



## Dear Friends: Greetings from the Clerk

By Rex Sprouse

One of the most amazing facets of Quaker faith and practice is our manner of reaching group decisions. Ideally, we seek not majority rule or even "consensus" in the secular sense of the word. Rather, we seek unity in the Spirit, recognizing that God can choose to speak through any one of us at any time. Of course, we must listen attentively and deeply and be willing to set aside personal preferences, when we recognize that the Inward Guide is showing us a way forward.

Many Friends cherish the intimacy of meetings for business in small groups, but such meetings can present special challenges. Small groups may find it all too easy to move away from the deep listening that is crucial to a truly centered Friends business meeting and slip into a casual conversation, and the Clerk of a small group can find it difficult to remind Friends of some of the basic ground rules, such as the importance of being recognized before speaking, the need to address the Clerk (and thereby the entire gathered body) and not individuals, the avoidance of side conversations, and the disciplines both of staying on topic and of prayerfully considering what is coming from the Inner Light and what is coming from ourselves before we speak. Adhering to Quaker business practices in committee meetings may at first seem "artificial," but once Friends become accustomed to these practices, the difference between the tedium typical of secular committee meetings and the joy and refreshment of spiritually grounded meetings for business will become palpable.

Joy and refreshment at Quaker business meetings are also promoted by good preparation. Of course, the most important preparation includes holding the meeting in the Light before, during, and after the meeting itself. However, there are additional steps

that can enhance the experience for everyone. It is very helpful for everyone to distinguish clearly between action items and (purely) informational reports. When action is called for, it is most helpful if a committee can recommend a specific course of action. This does not mean that Friends will immediately feel led to adopt the proposal exactly as stated, but a concrete suggestion can provide a useful framework for considering alternatives. In presenting informational reports or the background for action items, Friends are often well advised to prepare an information sheet with "facts and figures" that would be difficult for others to absorb on the spot. Making this information available before the business meeting in written form can allow Friends to focus on the highlights and the spiritual dimension in the report given on the floor. In this way, reports can be given and received as ministry.

Friends seeking guidance or suggestions for deepening the experience of meeting for business have a wide range of resources available. Mathilda Navias' 2012 book *Quaker Process for Friends on the Benches* (Friends Publishing Corporation) discusses spiritual underpinnings and offers concrete advice on a number of aspects of contemporary Friends business practices, including the use of technology. Your Clerk is also more than happy to discuss approaches to deepening the spiritual dimension of Friends business process with individuals or groups.



Photo by Eric Hatch, Community Friends. See more of Eric's work at <http://hatchphotoartistry.com/>



## CALLING ALL FRIENDS

### QUARTERLY MEETING NEWS

Joint Quarterly Meeting met at Happy Hollow Camp Tenth Month 11-12. Below, Ria Collee and Carol Simmons model sweaters (donated by Diann Herzog) that they purchased to help fund the cost of the event.



#### Upcoming meetings:

**Feb 15:** Sunday: Miami Quarterly Meeting at Eastern Hills. Adult Program by Englewood. The children are going to the Cincinnati Zoo.

**April 18:** Saturday: Whitewater Quarterly Meeting.

**May 17:** Sunday: Miami Quarterly Meeting at Lexington Friends Meeting. Adult Program by Community (State of the Society Reports).

### OVYM ANNUAL SESSIONS

Earlham College from July 29-August 2, 2015.

Our theme is Transforming the World with Love. We look forward to reuniting with old Friends and welcoming the new!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

## The Challenge to Be Patient

Having parked in the lot at work  
early in the morning sun  
and still straining to come  
to terms with yet one more

long day, I was startled  
by creamy yellow daylilies  
in full bloom. They were beautiful —  
even more so than usual

given my needy mood  
of the moment. I felt uplifted.  
But...then...I noticed  
wilting petals and withering

muddy yellow leaves  
interspersed among the bright  
flourishing flowers. Startled  
again, I slowly realized,

again, that life would always  
be a struggle. There would always  
be the pull of the attractive  
and the push of the unattractive —

always the compelling want  
and the constraining not-want —  
always the challenge to be patient  
with what has been created.

—Charles R. Bunner, reprinted from *Clear Creek Courier*

## FRIENDS ASSOCIATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION PUBLISHES FIRST BOOK

"Quaker Perspectives in Higher Education" presents articles drawn from the first fourteen issues of Quaker Higher Education (QHE), the journal of the Friends Association for Higher Education. This book is the first in a planned series. Each volume in the series will focus on Quaker contributions to a specific academic discipline with occasional volumes addressing Quaker academicians' contributions to important concerns such as peacemaking, commerce and environmental stewardship. Collective Quaker contributions within the various academic disciplines will finally be addressed through this series. Sales royalties will accrue to FAHE to support the association's ongoing publishing efforts. Locally, Jean K. Mulhern, Ph.D., director of Watson Library, Wilmington College, serves on the series editorial board. (\$17.50 paperback through Amazon or Barnes/Noble, 2014, 300 pages, 978-0996003322)

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## FRIENDS FOR 200 YEARS IN CINCINNATI

March 16, 2015 will mark the 200th anniversary of an officially established Quaker meeting in Cincinnati. Although there have been several splits & reconfigurations over the years, all three meetings currently in the area can trace their lineage back to that first group.

Cincinnati Friends Meeting is planning several events to celebrate the 200th anniversary and we hope that all Friends in Cincinnati will join us. This is to let you know well ahead of time so you can get the events on your calendars.

In January, Sabrina Darnowsky's well-researched history of Cincinnati Friends Meeting will be published. In writing this history, Sabrina has been guided by her own integrity and the Meeting's directive to be truthful and objective in covering the history of Cincinnati Friends from their early beginnings to the present, including the formation of Eastern Hills and Community Friends. We hope all Friends will be interested in reading this material.

On Sunday, March 15, 2015, we will have a Quaker Family Reunion at Cincinnati Friends Meetinghouse. That morning, Jim Newby (former minister at Cincinnati Friends and author of several books, such as *Sacred Chaos*) will bring the message at our semi-programmed service (which means that he will speak for 15 minutes or so, and then we will go into silent, open worship for the rest of the hour; people may, of course, speak out of the silence). After Meeting for Worship, we will have a potluck lunch.

Later in the afternoon, Phil Gulley will speak and after that, Carrie Newcomer will give a concert. (This is scheduled to occur at Armstrong Chapel).

On Saturday, April 18, the Quaker History and Genealogy Conference will be held at Cincinnati Friends Meetinghouse. The focus will be Levi Coffin, Anti-Slavery Friend and "President of the Underground Railroad," who was a member of Cincinnati Friends in the 19th century.

As part of the anniversary events, we are filming a documentary about Quakers in southwestern Ohio, with a particular focus on the testimonies of equality and peace, both of which were primary motivations for Quakers coming to this area in the early 1800s.

We invite Friends who have a story of a specific incident or experience related to the testimony of peace or equality, and who would be willing to be interviewed and/or tell their story on film, to contact Donne Hayden [513-207-5353](tel:513-207-5353) or [cfmpublicfriend@gmail.com](mailto:cfmpublicfriend@gmail.com).

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND JOIN US NEXT SPRING!**

## RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES ANNOUNCES NEW SECRETARY

According to a recent email announcement, "the Board of Right Sharing of World Resources is excited to announce the appointment of Jacqueline Stillwell as the new General Secretary! Jackie has been a Quaker for her lifetime and currently serves as clerk of New England Yearly Meeting. Her international experience began in Norway where she did an internship in an educational program for mentally challenged youth. She spent nearly a decade in Guatemala, part of which she served in the Peace Corps. She has also led five trips to Cuba to visit NEYM's sister Yearly Meeting there. Jackie has many years' experience with not-for-profit organizations including 22 years as Head of School for The Meeting School in Rindge, New Hampshire. She will ... take on the leadership of RSWR in January. She is known and well respected among Friends General Conference and many who met her for the first time at last summer's triennial sessions of Friends United Meeting."

RSWR is online at: <http://www.rswr.org/>.

## AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2014

According to the AFSC website, "we know that peacemaking requires more than merely advocating against one war or another. Real peace is more than the absence of war. Rather, we need to change the culture, situations, and systems that lead to violence.

"AFSC knows that miracles can happen when we build the capacity for peace person-by-person, community-by-community. When people understand the terrible consequences of violence and witness realistic alternatives, they come together as a powerful force to address the underlying causes and lay the foundation for lasting peace."

See a slideshow of the highlights of AFSC's work in 2014 at: <http://afsc.org/story/2014-photos-highlights-afscs-work-peace>.

## OTHER REGIONAL FRIENDS

Indiana Yearly Meeting churches are participating in the Friends United Meeting Chain of Prayer. This is an annual event to celebrate the linkages among churches and to deepen their experience of God. This year's theme is being energized by Christ. Churches register for a day of prayer between Jan. 1 and May 24, and make use of a prayer guide. For more information, see <http://fum.org/chain-of-prayer-2015>. Indiana Yearly Meeting Sessions, on the theme of "Unchartered Territory," will be held July 23-26, 2015 at Quaker Haven Camp.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE 2015 GATHERING

### SAVE THE DATE!

According to the FGC Vital Friends e-newsletter, “the 2015 Gathering Committee is thrilled to announce that acclaimed Quaker author and activist **Parker J. Palmer** will speak to attendees at an evening plenary session at The Gathering next year. Founder of the Center for Courage and Renewal, former Dean of Studies for Pendle Hill, and author of nine books including *Let Your Life Speak* and his most recent *Healing the Heart of Democracy*, FGC is extremely pleased to have Parker share his insights and perspectives.

“...Award-winning singer/songwriter **Carrie Newcomer**, ... will perform a concert...Carrie has produced 15 albums as a solo artist and worked with FGC’s own Brent Bill for the 2006 PBS special *Festival of Friends: An Offering of Four Quaker Voices*. **Proudly Quaker, she attends Bloomington Friends Meeting (OVYM).**

“[We] will also welcome North Carolina-based attorneys **Daryl Atkinson and Scott Holmes**. [They] will discuss creating sustainable wholeness in communities broken by state-sanctioned injustice. As a trial lawyer focused on civil rights and criminal defense cases, Scott has represented Moral Monday protesters, panhandlers, Dream Team activists, and Occupy Protesters. Daryl recently used his passion for criminal justice reform to lead the nation’s first successful Ban the Box campaign, which compelled the City of Durham to remove a question about past criminal convictions from the city’s employment application.

“Rounding out a week of invigorating plenary events will be **Dr. Tieraona Low Dog**.... Dr. Low Dog will present a message of transformation and hope drawing from her years as a physician, midwife, researcher, and National Geographic author.”

**The Gathering will be July 5-11, 2015 at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC. More details can be found at: <http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>.**

### HOW IS THE NAMING COMMITTEE DIFFERENT FROM THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE?

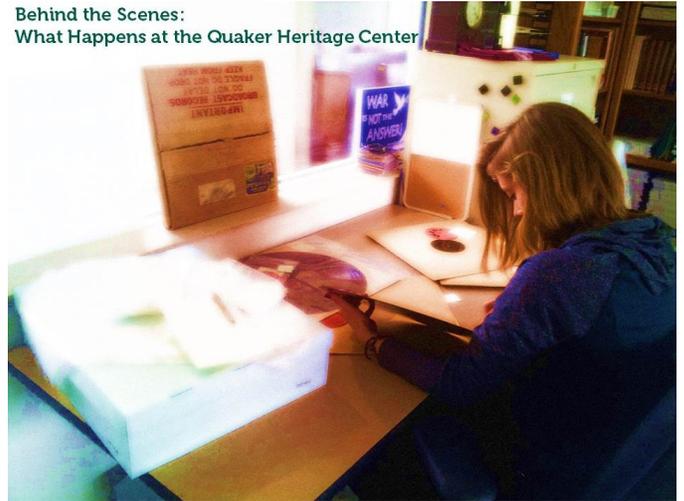
“The primary work of the Yearly Meeting Naming Committee is to discern the names of Friends to bring forward for service on the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee...The primary work of the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee is to discern the names of Friends to bring forward for service as Yearly Meeting officers and representatives and for service on most of the Yearly Meeting’s committees. A crucial aspect of this discernment process involves worshipful discussions with Friends about the gifts, skills, and responsibilities associated with various service opportunities. It should be understood that Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee brings forward names for Friends’ consideration...” (OVYM Handbook)

## THE QUAKER HERITAGE CENTER

“Behind the Scenes: What Happens at the Quaker Heritage Center” Join us “Behind the Scenes” for a sneak peek at the everyday work of our museum:

- Discover how we care for the priceless historic treasures entrusted to us
  - Learn about our artifact research process
  - See artifacts not usually on display
  - Vote for your favorite item in the collection
- All in preparation for next fall’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration!

Behind the Scenes:  
What Happens at the Quaker Heritage Center



**Also on display: “A Quaker Journey Story”** In 1828, the Walthall family, Quaker ancestors of Meriam Hare, decided to leave their home in Gravelly Run, Virginia, and journey to Ohio. In the late 1800s, almost 60 years after their journey, William Walthall recalled the trip he experienced as a child in his memoir. Experience their journey through the words of William Walthall and the treasures of the Walthall family.



**Both exhibits on display January 12 through July 31, 2015**

Regular Gallery Hours:

- Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Last Saturday of Each Month, 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Holiday Closings: April 3, May 25, July 3

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## QUAKER HEIGHTS CARE COMMUNITY BUILDING SHORT-STAY REHAB WING

Construction is underway for the new 11,000+ square foot Quaker Heights addition. Estimated completion date is summer of 2015. When finished, it will house 15 private suites for short-stay residents coming to the facility for post-hospital rehab, a dining room and kitchen as well as a state-of-the-art therapy gym for residents and outpatients. Quaker Heights expects a continuing surge in outpatient therapy usage. Already, increasing numbers of outpatients choose Quaker Heights Therapy for its friendly, knowledgeable staff. A number of existing semi-private rooms will convert to private in keeping with the market shifts when the new wing opens.

At this writing, the footers are nearly completed to prepare for pouring the foundation. It is estimated that the foundation will be in by mid-January. The red barn pictured is being demolished very soon. The Museum at the Friends Home Trustees and others spread the word that arrangements could be made with any individuals or groups interested in the structure, or its wood, to take down the barn. Some pieces were



removed, but it was determined that there was little historical value to the barn's original construction.

This wing will be accessible from Miami St. and have its own entrance and parking. The new construction adjoins the current building at the end of a long-term care hallway. At the time of groundbreaking, the project was estimated to take 10 months. Ruscilli Construction of Columbus, Ohio, is the contractor. They were selected due to their extensive experience in handling HUD loan construction.

More information is on the OVYM website at: [http://www.quaker.org/ovym/index\\_files/News.htm](http://www.quaker.org/ovym/index_files/News.htm)  
*Lisa Gooding, correspondent*

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## NEWS FROM MONTHLY MEETINGS

### News excerpts from Bloomington MM Newsletter

November 11 at the Monroe County Public Library, our own Peggy Squires was a panelist discussing the topic of "The US and ISIS: Is War the Answer?" She presented the principles of Shared Security, developed jointly by FCNL and AFSC.

The meeting held a potluck brunch to celebrate the new year on January 1. They planned a Martin Luther King Jr. weekend second hour program on Racial Justice and Action, a February 22 second hour program on Spiritual Opportunities of Aging with Anita Paul, and a March 29 second hour on Speaking, Listening and Loving as Quaker Practice. The meeting does a monthly community service at the Community Kitchen.

*Newsletter editor: Willowbei Eversole. Excerpted by Quill Editor*

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### Community

Community Friends Meeting has recently received two bequests from the estates of recently deceased Friends: Agnes Moon and Eileen Bagus. The meeting is grateful for these generous gifts and is in the process of discernment about how to use them. The principle of these discernments is that they be used to honor the memory of these two friends, and to follow Quaker principles in expending them. Some of the money will be used for immediate maintenance needs of the house and property. Most, however will be held in a fund that would preserve the principal and spend only a limited amount of the fund each year, but unlike an endowment fund, the meeting may, if so led, apply the money to needs that arise in the future.

The meeting is holding a four session Quakerism 101 Class in February and March for recent attenders and any other person interested in basic Quaker Faith and Practice.

Several members and attenders have been taking nature walks together in various city and county parks monthly after second hours, and a workday on our own grounds is scheduled for January 24. Additionally, the Friends in Unity with Nature Committee facilitated an Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) action at the PNC bank branch in Clifton. About 16 people participated and the group was received in a friendly fashion by bank employees, customers, and passersby. The action was a protest against PNC's funding of mountain top removal in West Virginia, Virginia, and Kentucky.

The Business Meeting now features one friend speaking briefly about ways they practice Quaker Ministry outside the meeting, as we often do not know what work other than meeting participation that we are performing.

*John Tim Leonard*

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## Clear Creek

In Dec. 2013, Clear Creek's book group read the book, *Faithist: How an Atheist Found Common Ground with the Religious*, by interfaith activist Chris Stedman, Executive Director of the Yale Humanist Community. The meeting also hosted a well-attended Christmas Eve worship, as well as worship on Christmas morning and a labyrinth walk on New Year's Eve.

Earlham College recently held a celebration of the book *Qur'an in Conversation* by Michael Birkel, Professor of Religion at Earlham, and member of Clear Creek meeting. Birkel created this volume by inviting a diverse group of North American Muslims to reflect on favorite passages from the Qur'an. The resulting interviews are profound in their insights and accessible to everyday readers of any faith. In a world that urgently needs it, *Qur'an in Conversation* invites respectful and compassionate inter-faith communication.

*Clear Creek newsletter, Correspondent Miriam Bunner, Excerpted by the Quill Editor*

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## Dayton

Dayton Friends have been experiencing positive growth in the past year. We have been very grateful and glad to welcome many new attenders to our meeting. We have been encouraged by the increase of new people who have very much added to our sense of community.

We have continued to search for a meeting space of our own, and we are thankful for all the care and support that we have received throughout this process.

We are holding regular potlucks as time to share in both food and fellowship and are also still having second hour discussions, each on a monthly basis after meeting for worship. The topic of one of our most recent discussions was race relations. This past December, we had a special Christmas potluck and gathering.

Additionally, we are reviving activities in service of the wider community and are reenergizing our Peace and Social Concerns committee.

*Lisa Scarpelli*

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## Eastern Hills

Scotland's national poet Robert Burns said, "O wad some Power the giftie gie us To see oursels as ithers see us!". Had Robert Burns been born during the "selfie / Facebook" era, he might not have needed to write this. Nonetheless, his wistful sentiment still gives voice to a familiar type of human longing.

And so, Eastern Hills Friends, here are some "gifties" for you: some elfin views taken of "oursels" during the Christmas celebration luncheon and "gift" exchange to help conjure warm visions of the gifts of poetry, humor, music, seamstresses, fun and fellowship now that the season has passed.

In other news and announcements, EHFMM hosted Greater Anderson Promotes Peace for an "Interfaith Gathering to Pray for Peace" in November. The event is scheduled again for Feb 11. After prayers, attendees are invited to stay for refreshments and fellowship.

Also, EHFMM will serve with Campus Meeting as co-hosts of Miami Quarterly Meeting, February 15, 2015. They are planning First Day school, the after lunch children's program at the Cincinnati Zoo, and main dishes for potluck.

Lastly, thanks go out to EHFMM members for sharing other named and unnamed gifts during 2014. The committees, the duties, the maintenance, the service and outreach, the prayers, and the spiritual gifts and other kindnesses have sent many ripples to unknown shores. May you and the people and broader concerns you care so much about have a good year in 2015!

*Susan Reutman*



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## Fall Creek

We are taking a fresh look at meeting finances. We have had good conversations about such things as increasing income, how to use the meeting's money. At our last business meeting, we discussed the need for a public Friends voice regarding current issues of police brutality and institutional racism. We approved taking the concern to Whitewater Quarterly Meeting.

*Josh Medlin*

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## Hopewell

Hopewell Friends Meeting started implementing self-help author Gretchen Rubin's The Happiness Project(s). We did colored sand sidewalk art, cut and printed potatoes and matted a final print, and decorated personal ornaments. We also designed individual goal charts, began journaling, started exercise programs, (some even cleaned closets!) and generally tried to have more fun. The inter-generational activities have been a hit.

Friends have studied Hopewell beginnings and were given written copies of the history. Many visited area cemeteries.

Dublin Friends, pastored by Annie Glen, invited the meeting to share in unprogrammed worship time with them one first day in December. We were welcomed to this friendly, open and engaged group. We hope they can visit us this spring. Hopewell Meeting was closed due to inclement weather 1-11-15.

We bought 8 beehives, with the help of a matching grant, for Heifer International. We also contributed to the Western Wayne Food Bank.

Contained Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) have been a continuing discussion during second hour.

Pitch-in lunches are held the last first day of each month following monthly meeting. Kate Glen resigned as clerk due to other commitments. Susan Scott is interim clerk.

*Susan Scott*

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## Lexington Friends Meeting Explores Racial Issues

Lexington Friends have decided to engage in a number of activities to expand our understanding of racial issues and to develop relationships with people of color. Many liberal Friends recognize that the members and attenders of our meetings tend to be overwhelmingly white. For a number of years, Friends General Conference has engaged in a ministry on racism and other efforts to help Friends challenge racism, work for racial diversity, and facilitate connections with Friends of color.

Lexington Friends have developed a relationship with St. Andrews Episcopal Church, a small church a few blocks from our meeting-house that has a diverse congregation. In the fall, we got together to sing and socialize at their church. We are planning a second similar event that we will host at our meetinghouse. Some of their young people attend a knitting group we host.

In October we hosted a potluck at which Carol Taylor, a social justice educator at the University of Kentucky, talked with us about her experiences as a Black woman growing up and living in Lexington. It was an illuminating evening for many of us.

Four Lexington Friends recently attended a 2-day conference on diversity hosted by a number of local colleges and universities. The pastor of St. Andrews and one of her parishioners also attended that conference, and after the conference the six of us got together to talk about our experiences at the conference. From that meeting, we decided to form a book group to read the book, *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debbie Irving. Irving's memoir includes queries at the end of each chapter to actively engage readers in their own journey of awakening.

Several Lexington Friends have begun attending the monthly luncheons of the Black Church Coalition, which is a local coalition of both Black and white congregations that meet to socialize, educate themselves about local social services, and maintain a fund for people who need help meeting expenses, e.g. paying a utility or medical bill.

Finally, a number of Lexington Friends are planning to attend the White Privilege Conference, which is being held this year in Louisville on March 11-14, 2015. Friends who register through Friends General Conference get a large discount on the registration fee. Vanessa Julye spoke about this conference at last summer's OVYM sessions. This is a wonderful opportunity for Friends in our region. We hope to see other OVYM Friends at the conference.

Speaking for myself, it feels good to be engaging in these activities and developing new relationships after years of feeling uncomfortable about how segregated my life and understanding are. I feel empowered and optimistic about tackling topics like white privilege, oppression, and multicultural understanding. I hope that OVYM Friends can also engage in such efforts and share with us what they are doing and learning.

*Betsy Neale*



Nothing, I believe, can really teach us the nature and meaning of inspiration but personal experience of it. That we may all have such experience if we will but attend to the divine influences in our own hearts, is the cardinal doctrine of Quakerism.

Caroline Stephen, *Quaker Strongholds*, 1891, p. 28

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## Miami

The Meeting was saddened by the passing of long-term member Benton Hoak, who passed away January 3<sup>rd</sup> at Quaker Heights. The memorial service was Wednesday morning, January 7<sup>th</sup> at Stubbs-Conners funeral home in Waynesville, followed a reception in the Red Brick Meetinghouse.

In support of the Quaker Earthcare article on reducing the carbon footprint of our facilities, Miami will be holding discussions in February on how we will address this support. The topics of discussion will include the possible installation of geo-thermal heating in the White Brick Meetinghouse.

*Lonny Burger*

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## North Meadow Circle of Friends

As we pass the new year we have joy in sharing time with friends and family. That includes our meeting Friends and family. We have grown in number of attenders. Our worship seems to have grown deeper, enhanced by the opportunity to share Afterthoughts, thoughts that we may have felt but are unsure that they rise to the level of a message to be given during meeting for worship. People experience the guidance of the Spirit during meeting but also through other meeting activities and the blessings of being able to serve on and receive support from clearness committees.

We have been enriched by the energy of many people in our meeting. This is shown in meeting for worship as well as the numerous other activities within the meeting--worship sharing, spiritual journeys, potlucks, Bible study and the delight of having several children in our First Day School. Our meeting has a caring ministry of providing fresh produce to Craine House, a residence for ex-offenders who are reuniting with their children. The love we share together is exhibited in the joyous greetings and handshakes that we share at close of meeting for worship.

We are blessed by having opportunities to share in issues in the wider Quaker world. We enjoy spending time at Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting in the summer time and at the Joint Quarterly Meeting but we also have Friends who serve faithfully year round in committee work and planning. Our meeting has helped participate in the revitalization of the Indiana Friends Committee on Legislation, our Quaker lobby organization. We have hosted the American Friends Service Committee area meeting. We have people in the meeting who are active in National Friends Committee on Legislation. Some in the meeting are involved in new outreach with the Peace Learning Center. Some members attend and share with the meeting on the activities of the Peace and Justice Center and the KI EcoCenter, a local organization focused on environmental issues and social justice.

Another joy has been the advancement of Marriage Equality in Indiana. Our meeting has worked for this for a long time and in Indiana at last the marriages of same sex couples have the same legal standing as opposite sex couples. We recognize there is more work to be done around the country and world to reach full equality.

*Alexia Mary Torke*

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## Oxford

Oxford Friends gathered for our customary Advent Event for an afternoon of reunion and celebration. We were gladdened by the return of old friends and an opportunity for fellowship and good food. We are especially blessed by the new membership of a talented baker with a leading to produce excellent cakes! Part of our Christmas celebration was a performance by our meeting's children: an adaptation of O. Henry's story *The Gift of the Magi*, in which three children make ironic sacrifices to give each other the perfect gift. We also played a version of *Jeopardy* based on knowledge of local income disparity, and then sang carols to cheer ourselves up.

Many of us gathered on Christmas eve for candlelight meeting for worship at a family's home. Each attender brought a candle and the gathered light was felt by all present.

We continue to have an active and creative First Day School, which serves as our children's ministry to the meeting. Recent studies have included the film *The Man Who Planted Trees*, Quaker history and testimonies, and world religions.

We have resumed the second-hour study of *John Woolman's Journal*, which we began more than thirty years ago when this monthly meeting was young. As it was then, this reading is illuminating and challenging.

We have recently been gladdened by the acceptance into Earlham School of Religion of a new member of our Meeting, Anne Hutchinson and look forward to her continuing ministry. Anne has also been experimenting in international bread and cake baking techniques, much to the delight of the meeting.

*Andrew Garrison, correspondent. Photos by Cassie Murray.*



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## Yellow Springs

Yellow Springs meeting held a memorial service Saturday, January 3 at Glen Helen Building in Yellow Springs for their dear member and recently appointed clerk John Eastman. Memorial contributions may be made to Antioch College. The following is from the eulogy given by Evan Scott (co-written with Leila Peterson & others).

John was born on March 7, 1947 in Springfield, Ohio. The oldest of four children, John grew up in a home where he learned early the importance of independent thinking and community service. His family and his life as a Quaker comprised the core of his identity, giving him an abiding faith in the goodness of people and an appreciation for peaceful solutions to conflicts.

Love, Trust, Integrity, and Kindness were design elements that John inherited from his parents - Richard and Wilberta (Billie) Eastman. He used them in his life's work, making them his own, and offering them as gifts to his children and grandchildren. Through them and the many others that he touched, he made his mark on our interwoven fabric.

**Love:** John's love and pride for his family shone through his sparkling blue eyes and his wide smile. When new people were drawn into the family tapestry, he opened his heart to them without question.

**Trust:** He trusted his children and grandchildren to do the right thing and contribute in a positive way to the world. And he trusted each to define this path for themselves.

**Integrity:** There are two aspects to his authenticity: 1) do things completely and well, and 2) to constantly strive to be honest in words and actions.

**Kindness:** John saw the good in everyone. He literally (and I mean that word literally) never had a negative thing to say about anyone.

**Puzzles and problems** – he always seemed the happiest when there was something to be figured out – whether it be a natural phenomenon, a building project, community need, or all three at once. He loved to work with others to completely understand ALL facets of a problem and then explore and try out various solutions. He loved the beauty and intricacies of both the puzzle and solution.

His passion for teaching and problem solving extended into every facet of his life. He was a persistent and happy mentor, believing that it was important that you be able to solve problems beyond whatever current challenge you faced. If you were hungry for an answer, you needed to be prepared to learn how to fish.

John brought the gifts of love, trust, integrity, and kindness to his life with Terri Eastman. His marriage to her in 2004 marked a beautiful new phase of his life. Her dry humor and quiet grace complemented his intense literalness and almost succeeded in getting him to recognize sarcasm and irony. Terri helped him to expand his connections to family and friends. Her children and grandchild added more love to his life.

For many, John represents excellence and the list of his accomplishments is long and varied. He was an Eagle Scout, valedictorian of his Yellow Springs High School class, a Danforth Fellow, a National Science Foundation Fellow, multiple graduate degrees including a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering. If he weren't so humble, this would have been more unnerving for siblings and others who followed in his footsteps.

One of his passions was the natural world which led to his education and career choices. Since 1987 John has been Chief Environmental Engineer at LJB, Inc., Engineers and Architects where he designs water and waste water treatment plants. He is known as "Dr. Water" throughout Ohio. More than this, John helped to build LJB's Environmental Department through launching new services and mentoring younger engineers.

*Correspondent: Cheryl Keen. Excerpts by Quill Editor*



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### QUAKER STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Since the UN Climate Summit on Climate Change, Quaker Earth Witness (QEW), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) have revised the Quaker Statement on Climate Change to make it non-date specific and to draw in feedback. For more information see: <http://www.quakerearthcare.org/article/jan-2015-facing-challenge-climate-change-shared-statement-quaker-groups>.

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### GROW OUR MEETINGS

The Grow Our Meetings workshop will focus on increasing the health and vitality of our meetings by inviting Spirit into our efforts around inreach, outreach, and integrating newcomers. It is sponsored by FGC and will be at Quaker Hill in Richmond on March 14th. For more information and registration, please see: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcs-grow-our-meetings-workshop>.



# Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

3960 Winding Way

Cincinnati, OH 45229

**We're on the web:  
ovym.quaker.org**

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All people, look no longer forth; the glad tidings of the gospel of eternal salvation is heard within, in this day of the Lord's mercies, in which he is teaching his people himself, as was declared by the prophet Isaiah 54:13, and is now witnessed by all the children of light, whose minds are turned within to wait on the Lord for his teaching, to establish them in the covenant of life and peace...

~ William Dewsbury, 1621-1688

## Inside this issue:

Events and News	1-5
News from Monthly Meetings	5-9

## Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Officers

Rex Sprouse, Presiding Clerk

Stephen Angell, Assistant Presiding Clerk

Paul Buckley, Recording Clerk

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Wilson Palmer, Treasurer