

Hospitality Committee Annual Report 2023

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

The Hospitality Committee strives to make visitors feel welcomed and to foster community within the meeting. Specifically the committee serves to:

- greet attenders and welcome visitors to meeting, including sending a welcome note to visitors
- manage monthly potluck
- provide fellowship and refreshments at the rise of meeting
- assists with special occasions such as the mid-December Christmas party, new attender teas, memorials and weddings
- serve as first responder for emails to friends@chapelhillfriends.org

Although our activities continue to be impacted by the COVID pandemic, during the last year Hospitality was able to resume many of our usual activities.

Active members of the committee:

This year Colleen Fey and Gordon Davies completed their terms on the committee, Colleen provided indispensable support for potlucks while Gordon was an expert dishwasher, we thank them for their service. Quaker Harmon replaced Buzz Borchardt as clerk. Buzz Borchardt and Jennifer Leeman graciously extended their time on the committee to support Quaker in her first year as Clerk. Active members also include Evelyn Fendler-Lee, Hart Pillow, and Pam Schwingl. We recently welcomed Andrea Wood and Susan Peterson to the committee. The committee would also like to recognize John Hite as an honorary member who provides support to Hospitality activities.

Greet attenders and welcome visitors to meeting:

We continue to greet attenders and welcome visitors to the meeting. We are grateful to numerous Friends who have volunteered to greet when someone from the Hospitality Committee was not available.

Along with greeting visitors, the Hospitality Committee sends a welcome email to those who sign our guestbook. Hart Pillow carefully crafts a personal email to every newcomer welcoming them to the Meeting and offering additional resources or an in-person meeting as desired. We are grateful for Hart's service and acknowledge her valuable role in making newcomers feel welcome.

Since our last report at least 50 people have signed the guestbook. We also continue to use an online guestbook. We have had 20 people complete the online guestbook over the last year. The guestbook is available through the [Visit and Learn](#) and the [Online Meeting](#) pages of our website. A link to the guestbook is entered into the chat at the rise of the online meeting on zoom.

Provide opportunities for fellowship

We were pleased to restart in-person fellowship this year. In May 2022 Hospitality hosted a Newcomers Tea on the Early School Playground. Both newcomers and regular attenders welcomed the opportunity to socialize. Following the success of the Newcomer's Tea, in July 2022 Hospitality started to provide Fellowship with Food under the magnolia tree at the rise of Meeting on the first First Day of the month. During the summer months the children from the First Day School provided fancy drinks and treats. We are grateful to Pam Schwingl who has coordinated these events and provided both coffee and delicious food. Hospitality

members and those from the Meeting also contribute treats. John Hite provides support and helps with set-up and clean-up. We are grateful to everyone who attends and makes this a rich experience.

In December 2022 Hospitality supported two special events at the Meeting House. In early December we celebrated the 85th Anniversary of Chapel Hill Friends Meeting with cakes and fellowship. Later in December the First Day School presented the Nativity. Hospitality provided hot cider and treats under the magnolia tree following the play. We are grateful to everyone who baked and helped make these events special.

Serve as first responder for emails to friends@chapelhillfriends.org:

Since August of 2020, the Hospitality Committee has been the first responder for emails to friends@chapelhillfriends.org. The idea being that the response represents the point of view of the meeting at large. The clerk of Hospitality triages emails and sends the email on to the most relevant Meeting Committee with follow-up as necessary. Most of the email received is spam or generic newsletters. More relevant emails include inquiries about visiting the Meeting as well as requests for more information about the Meeting. Thank you to everyone on committees who has assisted in responding to these emails.

Looking ahead

COVID is still a concern and we have not restarted monthly potluck, nor are we providing refreshments indoors at the rise of Meeting every week. We look forward to a time when Hospitality can resume all of our activities.

Respectfully submitted: Quaker Harmon, Buzz Borchardt, Evelyn Fendler-Lee, Jennifer Leeman, Hart Pillow, Pam Schwingl, Andrea Wood, Susan Peterson