




Fall Creek Monthly Meeting

# OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING NEWSLETTER

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Quaker Quill 

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## Looking Forward to Yearly Meeting 2007

The theme for the 2007 sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting will be "Growing our faith to transform the world." The sessions will be held at Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana July 25-29, 2007.

We are fortunate to have acceptances from two exceptional plenary speakers, Margaret Fraser, Executive Secretary, Section of the Americas, Friends World Committee for Consultation, and Paul Buckley, a member of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, Whitewater Quarter, OVYM.

Margaret Fraser went to Nicaragua and then to Honduras in 1991 for the FWCC World Conference of Friends and knew that she was being called by God into a different direction. She took unpaid leave of absence from her job and joined Earlham School of Religion's M.Div. program. After ESR she served for seven years as Dean of Pendle Hill and is now in her fifth year as Executive Secretary of Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas. She describes herself as naturally ecumenical. Her bridge-building has included participation in local councils of churches and ministerial associations, service on the board of an international organization of retreat centers and most recently attendance in the assembly of the World Council of Churches in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Paul Buckley is a noted Quaker author and editor. Among his recent works are *Owning the Lord's Prayer*, a selection of his personal reflections on individual passages from the Lord's Prayer; *The Quaker Bible Reader*, edited by Paul Buckley and Stephen Angel, in which the goal is to encourage every Friend to engage the Bible, "not passively accepting someone else's interpretation; not looking for 'the good parts' and skipping the rest; not contorting scripture to support pre-determined ideas - but entering into a dialog with this ancient book, exploring your own assumptions about God, and deepening your relationship with the divine"; and *Twenty-first Century Penn: Writings On The Faith And Practice Of The People Called Quakers, In Modern English* by William Penn, translated by Paul Buckley.

Workshops will include sessions on reconciliation, alternatives to violence and "Help Increase the Peace."

Be sure to save the dates (July 25-29) and look for more registration in the June *Quaker Quill*, details and information issue of



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Andy Garrison, Oxford  
Murray Cox, White Rose  
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Paul Buckingham, Fort Wayne WG  
, Owensboro WG



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 12 Quaker House: Working for Peace and GI Rights presented by Chuck Fager, Director. Quaker Heritage Center, Wilmington College.
- Feb 16-19 FLGBTQC's 2007 Midwinter Gathering. The Summit conference center just north of Greensboro, NC
- Feb 18 Miami Quarterly Meeting. Eastern Hills Meeting, Cincinnati, OH
- Feb 24-25 OVYM Advancement and Nurture retreat weekend. Louisville Meeting.
- Mar 15-18 FWCC Section of the Americas Annual Meeting. Providence, RI
- April 27-29 Quaker Genealogy Conference. Wilmington and Waynesville, OH
- May 20-25 FWCC Quaker Interpreters Training Workshop. Earlham College, Richmond, IN.
- June 14-27 Friends Association for Higher Education summer conference. Earlham College, Richmond, IN
- June 30-July 7 FGC 2007 Gathering of Friends. University of Wisconsin, River Falls, WI
- July 8-Aug 5 Friends Music Camp. Olney Friends School, Barnesville, OH
- July 25-29 OVYM Annual Sessions. Earlham College, Richmond, IN
- Aug 10-19 FWCC Triennial. Dublin, Ireland

## Clerk's Page

*David Garman, Assistant Clerk*

I heard a candle. This experience of audible light happened to me on Christmas Morning at Meeting for Worship. This year we decided to bring candles to worship when we gathered for our traditional Christmas worship at Clear Creek Meeting. As Friends gathered, the number of candles increased and the Light grew. The room felt warmer and much less empty. As I was settling into worship, I became aware that one of the candles had a wick that created a soft sound as it burned. A phrase entered my mind: "you can hear the light."

In the past two years I have addressed time and hope in this January reflection. As I begin 2007, I continue to work on stewardship of my time and strive to keep a hopeful attitude. The new issue for me this year is one of attitude; I'm tempted to let sad things overwhelm me.

This year I am thinking about gloom and darkness. A new question came to me on Christmas Morning: Is my light inaudible? It was a dreary morning and then I began to experience the candlelight warming my spirit.

After a time, the sound of the candle again entered my thoughts. I began to ponder the possibility that one can hear light. As worship deepened for me, I began to notice sounds in the meeting room. There was the quiet shuffling of feet and soft breathing sounds. Then I began to hear the soft baby noises being made by my ten-week old granddaughter. A baby had never spoken so powerfully to me before. The sound of a candle, the sounds of my fellow worshipers, and the baby sounds all seemed to fill me with a sense that it is true that there is indeed something that can speak to one's condition.

If one listens to the light, other things come into one's awareness. I realize that I am not alone. There are things that connect me with others. It is as if others brought more light into my life. They brought candles into worship and made the room brighter. They brought their spiritual light

into the room and that light began to illuminate my gloomy self.

My sense of what came to me this year was the notion that if I take the time to notice what is around me I will be able to move forward. If I take note of what my community has for me I will receive the light to illuminate my path. The light calls out to with directions for the journey. The line from the beginning of the Gospel of John "the true light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world" comes as a gift from those around me. This year I heard a candle on Christmas morning.

At our Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting sessions in August 2006 the young Friends participating in the Childrens Program presented this query to the Yearly Meeting.

**"How are we personally connected to the earth in our lives and how do we use that connection in our lives?"**

At Joint Quarterly Meeting many Friends shared their response to the query by writing their comments on a large banner. We would be glad to add yours before presenting the banner to the youth at sessions in July. Please send your thoughts to me at [vwovym@donet.com](mailto:vwovym@donet.com). As the young people's query reminds us, the themes chosen for Yearly Meeting are not meant to be tended to for only one week, but daily throughout the year.

Virginia Wood, Presiding Clerk

## Religious Education

- Donna Bisset

Ideas, books and curriculum for younger children, recommended by Monthly Meetings who responded to our questionnaire:

- *Sparklers* -- a collection of themes with suggested activities and crafts.
- Obadiah books -- there is a teacher's book for activities and lessons to go along with each of the four Obadiah books.
- *Doctor Seuss for FDS* -- lessons based on eighteen Dr Seuss stories contain questions, activities and songs.
- *Daniel Goes to Meeting* -- pictures and descriptions of a child's experience in Meeting for Worship. The book encourages discussion about what happens in Meeting for Worship.

One Monthly Meeting keeps a "children's cart" ready, with all sorts of toys and books to hold an impromptu class when children show up at Meeting.

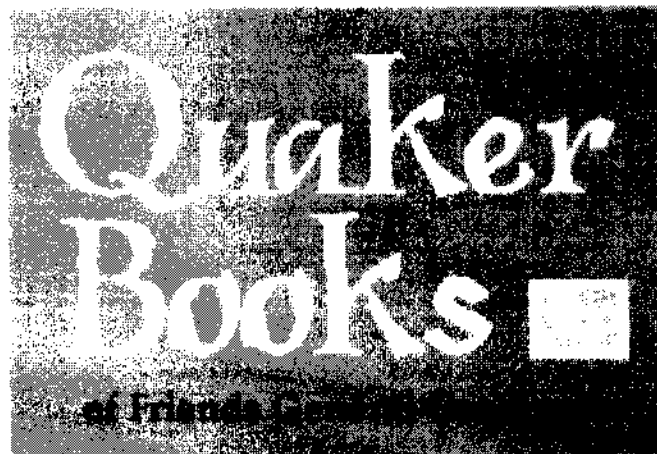
Suggested books for grade school children:

- *Friendly Story Caravan* -- stories to share and discuss.

- *Lives That Speak* -- 16 twentieth century Quakers whose lives spoke their witness to making peace and working for justice. Each chapter has questions and suggested activities.
- *Lighting Candles in the Dark* -- 40+ stories about people who showed bravery and courage as they dealt nonviolently with dangerous or difficult situations and social issues. Includes stories from Quaker history. An additional study guide is also available for teachers and parents that makes use of discussions, crafts, service projects and bible verses.

The *Doctor Seuss for FDS* curriculum (mentioned above) is also appropriate for all ages and excellent for intergenerational discussions.

Most of these books and curriculums are available through Quaker Books of FGC by going to [fgequaker.org](http://fgequaker.org) or [quakerbooks.org](http://quakerbooks.org). By going to these sites, one can find many other books and resources.



## QUARTERLY MEETING NEWS

**Miami Quarter** will meet on Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at Eastern Hills Friends Meeting, Cincinnati. Worship begins at 10 a.m., and potluck lunch will follow the meeting for worship.

Teens will enjoy an overnight at the meetinghouse the night before Quarterly Meeting and then will join with other attenders for worship and planned activities on the following day.

It is customary for travelers to bring sides and desserts for the potluck meal and for the home folk to bring main dishes. We do not lay this upon you as a rule or form to cook by, but that all, with the measure of light which is pure and holy, may be guided.

Following the meal, Oxford Friends will bring a video presentation on Bayard Rustin followed by a discussion. Business follows the program.

### The Schedule

- 10 a.m. Meeting for Worship with Eastern Hills
- 11:30 a.m. Potluck lunch (Meeting representatives meet to nominate stewards)
- 1-4 p.m. Youth program by Eastern Hills
- 1 p.m. Film and discussion on Bayard Rustin by Oxford
- 2:30-ish Meeting for Business

### Query

Are there Friends led to serve as an official of the Quarterly Meeting?

**Whitewater Quarter** met on January 20<sup>th</sup> at Clear Creek Meeting in Richmond, IN. The event was pleasant and rewarding for the few who attended. However, the clerk expressed a growing frustration with the difficulty in conducting business in a rightly-ordered fashion.

Attendance is very low at all meetings of Whitewater Quarter. Most of those attending are from the host meeting as few others wish to drive any distance for the event, and therefore, there seems to be little continuity of attenders from one meeting to the next. The question of the role of Quarterly Meetings arises again and again. The fact that we ask meetings to name representatives seems to imply that the gathering is for a select group and not for the entire body. Communication between representatives and their Monthly Meetings is not adequate for carrying out business which is intended to rise from the Monthly Meetings and move through the Quarterly Meeting to be forwarded to the Yearly Meeting.

A committee comprised of the Clerk, the Recording Clerk, the Treasurer, and one additional member have been charged with the task of drafting and sending a letter to constituent Monthly Meetings outlining the various difficulties in conducting business.

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"A visitor to a Quaker meeting stands up after five minutes of silence and asks, "When does the service begin?" An old Friend rises after a brief reflection and says, "Service begins when the worship ends."

## **MONTHLY MEETING NEWS**

### **Bloomington Meeting**

*- Terry Reynolds, correspondent*

In recent months, Bloomington Friends have more closely enveloped our children in the life of the meeting. Even the wiggliest ones are encouraged to attend the first fifteen minutes of meeting for worship. Weekly First Day School reports include introductions of all the children, in addition to information about their lessons. Artwork is often shown to all. An intergenerational activity is now planned and held after meeting for worship once each month. One First Day each month is also designated as "Teen Sunday," when the teens discuss a topic of interest. We are grateful to our Religious Education Committee and to our parents for their efforts to more closely integrate our young ones into the life of the meeting.

Adult education is ongoing. A series was recently completed on the foundations of Quakerism, using Howard Brinton's Friends for 350 Years as the basis for worship sharing and discussion. A group of Friends is currently meeting and examining the Gospel of Thomas. Ministry & Counsel members led us in an extended query discussion on death and dying, which kindled thoughts of our beliefs as Quakers.

Our annual holiday party included a play by the children featuring terrorists (who underwent a change of heart) and many sweet sheep. Some adults participated in, and others attended, an all-faith musical program our meeting sponsored along with the Bloomington Unitarian Universalists. We endorsed an upcoming two day FCNL workshop in Bloomington that will focus on how to bring about changes by effective lobbying.

New paint in some rooms has brightened up our meetinghouse on these gray winter days.

Landscaping done in the fall promises blossoms this spring and summer.

We joyously welcomed Mandy Smith as a new member.

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### **Campus Meeting**

*Jim and Millie Ramsey, correspondents*

Upon review, it was decided that the Spiritual Journeys program be laid down.

Folks from the FWCC Regional Gathering were guests at the First Day Meeting of Campus Friends in October.

Campus Friends have held two midweek meetings for worship (in addition to First Day Meeting) for the benefit of interested Wilmington College students.

On Saturday December 2, Campus Friends provided and served lunch at Your Father's Kitchen, a local pantry. The Girl Scout Troop of Linda Sears' granddaughter was incorporated to help at the luncheon. The service is offered periodically by Campus Friends Meeting.

Approved for 2007:

Presiding Clerk, Patricia Thomas  
Asst. Presiding Clerk, Ron Rembert  
Recording Clerk, Bob Powell  
Asst. Recording Clerk, Lenna Mae Gara  
Treasurer, Dale Hayes  
FCNL Liaison, Lenna Mae Gara

Kate Lynn has gone to Chicago to be with her mother who has terminal cancer.

Campus Friends Meeting is a co-sponsor of an All Campus Worship Meeting on Wednesdays during February, March, and April, proposed by the Campus Minister's Office.

The Meeting is holding a retreat the weekend of April 20-22 at Quaker Knoll Camp. The theme of the retreat is "Is God Green?" An interesting schedule has been planned.

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## **Clear Creek Meeting**

*- Cecile Holvik, correspondent*

The recent months have brought both joy and sorrow to members of Clear Creek Meeting.

On September 14, 2006 Hope Farber died after a long illness. On September 24, 2006, Jean Reller passed away. Both women were devoted members of our Meeting and served with distinction on various committees, but particularly on Ministry and Oversight. We offer our condolences to their families

We shared the joy of the wedding of Dan Sims to Janet Withers. After the traditional Quaker ceremony, guests all participated in a time of contra dancing.

Several members were abroad in recent months. Karli Kalve led a group of Earlham students to India. They returned in January.

Mariah Miller completed her studies at Freiberg University in Germany. Sara Sexton is studying in Barcelona, Spain, on a Rotary International Scholarship.

The Meeting extended its sympathy to Ruth and Dan Sims on the loss of their husband and father, respectively.

Jenny Dove-Isbell led a thought-provoking discussion on how we determine our philanthropic giving. For example, one of the questions asked was "are my giving choices an extension of my faith."

L. Gillad Keefe and Katrina Parry were accepted into the meeting as sojourner members from Rochester NY Monthly meeting.

As Christmas approached the Meeting held its traditional intergenerational making of simple gifts, and the First Day children produced another energetic retelling of the Christmas story.

On January 20th the Meeting will host the Quarterly Whitewater Meeting.

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## **Community Meeting**

*- Wilhelmina Branson, correspondent*

Community Friends Meeting began the fall First Day School program by having an Intermediate Youth overnight camp out at the Meeting House the beginning of Ninth Month, 2006. This included a service project, playing cooperative games and singing around the campfire. The seven middle youth who attended thanked the many adults who made this retreat time together possible.

A Retreat for all of Community Meeting was held the weekend of Ninth Month 29th through Tenth Month 1st at Quaker Knoll Camp near Wilmington, Ohio. The theme was Discerning our Call: Individual and Corporate Leadings, facilitated by Patricia Thomas, who is clerk of Campus Meeting as well as Campus Minister at Wilmington College. Questions such as, How does it feel to be led? and How do we test a leading? were pondered.

Hollister Knowlton, clerk of the Outreach/Witness Committee of Quaker Earthcare Witness, the national Quaker environmental group, came to speak to Community Friends Meeting on Twelfth Month 10, 2006. She presented slides and stories from visits to sustainable communities in Gaviotas, Columbia, Finca La Bella, Costa Rica, and also discussed the transformative Zeri projects she has seen.

Two of the founders of the Center for Development in Central America, sisters Pat (Quaker) and Kathy Floerke came to Community Meeting on Eleventh Month 17th,

2006. They showed slides and talked about the sustainable community development in Nicaragua. There was also an opportunity to buy Nicaraguan handcrafts.

Quakerism 201, an adult education offering, has now begun. It is scheduled for every other Third day evening. The theme is A Spiritual Journey with Pendle Hill Pamphlets. The format will be like a seminar with those attending taking turns leading the discussion.

The highlight of our Christmas celebration was the presentation of The Christmas Play. The young people selected Charles Dickens The Christmas Carol theme for the play. Shannan McKelvey Isaacs had written the script several years back, so this was pulled out of the archives and learned by a new group of young people. Krystin Schmidt was the director, assisted by Seth Fichter, Will Woodward and Marjorie Isaacs.

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## **Dayton Meeting**

*Terri Searpelli, correspondent*

On October 20 several Dayton Friends gathered after having been transformed into our favorite Quakers. George Cadbury, John Woolman, Elizabeth Hooten, and even James Dean were among those who were in attendance. We enjoyed figuring out each others identities, a potluck meal, which included Cadbury chocolate, and games after the meal.

On November 17 Friends met at the home of Virginia and David Wood for fellowship, a meal, and to hear them speak about their travel among other Meetings.

Our youth presented our annual Christmas program on December 17. The older youth helped us learn about holiday traditions of various religions while the younger children relayed the importance of animals at the time of Jesus' birth with a presentation relating to the hymn, The Friendly Beasts. We then

partook in a potluck meal following the youth's presentation.

We continue to hold second hour discussions once a month. Our topic in October was "Death and Dying" and has been "Prayer" in November, December, and January.

The father of Barbara Robinson passed away in December after a lengthy illness. We extend our deepest sympathy to Barbara and hold her and her family in the light and ask you to do the same.

We also extend heartfelt sympathy to Reed Smith and his family on the death of his wife, Marjorie. Marjorie passed away November 6, 2006. Reed and Marjorie were among the founding members of Dayton Friends Meeting and are loved by all of us who knew them when they were still members of our meeting before moving to State College, Pennsylvania. A memorial service for Marjorie is planned for June 17 and will be held here in Dayton. If you would like more details about the service please contact Nikki Coffey-Tousley at [touslenc@notes.udayton.edu](mailto:touslenc@notes.udayton.edu) (937-253-3366) or David Wood at [dwood@donet.com](mailto:dwood@donet.com) (937-426-9875).

Some very good news we have to share with you as we begin the new year is that we are delighted to begin the process of welcoming Janis Fisher into our meeting as a member. Janis has been a very faithful and involved attender of our meeting for about a year and we are very pleased that she is joining us as a member.

One of the main projects of our Peace and Social Concerns Committee is establishing resources of information about Conscientious Objection for our own youth and eventually for the youth of the surrounding community. The committee is using a PowerPoint presentation about Conscientious Objection developed by Chapel Hill Meeting in North Carolina. Ben Richmond and his son Christopher of Richmond, Indiana have been invited to speak with youth and concerned adults about this topic



on March 4 in the fellowship hall at Mack Memorial Church in Dayton. Please let us know if you would like to assist us or be involved with this very important and timely project. For more information contact Marian Alter at 937-643-9161.

Dayton Friends are a very close knit group and we feel strong ties to one another. In order to facilitate even more fellowship and familiarity with one another, our Ministry and Oversight Committee has set up cluster groups. These are groups of two or three families that meet every couple of months to get to know one another better.

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## **Eastern Hills Meeting**

*Franchot Ballinger, correspondent*

The months between the beginning of school and the New Year have been a busy time for folks at Eastern Hills.

Footie Lund, Wilmington Yearly Meeting representative to FWCC, attended a meeting of the Finance Committee (of the Section of the Americas) in Seattle. While there, she was able to attend worship at North Seattle Friends Meeting (unprogrammed).

Franchot Ballinger and Mike Henson participated in the September 30th Quaker Authors book sale and signing at Books 'n More in Wilmington. Mike offered his collection of poems, *Crow Call*, written in response to the shooting death of his friend Buddy Gray, a Cincinnati activist and co-founder of the National Coalition for the Homeless. Franchot offered his cd of Native American flute music, *Quiet Heart*, and his book *Living Sideways: Tricksters in American Indian Oral Traditions*.

The meeting has enjoyed recent Second Hours by Roland Kreager and Cindi Goslee on Right Sharing of World Resources, by Ralph and Darlene Palmer on their experience with Habitat for Humanity in Benton Harbor, MI,

Wilson Palmer on OVYM Discipline Revision Committee, and Mike Henson on Thomas Merton.

Some of us in Eastern Hills Meeting committed to following the "Calendar for Thanksgiving," a fundraiser for Right Sharing of World Resources. This calendar asks that participants recognize the blessings in their lives by each day putting aside a certain amount of money in response to those blessings. For example, on the first Wednesday of November, as thanks for abundant food participants were asked to give 1¢ for each dish on the dinner table that night. The next day, participants were to give 1¢ for each water faucet in the house in thanks for running water.

Four Eastern Hills teens entered college this fall: Jeremy and Nathan Coppock, Grace Montgomery, and Matthew Wispe. We miss the energy they gave the Meeting but of course are supportive of them in the paths they have chosen.

Speaking of energy, the Meeting's premier walker, Alice Palmer, completed yet another walking marathon, this one in Chicago. All that good exercise may well allow her to match her father-in-law Russell Palmer's feat of turning 90 (January 9, 2007).

Finally, we enjoyed our annual Christmas variety show on December 17; members entertained the Meeting with music, jokes, stories, and poems. The show's highlights may well have been Nathan and Seth Boyce. Seth (8) told jokes and Nathan (12) read a story he had written and illustrated. Our tree this year was decorated with gift cards from Payless Shoes for children in Cincinnati who can't attend school because they have no shoes. Alice Palmer added to the gift tree scarves that she had knitted. This may explain all the knitting that she does during Meeting for Business.

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## **Hopewell Meeting**

*— Sherita Saffer-Campbell, correspondent*

Hopewell continues in its progress to complete the tasks we proposed in our June workshop.

We are erecting our new sign designed by an artistic person in our Meeting. This is to let folks know where we are located so they can attend all our exciting events.

We are replacing the old windows as part of our yearly cleaning and maintenance activities to be good stewards of our Meeting House.

This past fall we had a labyrinth loaned from ESR that traveled all over this country and other countries. This walking meditation and prayer was the beginning of our Peace mission we have assigned ourselves. In accordance with this we watched and discussed the DVD *What the Bleep Do We Know?* The two hours of discussion was led by a Hopewell member.

Together we write and send out cards to Hopewell attendees who no longer can attend our Meeting because of health problems and distance. Several of them have written that they are appreciative of this practice so we are extending our Christmas Greetings with pictures of us taken during Meeting to wish everyone a Merry Christmas a Happy New Year.

We are now reading and discussing *Creating New Peace*, by Thich Nhat Hanh, to further prepare us for our Peace Center and Garden.

Grandparents are bring their grandchildren to First Day School to the delight of the Meeting.

December 17, after discussion hour, we will take a Christmas meal to share with Renaissance House in Richmond. We will then share Worship with them. It will be an enjoyable time and we shall see the corn pellet stove that we purchased for the house.

As always we hold in the Light all those who work, pray and sometimes die for Peace. We

hold in the Light those who have chosen a path of violence that their hearts may be softened and their paths changed.

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## **Lexington Meeting**

*— Gail Koehler, correspondent*

Quaker Quill Submission

15 January 2007 Lexington Friends Meeting

This fall and early winter we have been greatly blessed in worship and activity. For example, the All-Kentucky Gathering hosted by Louisville Meeting in September was tremendous: the talent show - put on mostly by our younger f/Friends - is always a highlight. A larger-than-recently-usual number of us were also fed by the Joint Quarterly Meeting in October at Happy Hollow.

Our Quakerism 101 series of First Hour discussions (and one potluck) were well-attended - after a historical overview, topics included Witnessing to the Light; Living in the Light; and Seeing the Light Within: Worship and Vocal Ministry. Another potluck topic carried the theme to: Ministering Beyond the Meeting. More recently, First Hour has been devoted to a careful reading of the small but excellent book by Tom Gates titled *Opening the Scriptures: Bible Lessons from the 2005 Annual Gathering of Friends*.

In First Day School we began the school year's FDS sessions with a number of Paulette Meier's songs from the *Come Join the Circle* CD, enriched by her lesson plans online. Then, we heard stories from Hispanic culture and the celebrations of the Virgin of Guadalupe and the Day of the Dead, culminating in an October potluck opportunity to share with the adults what we had learned. Next, we studied the Christian scriptures, particularly the gospels as we re-read the Christmas story closely. For our annual dramatic presentation at the holiday party we presented a play we read about in last year's Quaker Quill; Bloomington MM shared their 2005 text with us and our audience

reported as much enjoyment in watching as we did in learning the story of a Indiana Quaker family, circa 1840s, whose assistance of runaway slaves embodies the Christmas message. In January as we learn a little about Islam we are finding that children and adults alike find the material challenging in a number of ways.

To our great joy we have enthusiastically welcomed a new member. Under the "concerns" section of our newsletter, several among us have been challenged by health concerns. Two of our number have experienced the deaths of parents.

Our finance committee has led us through a survey and finally to a discernment process in business to reconsider the charitable concerns we support as we work to be faithful stewards of the financial resources and commitments of the meeting.

The weekly peace vigil continues -- faithfully witnessing to a need to end the war -- now running for more than 260 weeks.

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## **Louisville Meeting**

*- Donna Bisset, correspondent*

In September, we began offering Adult Religious Education classes on a weekly basis and lead by various people in the Meeting. Attendance has been good. We have covered topics of Simplicity, Singing, Faith and Practice, Worship-Sharing, letter-writing to our legislators, and Sharing of Personal Journeys. More recently, we have been addressing queries during worship-sharing in preparation for an All-Meeting Retreat in February.

We have a new family of Quakers from Burundi in our Meeting. They are Ernest and Matilda Ngendakumana and their six children. Ernest and Matilda both have jobs now and are taking English classes. The children are enrolled in schools. The Meeting, with much help from Marge Mankc, has been taking an

interest in seeing that the family has warm Winter-wear, linens and household necessities, and rides to Meeting on Sundays. We frequently have an interpreter at Meeting to help with the French until English becomes more comfortable for them.

The Harvest Fest was a chance for fellowship, food, laughter and decorating jars for our Pocket Change for UNICEF Project. The party this year was held across the street from the meetinghouse, at the home of Willie and Susan Wilson. The house was full.

James and Becky Peterson had a son, James H Peterson IV, on November 2, 2006. They are calling him Ivan. Doug Stern coordinated meals from F/friends for the first few weeks.

Lee B. Thomas Jr. will be inducted into the Kentucky Business Hall of Fame in March 07, following the lead of his late father, Lee B. Thomas Sr.

In December, we were visited by Virginia Wood, who spoke to us on the importance of taking part in the wider-Quaker fellowship.

The children put on their annual Christmas play and, as usual, it was very sweet and colorful. We also had Potluck the same day, during which we tallied up the jars of coins from our Pocket Change for UNICEF Project -- \$250.45 was collected (much of it in pennies!!!!)

Our Space Committee continues to hold open-discussions on ways to use our space. Progress has been a step-by-step process, as many in our Meeting continue to pursue the query of what it is that God is calling us, as a Meeting, to do. The recent addition of Adult RE classes has started various conversations on that topic.

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## **Miami Meeting**

*-- Lanny Burger, correspondent*

Miami Monthly Meeting's Burial Ground: Much work has been done in the past year to improve the burial ground. More than an acre has been reclaimed from the honeysuckle and other shrubs and vines that had overgrown the land over the years. Gravestones that were once inaccessible are now easily located by friends and family members. As some may be aware, the burial ground is divided into Hicksite and Orthodox sections and we have the names and locations of all of the graves on the Hicksite side. We need your help! We are planning to put a board in the burial ground denoting the names and plots of those buried there for those of often visit the Meeting searching for ancestors. If anyone has knowledge of the names and locations of those buried on the Orthodox side (nearest the Red Brick Meetinghouse), please notify any member of Miami Monthly Meeting.

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## **North Meadow Circle**

*Stanley Zarowin, correspondent*

Our Meeting is in an intense period of growth-both inward and outward.

The inward first: We are holding an eight-session intensive on Quakerism, conducted by Paul Buckley. It explores the development of the Society from its emergence in 17th century England to the present day, including such topics as the Quaker understandings of the Inward Light of Christ and Gospel Order, meeting for worship, discernment and business practice, the Testimonies and contemporary issues.

Over the last several months we've held threshing sessions, exploring the content of messages in meeting for worship. Underlying our examination were these questions: Is our Meeting too politicized-that is, are our spiritual paths being obstructed by politics and national

and international events? Or are we too muted in speaking truth to power? These threshing sessions provided room for us examine our community openly and uncritically, which is enriching our community.

We've sponsored two series of evening videos on issues of peace and social concerns.

The outward: We have launched a series of ads in a local publication that invites visitors with the question: Are you a Quaker and don't know it?

And, some Friends ask, if the ads are successful and we experience more visitors than we have space on our hard, wooden benches, where will these visitors sit? That question is prompting us to ask: Do we need (or do we even want) to expand? Our meeting room is physically size-limited, so our several options include: selling our beloved meetinghouse (which will be paid for in little more than three years) and buying a more appropriate building, adding an addition to the present building, birthing a preparatory meeting or sit silently in expectant waiting. This topic, too, will be on the agenda of our next threshing session.

Our Meeting now supports two prison antiviolence programs. For years we've sponsored the Health Increase the Peace Program (HIPP) for juveniles, and now we've added a program for adult prison inmates, the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), which is conducting workshops in the prison in Plainfield.

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## **Yellow Springs Meeting**

*Carl Hyde, correspondent*

Paul Wagner and Carolyn Treadway were married under the care of the Meeting on November 24th. Each of them came from a long, successful marriage that had been ended by cancer. It was said that this marriage could not fail because each of them had so much satisfactory marriage experience.

Never in living memory had the Meeting honored a marriage in which each member of the couple had such a wealth of Friends experience, history and spirit.

Frances M. Goodman, a longtime died on September 30. She is remembered for her mothering skills, with her own children and many others.

Yearly Meeting teens had such a good time at the joint quarterly meeting in October that they wanted their own retreat. Moreover, they wanted it in Yellow Springs. So on the second

weekend in December they settled in at Rockford Meeting House with sleeping bags and fun. Ed Hyde, who organized a similar retreat when he was a teen and is now an Earlham College graduate, took part in the retreat as an adult presence.

Irwin Abrams published his "Thoughts about God" in the December Friends Journal.

We are thankful for active new adult members and attenders, including one fugitive from New Orleans. We continue to feel much blessed.



*Begin now, as you read these words, as you sit in your chair, to offer your whole selves, utterly and in joyful abandon, in quiet, glad surrender to Him who is within. In secret ejaculations of praise, turn in humble wonder to the Light, faint though it may be.*

— Thomas Kelly

*And the law of God is written in every heart, and it is there that he manifests himself; And in infinite love, according to our necessities, states, conditions. And as we are all various and different from one another, more or less, so the law by the immediate operation of divine grace in the soul, is suited to every individual according to his condition.*

Elias Hicks

*Keep within. And when they say, 'lo here', or 'lo there' is Christ; go not forth; for Christ is within you. And they are seducers and antichrists, which draw your minds out from the teachings within you.*

— George Fox

## **NEWS FROM OUTSIDE OVYM**

### **Christian Mysticism Grants**

The Elizabeth Ann Bogert Memorial Fund for the Study and Practice of Christian Mysticism, administered by Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, makes annual grants of up to \$1000.

#### **RECENT GRANTS**

A variety of proposals relating to Christian mysticism are given consideration by the Grants Committee. Projects funded in 2006 included: a 10-day writing retreat for prayer and research into the mystics and their spiritual senses; a study of the relationship between permaculture and Christian mysticism; publication of an anthology of accounts of mystical experience; establishment of a library section on Christian mysticism in a state prison; travel costs to visit key landmarks in France important in the life of Joan of Arc, assisting completion of two one-woman plays for performance.

#### **APPLICATIONS**

Grant proposals should be no more than two pages and include a statement of the applicant's working definition of mysticism, a description of the project, the specific amount of money requested, the way in which a grant will be used, other sources of funding, and plans for communicating the results to others.

Seven typed copies of the proposal should be mailed to Bogert Fund Secretaries, Vinton and Michelina Deming, 4818 Warrington Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143. Two or three people familiar with the applicant's work should mail letters of reference directly to the secretaries.

#### **APPLICATION DEADLINE**

Proposals and references for 2007 grants are due by March 1, 2007.

Decision will be made by the committee in May; grants distributed in June. Recipients are asked to send a progress report within a year. A brochure describing the fund is available. Inquiries may be sent by email to the secretaries at [muccidem@verizon.net](mailto:muccidem@verizon.net).

### **Quaker Interpreters Training Workshop**

Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas will hold a workshop to train bilingual (English/Spanish) Friends in the basics of consecutive and simultaneous interpretation in a Quaker context. It will take place at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana May 20-25, 2007. Vicki Hain Poorman, FWCC Bilingual Communications staff and Loida Fernandez, Committee of Latin American Friends (COAL) Executive Secretary, will provide instruction. Vicki teaches the course Introduction to Consecutive and Simultaneous Interpretation at LaSalle University in Philadelphia. She holds a Master's degree in Interpretation and Translation from the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California. Loida has a degree in Teaching English as a Second Language, is an experienced and highly qualified interpreter for FWCC and recently obtained additional training at Woodbrooke in the UK on Translating and Interpreting in a Quaker Context.

Interpretation - particularly simultaneous interpretation - is a special skill that has to be learned. This workshop is offered to Friends who have not only the language skills but also who see interpretation among Friends as a ministry. Those selected to participate - we can accommodate up to 20 - will be evaluated for English and Spanish language skills and interest in service to the Religious Society of Friends. For more information go to [www.fwccamericas.org](http://www.fwccamericas.org) or call (215) 241-7250.

## Slowing Down to the Speed of Life

Quaker Earthcare Witness has produced a pamphlet by Carolyn W. Treadway that tells us "Slowing down is a spiritual process, based on reverence for life, ourselves, and each other."

"All of us are affected by the current pace of living, and it all is taking a toll on our planet ... hear variations on themes of:

- incessant pressure and busyness
- every-rising expectations, never-ending demands
- multi-tasking, no time to concentrate
- fatigue, restlessness
- breakdown of relationships and social networks, intimacy famine
- disconnection from nature
- lack of focus and meaning
- soul-hunger, spiritual void

... Are you living your own life as you truly wish to live? Are you living from a divine Center? What is *really* important to you? What are your key values, priorities, passions, testimonies, and witnesses? Does your life actually reflect and honor these? What do you want more of, and less of, in your life? What brings you energy, fulfillment and joy? Since you and the planet are profoundly interconnected, what are the contributions *you* want to offer our world? ..."

Where can you start?

- Slow down! Just breathe. Rest, reflect a while, take time to pray. Then slowly, bit by bit, reclaim your own life.
- Develop a spiritual practice to center your days.
- Make careful choices about how you use your precious, finite time and energy. Join the "Take Back Your Time" movement ... To clear time for what you really want, what can you cease doing? Are you asking more of yourself than you have the time or energy to do? If so, you are not living sustainably.
- Consider your energy. What activities and involvements feed you and bless you? Increase the former and weed out the latter..."

What Quaker Meetings can do

- Support individuals and families experiencing difficulty in simplifying their lives.
- Sponsor study groups to address these concerns. Materials could include:
  - The "Voluntary Simplicity" study guide from the Northwest Earth Institute
  - Relevant Quaker writings, such as those of Thomas Kelly and John Woolman
  - Other books such as Mark A. Burch's *Simplicity* from New Society Publishers or Thomas Moore's *Care of the Soul, a Guide to Cultivating Depth and Sacredness in Everyday Life* from HarperCollins or Linda Kavelin Popov's *Pace of Grace* from Plume, Penguin Group

For more information about workshops and life coaching on simplicity, slowing down, and sustainability, contact Carolyn Treadway c/o:

Quaker Earthcare Witness

173-B N. Prospect St.

Burlington, VT 05401-1607

802 658-0308; [info@quakerearthcare.org](mailto:info@quakerearthcare.org)

[www.quakerearthcare.org](http://www.quakerearthcare.org)

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## Meriam R. Hare Quaker Heritage Center

January 16 through March 23

In the Gallery: "Silent Witness: Quaker Meetinghouses in the Delaware Valley, 1695 to the Present"

February 27, 7:30 p.m.

"Ohio's Silent Witness: Quaker Meetinghouses in the Miami Valley" with Karen Campbell

April 1, 2:00 p.m.

"Reading Scripture Through the Eyes of John Woolman" with Michael Birkel

April 1 through June 22

In the Gallery: "Some Considerations on the Keeping of Negroes: John Woolman and Other Anti-Slavery Friends"

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting  
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“Cowardice asks the question, ‘Is it safe?’  
Expediency asks the question, ‘Is it politic?’  
Vanity asks the question, ‘Is it popular?’  
But, conscience asks the question, ‘Is it right?’

And there comes a time when one must take a  
position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor  
popular, but one must take it because one’s  
conscience tells one that it is right.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

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