

Epistle to Friends Everywhere....



Greeting to all Friends everywhere,

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting met for its 188th annual session on the campus of Earlham College, July 30-August 3, 2008 using the theme “Delve deeply, walk lightly, dwell in harmony” to shape our time together. Early in our sessions we saw how the strains of our theme were echoed in epistles from Friends around the world as they expressed common concerns for deepening the spiritual experience, caring for the earth, and fostering understanding among us. A sense of connectedness and an appreciation for the richness of the fabric of the Society of Friends provided the backdrop for our sessions.

The different strains of our theme were pulled together by Jens Braun of New York Yearly Meeting as he drew from his experiences working in Costa Rica and the Gaza Strip and from his later leading to participate in an intentional community in New York. While working to walk lightly on the earth, he realized that sustainability is not enough. We want much more than the stasis implied by that word, as we delve more deeply into the values that sustain us and allow those values to guide us in our efforts to dwell in harmony. He challenged us to break away from the societal architecture that shapes our situations and step into a world where wealth consists of wellbeing and wholeness rather than tradeable goods.

Doug Gwynn of Indiana Yearly Meeting took us from the divergent beliefs of present-day Quakers back to the set of tenets that defined the early Seekers in 17th Century England. Doug led us in an examination of the historical context that shaped the Society of Friends in the 1640s, and helped us to understand the societal influences that fed the fervor of early Friends. We were left to ponder how we might recreate that sense of urgency and longing for a reawakening to Christ’s message.

A set of queries helped us delve deeply into our understanding of God and to share our experiences of the Spirit in worship sharing sessions. Considering questions such as how we have experienced the leading of the Spirit, how we share our faith with others, and what convictions sustain our commitment to service or witness, we challenged ourselves to find the spiritual center we all share. Workshops, too, helped us explore how we can find commonalities and dwell in harmony as we considered topics ranging from discovering Convergent Friends to finding paths to peace between Israel and Palestine.

Business sessions continued our discussions of the revision of our book of discipline and of the equitable division of responsibility for our financial needs among the monthly meetings. We struggled to find common ground on definitions of membership in the Society of Friends and what it means to be a member. We searched for ways to be sensitive to the burden of our financial expectations on struggling meetings. While the process can at times be uncomfortable, we also see the Spirit moving among us as we work to resolve these issues.

We rejoiced in the participation of a vibrant community of teens and young people, and welcomed a growing group of young adult Friends. They challenged us with queries, contributed to workshops, and joined with us in plenary sessions while conducting their own business sessions, working on service projects, and enjoying their leisure time together. In their hands, we’re confident of a bright future for the Society of Friends.

Our time together in these sessions has been rich and full. We have challenged ourselves to delve deeply. We have explored our commitment to walk lightly. We have searched for ways to dwell in harmony. We take away from this place the sense of renewal necessary to continue the process, and we share with all Friends everywhere the desire for God’s loving presence in our lives.



A Note from our Clerk...

As I begin this article for the Quill, I am humbled by the service of all the people in our yearly meeting, but particularly those who have previously served as Presiding Clerk. May it be the Spirit's will that my service to the yearly meeting be some small part of the work we are called to do as a People.

So it seems natural to briefly introduce myself. I was born into Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative, the fourth son of John and Reva Griffith. I am rooted and grounded by these two people and feel blessed to have been their youngest acorn.

Lexington Monthly Meeting is my spiritual home. I am married to Patricia and am a proud parent of two young women, Treva and Carrie. My income comes from rebuilding and servicing pianos. One semi-professional passion is being a performing musician. And I would be remiss not to mention my dog Abbey, cat Toni, and dove Prince. My life is given to the work of transforming our world and I am a glass half-full kind of guy. Each one of the above relationships enriches and blesses my life every day.

Most of you who come to Yearly Meeting know me as the guy who plays the accordion clown at our Saturday evening talent

show or the one who leads hymn singing after dinner, both cherished roles that I have no intention of giving up in order to be a more dignified figure as Presiding Clerk. This is some of the best work that I am called to do. (Also, I don't intend to "own" these roles if someone else wants to be a hymn-singing accordion clown. The bar is set at unprecedented depths! To wit, Bill Shetter and his Quaker limericks!) Enough talk of me.

What work are you called to do? Do you have a calling? Often the answers to these questions are shifting for us as individuals as we grow and respond to the Guide. The same questions rise up for our meetings and these answers also shift. May you find the peace and blessing of hearing the Guide, and may you share this calling with your meeting community. They should be able to nurture and nudge you if the meeting is doing its work of responding to the Guide. If you are at a loss with no calling, listen!

What listening are you called to do? Please listen to our Teens and Young Adult Friends. They have some fairly specific requests of our yearly meeting and monthly meetings at the present time. Teens need some financial support to make a trip to Alaska to be gathered with teens there next summer, and Young Adult Friends express in their epistle a need for monthly and yearly meeting support. Maybe you can find an empty slot in the Nominating Committee's report of people doing the work of the Yearly Meeting. Listening will take you to deeper places. If you are able to hear, you may even find your calling! It won't make your life easier, but it will make it richer. Mind the Light, Friends.

Whitewater Quarter News

As of this writing, Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends have not met since the publication of the Sixth Month 2008 issue of the Quaker Quill. Of course, many of us were present at Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting annual sessions at the end of Seventh Month/beginning of Eighth Month, where we were able to welcome members of our newest monthly meeting, Fort Wayne Friends, as "official" participants in the Yearly Meeting sessions. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends are looking forward to the Joint Quarterly Meeting to be held Tenth Month 11-12, 2008, at Happy Hollow Camp near Nashville, IN, under the care of North Meadow Circle of Friends.



Twelve Quakers quite still.

The Quaker Quill is published three times a year in February, June, and October by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. Submission deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Editor: Annie Glen, 7632 George Doherty Road, Centerville, IN 47330. Email: jaglen@gmail.com.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Officers

Ben Griffith, Presiding Clerk

Virginia Wood, Assistant Presiding Clerk

Deb Kociszewski, Recording Clerk

Stephen Angell, Treasurer

Paul Buckley, Assistant Treasurer

Annie Glen, Newsletter Editor

An Invitation from Peace and Social Concerns

Peaces and Social Concerns Committee

Twice during the year we provide Friends with the opportunity to offer service, in a workday. This Fall we will be working at Fall Creek Friends just east of Pendleton, Indiana, on October 25, 2008.

At the Joint Quarterly Meeting held at Happy Hollow Camp on October 11-12, 2008 we will offer two discussions during the Interest Group period: Election Reform, led by David Pilbrow; and Testimonies our new Sub-Committee will talk about the opportunity to get involved.

We hope that you are following up on the things from the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting sessions this year. What you learned at Jane Stowe's great workshop, "Searching for Peace between Israel and Palestine". And the two minutes adopted, on Afghanistan/Iran and on Cluster Bombs.

One of our many great Quaker Singers, Joan Baez has for the first time in five years issued a new album, "Day After Tomorrow". The album is a lot more sentimental in tone, still with the peace spirit but a little more peaceful, few in your face get up and take action songs. But still the message is there She sings "Scarlet Tide" (by Elvis Costello) That says in part:

Man goes beyond his own decision
Gets caught up in the mechanism
Of swindlers who act like kings
And brokers who break everything

And in the chorus:

We'll rise above the scarlet tide
That trickles down through the mountain
And separates the widow from the bride



An Epistle from the Middle Youth

Dear Friends,
We're the Middle Youth group, and our theme this year was to see how we could Tread Lightly and Delve Deeper in our lives. We did lots of stuff like canoeing, biking, swimming, ping-pong, the variety show, and most importantly, spending time together as a community. We learned new things like bike safety and lots of new games like Mao! We learned new things, such as bike safety and lots of new games like Mao! These were important because it helped us learn to work together and really helped us become closer and be a true community. It makes us sad when we realize that we only get to see each other and spend time like this once a year, but that just makes us really enjoy and cherish every moment we have together. Connecting with each other really helped us find that place within our selves to Dwell in Harmony.

Sincerely,
The Middle Youth



Epistle to the Yearly Meeting from the Young Adult Friends

Dear Friends,

The Young Adults of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting met Friday evening to discuss our experience thus far, our current status within the Yearly Meeting and our ideas, hopes, and needs for the future of the group.

In the process of checking in with each other, we discovered that many of us feel isolated and not adequately nurtured and supported within our home communities and within the Yearly Meeting. For many of us the meeting on Friday was the first experience we had since teen group where a gray head was not to be found. While we appreciate the mentoring and relationships we have with our older Friends there is a shared need for a stronger community with each other.

This is a difficult time for us. The scattering influences of changing environments, relationships, and communities, combined with the sheer distance between small groups of young adults makes it hard for a strong network and program of nurture to develop. Support from the yearly meeting is needed to enable these relationships to grow and enable us to rise to the challenge we feel is often placed on us by our elders, that though we are the future, we are also the present of the yearly meeting.

We considered the following ideas for future developments of our program; already several of us have joined committees, however due to the transitional nature of our lifestyles, this is not always possible. The development of a Young Adult semi-program which would interact with teens, adults, and each other, would help bridge the gap between these groups and provide us with time for reflection and worship. This semi-program, along with an institutional counterpart of interested adults and young adults, would also provide a point of growth for other developments. We don't feel a whole committee or block of programming is necessary, however it may be useful to have a mentor, elder, pointperson, or some combination of those to brainstorm activities and network support. We also feel strongly that a young plenary speaker would be refreshing and empowering both for the young adults and for the yearly meeting.

Outside of the yearly meeting, connections with FGC's Youth Ministries, FWCC's support, Young Adults in other Yearly Meetings and other religious groups such as house churches, should be encouraged to foster religious conversation between OVYM Young Adults, and to enable us to take roles in larger religious developments. To some extent this can only happen organically, but a method of developing these connections has been missing up to this point.

Within our monthly meetings it may be helpful for members to keep track of the young adults, and not let graduating teens slip through the cracks of communication. It also may be useful for there to be some mechanism of maintaining purpose for young adults so that there is not a shock of emerging from a program into the bewildering world of business meetings.



Already there has been some realization of our goals. We've had a great time this session reconnecting and enjoying each others company. We hope that the young adults continue to meet, maintain and build upon our community within the larger Yearly Meeting. We look forward to working along with adults and teens as we negotiate this transitional time. We appreciate the support that we have been given so far and anticipate an easier facilitation and self-recognition of our needs, abilities, and gifts.

Third day, eighth month, 2008

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



Continuing Our Epistles...

The Teen epistle —

Greetings, Dear Friends around the world,

This yearly meeting began, as always, with the joyful reunion of close friends and the excitement of meeting new people as they slowly trickled into Richmond, IN. We began our first meeting by playing a few games and introducing the shining new faces to our collective body.

On Thursday, we set out on our annual canoe trip. We spent the day in the sun, swimming, swinging from ropes, sitting on mud-encrusted wooden canoe-seats, and of course, smashing spiders. There were also some invaluable opportunities for thinking and great conversation. Some of us even felt the need to transport ourselves back to the age of pirates. Overall, the canoe trip was quite fun, and in parts exciting, tiring, invigorating, exasperating, thought-provoking, and (occasionally) sublimely spiritual.

That same evening, after returning from our day excursion, the Quaker teens had the pleasure of attending a plenary session with Jens Braun. We also had our own time for worship sharing during which we explored the query, “what message can we as Quaker youth share to better the world?” We came to the conclusion that this world needs everyone to treat each other with greater love, dignity, respect, and acceptance. We decided that one way to start is to simply treat one another better on a normal day-to-day basis. Later on we were introduced to the metaphoric imagery of throwing rocks into a clear pond as a way to understand worship sharing.

Another experience that had a great effect on the Quaker teens was our involvement with the Eyes Wide Open exhibit. On Friday morning we aided with setting up the display of hundreds of boots to represent the lives of soldiers lost in the Iraq war. It was a truly poignant and moving experience. Another important aspect of the exhibit was that it commemorated the lives of Iraqi civilians that have died in the war. Most of us agree that the atmosphere was something not experienced every day.

On Saturday, the teens had the opportunity to hear the story of a living witness, Hank Swain. His disarming humor and stories of powerful ministry effortlessly bridged the generation gap. Later that day, we created another opportunity to intermingle with older Quakers by opening communication regarding the controversial issue of teen drinking and privacy. By breaking into small discussion groups we intentionally set up an environment where people could feel comfortable enough to truly speak from the heart. We would like to share with others what we learned from this experience: frank discussion and humor are powerful tools for creating intergenerational dialogue.

With Love,
The Teens of OVYM

An Epistle from the Children of OVYM....

Our Song:

*Walk lightly little friends
Sing and dance and feel alive
Walk light little friends of mine.*

*Delve deeply little friends
Think / read and play aloud
Trust your spirituality and live in harmony*

*Dwell in harmony. Enjoy your family,
Your pappas and your grammys,
Your mommy's and your daddy's and
Dwell in harmony.*

*Delve deeply little friends
Walk lightly little friends
Laugh / love / play / hugs and
Dwell in harmony.*

Fifteen school age children met at the 188th annual sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana from July 30 to August 3, 2008 to consider the theme “Delve Deeply, Walk Lightly, Dwell in Harmony.”

We delved deeply in discovering who we are and how we are each similar and yet unique. We discussed the need to walk lightly on the earth and take care of her. We dwelled in to harmony of our music and songs. Through stories we learned how people changed when they were know more deeply.

Our speakers and leaders shared teachings from how to appreciate our name to how to see similarities in others to how to make a violin.

Our activities took us on a treasure hunt where we shared revelations about ourselves and shared the treasures at the end of the hunt. We listened to each other's leadings to construct a skit and song that brought us all together.

Our concerns range from the homeless and hungry to the war. Our hopes for the future include peace and the sharing of world resources.

The query we posed at OVYM 2008:
“How do you contemplate life, the universe and everything, while still being light hearted and easy going?”

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Nomination Final Report

OFFICERS
(thru '09 YM)

Presiding Clerk
Assistant Clerk
Recording Clerk
Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer

Ben Griffith
Virginia Wood
Deborah Kociszewski
Stephen Angell
Paul Buckley

2008 SESSIONS	2008
Epistolary Committee	<i>1. Tom Glen 2. Barbarie Hill</i>
Summary of Epistles received	<i>Barbara Robinson</i>
Reporter to Friends Journal	<i>David Wood</i>
Memorial Meeting	<i>1. Roy Joe Stuckey 2. Janette Shetter</i>

2009	2010	2011
ADVANCEMENT AND NURTURE (12)		
V _____	<i>Paul Ricketts (1W)</i>	<i>David Garman (1M)</i>
Victoria Burke (1M)	V _____	<i>Jack Davis (1W)</i>
Donita Barnes (1W)	V _____	V _____
Paulette Meier (1M)	V _____	V _____
YEARLY MTG PLANNING (ex-officio, Clerks of Teen & Junior Yearly Mtg. Comm.) (9)		
<i>Rebecca Miller (1W)</i>	<i>Paul Kriese (1W) *</i>	<i>Dave Pilbrow (2W)</i>
Cecilia Shore (1M)	<i>Stan Zarowin (2W)</i>	<i>Tunia McClure (1W)</i>
Daniel Coppock (1M)	Jane Haldeman (1W)	<i>Jeremy Coppock (1M)</i>
CHILDREN'S PROGRAM (6)		
Susan Hyde (3M)	V _____	<i>Beth Parrish (2M)</i>
Gloria Bruner (1W)	Hannah Branson* (4M)	V _____
MIDDLE YOUTH (9 - Maybe 6)		
<i>Barbara Robinson (1M)</i>	Dinah Duvall (1W)	<i>Gail Koehler* (2M)</i>
Jason Dean (PM)	V _____	<i>Deborah Jordan* (2M)</i>
V _____	V _____	<i>Yoshiya Togami (2M)</i>
TEEN ACTIVITIES (9) + 6 teens		
Cynthia Sibrel* (1P)	Wilhelmina Branson (3M)	<i>Nicki Coffey Tousley (1M) *</i>
Dale Blanchard (1P)	V _____	<i>Chance Duvall (1W)</i>
Krystin Schmidt (PM)	Mandy Smith (1W)	<i>James Taylor "JT" (1W)</i>
_____ -TM	_____ -TM	<i>Uta Brewington (1M)-TM</i>
_____ -TM	_____ -TM	<i>Corrigan Eckert -TM</i>

2009	2010	2011
PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE (9)		
Jane Stowe (1W)	<i>Richard Mitchell*</i> (2M)	Ken Bordwell (2M)
V	<i>Frank Huss</i> (2M)	V
Helen Shuemaker (1M)	Ron Haldeman (3W)	V
	X X X X X X X X X X	X X X X X X X X X X
AUDITING COMMITTEE (2 year overlapping terms)		
Tom Glen (1W)	Donita Barnes (2W)	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (ex-officio, Treasurer, Assist. Treas. [-- who is Clerk of B&F] (3+)		
V	Stan Zarowin (2W)	Dean Matthews (1M)
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE (9)		
Rex Sprouse (1W)	<i>Richard Mitchell (1M)</i>	Marjorie Isaacs (2M)
Diann Herzog (3W)*	V _____	V _____
		----- _____
V	V	V
DISCIPLINE REVISION COMMITTEE (9)		
Rex Sprouse (2W)*	Lisa Cayard (2M)	Paul Buckley (1W)
V	Betsy Neale* (2M)	Byron Branson (3M)
V	Paul Kriese (1W)	V
Sarah Emmer – Invited Member	Wilson Palmer – Invited Member	
FRIENDS MUSIC CAMP BOARD (ALL reps named by FMC) ** (6)		
Ellen Duell (1M)	Carolyn Stanley(OH Cons.)	Paul Wagner (3M)
<i>Victoria Burke (PM)</i>	<i>Barbarie Hill (1M)</i>	Gail Miller (1W)
BRADDOCK TRUSTEE +Named by Braddock family (3) Year to Year		
Tom Nowel (2M)	Byron Branson (2M)	<i>Ramona Braddock Buck +</i>
QUAKER QUILL EDITOR		
<i>Annie Glen</i>		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
RECORDS COORDINATOR		
<i>Karen Campbell</i>	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
STATISTICIAN		
<i>Frank Huss</i>	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR		
<i>---Eric Clevon</i>	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
YM WEBSITE		
<i>Barbarie Hill</i>	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

2009	2011	2013
YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES (6)		
Tom Nowel (M)	V a u g h n Peebles(2W)	Tom Hill (2M)
David Duvall* (W)	Beth Stafford(2M)	Evalyn Kellum (1W)

REPRESENTATIVES TO FRIENDS ORGANIZATIONS		
2009	2010	2011
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (4)		
Tom Bennett (2M)	Phyllis Martin (1W)	<i>Jana Schroeder (1M)</i>
FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (up to 4)		
Stephen Angell (2M)		<i>Rachel Dean (2M)</i>
		<i>JP Lund (2M)</i>
		<i>Krystin Schmidt (2M)</i>
FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (3)		
	Rex Sprouse (1W)	<i>Eric Wolff (1M)</i>
		<i>Richard House (1M)</i>
FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (4)		
Ron Haldeman (2W)	Frank Huss (2M)	<i>Jane Haldeman (1W)</i>
Ken Bordwell (1M)		<i>Paul Kriese (2W)</i>

The following are one year Y M appointments to the named organization

2009

FLGBTQC

Mary Byrne-

WILLIAM PENN HOUSE COMMITTEE

Paul Kriese

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

Marci Ankrom

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS

ASSOC. COMM. OF FRIENDS ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

M = Miami Quarter; W = Whitewater Quarter; 1 or 2 = 1st or 2nd 3-year term; P = Partial term; * = convener or clerk;

TM = Teen Member. (#) next to the Committee's name equals the number of committee members for that committee.

"V _____" equals a un-filled position (or vacancy) to be filled later by E.C. and NOM COM action.

Meeting News....

Campus Friends Meeting

In accordance with our policy of setting aside fifth Sundays (in the months that have them) for a special program by members after meeting for worship, Patricia Thomas spoke about her life in June and Jim and Millie Ramsey were the speakers in August.

We cancelled our retreat planned for September at Quaker Knoll due to a conflict in schedules.

A report of the support and oversight committee to assist Dale Hayes in meeting the requirements for chaplaincy accreditation was approved.

Canby Jones has a manuscript of a spiritual autobiography by Robert Fuhrman, a former Eastern Airlines pilot, and donated it to our collection at Kelly Center library on campus.

Our sympathies to Dale Hayes and Patricia Thomas on the death of their fathers. Dale's father died just short of his 100th birthday.

Dayton Friends Meeting

Terri Scarpelli--correspondent

Dayton Friends participated in a joint worship and potluck meal with Mack Memorial Church and the Tree of Life community on June 1.

In July we enjoyed gathering to celebrate the graduations of Julie and Lisa Scarpelli and again in August to celebrate the birth of Felicity Ann Starr to attenders Gordon Starr and Melanie Neher.

This fall we will resume our second hour discussions with the topic on September 14 being Truth in Recruitment. Our Peace and Social Concerns committee continues work on this subject and plans to take information on Truth in Recruitment into local schools. The Peace and Social Concerns committee is also assisting us in reviving our involvement in the Dayton Dialogue on Race Relations.

In the past few months we have been blessed with the presence of various new attenders and hope they will continue to feel welcome in our meeting.

Eastern Hills Monthly Meeting

Susan Krug, Correspondent

Currently we are a relatively small group consisting of fewer than 20 families, including persons with a broad range of ages. Several of our families are in transition with children in college

or starting their own careers away from the Cincinnati area. A number of us have recently retired or are approaching retirement and are considering changes in our activities and living situations. All of these changes will impact participation in meeting.

As we look toward the future, we hope to see our meeting grow. To do this we need to examine methods that people use to find a spiritual home. Previously, we obtained a meetinghouse phone, placed our name in the yellow pages and maintained a sign in front of the meetinghouse. We now have developed a website and are working to keep it up-to-date with information about our meeting and available activities. We have been pleased to learn that several visitors to our First Day meeting for worship have located us through the website.

This spring we were pleased to accept Daniel Coppock as a member of meeting. Dan has attended Eastern Hills Friends Meeting since toddlerhood. We miss the weekly attendance of Ruth and Russell Palmer during first day meeting for worship, but are delighted that their move to Waynesville has been successful and enables them to continue their faith journeys.

Repairs for water damage to the meetinghouse have provided members and attenders numerous opportunities to work together over that past few months. The basement has been repainted and now is ready to serve as an educational room for our preschool and lower elementary youth. Our current project is creating a handicap accessible unisex restroom. We feel will make our space more usable for our meeting and its related activities.

Hopewell Monthly Meeting

Sherita Saffer-Campbell, correspondent

Our Peace Garden is looking well, flowers blooming. We had a reunion/homecoming that was a happy event for people to visit. One of our members was married in the Quaker manner, out of the silence during Meaningful Worship surrounded by family, granddaughter Friends and a surprise visit from a best friend and her family that had moved away.

The next week the husband of the happy union asked for a clearness committee so he could become a member of Hopewell. Sad and happy news.

One of our long time members, a graduate of ESR answered the call to ministry in Kokomo. We are sad not to see her happy face every First Day, but share her happiness in answering a call to do what she truly wanted. We are also happy that her husband is still sharing our Meeting time with us.

We continue to hold under the Care of Meeting, a member, this writer, whose husband is very ill. I appreciate very much all the prayers, love and care from my Hopewell Meeting and I could not



Meeting News ...

exist without it's presence in my life.

Our peace garden blooming with love and flowers now, continues to remind us to hold in the light, the new Quaker Pastor from our Meeting as she continues on her wonderful journey of love for others as well as those in our Meeting. We hold in the Light all of the people who pray, work and sometimes die working and praying for peace, an end to Domestic Violence, and ways to relieve poverty This time of year we hold the teachers in our Meeting and all Quaker Meetings in the Light that they may teach the path of peace to the generations growing up around us.

May Sprit bless and may we always remember my favorite motto: "There is nothing in existence but God." Think about it, helps on dark nights of the soul.

Miami Monthly Meeting

Lawrence Burger, correspondent

Annual Gathering at Fort Ancient: Miami Monthly Meeting hosted its annual gathering at Fort Ancient on August 17th. Attended by Friends from Miami, Oxford, Dayton and Cincinnati Community Friends Meetings, this annual Meeting for Worship and picnic at this ancient spiritual gathering place for Native American peoples. Following the carry-in picnic luncheon, many hiked the trails leading to the scenic lookout overlooking the Little Miami River valley and take in the natural beauty of this ancient site. We invite all those interested in our annual worship and picnic to attend. We're tentatively planning for July 12th 2009, but there will be another announcement in the Quill closer to the date.

Open House: We recently hosted an open house to introduce people to Quaker history and faith as well as remind those who have worshipped with us in the past that our doors are open to them. Events included a tour of the meeting houses and museum, historical highlights and a talk by Paul Buckley. More than fifty guests visited.

Miami Quarterly Meeting News:

We are pleased to note that both the Clerks of Miami Quarterly Meeting are members of Miami Monthly Meeting: Tom Nowel is the Convening Clerk and Lonny Burger is the Recording Clerk of Quarterly Meeting.

Shank Memorial:

Faith Shank's extended family came together at Miami Monthly Meeting for a family reunion and memorial meeting for worship on July 27th, packing the White Brick Meeting-house. Wonderful memories were shared by a number of her relatives who ranged in age from 1 to 105 years of age.

North Meadow Circle of Friends

Ron & Jane Haldermann, correspondents

As Fall begins North Meadow finds itself very busy. We are helping coordinate the Joint Quarter and are participating in an Indianapolis Peacefest a gathering of the three peace churches. North Meadow has begun its fall series of 12 evenings of a light meal, a DVD and a discussion in the area of Peace and Social Concerns. We are continuing our monthly after Meeting pitch-in and an individual presenting their Spiritual Journey. North Meadow is also continuing our discussions on what do we do after the Mortgage is paid off.

One of the highlights every Fall at North Meadow is our annual retreat (some feel that it ought to be seen as a chance to advance) which this year is on 9/20/08 again held at the Peace Learning Center property in Lawrence.

North Meadow has a new Clerk. Pat Zarowin smiles and tries to keep order during Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, as well as staying on top of the activities between Meetings.

The Meeting has attracted Bats (without a belfry) who have joined us during Meeting and other activities. We have not as yet approached them for membership.

Oxford Friends Meeting

Cecilia Shore, correspondent

We are glad to be back together again. The academic year structures many of our lives, so we have been scattered over the summer. Although weekly worship attendance was sometimes low, we were well-represented at Yearly Meeting. In August, three of us joined Miami monthly meeting for their outdoor worship at Fort Ancient. We enjoyed a beautiful morning and pleasant fellowship. We also participated in Church Women United's annual "school bags" project. We filled 5 school bags and 3 hygiene kits. The organization notes that, although we are a small group, we have an extremely high percentage of participation, and they are grateful for our continued support of the project. Church World Service will hold a CROP Walk Sunday September 14. Barbara Diehl is our faithful representative to that effort, and has already earned about \$500 in



Eleventh Month 2008

11/15 Applications due for FGC Committee for Ministry on Racism Facilitator Training to be held in Burlington NJ, Jan. 9 to 11th, 2009. Applications can be found at: www.fgcquaker.org/cmr.

11/22 Advancement & Nurture 11am to 3pm at Hopewell Friends Meeting

Twelfth Month 2008

12/6 Planning Committee meets at LBC 106, Earlham College

12/15 Applications due for the Alaska Spirit Camp for OVYM teens (see below for info)

First Month 2008

1/17 Discipline Revision 11am - 4pm at Community Meeting

1/24 OVYM Teen Committee meets at Earlham College

Limericks OVYM 2008

(From the Variety show)

Some Quakers who held Yearly Meeting
Were divided on cushions for seating.
They brought some to Earlham
But felt led to hurl 'em
At those still seeking a leading.

A disciplined committee with vision
Was so bold as to try a revision.
But they wallowed in prose
Till Friends all arose
And pleaded "please make a decision!"

A recording clerk pumped up a minute
With high-pressure wisdom within it.
But Friends are not meek
And discovered a leak
So she had to go back and begin it.

A treas'rer with oodles of money
Was unaccountably sunny.
He kept dusty books
In crannies and nooks
Which Friends found decidedly funny.

A Clerk spoke Quakerese
And sailed rolling FGC's.
She AFSC'd,
And was FWCC'd,
But got seasick in alphabet seas.

A Nom. Comm. with jobs to be done
Was dismayed when Friends started to run.
So they sat at the gate
With some ice cream as bait
And lured them all in one by one.

A goose with word-processing skill
Was employed up on Newsletter hill.
When it crashed altogether
She just processed a feather
And wrote out what we still call *The Quill*.



**OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FIRENDS**

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