

Living Our Testimonies Today: Let's See What Love Can Do

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting July 29 – August 2, 2009

Greetings and blessings to Friends everywhere,

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of Friends (OVYM) met for our 189th annual sessions on the campus of Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, July 29 through August 2, 2009, with the theme, "Living Our Testimonies Today: Let's See What Love Can Do." 173 attended, including Friends from OVYM, visiting Friends, and other guests. While this marked a 10 per cent decrease in attendance from last year, we noted significant increases in the numbers of teens and continued strong attendance by young adult Friends. Four well-represented monthly meetings accounted for 41 per cent of all participants, reflecting strong and growing involvement from those meetings alongside a decline in yearly meeting participation among several other monthly meetings. This exemplifies a patchwork of strong and weak elements within our yearly meeting.



OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

The Quaker Quill



David Hartsough

Listen deeply and then put love into action – this advice echoed in many areas of our Yearly Meeting sessions this year. This theme ran through the State of Society reports of our monthly meetings. It described our business sessions, conducted with skillful clerking and thoughtful engagement by Friends. Our plenary speakers, Hollister Knowlton speaking on "Right Relationship: A Story of Love for the Planet and a Journey to Gaviotas" and David Hartsough addressing "Living Our Peace Testimony in the 21st Century," each presented us with spirit-led ways to put love into action. Hollister encouraged us to live more lightly on our precious planet, and told us about Gaviotas, a sustainable community in Colombia built around innovative technologies. David recounted his work around the globe employ-



Hollister Knowlton

ing nonviolent means to challenge injustice and highlighted the many successful nonviolent campaigns in the twentieth century described in the film, "A Force More Powerful". He urged Friends to work to ensure that this film is widely seen. Friends were deeply moved and inspired by both Hollister's and David's presentations.



Stout Meeting House

Friends also participated in workshops and interest groups devoted to a broad range of spiritual and social concerns. The spirit continues to lead OVYM Friends to have fun and



Interest Group

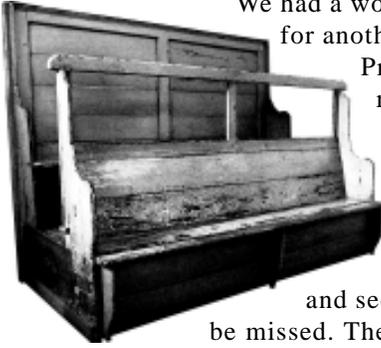
strengthen our social bonds through intergenerational games, our annual variety show, and biking and rafting for young people. We also remembered Friends at two memorial meetings – one our annual memorial meeting and the other a meeting called to remember a beloved Friend, very active in the yearly meeting, who died a few days before our sessions began.

At these sessions OVYM Friends also addressed a number challenging issues. One quarterly meeting reported that it feels morbidly weak, suffers from low attendance, and feels disrespected by the yearly meeting. This report spurred a discussion about the frail state of both of our quarterly meetings. In addition, we have difficulty finding Friends to serve in many leadership and committee positions, including the



Clerk's Note

All God's Children got shoes!



We had a wonderful session this year. And like clockwork the yearly meeting body starts to rewind for another year of service; we ready ourselves for a new hour. May the Spirit grace us with its Presence as we mark this time together. You are here in this world at this time for a good reason: you are helping to bring the ocean of Light to what is too easily labeled as an ocean of Darkness that is too big and dark for anyone to stand up against and overcome.

I write this on the day after we remembered our special friend, Jane Haldeman, at her memorial service. We will miss her as she tirelessly led us in the quiet task of ocean-building. Keep Ron in your prayers. As I proof read the minutes of the 189th session and see our farewells to the Woods and the Hills, it is unmistakable that these Friends, too, will be missed. These are selfless and devoted Friends that leave a record of thousands of hours of service to us and others. How will these many shoes get filled?

We have had a very hard time finding active adults to serve the Teen Committee, Advancement and Nurture; we are short on the Nominating Committee and Planning Committee. We have lost a very capable Youth Secretary. It is not easy to find willing feet to put on all these shoes.

Whenever one engages in an honest self-assessment, it is imperative not to see only the negative things. Reflecting on what is Light in OVYM, I see a record number of our teens attended sessions this year and were effusive about the program. Young Adults in OVYM are becoming an organized force and are stepping into some of our empty shoes. My goodness, we are a people bearing babies! How can we be more optimistic than this! The world I lived in during the late 1950's and early 60's was a barbaric (and yes, simpler) time compared to the social conscious alive now; Quakers were and still are very much the agent of change bringing God's "kingdom" to the earth's here and now. We must discard all notion that the Darkness is too big and dark- it is our solemn duty- and bear witness to this Light which overcomes the darkness. So put on your shoes, children, thank God for this work, and stop your whining! All God's children got shoes to do this joyful task. Go get dirty.

In Love, Ben Griffith, Presiding Clerk

News & Announcements

continued on page 10

Beyond the Birds and the Bees

What should Friends teach their children about sex and sexuality? How do we initiate conversations with our children? How do we talk with them about our values and about healthy relationships? How can meetings provide sexuality education for their children and youth?

As parents and adults we have lots of questions about communicating about sexuality. This is a topic that Friends meetings and Quaker organizations have largely avoided or ignored. We live in a culture in which most of us find it difficult to talk about such intimate issues.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting has just begun to address these concerns. At the 2009 YM sessions, Betsy Neale, a member of Lexington Friends Meeting, led a workshop for adults on educating children about sexuality. Although only three Friends attended the workshop, we had an interesting and wide ranging discussion. If Friends have interest in pursuing this issue, I would be happy to hear them.

Betsy Neale, bneale@insightbb.com, 859 277-6101

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Officers

Ben Griffith, Presiding Clerk
Paul Kriese, Assistant Presiding Clerk
Deb Kociszewski, Recording Clerk
Stephen Angell, Treasurer
Wilson Palmer, Assistant Treasurer



Comments for the Quaker Quill are appreciated. Find me and tell what you think.

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Singing

Advancement and Nurture Committee. As a result, the work of this committee has been severely curtailed. The revision of our book of faith and practice has also been quite challenging. We have worked for ten years, laboring over several controversial issues, often failing to find unity.

Yet the Spirit's blessings continue to manifest themselves among us, strengthening our faith and resolve. We found long-sought unity on revised text on membership for our book of faith and practice, and



Icecream Social



Middle Youth

reaffirmed our confidence in the committee laboring on revisions. Our business sessions reflected mutual respect, forbearance, and dependence on our Guide. All ages took joy in the high level of participation and enthusiasm in the youth programs, with a clear sense that our young Friends see OVYM as their home. Our young adult Friends credit their childhood yearly meeting experiences with helping to form their Quaker identities. We celebrated the resurgence of involvement by young adult friends, who engaged so fully in the activities of younger and older Friends that they longed for more time among their peers. We received joyfully the report from the teen trip to Alaska for Spirit Camp in conjunction with Alaska Friends Conference. The trip, which involved financial, physical, and spiritual challenges, rewarded the faith of all involved. The gifts of our Youth Secretary and Teen Committee, and the Spirit Camp staff, created a life-enriching experience for our teens with spiritual benefits already evident in the days following their return. Our plenary speakers inspired and challenged us with specific examples of how Friends, seeing what love can do, contribute mightily to healing a wounded and imperiled world. Not neglecting our own spiritual nurture, we grounded ourselves in waiting worship throughout the sessions and opened our hearts in worship-sharing each morning.

As we look toward the future, we face serious challenges, but we also enjoy abundant gifts that give us hope and joy. As we seek to put love into action, we wonder if we might find the spiritual vitality we seek if we could be more open with each other about our personal spiritual experiences. We share with Friends this query: How can our monthly, quarterly, and yearly meetings cultivate our hearts to foster the growth of the Seed?



Icecream Social



Middle Youth with David Hartsough

Epistles

Epistle of the Young Adult Friends, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting 2009

Greetings to Friends everywhere! Fifteen of us met at Earlham College between July 29 and August 2. Our community is scattered across activities with all age ranges at our yearly meeting. YAFs make up the majority of our child care providers and chaperones for the teens and middle youth, leaving the other half of us to attend worship sharing, business sessions, and workshops.

Needless to say, our spiritual experiences of yearly meeting are very different. Those of us who provide care for the younger generation are nourished, and sometimes exhausted, by their zest for life. Many of the rest of us labor in Meeting for Business and are nourished by the workshops we attend. Those of us who like staying up late strengthen our fellowship over brownies and conversation, or we relax with our books. The only free time we all have in common is during mealtimes, and you can usually find a table in the cafeteria composed mostly of YAFs who are hanging out and checking in.

It was during one such mealtime when we had our Meeting for Business. Along with conversation about Segways and other such silly stuff, we nominated and approved some officers for our nascent program. Howie Baker is our clerk, Nick Rhein and Newell Pledger-Shinn are our co-convenors and net gurus, and Rachel Dean is our treasurer. We plan to hold a number of retreats over the coming year, with our next to take place at Fall Creek Meeting in late October.

We hope this Epistle finds you well, and look forward to hearing how the Inward Light of Christ is moving in your community. If you're ever in the area, look us up.

Yours in the Light, YAFs of OVYM

Epistle from the Teen Program



To Friends Everywhere,

Greetings from the 2009 meeting of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Teens. Even though we seemed separated at first, we quickly coalesced into a single community, and our time here has been very hopeful.

We sat in on Hollister Knowlton's plenary and she came to talk with us about the things we could do to save the biosphere. We came to realize that by living simply we could allow others to simply live. Friday (Seventh Month 31, 2009) we picked up trash in Whitewater Gorge, putting Hollister's teachings into action.

We learned our own personal strengths during both our canoe trip and our talk with Mary Ellen Newport from Olney Friends School, about applying the Quaker testimonies to everyday life. With our new knowledge from the workshops Friday and our various other talks, we know we will leave with new views on our world, and lasting bonds.



Peace Be With You, 2009 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Teens.

Epistle from the Middle Youth Program

Eight Middle Youth attended the annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting at Earlham College, from July 29 to August 2, 2009. The theme of the gathering was "Living Our Testimonies Today: Let's See What Love Can Do."



We enjoyed many activities together, such as rafting on the Whitewater River, biking, helping at the animal shelter, going to the Bike Co-op, and listening to guest speakers.

While enjoying rafting, we saw all kinds of nature including dragonflies, herons, and turtles. We helped each other overcome our fears on the rope swing and we cheered each other on. We had no trash left from lunch because we used reusable containers. Not only did we leave no trash, but we

left the river cleaner than we found it by picking up garbage on the banks.

We biked to the animal shelter which took endurance, but saved gas. While we washed around 20 dogs at the shelter, we got to know the cats and dogs better by learning their names and socializing them. We were really showed what love can do. When we showed love to the animals at the shelter, not only did they get calmer, but they shared affection, too.



We appreciated the guest speakers and worship mentors who spoke to us about what they are passionate about. Barry Zalph talked to us about bike safety and traffic rules and how we can get exercise and help the environment through biking. Dinah Duvall and her daughter helped us make the masks that we used in the variety show. Hollister Knowlton talked about our ecological footprint and we were surprised to learn that even though we're Quakers, our footprint is not necessarily better than average. David Hartsough spoke about practicing nonviolence and we did some role playing.

During O.V.Y.M., we felt joyful, helpful, and strong. We also felt good about showing our love. We enjoyed ourselves so much, we wish we could have more retreats and gatherings.

The Middle Youth Program, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

Epistle from the Children's Program

Greetings to Friends Everywhere

Ten Young Friends aged 1-9 met at the 189th annual sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting at Earlham College in



Richmond Indiana from July 29 – August 2, 2009 to consider the theme “Living Our Testimonies Today – Let Us Now See What Love Can Do.”

During worship sharing we talked about equality, peace, and love. Our stories were about sharing and caring. We made dog treats and catnip toys and took them to the animal shelter to share with the puppies and kitties. We showed our love with homemade gifts.

Imaginative play led to the children holding their own worship sharing in the tent Sunday morning. We were aware of their tender hearts as they watched a live bunny outside and wished to include it in their play.



Experiences of equality and love came during the singing and dancing with the adults. We experienced folk dances from around the world. We sang and rejoiced about the children who saved the trees. We felt a part of the larger community through these experiences.

The Children's Program, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

Committee Reports

Discipline Revision Committee

New text on membership of children

For several years Friends have been considering texts for our revised Faith and Practice on the issue of membership. At the 2009 annual sessions Friends approved most of the new text on membership. We also threshed the text on suggested procedures for the membership of children.

Based on comments made during the threshing session, this text has been edited for clarification.

In the first paragraph the latest draft defines the terms “adult membership” and “youth membership” as used in the document. The final paragraph clarifies that some meetings may be led to implement different procedures for children’s membership. This draft is being published in the 2009 Minute Book for a year of seasoning before consideration for final approval at the 2010 sessions. This revised text is printed below. We encourage Friends to review it.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting: Faith and Practice – A Book of Discipline Membership (Part III); 5th Draft, Ninth Month 12, 2009

Youth membership

Friends’ communities rest on a principle of equality and on the worth of every individual. We value and welcome the young people who attend our meetings and participate in the lives of our communities. At the same time, our faith rests on deep personal and individual experience, and membership in the Religious Society of Friends and in a particular monthly meeting calls for a serious commitment. One person cannot make this commitment for another, and a care giver cannot make this commitment for a young child. In order to accommodate both of these spiritual insights, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting presents the following procedures as a model to consider. These procedures recognize both youth membership and adult membership and outline a process for transition to adult membership. Regardless of a Friend’s age, the term youth membership as used here is understood as membership requested by another on that Friend’s behalf, while the term adult membership is understood as membership requested by that Friend directly.

Members who are parents or those with parental responsibility intending to bring up a child in accordance with Friends’ faith and practice may request youth membership for the child. Monthly meetings may accept minor children as youth members at the request of one or both of their parents or guardians. The Committee for Ministry and Counsel should approach members who are new parents and parents

requesting transfer of membership and ask if they would like to request youth membership for their children. Likewise, the membership clearness process for new members who are parents should include the children in the discussion of membership. When the monthly meeting accepts a child into youth membership, the child will also be considered a youth member of the relevant quarterly meeting and of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

Children must ultimately make their own decision about adult membership. Youth members may request transition to adult membership at any time they feel ready to do so, by writing a simple letter to the Committee for Ministry and Counsel. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting recommends that monthly meetings appoint membership clearness committees for youth members seeking transition to adult membership, following the same procedures set forth above for new membership.

To help prepare children for making this decision, the meeting should teach children about the meaning and responsibilities of membership. This process includes teaching children how to enter into waiting worship and how to participate in the Spirit-led Quaker business process, giving them opportunities to accept responsibilities such as participation on committees as they are able, and encouraging them to participate in youth groups associated with quarterly meetings, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, and Friends General Conference.

When parents or other adult Friends sense that a young person may be ready for adult membership, they should encourage the youth member to consider taking this step. The Committee for Ministry and Counsel should send a letter to each youth member around age 16, expressing appreciation for the young person's gifts and growing spiritual maturity and encouraging him or her to consider whether the time is right to request adult membership. Ministry and Counsel should continue to send letters to the youth member every two or three years between the ages of 16 and 25. The youth member should be asked to make a decision by his or her 25th birthday.

If a youth member has not requested adult membership by age 25, youth membership status ends, and the monthly meeting will minute that action. Should a youth member of any age inform the meeting that he or she does not wish to remain a member of the Religious Society of Friends, Ministry and Counsel is advised to seek discernment regarding the appropriate course of action in that individual case. However, if the youth member is clear about resignation, the monthly meeting will minute that the individual's youth membership has ended. These young people should be warmly assured that they are welcome to continue as active attenders, that they may at any time request membership, and that the meeting will continue to support them with loving care.

Friends recognize that monthly meetings may discern alternative procedures concerning membership of children. Whatever procedures are adopted should reflect Friends' sense of loving concern and responsibility for children, as well as our belief in the value of raising children as part of a spiritual community.

submitted by, Betsy Neale

Teen Committee News

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 17-18 — The overnight retreat at the Red Brick Meetinghouse, Miami Meeting, Waynesville, Ohio will start at noon on the 17th. We will join Miami Quarterly Meeting on Sunday at Campus Meeting.
- Nov. 20-22 — Weekend Retreat at Fall Creek Meeting, Pendleton, Indiana
- Look for registration materials in the mail/email soon!

New Youth Secretary: The teen and personnel committees are excited to announce that we will be hiring Carol Simmons as our new youth secretary as of 9/15, 2009. Carol is a long time member of Yellow Springs Meeting, has a background in journalism and special education. She brings experience with Quaker youth, a love of music, and a lot of energy to the program. Carol has three children, a daughter who went through our teen program and twin sons who are 17 and have been involved in Friends Music Camp. One of Carol's first tasks will be sending out a mailing to teens and parents introducing herself and including registration materials for our first retreat of the year.

The teen committee thanks Cynthia Sibrel for her untiring work with our teens over the last few years. Without Cynthia, it is likely that the Alaska trip would not have happened. Cynthia is stepping down as co-clerk, but will remain on the committee. Thank you!

We ask friends to help us identifying teens, who may not be connected to the teen group. If there are teens who are new to your meeting, please let us know.

Nikki Coffey Tousley, Clerk, Teen

Religious Education Committee

The OVYM Religious Education Committee has shifted our focus from being a body that initiates offerings to a body that listens and responds to specific needs and requests within OVYM. We are prepared to travel to monthly meetings to offer encouragement and support to religious educators, share new materials and suggestions from other meetings and workshops and Religious Education retreats. We have several workshops ready to present, including "Praying in Color; Drawing a New Path to God", "Honoring the Light of the Child" a Montessori peace education curriculum and the Friendly Adult Presence training for anyone working with OVYM youth. If there is a topic you would like to have presented at your meeting or retreat, or you are interested in any of the above offerings, please contact Diann Herzog.

2009 OVYM NOMINATIONS Final Report

OFFICERS
(thru '10 YM)

Presiding Clerk
Assistant Clerk
Recording Clerk
Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer

Ben Griffith
Paul Kriese
Deborah Kociszewski
Stephen Angell
Wilson Palmer

2009 SESSIONS	2009
Epistolary Committee	<i>1. Betsy Neale 2. Barry Zalph</i>
Summary of Epistles received	<i>Bill and Janette Shetter</i>
Reporter to Friends Journal	<i>Newell Pledger-Shinn</i>
Memorial Meeting	<i>1. Janette Shetter 2. Roy Joe Stuckey</i>

2010	2011	2012
ADVANCEMENT AND NURTURE (12)		
<i>Sunny Rhein (PM)</i>	David Garman (1W)	<i>Terry Reynolds (1W)</i>
	Jack Davis (1W)	V _____
	V _____	V _____
	V _____	V _____
YEARLY MTG PLANNING (ex-officio, Clerks of Teen & Junior Yearly Mtg. Comm.) (9)		
	V _____	<i>Phyllis Martin (1W)</i>
Stan Zarowin (2W)	Tunia Mclure (1W)	<i>Byron Branson (1M)</i>
V _____	Jeremy Coppock (1M)	<i>Jamie Fota (1M)</i>
CHILDREN'S PROGRAM (6)		
V _____	Beth Parrish (2M)	<i>Gloria Bruner (2W)</i>
Hannah Branson* (4M)	V _____	<i>Susan Hyde (4M)</i>
MIDDLE YOUTH (9 - Maybe 6)		
Dinah Duvall (1W)	Gail Koehler* (2M)	<i>Barbara Robinson (2M)</i>
	V _____	<i>Jason Dean (1M)</i>
	Yoshiya Togami (2M)	
TEEN ACTIVITIES (9) + 6 teens		
Wilhelmina Branson (3M)	Nikki Coffey Tousley* (1M)	<i>Cynthia Sibrel* (1M)</i>
V _____	Chance Duvall (1W)	<i>Dale Blanchard (1M)</i>
Mandy Smith (1W)	James Taylor (1W)	V _____
_____ -TM	_____ -TM	_____ -TM
_____ -TM	_____ -TM	_____ -TM

2010	2011	2012
PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE (9)		
Richard Mitchell* (2M)	Ken Bordwell (2M)	<i>Jane Stowe (2W)</i>
Frank Huss (2M)	V _____	<i>Robert Vetter (1W)</i>
Ron Haldeman (3W)	V _____	V _____
AUDITING COMMITTEE (2 year overlapping terms)		
Donita Barnes (2W)	<i>Veronica Frost (1M)</i>	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE(ex-officio, Treasurer, Assist.Treas,[— who is Clerk of B&F] (3+)		
Stan Zarowin (2W)	Dean Matthews (1M)	V _____
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE (9)		
Richard Mitchell (1M)	Marjorie Isaacs (2M)	<i>Diann Herzog (4W)</i>
	V _____	V _____
		V _____
DISCIPLINE REVISION COMMITTEE (9)		
Lisa Cayard (2M)	Paul Buckley (1W)	<i>Rex Sprouse* (3W)</i>
Betsy Neale* (2M)	Byron Branson (3M)	<i>Barbara Robinson (1M)</i>
	V _____	<i>Mary Garman (1W)</i>
Wilson Palmer–Invited Member		
FRIENDS MUSIC CAMP BOARD (ALL reps named by FMC) ** (6)		
Carolyn Stanley(OH Cons.)	Paul Wagner (3M) (?)	<i>Victoria Burke (1M)</i>
Barbarie Hill (1M)	Gail Miller (1W)	<i>Ellen Duell (2M)</i>
BRADDOCK TRUSTEE +Named by Braddock family (3) Year to Year		
Byron Branson (2M)	Ramona Braddock Buck +	
QUAKER QUILL EDITOR		
<i>Dan Cartmell</i>		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
RECORDS COORDINATOR		
<i>Susan Hyde/Christine Snyder</i>	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
STATISTICIAN		
<i>Frank Huss</i>	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR		
<i>Erik Clevon</i>	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
YM WEBSITE		
<i>Lonny Burger</i>	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

2011	2013	2015
YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES (6)		
Vaughn Peebles (2W)	<i>David Hyde (1M)</i>	<i>Tom Nowel (2M)</i>
Beth Stafford (2M)	Evalyn Kellum (1W)	<i>David Duvall (2W)</i>

REPRESENTATIVES TO FRIENDS ORGANIZATIONS (4)		
2010	2011	2012
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (4)		
Phyllis Martin (1W)	Jana Schroeder (1M)	<i>Peter Fosl (1M)</i>
		V _____
FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (up to 4)		
	Rachel Dean (2M)	V _____
	JP Lund (2M)	
	Krystin Schmidt (2M)	
FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (3)		
Rex Sprouse (1W)	Eric Wolff (1M)	
	Richard House (1M)	
FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (4)		
Frank Huss (2M)	V _____	V _____
		V _____

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

	2010
FLGBTQC	Georgette Boneham
WILLIAM PENN HOUSE COMMITTEE	__ V _____
QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS	<i>Marci Ankrom</i>
FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS	__ V _____

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.

Letter to a Representative on the Death Penalty

Dear Representative Hackett,

The Yellow Springs Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) has unanimously agreed to urge you to do all that you can to bring an end to the death penalty in Ohio.

Just now, after a third problematic execution in as many years, is a strategic time for you to call for a commission to consider whether or not the state should continue this practice. Each of difficult executions has certainly been “cruel and unusual” punishment.

Please call for the legislature to empower a commission to consider all the aspects of the death penalty. Specifically:

1. Does the death penalty actually deter crime?
2. Can the present method of execution be guaranteed to be quick and realistically painless, as Ohio law requires?
3. Since executing a man costs not twice, but five to ten times as much as life in prison, is the expense to the state justified?
4. Given that most religious bodies have expressed opposition to the death penalty, can it, in any sense, be considered morally warranted?

Such a commission would probably include legislators, defense lawyers, prosecutors, and family members of murder victims. The state should declare a moratorium on executions while the deliberation proceeds.

Please let us know how you will proceed in this important matter.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Keen, Clerk

Quarterly Meeting News

Miami Quarterly Meeting Report: Ninth Month, 2009

The next gathering of Miami Quarterly Meeting is scheduled on Tenth Month, 18, 2009 at Campus Meeting in Wilmington, Ohio. The program portion of this session will include an opportunity to learn about common issues and history of Hicksite and Orthodox Quakers as Community Meeting representatives join with Friends from Miami Center Quarterly Meeting (Wilmington Yearly Meeting) for an interesting and compelling presentation. OVYM teens are expected to attend this session. Please feel free to call me for information regarding this Quarterly Meeting session at 513-850-4235. The viability of our quarterly meeting structure was discussed during the recent OVYM business session. One factor that was a common thread was the lack of two way communication between quarterly meeting and constituent monthly meetings. This is a legitimate concern. I am occasionally asked why I maintain an expanded email address book for messages regarding Miami Quarterly Meeting. A retired monthly meeting clerk will send a message asking why she or he is still on the mailing list. It is my intention to spread news about quarterly meeting as widely as possible, and I ask Friends who receive these communications to likewise spread the word about Miami Quarterly Meeting activities and opportunities for corporate worship, business and fellowship. Post notices on meeting house bulletin boards. Better yet, forward email communications to your meeting email list. Did you know that the Cincinnati Fund of Miami Quarterly Meeting provides financial assistance for educational opportunities, subscriptions to Friends Journal and other related activities for Friends within the quarter? The Benevolent Fund is available to assist Friends who have a particular financial need that cannot be met through other traditional methods. Burial plots are available to members in Cincinnati's Spring Grove Cemetery in the Quaker section of the graveyard. Throughout its 200 year history, Miami Quarterly Meeting has been a resource in service in a number of ways as Friends have been led. Let's educate our members and attenders. What better way than to attend the next session of Miami Quarterly Meeting. I'll look forward to seeing you there.

In peace, Tom Nowel, Presiding Clerk

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

The next session of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting will be under the care of Fort Wayne Friends Meeting. This gathering of Friends will be held at the Plymouth Congregational Church, UCC, 501 West Berry, Room 201, Fort Wayne, IN 46806, from 10am to 3pm on Seventh Day, 10/17/2009. The emphasis will be on worship, fellowship, and strengthening of our faith community. All are encouraged to attend.

In Friendship, Rex

Monthly Meeting News

Community Friends Meeting

Adam and Kaitlin Funck, Dylan Cahalan, Brett Marshall, Rachel Logan Wood traveled with other youth from OVYM to Alaska during the summer, visiting other Quaker teens there, and enjoying the 49th state in its 50th year as a state. They will be presenting the experiences and results of their trip to Community Friends on November 1st after the carry-in meal.

Shannon Isaacs, who is now a freshman at Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo Michigan, traveled to Burundi in East Africa and helped build an HIV-AIDS clinic there.

Since the last Quaker Quill, the meeting mourns, and has held memorial services for Horatio Wood, John Hubbard, and Ed McAndrews. We have been holding in the light the long service of these friends to our meeting, our nation, and the world.

Nick Rhein, son of Jim and Sunny Rhein was welcomed as an adult member of the meeting in June.

The meeting has successfully installed a new HVAC system for the whole meeting house, and is getting nearer to paying off the expenses of this. In a related item, there are new resident caretakers at Community Friends: John Sneigocki, Elizabeth Groppe and their son John David, age four. Both John and Elizabeth are on the faculty at nearby Xavier University, and both are graduates of Earlham College. Already the gardens, the meadow, and the grounds have taken on a fresh new appearance.

Doug Burks is now clerk of Community Friends Meeting. Doug has taken a proactive stance towards facilitating a more worshipful orientation at Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. His approach encourages members and attenders: to address each item as a question for worship sharing; to seek attention from the clerk before speaking; to listen actively, and allow time for quiet discernment after each person has spoken; to avoid critiquing others' statements, but to speak out of one's own experience; and to expect to speak but once on a given issue. Participants in meeting for worship with attention to business are striving to conduct monthly meeting on these principles.

Peace. Tim Leonard

Dayton Monthly Meeting, September 2009

Dayton Friends were excited to host eight OVYM teens in June for a long weekend of service and learning about sustainable eating and local immigration issues. Phil Henry of our meeting works with African and Iraqi refugee resettlement through Catholic Social Services, and arranged for the teens to work with Burundian men, women and children in their community garden. Phil, son Will, and the rest of the Henry family also hosted the teens for swimming and a barbeque after the day of work. The teens also worked at Friend Milton Cook's organic farm in Waynesville and at "God's Garden," which grows organic vegetables for food pantries, and they visited the Dayton AFSC office as well.

Our meeting hosted a Bon Voyage gathering in August at the Johnson home to honor David and Virginia Wood. Though the Woods' have left Dayton, we expect them to pass through on occasion. They are traveling in the northeast, visiting Boston, then heading up to the Maritime Provinces for the fall. They plan to back in Dayton for the holidays before heading west. In July they will be moving to Hawaii for two years, before finally settling into the Friends retirement home in Newberg, Oregon. Their new contact information is: 937-901-0522, wooddavid78@gmail.com. We wish David and Virginia the best in their travels and retirement.

We hold Dean Matthews in the light as he recovers from surgery and some subsequent complications.

Dayton Friends have been saddened to hear of the news that the Dayton office of AFSC has had to close due to large budget cuts in which about half of the staff have been cut throughout the organization. Please join us in holding AFSC in the light.

Congratulations to Melanie Neher and Gordon Starr who are expecting a second child in October.

Terri Scarpelli, correspondent

Eastern Hills Friends Meeting, September 6, 2009

On May 24 our meeting hosted 56 students and their chaperones from New Garden Friends School in North Carolina. The 5th and 6th graders were on a week-long trip doing community service projects interspersed with educational field trips. We enjoyed their enthusiastic singing and excellent deportment while they enjoyed the lasagne lunch which we provided. Many thanks go to Henrietta Ballinger not only for her excellent organization of the lunch but also for making it earth-friendly.

On August 29 a potluck dinner was hosted by Henrietta and Franchot Ballinger to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. In addition to meeting Friends and some of the Ballinger's family members, people from their work at Hospice of Cincinnati also attended. Henrietta shared stories about how they met and became high school sweethearts before everyone was invited to share their own stories about the Ballingers. Our love and best wishes go with them in this upcoming phase of their lives.

On August 30 our meeting hosted Cincinnati Friends who wanted to once again participate in singing with us before Meeting for Worship. They stayed for a pot-luck lunch afterward and it was tentatively decided to make this an occasional activity between the two meetings.

Darlene Palmer, corresponding secretary

Fall Creek Meeting Friends

Fall Creek Meeting Friends continue to root ourselves deeply in the love of God and in Quaker practice, as demonstrated in our meetings for worship and business and in a lively Bible study/discussion. Our loving circle continues to grow with new attenders and the welcoming into membership of Barbara Scott, who brings much light and energy into our meeting. We also joyfully welcomed Robert Michael Shaver, born August 30th, into the arms of Carrie and Therese Shaver and big sister Morgan. We are blessed to hear his sweet sounds during meeting for worship.

We are looking forward to hosting a retreat for Young Adult Friends in October and the annual Teen Retreat in November. We continue to work on our old meetinghouse and seem to be able to keep up with small repairs as needed. Recent stormy weather felled a few of our beautiful, old trees but a tree planting ceremony is scheduled in October to symbolize the life and growth that are happening in our small community of believers.

submitted by Diann Herzog

Hopewell Meeting

It's been a bit for this writer to send in our report. A death, my husbands, after a long and terrible illness. Then I tripped over a stool and hurt my nose and right hand and could not use the computer. I'm back. Maybe weaker, more vulnerable, but adjusting to my new life with Spirit's help and the support of my Friend's Meeting, friends and family. So keep me in The Light. That's very important to me.

Hopewell is preparing for winter. Sprucing up the Meeting house, making repairs. Our Young Friends First Day class is increasing and we are doing exciting things. We just had an intergenerational day of making leaf T Shirts, which was very interesting. Gather the leaves, painting them, applying the leaf to the Tee Shirt. The adults put more paint on themselves than the shirts.

We are working with the youth in creating a time capsule of our Meeting. This idea was presented to the Meeting by one of the Youth Group.

We refreshed our Labyrinth this fall after keeping it surrounded with flowers all summer. We hosted a Women's interdenominational Study group to talk about peace within as a beginning to Peace in the world and walk the labyrinth.

We had a intense discussion about the need for insurance for everyone in the country and wrote letters to congress to show our support of this idea.

The Meeting is planning a Christmas Celebration with the children of the Meeting and friends on the Polar Express from Connersville to the North Pole.

Always we shall pray, work toward Peace in our loves and the world. We hold in the Light all of those who work, live and sometimes die to promote Peace. May the Light guide you and our Meeting toward this goal.

Sherita Saffer Campbell, 3305 N. CR.400 E., Muncie, IN 47303, sstarot@iquest.net

Miami Monthly Meeting

There is a lot of facilities and grounds work that needs to be done at Miami Monthly Meeting, so we are hosting a workday on November 7th beginning with donuts and coffee at 8:30 with cleaning and yard work to follow. A lunch will also be provided to renew volunteers' energies for the afternoon. All are welcome to join with us for gardening and cleaning up.

Miami Monthly Meeting's Web Site is up and running and can be reached at Miami.quaker.org. Thanks to Russell Nelson for his help and instruction and to Quaker.org for hosting the site. Also, thanks to Barbarie Hill for adding updating our Quaker.org static page with a link to our new web site. Feel free to visit and browse our site, and to make comments on the site to those listed on the Contact page.

On 7th month 12th, more than two dozen Friends from four different meetings joined with us for our annual open-air meeting for worship and picnic in the peaceful, sacred space of Fort Ancient, Ohio. Friends from Miami, Oxford, Dayton, and Community meetings were joined by members of Acton monthly meeting in West Concord, Massachusetts who were visiting the area. Meeting for Worship was under the trees of this ancient and historic Native American site.

On 6th month 7th, we had history-minded visitors attend Meeting for Worship and tour the burial ground afterward. Shortly thereafter, one of those visitors wrote us a letter of his feelings about Quaker Meeting for Worship. They bear repeating and are excerpted below.

Thank you... for including me in your lovely Sunday service. It was a most interesting experience for me not being much of a church oriented type of person. I loved the utter simplicity of the church and the service; or should I say non-service.

Sitting in silence in the austerity of that white room with only the clock adorning the wall, reminding me with each tick how precious, how short life really is, allowed space within to coax actual contemplation and prayer through the clutter and internal banter usually dominating my mind.

The clean, white walls actually made for such a contrast to the overly appointed... Church I was raised in... There, it seems like they were trying so hard to bring "god" into the structure by loading it with symbols and signs, statues, ..., and all the other trappings that

ultimately became distracting to the essence of simply being within to experience the divine as best as we could.

In this little wonder of a church one is invited to use one's imagination, (the one true great gift of god to man that differentiates us from the other beings we cohabitate the planet with); and one is given the space to feel, to wonder, to pray, to listen... in the here and now, as god presents the world to us, so gloriously framed in each of the large windows, lush and full of nature... natures. In my meditation at one point, it occurred to me that it was almost as if I was invited back into my own soul as it once might have been, clean, white, empty, full of nothing but potentiality waiting for my unique individual imagination to but spark and go.

The plain and simple nature of the Quaker lifestyle is so appealing in its humility. I felt blessed to share a few quiet minutes in the presents (*presence*) of the other participants as I could just feel in their humility and grace a wisdom I can only hope to one day enthrone as they do in so simple and graceful and genuine way. That was special for me.

Lonny Burger, Assistant Clerk

Yellow Springs Meeting, October, 2009

Friends in Yellow Springs are rejoicing that Antioch College is now independent of the University. This change is the result of much hard work by alumni and supporters and means that the College, which has been closed for over a year, will be open again.

It also means that ownership of Rockford Chapel is now in the hands of the College. The University failed to respond to our wish to take ownership of the building in which we meet. We will now approach the College with a similar proposal.

On September 12, Friends held a retreat in the Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center. Workshops led by Sarah Emmer and Diann Herzog enhanced our spiritual discernment. There was much food, fellowship and fun.

Friends continue to journey to Lucasville prison to protest Ohio's practice of premeditated murder. Most of the civilized world has abandoned the death penalty, but Ohio kills a man every month! We seek to speak truth to power!

In the Light, Carl Hyde, correspondent

News From The Broadacre

Quaker Heritage Center

Wednesday, October 21, All Day

"From Resistance to Redemption: Rhythms of Hope" 19th Annual Wilmington College Westheimer Peace Symposium Featuring: - singer, songwriter, and peace activist Holly Near - scholar of Middle East folk music Amy Horowitz - Wilmington College Chorale - former child soldier and international hip hop artist Emmanuel Jal

Monday, October 19, through Friday, October 23

"Nonviolent Solutions" A special traveling exhibit from the Dayton International Peace Museum hosted by the Quaker Heritage Center at Wilmington College. The gallery is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., or by appointment.

Wednesday, October 21, through Friday, December 11

"The Quaker Tapestry" A special traveling exhibit from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting hosted by the Quaker Heritage Center at Wilmington College. The gallery is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., or by appointment.

For more information: (937) 382-6661 ext. 719, ruth_dobyns@wilmington.edu.

Curator, Quaker Heritage Center

Chair, Heritage Advisory Council

Coordinator, Issues & Artists/Westheimer Peace Symposium

*Wilmington College, 1870 Quaker Way, Pyle Center 1182, Wilmington, OH 45177
(937) 382-6661 x 719*

Quaker Heights Care Community: Board Approves Strategic Plan Draft

In September, the Trustees of Quaker Heights approved a draft strategic plan. After spending nine months reviewing statistical facts and market information about the needs for senior care in the next three to five years, the Trustees settled on goals and initiatives. These included the following: 1.) strengthen the financial condition of Quaker Heights, 2.) maintain clinical excellence, 3.) develop effective fundraising programs, and 4.) strengthen board governance. Trustees and staff agree the competition for quality senior care is changing and the demand for services will be very different from the past. Just as Quaker Heights grew from a 16 room boarding home to a brand new nursing facility in 1972, the organization grew to add 30 units of assisted living in 2002. This same progressive planning by insightful and dedicated Trustees led to the draft strategic plan which adds modifications to existing Quaker Heights' services to ensure the organization's survival in the future. An emphasis on rehabilitation therapies and memory care are just two components under the



many initiatives of the strategic plan. Wendy Waters-Connell, Executive Director for Quaker Heights Care Community stated, “We are confident we are making evidence based decisions about the future of long term care for the next three to five years. We trust our Quaker values as the foundation to implement the strategic plan. We also know this is a living document which must be responsive to changes in health care, and the residents we serve.”

In Peace, Wendy Waters-Connell, Wendy L. Waters-Connell, RN, MS, LNHA, Executive Director, Quaker Heights Care Community, 514 High Street, Waynesville, Ohio 45068, tele. no. 513.897.6050, wwatersc@quakerheights.org, www.quakerheights.org



Eyes Wide Open and Cost of War Exhibition Report: The First Year

AFSC: Since the Eyes Wide Open and Cost of War exhibits embarked on their tour around the nation in June 2007, the exhibits have been shown in 44 states. The results have been remarkable as the message of the human cost of war has expanded to an ever wider audience.

The AFSC, ‘Living Our Testimonies Today: Let’s See What Love Can Do’

The American Friends Service Committee is one of the ways we make our Friends Testimonies extend their reach beyond our meetings into our society – especially in places where Love seems scarce.

These past few months, however, all parts of the AFSC have struggled to maintain the momentum and integrity of our programs in the face of declining contributions and diminished finances. Your Great Lakes Region Executive Committee, just like the national Board, has tried to reduce spending sharply while trying to keep as many programs as effective as possible. These efforts have been painful and fraught with anxiety but, we believe, ultimately successful.

As our clerk wrote:

“If there is that of God in all of us, perhaps there is also that of God in every challenging situation. I can see where that has been the case in dealing with the economic crisis that has hit AFSC so hard. The Great Lakes Regional Executive Committee came out of the initial shock ready to take ownership of our volunteer roles and wrestle with the tangibles while also conjuring the grace to proceed with compassion and fearless conviction.”

And, beyond these problems, we keep our hopes alive by looking to successful activities around our region that testify to our commitment to love through peace and justice; for example,

The weekend of September 11th marked the completion of training of the first twenty University Fellows as part of the AFSC Organize the Hope University Fellowship Initiative. The program trains, mentors, and activates university students to work for peace on their campuses. These students from 10 different campuses in the Midwest will utilize their training to form campus peace groups and host events and actions on their campuses. Earlham College is one of the schools participating.

In Akron/Cleveland, our AFSC staff person Greg Coleridge was instrumental in planning and implementing a national conference against the Iraq and Afghanistan wars that was held in Pittsburgh.

In Chicago, the second annual Summer Peace Institute had thirteen African-American and Latino students from highly military recruited high schools. Over four weeks they were oriented to Quakerism, AFSC and nonviolence. They participated in training sessions on how to counter recruitment, to be a good media spokesperson and to organize in their schools. They also assisted in hosting the national conference opposed to militarization of our schools – a conference where over 300 people from all over the country came to Chicago for workshops and networking

In Ann Arbor, the AFSC Criminal Justice Program had ten interns integrated into the program work where they advocated on behalf of Michigan prisoners, answering letters and phone calls for assistance.

In Dayton, the AFSC African & Refugee Program was instrumental in getting the Dayton Schools to offer a pilot English as a Second Language program on the high school level, and in creating a partnership with the Dayton Public Schools and Wright State University to do a pilot program for the high school refugees and immigrants. This activity led to a 5 week Summer Program with Burundian refugees, as well as immigrant students, taking them on field trips to teach them about peace, human rights, and Dayton history, using two interns who speak Swahili to translate. This program has also begun to meet with community leaders in the Sudanese community to do housing workshops.

These vignettes tell some of the things AFSC did – and you can also see how AFSC does it. Through our many internship programs we strive to create activists – persons who show what love can do through peace and justice work right here in our communities.

Please join us, “in compassion and fearless conviction”, as we seek to live our testimonies and see what love can do. We need your support as activists – both as volunteers with our programs or on our Executive Committee and also through your financial support. Go to AFSC.org and see what’s happening!

Your Representatives: Jana Schroeder, schroja@earlham.edu; Peter Fosl, pfosl@me.com; Phyllis Mary Martin, martinp@indiana.edu; Tom Bennett, tbenn@fuse.net

In the Manner of Friends: Living My Faith Today

FWCC Regional Gathering coming your way!



You are invited to attend a weekend of fellowship and reflection October 30 - November 1 on what it means to live in the manner of Friends today. Friends from yearly meetings in the Midwest and Lower Great Lakes regions are working together to offer this regional gathering that will take place at Ann Arbor Friends Meeting in Michigan. Keynote speaker is Patricia Thomas who serves as pastor of a Friends Church in Wilmington YM. Patricia also served as the Associate Secretary of FWCC, working in the World Office in London.

To register, download the registration form (www.fwccamericas.org/events/09_LGL_MW_regional.shtml), or contact registrar Mike Hinshaw (xochitl23@verizon.net). Thomas Taylor (tftaylor@tds.net), clerk of the Local Arrangements Committee, can help you with hospitality questions. Home hospitality is available, but there are nearby motels as well. Cost for the event, which includes meals from Friday supper through Saturday supper, is \$45. Childcare is available.

Friends World Committee for Consultation seeks to bring Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world.

The Lower Great Lakes-Midwest Gathering is part of a regular series of regional gatherings offered by FWCC Section of the Americas. Check our website for more information on FWCC programs.

Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas, 1506 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102, (215) 241-7250, americas@fwccamericas.org

Quaker Press of Friends General Conference: New Study Resources Join the Conversation Now



On February 5, more than two hundred people celebrated the publication of *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice* by Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye at the book launch in Philadelphia's Arch Street Meetinghouse.

Now, monthly meetings in New York, Philadelphia, New England, and Lake Erie Yearly Meetings (to name a few) are planning the use of the *Fit for Freedom Study Guide*. This newly available resource for group study addresses issues raised in the book in hopes to move toward a more racially inclusive Religious Society of Friends. www.fitforfreedom.org

Look for information about these and other recent resources from Quaker Press of FGC—*Living out The Kingdom While Living in The Empire* by Christopher Sammond and *Silence and Speech* by Richard Allen—at www.fgcquaker.org. *Barbara Mays, June 16, 2009*

'Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice' by Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye

The myth that all Quakers helped fugitive slaves and that all Quakers were civil rights activists does not tell the whole story. *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship* lifts up the lives of Friends who were committed to ending enslavement and post-enslavement injustices, while showing how insidious, complex, and pervasive racism has been in the lives of all of us. *Quaker Press of FGC*

'Living The Kingdom While Living In The Empire: Bible Lessons from the 2007 Annual Gathering' by Christopher Sammond is organized into five daily lessons.

1) *The King Throws a Party, and the Queen Says 'No'* starts with a quote from the Gospel of Mark about the commandments to love God and love your neighbor. In this he begins his conversation about the us and the them and being subverted by empire and the power of empire. He introduces the circumstances in which in 2) *Oh, But to Find a Wife More Pleasing! Vashi and Esther* Vashi the Queen is deposed at the King's whim and Esther ascends to Queen. In 3) *Haman and Mordeci and the Politics of 'Us and Them'* he introduces the circumstances where Esther's connections to both the empire of the King and her community force her to divide the world into us and them and how who is us and them changes. 4) *Turning to God in Prayer* tells the terror of making the decisions that leads to the actions that in 5) *Must We Become What We Fear* are the moral hazards of living in The Empire.

These are lessons that reflect the Biblical on the modern and confront the idea of who we are and how we might live in this modern empire as Friends. *QQ, D.C.*

'Silence and Speech' by Richard Allen

Written as a letter, *Silence and Speech* is both practical and deep-from "hints" on the conventions related to unprogrammed worship to the gift of arriving at the "still center." It is as if Allen accompanies readers into the meeting room and leads them toward "a quiet, unseen process, which is seldom exciting or dramatic, but can in the long run have deep and far-reaching effects." Text slightly Americanized but otherwise the same as the larger format British pamphlet. *Quaker Press of FGC*

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of the Religious Society of Friends
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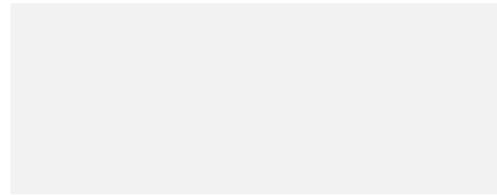
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Quaker Quill



New Webmaster for OVYM Website — <http://ovym.quaker.org>



Lonny Burger of Miami Monthly Meeting is our new webmaster. All are invited to explore the site at:
<http://ovym.quaker.org>.

There you will find resources for individuals as well as Monthly Meetings, including back issues of the Quill and Yearly Meeting Annual Session documents.

We thank our first and only webmaster, Barbarie Hill, for her many years of service as she and Tom get ready to move to Virginia in December.

Lonny Burger, OVYM webmaster

Quaker Quill Cost, 87 Cents Per Copy — quakerquill@gmail.com

The Quaker Quill cost per copy is about 87 cents, only a little more than the cost to buy many daily papers. This amounts to about \$2,200 per year for Yearly Meeting. For those of you who prefer or at least tolerate your information in an electronic form, you could save the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting that cost and even if you print a copy, not having saved the paper, you have saved the Yearly Meeting the cost of printing and postage. The cost to me, if I print the 16 pages of the June 2009 issue, at home for paper and toner would be about 72 cents.

It has been proposed that the Quaker Quill could be delivered by email. The form most widely usable would be PDF. A reader for the PDF is available on line at no cost from Adobe and is furnished with many software packages. This form retains all the appearance of the Quill. It is the way the Quill is delivered to the commercial printer. Past and current issues of the Quill are available at the Yearly Meeting web page as PDFs.

I like the palpable. I find reading at the screen more than a small amount tedious. I often print out what I find by way of my computer to make it more readable and savable. Not to worry. Those of you who enjoy getting the Quaker Quill in the mail, it is not proposed that we stop printing and mailing the Quill. The paper copy serves as tangible reminder and is more portable in some ways than the electronic copy.

I hope the Quill is important to you. It is important that you get the Quaker Quill the way that it is most usable to you.

Yours in peace, Dan Cartmell, Editor of the Quaker Quill