (in the planning stage)

Tea to Honor Judy Purvis and John Schoonover

Please join Friends at a tea to celebrate the upcoming marriage of Judy Purvis and John Schoonover. The tea will be held in the multipurpose room of the schoolhouse on Sunday, February 21 at 3:00 p.m. This is a joyous occasion—one that should chase away the winter doldrums. We hope that you can be there. Judy and John have requested no presents.

Save the Date! PFF Retreat

The Piedmont Friends Fellowship will hold its annual retreat March 11–13 at the Carolina Friends School campus, shares Jeffrey Brown, our PFF Representative. The weekend features Friday evening potluck and fellowship, as well as Saturday programs for adults and for pre-school through high school. The Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting will hold sessions on Saturday and Sunday as well. Saturday evening includes a concert by Peter Blood and Annie Patterson. Registration forms, a schedule, and opportunities to provide hospitality for Friends from far away are forthcoming. For more information email pff@chapelhillfriends.org.

FCNL Event With Executive Secretary, Diane Randall

You're invited! Join FCNL at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, February 11 at the UNC Friday Center in Chapel Hill, as we discuss how greater participation in civil dialogue on issues essential for humanity and our planet is made possible by *The World We Seek: Now Is the Time* capital campaign. You can hear from FCNL Executive Secretary Diane Randall, ask questions, and learn about how you could be involved in the work of FCNL. For more information, visit <http://www.fcnl.org/nowisthetime>, where you can also RSVP, which is required. Refreshments will be served.

FCNL Develops Local Action Teams

Maiya Zwerling of FCNL shares with Friends that as a followup to success around diplomacy with Iran, the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is developing a local Action Team to address sentencing reform and corrections improvement.

<http://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2123>.

Please contact FCNL for more information and see below. Maiya Zwerling, maiya@fcnl.org, (202) 903-2533

FCNL Advocacy Team Training

Curt Torell shares with Friends this invitation from Vernie Davis of Raleigh Friends Meeting, who is organizing our region's newly forming FCNL Advocacy Team. If you have further questions, you can contact Curt (curtnpatty@aol.com) or Vernie.

Dear Friends:

I'm excited about a workshop we are hosting with a few others and hope you will be interested in attending on Monday, February 29, 6:30-9:30 PM at Raleigh Friends Meeting (625 Tower St., Raleigh). We are working with Maiya Zwerling, the national field organizer for the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), on a project to help break the gridlock in Congress. She's launching FCNL Advocacy Teams around the country, and we're working to establish one in the NC Triangle Raleigh area.

This year the primary focus of FCNL's Advocacy Teams will be on the problem of racism/mass incarceration. FCNL believes that with enough public support we have a strong chance of passing meaningful bipartisan agreement addressing mass incarceration even in this election year.

It would be helpful for our planning to know how many people to expect. Could you please RSVP to verniedavis@gmail.com if you expect to come. Parking is on the street after 5:00 p.m. Please do not park in the lot directly across the street.

Welcoming for Ric Shepherd

The welcoming party for Ric Shepherd, a new member of the Meeting, has been rescheduled for Saturday, February 20, from 4:00 until 5:30, at the home of Lynn and Matt Drake, 100 Homewood Drive, Chapel Hill. Please join us for the opportunity to greet Ric and make him feel welcomed as a member of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. Refreshments will be served.

HKonJ and Moral March on Raleigh

North Carolina NAACP's annual Moral March & HKonJ People's Assembly is on February 13, with a pre-rally at 9:00 a.m. and the march beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Shaw University in Raleigh. March with the American Friends Service Committee, who are meeting at the McDonald's parking lot. For more information check out: <http://hkonz.com/>.

Mental Health Group Book Discussion and Conference

Faith Connections on Mental Illness will be offering its annual conference on April 1, 2016, at St. Thomas More Catholic Church. The guest speaker will be Gary Nelson, author of *A Relentless Hope: Surviving the Storm of Teen Depression*. In his book, Gary, whose family knows the trauma and bewilderment of mental illness, reminds us that people with mental illness are our neighbors and members of our faith communities. Gary shows us the path to loving them well and becoming a congregation that loves God and loves those whose minds are troubled. Dr. Nelson is a pastoral counselor with over 38 years experience working with teens and families.

Our Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Mental Health Group will sponsor discussions of this book. Reading this book will better prepare us to receive the benefits from next the upcoming conference. In addition, reading together is a way to open up this topic in a nonthreatening and inclusive way. If you are interested in reading this book and joining the discussion, contact Alice Carlton at amberalice47@gmail.com. Reading and discussion started in January.

John Hite in the News

The Meeting's resident, John Hite, appears in a news article at [chapelboro.com \("Carrboro Student Still Helping After Graduation"\)](http://chapelboro.com/news/pre-k-12-education/carrboro-student-still-helping-after-graduation/) on the work being done in the Dominican Republic to help a community gain access to clean drinking water. There is also audio from an earlier appearance on WCHL.

<http://chapelboro.com/news/pre-k-12-education/carrboro-student-still-helping-after-graduation/>

CHFM needs a CROP Walk Organizer!

CHFM is looking for a 2016 CROP Walk organizer; is it you? The IFC CROP Walk is fast approaching on April 10 (see <http://www.ifcweb.org/events/crop-walk>), with a kickoff February 25 from 7 to 8 p.m. (to get information, packets, t-shirts, etc.) Contact Asta Crowe for more information at astacrowe@gmail.com or 919-933-4564.

Forum on the Iran Nuclear Deal Available Online

"The Iran Nuclear Deal: How NIAC and Its Pro-Peace Allies Fought to Win It," Marilyn Carter's forum presentation from January 3 on the National Iranian American Council and their work with FCNL on the Iran Nuclear Deal, is now on the web:

<http://www.chapelhillfriends.org/PDF/NIAC-FCNLJan3-2016.pdf>

FWCC World Plenary in Pisac, Peru

Wendy Michener shares with Friends a note from Rob Pierson, Albuquerque Monthly Meeting:

Please hold Friends in the Light as they travel next week as representatives to the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) World Plenary in Pisac, Peru. About 300 Friends are coming from around the world to gather in Peru's Sacred Valley for business, worship, and fellowship. The number of Friends will swell during the weekend in the middle of the plenary as local Peruvian Friends travel in by bus to join the gathering worship. The theme of this gathering is Living the Transformation: Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God (Romans 8:19). For more information on the gathering, see <http://www.fwcc.world/peru/what.html>. For information on the worldwide community of Friends, visit <http://fwcc.world/>.

Friends will be carrying with them to Peru cloth squares from their local Meetings, which will be combined with squares from all the other Meetings represented in Peru to form one great patchwork, visually reminding us of our unity and diversity. And, if all goes well, each cloth square will then go home with some other representative as a greeting to their Meeting.

Chuck Fager on the Damage of Current NC Voting Laws

Wendy Michener shares with Friends,

Chuck Fager has written a blog post titled "I'm Sorry, Dr. King. I'm So Sorry." The post is about a book on the new voting laws in NC and other places. I recommend the blog post, and he recommends the book. The blog post is at <http://wp.me/p5FGlu-1e6>.

Local Historian to Give Talk About Early Carolina History and the Role of Quakers

Sally Freeman invites Chapel Hill Friends to attend this special event in Hillsborough:

Early Quaker settlers had a significant impact on local North Carolina history--an impact that is still felt today.

Noted local historian, Tom Magnuson, will give a presentation on "Quaker Migrations In and Out of Carolina: 1750s to 1820s" on Sunday, March 6. His talk will pay particular attention to motives for movement, likely routes taken, and some lasting impacts of Friends (Quakers) on our land. The presentation is designed for adults interested in local history, regardless of their religious affiliation.

The presentation is sponsored by the Hillsborough Friends (Quaker) Worship Group. This project is made possible by funding from the North Carolina Humanities Council, a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Presentation particulars:

Sunday, March 6, 2016, 1:30 PM

Orange County Main Library, 137 West Margaret Lane, Hillsborough, NC

Admission is free, and open to the general public. No prior registration is necessary. For questions regarding this program, please contact Mary Knox, 919-732-8529.

About the presenter:

Tom is founding director of the Trading Path Association (TPA). A military historian, former Marine, and former software executive, he created the TPA in 1999 to research and document remnants of Indian and colonial paths, trails, and roads that spanned the Piedmont from Virginia to Georgia. Remains of these old, pre-modern routes, he believes, will provide information on the almost-unknown "contact period" in North Carolina, roughly 1650 to 1800, when Indians, Africans, and Europeans mixed, mingled, and co-existed. For questions about the TPA, please visit www.tradingpath.org.

Calls for Spirited Action

Join AFSC each month through May as they engage in conversation about the work of AFSC and how Quakers can be involved in evolving movements for social change. These monthly calls are an opportunity to learn from AFSC staff and others about specific focus issues and campaigns and to hear ideas of how to get involved. Each one is also an opportunity to speak with other Quakers from around the country about strategies for how to engage in collective social change work.

Each call will be held 8:30–9:30 p.m. EST. You can join by dialing (866) 740-1260 and entering access code 2419995#.

Upcoming calls include...

February 18th

Shared Security: Building peace in an interdependent world--the concept of shared security is growing in its scope and impact, amplifying voices for peace with justice here and abroad.

March 17th

Working for just and lasting peace in Israel and Palestine: Hear from Quaker Palestinian Steve Tamari and AFSC staff on working to end the occupation of Palestinian territory through economic activism.

April 21st

Humanize, not Militarize: Responses and resistance to militarism--learn how you can bring the traveling exhibit to your community and host events to challenge the narrative of militarism in the US and around the world, with Mary Zerkel.

May 19th

Love knows no borders: Accompanying the movement for migrant justice and transformation with Jenn Piper and Pedro Rios.

Register online at <http://afsc.org/calls-spirited-action>.

Food for All

Pam Schwingl is seeking input from members and attenders of the meeting regarding interest in becoming a member group of FOOD FOR ALL, a network of churches, civic associations, and neighborhoods in Northern Orange County feeding the homeless and hungry since 2005. "Becoming a member group" simply means that a few people from the meeting are willing to make a commitment to take on the work begun two years ago by Pam Schwingl and others in the meeting.

Over the course of about 18 months they organized 4 cooking and distribution days, asking the community to come forward with prepared casseroles (and one time cooked as a group), and then preparing individual bags of meals and delivering them to families in need from our cars at the Daniel Boone Motel (now closed) and the Fairview Baptist Church on Cornelius St, Hillsborough NC.

Pam is currently living further away than is feasible for her to take on the leadership of this effort, but is calling out to determine if there is any interest in connecting with this organization, perhaps only filling in a slot 2 to 3 times in a year.

Please let Pam know as soon as possible: pschwingl@yahoo.com.

FGC White Privilege Conference

The 17th annual White Privilege Conference, <http://whiteprivilegeconference.com>, co-sponsored by Friends General Conference, is coming in April. If you register through FGC (link below), you can receive 20% off. You must register by March 1. Please also consider requesting funds from the meeting's Shotts Memorial / Leadership Development Committee to further support your attendance: <http://www.chapelhillfriends.org/ShottsLeadershipFunds.html>.

Let Freedom Ring: Re-Imagining Equity and Justice in the United States
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Thursday, April 14 – Sunday, April 17, 2016
<https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgc-pre-registration-white-privilege-conference-2016>

Human Sexuality and Relationship Program for Teens

Attention CHFM parents of 7th and 8th graders:

Durham Friends Meeting is offering a human sexuality and relationship program, entitled QUAIL. This is the third time that Durham Friends Meeting is offering such a program. More information is presented on the following three pages. Please feel free to contact Andrew Wright, Amy Anderson, or Logan Graddy with any questions.

Petition for Incarcerated Service Members and Veterans

Curt Torell and the Quaker House board share with Friends,

Please consider signing the following online petition. It was begun by Quaker House directors Steve and Lynn Newsom in response to the plight of Josh Eisenhauer, and many other service members like him, who suffer from PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder). Josh was not provided adequate mental health care and experienced an episode that landed him in jail.

The Better Mental Health Care for Incarcerated Veterans and Service Members Petition is a petition for mental health care demanding adequate and compassionate mental health care in NC for incarcerated military and veterans. Josh Eisenhauer is the focus, but he is by no means the only one needing help in NC or elsewhere. While he is incarcerated, he really needs better care. Please consider signing and sharing this online petition. We need 10,000 signatures! Thank you for your help.

Read more and sign:

<http://www.standunited.org/petition/adequate-and-compassionate-mental-health-care-for-incarcerated-service-members-and-veterans-in-north-carolina>

Proposal for QUAIL 2016

Durham Friends Meeting has been developing and teaching a program on human sexuality and relationship over the last 6 years. We have felt that it is important to offer our youth a progressive and holistic approach to age appropriate human sexuality and relationship education. We also feel that it is a rich and valuable opportunity to offer this program in the context of our Quaker spirituality.

We started this program by doing the Unitarian-Universalist curriculum entitled Our Whole Lives (OWL) in 2011-2012. Twelve 7th and 8th grade participants and four adult teachers participated in this program, consisting of 27 - 1.5 hour classes. In 2013-2014, Durham Friends offered an adaptation of the OWL curriculum for ten 7th and 8th graders and two adult teachers. The new program was entitled QUAIL and it consisted of 18 - 1.5 hour classes. This program and process has been held under the care of Durham Friends Meeting and its Youth Ministries Committee through the work of the QUAIL Care Committee.

The QUAIL Care Committee has been developing a third version of this curriculum. Our goals for this next step is to continue to offer a deep and broad program while simultaneously fitting it better into the life of our community. This means finding a different framework and time for offering this program that fits well with the other activities of our Youth Ministries program and that also enables us to offer it to other Friends and friends of Friends beyond Durham Friends Meeting.

The QUAIL Care Committee is now beginning to reach out to families in Durham Meeting and its wider community to propose a 2016 QUAIL program to include a February 2016 weekend retreat and 6 - 3 hour Sunday afternoon meetings, one per month in March, April, May, September, October, and November 2016, see table below.

We are asking that families with current 7th or 8th graders consider having their youth participate in this program. Over the next month, we hope to discern whether we have the necessary participation to go forward with this program. Participants will be asked to make a commitment to regular participation through the entirety of the program.

Over the month of December, please be considering this opportunity for your youth. Please contact us with any questions or to express interest in this program. We will probably need to have at least 8 youth in order to proceed. If you would like to talk with parents or teachers who were part of the two previous programs that Durham Friends organized, we can give you contacts. You can contact any member of the committee directly or contact the committee convener Andrew Wright @ barnhillwright@hotmail.com .

Sincerely,

The QUAIL Care Committee

Logan Graddy - logan.graddy@gmail.com

Amy Anderson - amyleigha@gmail.com

Andrew Wright - barnhillwright@hotmail.com

Our QUAIL curriculum is premised on the following understandings, commitments and values:

Enduring Understandings

- Youth understand sexuality and intimate love as reflections of divine love
- Youth have choice, ownership and responsibility for intimate relationships, sexual experiences
- Youth have self confidence regarding their bodies and sexuality
- Youth are old enough and responsible enough to receive these gifts
- There is a continuing revelation to sexual life
- Seeing that of God in everyone calls us to be responsible to intimate partners and to be an ally with others' journeys

Program Commitments*

In this program, teens have the right to

- Ask any questions they have about sexuality
- Receive full and accurate information about sexuality
- Explore any issues of sexuality that interest them
- Have support in making their own decisions about sexual matters
- Express their sexuality in ways that are healthy and life-affirming
- Be treated with respect by leaders and participants in this group

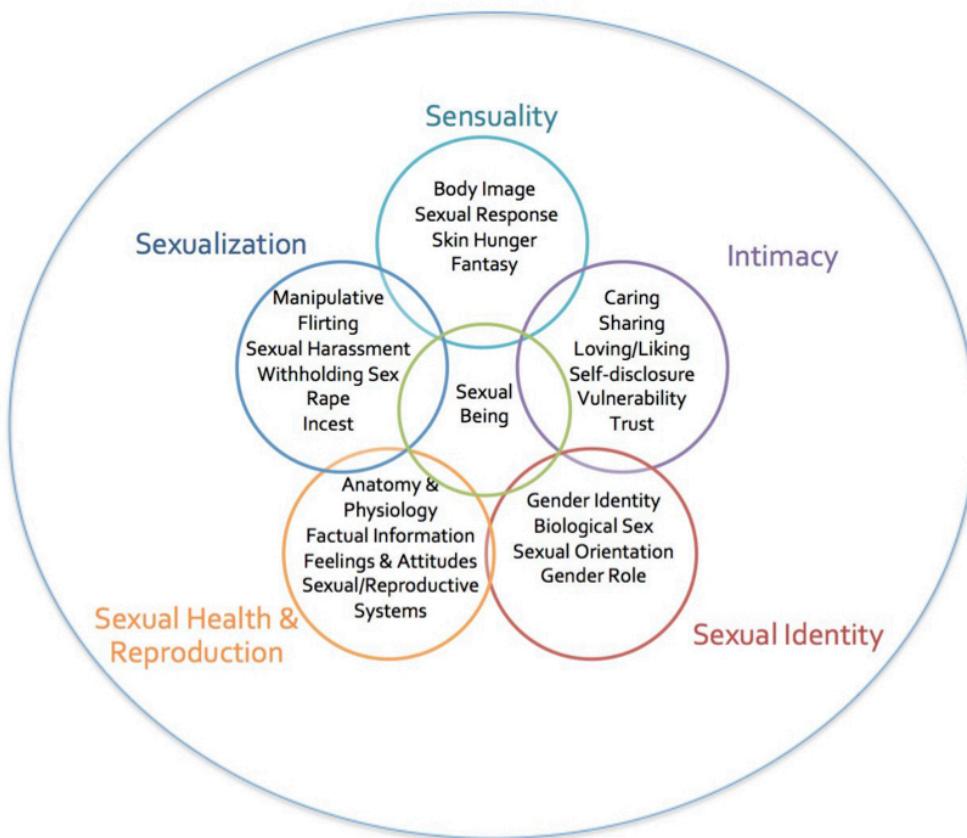
Program Assumptions and Values*

- All persons are sexual
- Sexuality is a good part of the human experience
- Sexuality includes much more than sexual behavior
- Human beings are sexual from the time they are born until they die
- It is natural to express sexual feelings in a variety of ways
- People engage in healthy sexual behavior for a variety of reasons including: to express caring and love, to experience intimacy and connection with another, to share pleasure, to bring new life into the world, and to experience fun and relaxation
- Young people should be empowered to recognize and resist violence, exploitation, alienation, dishonesty, abuse of power, and the treatment of persons as objects in relationships
- It is healthier for young adolescents to postpone sexual intercourse

* Taken from Pamela Wilson's *Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education for Grades 7-9* published by the Unitarian Universalist Association, with modification.

CIRCLES OF SEXUALITY

This image is an expression of the framework and content of the QUAIL program, grounded and surrounded in Quaker spirituality, represented by the large circle.



WHEN?	RETREAT Spring 2016	Spring 2016	Fall 2016
FORMAT	2 nights	One Sunday evening/month 3 hours: 4 - 7pm (4:30 - 7:30pm?) meal included (working dinner?)	
DATES	FEBRUARY 2016	early March early April early May	September October November
CONTENT	Basics of individual physical development and sexuality (e.g., anatomy and physiology; feelings and attitudes; range of sexual expression)	Sexual orientation, gender identity Responsibilities to self and others Interpersonal communication Sexual expression Body image Reproduction	Relationships Healthy sexuality Sexualization STDs Birth Control

Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

17 January 2016

Minutes

Tom Munk, Clerk; Robin Harper, Recording Clerk

Worship and query: *Is the spirit of our worship together one that nurtures all worshipers?*

A Friend shared: One of the ways I am nurtured in worship by this Meeting is being surrounded by your gathered presence, and I thank you.

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

We welcomed first-time attender Stacey Brooks.

2. Approval of December minutes—Clerk

Approved.

3. Clerk selection committee report -- for approval in February—Jennifer Leeman

Jennifer reported that the committee, composed of Pam Schwingl and Lynn Drake (from Ministry and Worship), Gwynne Pomeroy and Jeff Brown (from Care and Counsel), and Carolyn Stuart and herself (from Nominations), started their work earlier than in years past, in order to allow more time for transition from the current clerk to the new. She shared the qualities that the committee felt were important for a clerk to possess (attached). The committee brings forward the name of Matt Drake, for approval in February.

4. Naming Committee recommendation for Nominations Committee—Deborah Gibbs

The Naming Committee, consisting of Deborah Gibbs and Carolyn White, brings the name of Elizabeth Taylor to serve on the Nominations Committee. Carolyn Stuart, clerk of Nominations, expressed the committee's appreciation for the people who have joined them.

Approved.

5. Report from Quaker House Board—Deborah Gibbs (ATTACHED)

Deborah summarized the report on behalf of the board, which consists of Curt Torell, Maria Darlington, Richard Miller, and herself. The domestic violence and sexual harassment focuses are relatively new. Lynn and Steve travel all over the country addressing issues of moral injury and PTSD; their activities are extensive. A major concern is that not only are we losing great directors, but a donor who has been responsible for a very large source of funding, will soon no longer be able to give. How might this affect CHFM?

Richard suggested the creation of a binder in the library to share with Friends the thick stack of material presented at every board meeting, outlining their work. Also, a video by Linda Dilorenzo about QH in the library needs to be converted to DVD.

Friends thanked the committee for sharing the whole experience of QH, which is extensive and deep.

Report accepted with thanks.

6. Dissemination plan for statement in response to requests for money from the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting—Deborah Gibbs for Care and Counsel

After the response written by C&C was approved by MWAB a couple of months ago, MWAB asked C&C to come up with a dissemination plan for this document. After sitting with the issue, most of the methods available (newsletter, e-news, etc.) began to seem very heavy-handed to C&C, other than word of mouth and posting on the bulletin board.

Robin read the statement that had been approved at the November MWAB. Requests for assistance have not been from members or even regular attenders. Some Friends expressed discomfort with the idea of this document, and the desire to have an ability to officially offer assistance in those situations. Friends offered examples of the dire, often hidden situations of members of the CH community who are teetering on the edge of homelessness, and the real need of people in emergency situations. Friends also re-affirmed the statement. We will always have to say no to someone. Ann Miller spoke on behalf of Finance Committee concern, saying that they need to feel that we adhere to a process, and since they are responsible for members' gifts, they want such concerns to be considered by the Meeting as a whole. One Friend suggested that we post the statement with the addition of a reference to our support of the Food Bank and monthly cooking at IFC. Another felt that we shouldn't apologize for what we are unable to do. Our capacity to love exceeds our capacity to give.

Tom asked Friends to bring further questions to C&C, so that we can move on to other items on the agenda.

7. NOW request to use Meeting space to show documentary—Wendy Michener

National Organization for Women (NOW) of the Triangle has requested to use Meeting space to show a documentary regarding women's reproductive rights. The film is called "The Vessel." Are we comfortable allowing NOW to use this space to show this film?

Buildings & Grounds, which oversees Meeting space use, felt that this needed to be brought to MWAB for approval. Activism involves taking risks. Friends asked questions about how the showing would be publicized and what is the likelihood of violent protest to it? Friends agreed that NOW is probably more knowledgeable than we are about the potential for conflict.

We came to clarity to allow the film to be shown, and to ask NOW to make the decision about whether or not the police should be notified.

Agreed.

8. What has been most on the hearts of the Chapel Hill Meeting this year?—Clerk (ATTACHED)

Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting has asked that each member meeting report on the topics that have been on our hearts this past year. This report, based primarily on the minutes of our Meetings for Business, is respectfully submitted by our clerk (Tom Munk) and recording clerk (Robin Harper) for Friends' review.

Robin read the draft, and Tom asked Friends to comment. Some additions suggested include the strong participation of Friends in Quakerism 101; our continuing efforts for human rights, climate change, and issues of color and race; and the strength of our FDS program. Several felt there was a need to better reflect the great sense of joy and vibrancy in our Meeting. A correction was made to Curt Torell's years of service on the Conscientious Objector work—fifteen instead of ten. A suggestion was also made that the annual State of the Meeting event be timed so the report from that event can be sent to PFYM before the March Yearly Meeting.

Tom asked Friends to send any further comments or suggestions to Robin or himself within the next two weeks. They will incorporate them into the next draft and bring it forward for approval in February.

Appreciation was expressed for this draft.

Other agenda items were postponed.

10. Announcements from the listserv—Clerk

- Postcard received welcoming Matthias Corwin Drake on Dec. 9
- Alternative to Violence project at Quaker House
- Signup for small groups on bulletin board by Feb. 7
- Welcoming of Ric Shepherd Jan. 23
- Americans Who tell the Truth exhibit at Civil Rights Museum
- Intergenerational Game Night Jan. 29
- Betsy Hewitt memorial on Jan. 30
- Next week's Forum will be an update on renovating the Meetinghouse
- Mental Health Group invites the meeting to join them in reading book on teen depression:
“Relentless Hope: Surviving the Storm of Teen Depression”
- FCNL Executive Secretary Diane Randall will speak on UNC campus on Feb. 11
- New Crop Walk organizer needed
- Pam Schwingl looking for new organizer for Food For All
- Marilyn Carter's Forum presentation on the National Iranian American Council and their work with FCNL on the Iran Nuclear Deal is now on our website
- Judy Purvis and John Schoonover will be married on March 5; RSVP to Carolyn Stuart by Jan 31

Other announcements?

- Ruth Zalph asked Friends to let her know if they are interested in working with her on Medicare expansion.

We closed with worship.

Attending: Max Drake, Perry Martin, Dirk Spruyt, Alice Carlton, Dave Curtin, Marilyn Dyer, James Harper, Richard Miller, Dottie Heninger, Carolyn Stuart, Deborah Gibbs, Jennifer Leeman, Ben Ray, Emilie Condon, Asta Crowe, Ken Grogan, Pam Schwingl, Pat Mann, Julia Cleaver, Tom Smith, Buffie Webber, Dave Schneider, Stacey Brooks, Kitty Bergel, Nancy Elkins, Hank Elkins, Jan Hutton, Naveed Moeed, Tom Ludlow, Ann Shy, Wendy Michener, Thomas McQuiston, Christopher Atwater, Maria Darlington, Ann Miller, Ruth Zalph

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR IN A CLERK CLERK SELECTION COMMITTEE

Familiar with Quaker process
Familiar with Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Constancy of attention to Meeting – not just week before MWattnB,
Someone who is paying attention
Good listener, not reactive
Prioritizes the “worship” in MWattnB
Sees being clerk as opportunity for his/her own spiritual growth
Able to engage the Meeting community in different ways
Tries to get to know people in the Meeting
A shepherd, not just facilitating worship but helps guide our participation in a sacred way. We entrust our love to this person and this person guides us in the conduct of our worship and our witness.
Builds community in a sacred way
Approachable – someone that a person with a concern or worry can talk to
Can take care of themselves, can ask for help, can set limits as needed
Doesn’t take themselves too seriously
Reasonably organized
Led from a spiritual place
Good communication skills
Can facilitate community grappling with problems/decisions – ability to listen deeply, engage community in considering problem, and then summarize/clarify
Patience
Open to input, teachable
Has experience with wider world of Quakers
Most importantly, Love

REPORT ON QUAKER HOUSE TO MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS
JANUARY 17, 2016

Background. Founded in 1969 after Dean Holland—a Vietnam soldier who hitchhiked from Ft. Bragg, Fayetteville to Chapel Hill Friends Meeting—sought help with a conscientious objector status, Quaker House continues to be a witness for peace in that military town and throughout the country and world. As a founding meeting, CHFM is near and dear to Quaker House, and we continue to rely on its support through financial contributions of the meeting and its individuals, the service of the meeting's board representatives, and the active endorsement of our work. Without this base, Quaker House would not exist.

Activities. Since Steve and Lynn Newsom succeeded Chuck Fager as directors in December 2012, Quaker House has maintained its primary programs and added more. We continue to witness against torture, the use of drone warfare, the excesses of the military industrial complex, and the failure of war. Our GI Rights Hotline, despite winding down troop deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, takes more calls than ever reaching an average of 280 per month for 2015. Their most rewarding and time-intensive work is with service members seeking conscientious objection status. In addition to helping them write their CO applications, our counselors stand by them as they maneuver through the regulations, delays, and sometimes intentional roadblocks of the command structure. Recently, many calls are from service members who are “involuntarily discharged.” The typical scenario is a soldier who suffers from PTSD or Moral Injury, whose behavior incites an incident that interferes with his or her assigned duty (such as missing a report when seeking emergency medical help or talking back to an officer), and who gets reprimanded or rejected for re-enlistment. The less-than-honorable discharge may deny the service member the necessary medical benefits (care and prescriptions) that treat the illness, which in turns exasperates the symptoms and destructive behavior.

Domestic Violence in the Military. The Domestic Violence in the Military program started almost three years ago with support from an anonymous donor. In addition to DV victims, it serves those afflicted with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), Moral Injury, and other psychological ailments. On some days, our part-time counselor sees as many as 10 clients. The service is free of charge, and many clients turn to Quaker House as a last resort. The program has developed a strong reputation in the community and on base, and has been an in-road to access on base. As a result, we can share Quaker House literature on Ft. Bragg for the first time. The program is now part of our regular operating budget, but funding is tight. We received a \$15K grant from the estate of a member of San Diego meeting, and we get some reimbursement from Courage Beyond, an organization that assists veterans with counseling needs.

Moral Injury Presentations. The Moral Injury presentations throughout the country by our directors shine a light on this too often ignored casualty of war. Where PTSD is a defensive reaction to an external threat or stimulus (a sudden loud noise is associated with an improved explosive devise or road side bomb), Moral Injury is an internal reaction of remorse resulting from the service member committing an act that is morally or spiritually reprehensible to the soul (such as killing a child, woman, or other innocent civilian). Frequently after a presentation, veterans and their family members will approach Steve and Lynn, share their experience of moral injury, and thank them for opening a dialogue on this affliction.

Challenges for the Future. Looking forward, our challenges include reaching out to a wider audience, dealing with increasing administrative complexity, beginning the process of succession planning, and expanding our funding base.

Quaker House is unique. As a faith based peace organization in a military town, we have a pulse of the military and its effects on service members that few others realize. We know that in order to be most effective, we cannot hide this light under a basket, but carry our message beyond Fayetteville to the rest of the country so more people understand the futility of war and the detrimental effects on those involved with it.

Aside from developing a closer trust and association with Ft. Bragg, especially with its military chaplains, Steve and Lynn are reaching out to a wider circle of Quakers and non-Quaker individuals and organizations. To involve youth more, we are developing a curriculum on conscientious objection for teens. We are working on a youth oriented “coloring book” and “Quaker House Lives that Speak” series for elementary and middle school aged youth.

Our expanding scope of work entails extra administrative support. The complexities of the Internet, social media, and electronic banking are a particular drain to the limited resources of small non-profits. Our website was just updated. We have a presence on Facebook. We work to make donating easy by offering a monthly donation program, and payment options including checks, credit cards, PayPal and Stripe. However, each of these methods requires time to administer and fees to pay.

Directors Steve and Lynn Newsom will retire the end of summer 2017, and we need to find a new director(s). The process of succession planning will take additional time and energy.

We are solely dependent on our funding base to make all of our work happen. In addition to individual donations, Monthly and Yearly Meeting support is critical. Many of our donors are “aging out” and our biggest donor, who accounts for nearly one fifth of our operating budget, will soon be unable to give. This is a gap that must be filled, and it will take the continued contributions of our current donors, increases from many, and new sources of funds.

Respectively submitted, Maria Darlington, Deborah Gibbs, Richard Miller, and Curt Torell

Quaker House Mission Statement: Quaker House is a manifestation of the Friends’ Peace Testimony. Based in Fayetteville, NC, home of Ft. Bragg, Quaker House provides counseling and support to service members who are questioning their role in the military; educates them, their families, and the public about military issues; and advocates for a more peaceful world.

A Vision of Quaker House, Spring 2013: Working towards a peaceable kingdom free of war; resisting the evils, conditions, and culture of war; grounded in Friends and other like-minded principles, methods, and goals; providing support and care for military and their families, including but not limited to clearness and support on conscientious objection, domestic violence, PTSD, denied benefits; and actively coordinating with and leading other peace groups through education, direct action, and peaceful witness.

WHAT HAS BEEN MOST ON THE HEARTS OF THE CHAPEL HILL MEETING THIS YEAR?

In 2015, the Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends joined Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting. A review of the minutes from the year's Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business shows this to be a leading topic that has gladdened the hearts of our Meeting. We have also experienced the joy of coming to unity on a plan for improvements to our building and in supporting our teen group on a service trip to Haiti. We have welcomed Eloise Grathwohl, Joanna Selim, and Ric Shepherd into membership and celebrated the weddings of Judy Purvis to John Schoonover and Alice Carlton to Dave Curtin. We mourned the deaths of Friends Bob Cooper, Bill Flash, Susanne Gomolski, Alice Woodbury, and Betsy Hewitt. We have stepped up our efforts to welcome newcomers to our Meeting and to help them discover what it means to be a Quaker. We have seen our ministry at Alamance/Orange Correctional Center grow and flourish, with many residents of that facility regularly attending meeting for worship. We celebrated the Winter Solstice and conducted an outdoor Meeting for Worship with Attention to Animals. We approved statements in support of the victims of attacks in Paris and clarifying our Meeting policy on responding to monetary requests from the Meeting. We received with immense pleasure and recorded conscientious objector letters from Keegan Durovich and John Hite, as well as a report on the ten years' work of attender Curt Torell in supporting young people in writing these powerful letters. With others, he has worked to extend to a wider network our work with young people considering and eventually laying a claim for conscientious objector status, and to publish this curriculum through Quaker House. Outside the business meeting, we have been heartened to see growing cooperation as our committees break out of silos. We have been enriched by a wondrous variety of weekly Forums sponsored by our Adult Religious Education Committee, and many of us were blessed by attendance at the Annual FGC Gathering in our own home state.

Calendar

(All events at Meetinghouse unless otherwise indicated.)

Sun. 2/7	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: My Faith and Transgender Journey... with Angel Collie
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship—Carol Woods
	12:30pm	Potluck—Schoolhouse
Tue. 2/9	7–8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation—Call Hank Elkins
Thurs. 2/11	6:30pm	FCNL Event—UNC Friday Center (see page 3)
Fri. 2/12	4:30–5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice—E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
Sat. 2/13	9am	HKonJ and Moral March—Raleigh (see page 4)
Sun. 2/14	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: My Love for You Will Never Die, But I Might
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship—Carol Woods
Tue. 2/16	7–8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation—Call Hank Elkins
Fri. 2/19	4:30–5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice—E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
Sat. 2/20	4–5:30pm	Welcoming for Ric Shepherd—Drake home (see page 4)
Sun. 2/21	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
	3pm	Tea for Judy and John—Schoolhouse (see page 2)
Fri. 2/26	4:30–5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice—E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
	7pm	Intergenerational Games—Schoolhouse
Sun. 2/28	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: Justice United with Devin Ross
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship—Carol Woods
	noon	Families and Friends Affected by Mental Illness—Schoolhouse
	10pm	Deadline To Turn In Items For Newsletter!
Mon. 2/29	6:30pm	FCNL Advocacy Training—Raleigh Friends Meeting (see page 3)
Tue. 3/1	7–8pm	Yoke Fellows Prison Visitation—Call Hank Elkins
Thur. 3/3	9am–1pm	CHFM Serves Lunch at Interfaith Shelter
Fri. 3/4	4:30–5:30pm	Vigil for Peace & Justice—E. Franklin & Elliot Rd
Sun. 3/6	8:30am	Meeting for Worship (Early)
	9:45am	Forum: Recognizing Your Spiritual Gifts and Those of Others
	11am	Meeting for Worship (Late)
	11am	Meeting for Worship—Carol Woods

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Sun. 3/6 12:30pm Potluck—Schoolhouse
 1:30pm Talk on Carolina Quaker History—OC Main Library (see page 6)
Fri. 3/11 4:30-5:30pm 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 11:00am
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 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 10pm 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.
- Listserv. To send a news or "In the Light" announcement on the Meeting listserv, contact 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.
- Website. To get items posted on our website, send them to news@chapelhillfriends.org.