



## The Quaker Quill

# Epistles from *One in Spirit: Becoming a More Inclusive Religious Society*

## 2016 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions

### Earlham College, July 27-31, 2016

#### Greetings to Friends Everywhere!

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met for our 196th Annual Sessions on the campus of Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana from July 27 to July 31, 2016. We considered the theme, "One in Spirit: Becoming a More Inclusive Religious Society." As we gathered, we joyfully celebrated the harmony we find in lifting our voices together. However, we also listened to hear which voices might be missing in our yearning to create a more inclusive community.

In our business sessions, we considered some challenges we are facing, including difficulty with staffing several committees, and lack of participation by some of our monthly meetings in Yearly Meeting activities this year. Another serious concern laid before us is that Quaker Heights Care Community, the largest ministry of our Yearly Meeting, is operating at a deficit, which may result in the need to affiliate with another faith based organization.

However, there were also many reminders that the Spirit is prospering among us. We were encouraged and joyful to learn that the Yearly Meeting has hired a new Youth Secretary, with expanded responsibility for leading activities and events for both teens and middle youth throughout the year. We were also encouraged to see the faces of many young adult Friends among us this year. A clear leading came to plan for a program of intervisitation to reach out to monthly meetings that are not active in the Yearly Meeting, to build connections and increase engagement. In considering our budget priorities for the future, we entered a worship sharing process out of which came suggestions for ways to strengthen bonds and nurture our youth, and also a prophetic call that we are being made anew and transformed by the Holy Spirit.

We approved a number of new and revised sections of our *Book of Faith & Practice* in a more streamlined procedure, including sections on our testimonies of Integrity, Simplicity, Community, (p.2)

#### *Dear Friends:* Greetings from the Clerk

Dear Friends,

After a year as assistant clerk I begin my term as presiding clerk of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (gulp!). I have to say it's a bit intimidating, but I appreciate the faith you have expressed in choosing me for this service. Although I have served several times as presiding clerk of Lexington Friends Meeting, serving as presiding clerk of a yearly meeting is a much larger job. I welcome suggestions and gentle advice about how to serve in this position. I also believe that groups function best when all members share in the leadership, and we do not expect one designated person to lead and lead perfectly. I think this is consistent with Friends' understanding of working and living in community.

One of my major concerns for our yearly meeting, perhaps my primary concern, is its revitalization. How can we better foster the spiritual lives of individual Friends, monthly meetings, our quarterly meetings, and our yearly meeting? What are we called to do in the wider world? A third, and very important concern was expressed at a recent Executive Committee meeting – how can we best nurture our children and young Friends?

At this past summer's annual sessions widespread interest was expressed in inter-

Betsy  
Neale



visitation among monthly meetings. Our Religious Nurture and Education Committee is considering ways to facilitate such inter-visitation. An opportunity to visit among Friends is coming up October 29-30 at Joint Quarterly Meeting. Further information on this retreat can be found on [our website](#). Unfortunately, I will not be at Joint Quarter because I will be attending the annual meeting of Friends General Conference Central Committee. I will be interested to see what I can learn from Friends outside our region that might be useful as we seek to strengthen OVYM.

Finally, please be sure that your monthly meeting is represented at our Executive Committee meetings (October, February, April, June). If you serve on a yearly meeting committee, please be sure it is represented at these meetings. We need the participation of all our meetings and committees to make our yearly meeting strong, engaging, and responsive.

## From p. 1

and Equality and a section on Listening to the Spirit. We worked faithfully together on the draft of the section on Equality in light of the inward work we are still undertaking to become more sensitive to racial injustice, and we felt divinely led in this process. Our goal is to complete the *Faith & Practice* revision process by 2018.

One of our Plenary Speakers, Michael Birkel, shared his experience of Religious Hospitality as a guest among Muslims, following a leading to learn about Islam. He shared some meaningful texts from the Qur'an such as "Wherever you turn, you shall see the face of God," and "Common kindness is a sacred duty." We learned that in Islam, as in Quakerism, prayer, meditation, and reflection are believed to open us up to a sense of beauty and sensitivity to injustice. We were encouraged to talk with our neighbors about their religion, because encountering other religious communities can change and enrich our lives.

Niyonu Spann spoke to us on "Trusting the Broken Heart" as a path of transformation to find our way to wholeness and healing. We learned that we must see beyond the illusion of the existing structures of oppression that separate us in order to truly acknowledge and appreciate one another. Through an exercise of speaking and listening in small groups, we were given a safe opportunity to be very honest about the pain we experience from the violence and division in our present world. Niyonu asked us to consider that to be truly inclusive and whole, we must open our arms wider, even when our hearts are breaking. When we lean on a deeper promise, God will assist us in being transformed and healed.

Our time together gave us many opportunities to reconnect over shared meals, singing, workshops and interest groups. In worship sharing sessions we had the opportunity to share more deeply and personally in small groups about our own interfaith experiences and ways to become a more inclusive community. At a memorial meeting we remembered and celebrated the lives of Friends we lost in the past year. At our annual Variety Show, we shared poetry, music, lively skits, laughter and tears.

We now return to our daily lives with opened hearts and outstretched arms, to live into a deeper understanding of loving inclusion. We have heard the call that we are being made anew, that God is transforming us. We know that the same deep mystery beckons and connects us all. We are called into holy encounters, the giving and receiving of hospitality, and listening with the heart past the illusions and boundaries that divide us. We are invited to heal, to reconnect, to share the hidden treasures that are desiring to be known, and to recognize and remember that we are whole.



## Epistle from the Teens

On Thursday night, Ian Murray and Caleb Murray joined up with Isaac Snediker-Morscheck, who had arrived the previous day. Isaac had joined the Middle Youth program until the Murray brothers rescued him from those mere Quaker pupae (lovely young Friends). The three of us formed the teen group. On Thursday night, we all listened to Michael Birkel's plenary speech on "Hospitality Among Religious Communities". We all found Michael to be an intelligent and funny speaker, and Ian got to ask him a question. On Friday morning we embarked on the rafting trip, and began downriver at about 10:00. We battled a group of frog monsters with our inner light, before flying off into space riding on our rafts.

**What actually happened** was that we made it about 8 miles down river, returning at around 3:00. That night, we listened to Niyonu Spann give a plenary speech on "Trusting the Broken Heart", which was inspiring and made many good points. Later that night, Isaac went on a family trip to Maine, reducing us down to two teens. The next morning, we went to the athletic center for swimming and basketball, with the Middle Youth. That afternoon, a group of Puritans returned to try us for heresy, but we narrowly escaped and avoided hanging due to our quick wits and inner light.

**What actually happened:** We went to the workshops, with Caleb and Ian both going to the "Quaker Social Change Ministry" workshop, at the Wilkinson Theater stage. After dinner, we returned to the Wilkinson for the variety show, which had many highlights, including French Jabberwocky, the Togami sisters singing, and of course, Steve Angell as Beyoncé. We participated in the Middle Youth skit, which was a Quaker take on the classic Romeo and Juliet narrative. We went to bed shortly thereafter, and wrote this epistle at 9:30 this morning. This is a message from the OVYM Teens with passion for what you do and love for one another.

## Epistle from the Middle Youth Program

To Friends Everywhere,

We are the middle youth at the 2016 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting annual sessions. Nine young Friends attended.

We spent five days together. We went to an animal center, rafting, made ice cream, and did a skit for the variety show. Michael Birkel talked to us about Islam and how to make words beautiful with calligraphy. Alice Robrish told us about ceramics and helped us make penguins.

We met God on the rafting trip and we felt love for each other. We had a business meeting to decide how to live with each other as a community. And we felt connected to the whole meeting at the variety show.

We encourage more youth to come to next year's yearly meeting and spend time together.

Andy Hardy, Charlotte Dean, Cecelia Branson, Elana Branson, Gillian Murray, Toby Dean, Adam Snediker-Morscheck , Ivy Clarkson, Maryam Elel, Theo Swank



## Epistle from the Children

Greetings to young friends everywhere,

The Children at Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting met in July at Earlham College. We focused on the theme of One in Spirit; Becoming a More Inclusive Religious Society. We discussed how to include each other when we play. We discussed Bayard Rustin and how he made himself included during a time when many people were excluded from activities. The children could see the racism in the behavior of the people in the story. We learned that being included means appreciating the differences in each other. We discovered the many gifts that each person in our group owns.

We shared our concerns. We are concerned about the upcoming election. We also want to help the homeless animals. We thought a lot about how we treat each other and we realized that when another person is putting you down it might be because they don't feel good about themselves.

We welcomed the adults who shared their talents of craft and music. We were able to meditate and find our safe place. We sang and moved and became connected through music. We talked about what happens and what you can do during meeting for worship. We opened up to others through our clay designs and puppets.

Our message to you is "Love for all, Hate for none." Love from the children (ages 7-10 ) of OVYM July 2016



## Yearly Meeting Scrapbook

Recordings at: [http://ovym.quaker.org/index\\_files/annual.html](http://ovym.quaker.org/index_files/annual.html)

Recordings at: [http://ovym.quaker.org/index\\_files/photos.html](http://ovym.quaker.org/index_files/photos.html)





## Calling all Friends

### Annual Sessions Planning Committee Needs You!

The OVYM Planning Committee is scheduled to meet just before this issue of the Quill hits your in-box. We are grateful for the responses to our evaluations that approximately one-third of the attendees at the 2016 annual sessions submitted. These are the focus of our first meeting as we discern a theme and potential plenary presenters and draft our first list of workshop ideas.

Please note that any new workshop suggestions should be sent to me by mid-January for consideration for the 2017 annual sessions.

Our committee is also looking for new members as we have fewer shoulders upon which to distribute the duties that everyone shares. If you are willing to contact potential workshop and worship-sharing leaders, help with query writing, provide support during the annual sessions, or if you have proof-reading skills, we need you! Members of the planning committee do not have to attend annual sessions to help, though we hope you can make it to one or more of our meetings, which are tentatively scheduled for January and March in Cincinnati and May at Earlham College.

Finally, we hope that your monthly meeting responded to our survey regarding possibly changing the date of the yearly meeting from late July to mid-June.

*Martha Viehmann  
[marthaviehmann@fuse.net](mailto:marthaviehmann@fuse.net)*

### QUAKER HERITAGE CENTER WILMINGTON COLLEGE

A recent exhibition (July 5 through October 14, 2016) featured over 50 posters from more than twenty boycotts, including the Montgomery Bus Boycott, United Farm Workers' grape and lettuce boycott, divestment from South Africa to protest Apartheid, boycotts of corporations using sweatshops, the Palestinian call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, and many others. The exhibition was initiated by the [American Friends Service Committee](#), a Quaker organization that promotes lasting peace with justice, as a practical expression of faith in action, and produced in collaboration with the Center for the Study of Political Graphics.

From <http://www.wilmington.edu/the-wilmington-difference/qhc/>

### 2016 Westheimer Peace Symposium The Art of Nonviolence

Based on both senses of “art,” this year’s Westheimer Peace Symposium emphasized nonviolence as creative expression and as a skill to be acquired and honed. October 8-11.

From: <http://www.wilmington.edu/the-wilmington-difference/westheimer/>

### Save your stamps for Right Sharing!

Through our partners at Quaker Missions West (formerly Quaker Missions) who sort, package and sell the stamps to collectors, well over \$50,000 has been donated to Right Sharing of World Resources and other Quaker organizations via this project.

This project was begun in 1996 by **Brad Hathaway** from Mattapoisett Friends Meeting in Massachusetts. Brad was a retired stamp dealer and began to collect and sell stamps for Quaker Missions after his retirement. With help from a committee at his meeting, he was able to send thousands of dollars to Quaker service projects such as Right Sharing of World Resources, Friends World Committee for Consultation, Ramallah Play Center, Lugulu Hospital in Kenya, and the Quaker United Nations Office, to name just a few. Brad was forced to discontinue his service in 2009 due to ill health, but the project was taken over and continued by **Earl Walker of Claremont Friends Meeting in California**.

Almost all stamps are valuable, although some have greater value, particularly those from foreign countries. All stamps, domestic or foreign, are welcome. **The new domestic Forever stamps that are currently being released are especially valuable.**

#### Follow these simple instructions:

Stamps should be cut from envelopes with 1/8" to 1/4" of paper around the stamp. **For foreign mail include the envelope as well.** There are many dealers who collect foreign envelopes. Save the envelopes of domestic mail postmarked prior to 1946 too.

In addition to stamps, we also accept **baseball cards, coin collections, Box Tops for Education, picture postcards and government postal cards** in their entirety; old and new **covers of philatelic value, historical paper** including **photographs, documents, prints, autographs, etc.** Do not remove stamps from very old letters, as the envelopes and letters can have considerable value. **Greeting cards, birthday cards, Valentines, etc.** from the early 1900s are also very valuable.

#### Send your stamps and other collectibles to:

Earl Walker/Quaker Missions West  
650 Harrison Ave.  
Claremont, CA 91711

If you have questions, you can call Earl at 909-638-6764.



<http://tinyurl.com/RSWRJULY16>

## **Joint Quarterly Meeting**

**Oct 29-30:** Sat-Sun: at Camp Kern, 5291 OH-350, Oregonia, OH 45054, Miami Quarter to host overall meeting; Youth Program will be hosted by Whitewater Quarterly and OVYM Middle Youth and Teens Committees. Download the Flyer with Schedule.

## **Resources for your Meeting from FGC**

The *Build It! Toolkit* provides activities and guidance for your meeting or worship group in building Inter-generational community. The activities and workshops in the *Build It! Toolkit* are designed to strengthen and nurture ties among generations in our meetings, worship groups, and churches and contribute to meetings' efforts to identify and cultivate emerging leaders. Learn more here.

From *Vital Friends* Newsletter, FGC



### **Friends Committee on National Legislation Annual Meeting**

[https://fcnl.org/events/annual\\_meeting/2016/](https://fcnl.org/events/annual_meeting/2016/)

### **AFSC NOW**

#### **10 ways white supremacy wounds white people**

Naming the ways in which white supremacy wounds white people is a way to move past the “helping” or “service” model to become “co-conspirators” and “comrades” in the movement for racial justice.

From <http://tinyurl.com/waysprivilegewoundswhites>

#### **100 years of waging peace**

AFSC has often been on the forefront of social change movements, carrying out work that many considered experimental and sometimes taking unpopular stands on controversial issues.

From <http://tinyurl.com/100yearswagingpeace>

## **Eco Eve says, “Less Talk and More Eco-Action WITH LOVE!”**

We Quakers always take time to discern. Great news! We have already discerned about the environment. Maybe you are sick of hearing about it.

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) has also discerned, repeatedly, about our Mom, the Earth, and continues to take action. FWCC made an official call for Ecojustice, divested their money from fossil fuels, and signed the Quaker statement on climate. At the world plenary this year in Pisac, Peru, FWCC approved a Sustainability Minute.

The minute says, “*Be ready for action with your robes hitched up and your lamps alight.*” (Luke 12:35, Revised English Bible)

You can read the full text and suggested actions at: <http://fwcc.world/fwcc-news/living-sustainably-and-sustaining-life-on-earth-the-minute-from-the-plenary>. In powerful Quakerese, this Sustainability minute (IRM 16-20) details reasons and rationale. Here is the summary: It asks for prompt environmental action at every level, from world wide organizations to Yearly and Monthly meetings and personal lifestyle.

The point for us in OVYM: At our yearly meeting this past July, this FWCC Sustainability minute was “lifted up.” That means each monthly meeting is asked to discuss it and how we in OVYM could “Initiate at least two concrete actions on sustainability” within the next year. Eco Eve, who loves to make you smile, wants us all to be able to get back to the Garden of Eden, without a gated community. She says, “You could check the “Annex” at the end of the FWCC minute for a list of *suggested* actions. Or not. Marjorie just picks up more aluminum cans to recycle when she takes walks. It’s according to your Light.”

So, take a short time in your monthly meeting to talk with LOVE about what concrete Eco-actions OVYM, your monthly meeting, and you yourself could take.

*Marjorie McKelvey Isaacs*

*OVYM Representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness*



<http://www.quakerheights.org/>

# News from Monthly Meetings

## Bloomington

Bloomington Friends Meeting held a Called Meeting/Work Day at the Meetinghouse on Ninth Month (September) 17, at 9:30 AM to decide what furnishings will be cleaned, preserved and stored; what can be donated; and what is best discarded. After these decisions are made we immediately started to work on these activities.

The meeting is also planning a Fall Retreat – Home Away From Home – October 1 & 2 at Solsberry Hill Retreat for fellowship, relaxation, and rejuvenation. Solsberry Hill offers volleyball, basketball, wooded hiking, pond swimming, hammock swinging, and fireside chatt'n - just to get us started. Overnight accommodations in cabins or tents are available.

*Extracted from the meeting newsletter by Quill Editor*

---

## Clear Creek

### A BUG IN MEETING FOR WORSHIP

Last month I sat in meeting and watched a bug on it's journey along the back of the bench in front of me. I thought it was some variety of ladybug, but later I was told that it was not. The size and shape was the same, but the color edged slightly towards the orange, an apparently crucial difference.

This bug was traveling in a straight line along the top edge, slowly but single-mindedly. I offered a finger to crawl up upon, but no maam, no way was this tiny beetle going to be diverted from it's path! It did slow a bit when confronted with this pink digital invasion, but just turned left and then right again, my rudeness clearly deemed irrelevant.

I watched it reach the end of the backrest and then start down the side right next to the person worshipping in front of me, who was clearly completely unaware of the tiny traveler.

Soon I lost sight of our bug. (I would have had to stand up to see just where it went.) I wondered where it was headed but was unwilling to disrupt Meeting for Worship to find out, so I sat back for another 2o minutes or so of silence. (My meeting is a wonderfully silent meeting, I so appreciate that about it.)

Then, lo and behold my bug appeared again, following the same path as before along the back of the bench in front of me! Same path, same pace, same bug, same journey as far as I could tell.

I wish it could have told me about it's intention the first time, and why it had come again. Had something gone wrong? Was there some buggy task still left undone?

Once more I put a finger into it's path, not expecting anything different from my bug. But... this time it seemed to stop and think about it, then agreed to a detour. It crawled up the finger, then the hand, crawled around for quite a while exploring this new landscape, until I got worried on it's behalf. (I didn't want to be responsible for preventing my bug from doing important buggy work.)

Luckily it agreed to return to the back of the bench without much argument, and resumed it's path along the top, then turned down again as before, intentions still unknown.

As intentions, human or divine, often are, by me at least.

*Palline Plum*

---

## Community

Three members of Community Friends have moved to other cities and other meetings. Eugenia Mills is now a member of West Richmond Meeting, a move that was approved with some sadness, but also full of hope for Eugenia's commitment to her new meeting. We have been pleased at Eugenia's traveling to our meeting to be with us when she can.

Jamie Fota and Kate Anthony have moved to Northern Georgia, quite near Chattanooga Tennessee, and have become members of the Chattanooga meeting. They appear to be thriving in their new home, and do come to visit us from time to time.

The meeting house exterior has been painted.

The meeting has been working hard on the Quaker process of dealing with conflicts. Stephanie Crumley -Effinger led a retreat based on Sandra Cronk's pamphlet on Gospel Order which was well attended, and has provided palpable depth to the spiritual growth of the meeting. Community Friends has established a practice of quarterly meetings devoted to worship-sharing among meeting members focusing on conflicts and how we deal with them.

*Tim Leonard*

### On a related note:

Just to let you all know--Kate Anthony and I (Jamie Fota) no longer live in Cincinnati. In case anyone from OVYM happens to be passing through the Chattanooga, TN, region, we welcome visits from our OVYM friends. Our new contact information is:

Jamie Fota & Kate Anthony  
161 Meadow Green Dr.  
Ringgold, GA 30736  
cell (Jamie) 513-237-7502

---

## Dayton

Dayton Friends are very pleased to announce that we have successfully purchased our own Meetinghouse at 345 Wyoming Street, Dayton, Ohio. We are in the process of renovating and cleaning up the building and property and hope to be able to move into the building within the next several months. We would like to thank all of you who have supported us in the long and sometimes stressful process of looking for and finally purchasing our own property. We would appreciate your continued support as we work through this important transition. For now we do continue to meet for worship at Ohmer Park United Methodist Church, 1357 Arbor Ave. in Dayton.

Anna Henry and Peter Borton were married in the manner of Friends with the oversight of our meeting on May 28 at Woodland Trails Boy Scout Camp in Camden, Ohio. Several Dayton Friends attended the ceremony which took place in a picturesque setting overlooking a lake at the camp. We also enjoyed the lovely reception after the ceremony. Congratulations again to Anna and Peter and thank you for inviting us to share in your special day.

Lisa Scarpelli travelled to Cuba in June with a group of Friends from Friends United Meeting as part of her work with FUM. The group visited many of the Friends Meetings in Cuba and also with Miami (FL) Friends Meeting on the way to Cuba.

We plan to hold a garage sale on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at our new building.

*Terri Scarpelli*

---

## Eastern Hills

Eastern Hills has held Meetings for Healing recently and two were held this summer. During Meetings for Healing, we pray for people who have requested prayers and a laying on of hands by a Ministry and Counsel member is an optional that is offered.

Our young member, Seth Boyce, son of Martha Viehmann and Rick Boyce, graduated from Turpin Hills High School this past June. Seth has entered Haverford College in Haverford, Pennsylvania. Haverford College is a school where the Quaker philosophy is still influential. Following a recent Meeting for Worship, a couple of days before he left for college, Eastern Hills Meeting honored Seth and sent our best wishes with him. We feel proud to have a young man like Seth represent Eastern Hills Meeting at Haverford College.

We continue to hold people of concern in the light and rejoice with much pleasure as we see healing take place. One person whose rapid healing we are pleased to see is Wilson Palmer who underwent two major surgeries this summer. Wilson says that, "It is good to be part of this blessed community."

*Henrietta Ballinger*



**Left:** Seth Boyce August 21, 2016

**Above:** Seth Boyce, Jeremy Coppock, Franchot Ballinger, Rick Boyce

---

## Fall Creek

We have enjoyed having several relatively new attenders, who have been coming with some regularity. Our small size is well-suited to welcoming visitors and those interested in becoming part of the life of the meeting.

We have recently started serious conversations about our meeting - both the spiritual community and physical property. We feel that God still has work for us, not only as individuals but as a meeting. We are beginning to assess what our meetinghouse needs in order for it to serve us well and be welcoming to everyone.

*Josh Medlin*

---

## **Lexington**

### **Quaker Business Process – Distinguishing Our Leadings from Our Inclinations**

There is an old Quaker joke about a visitor to a Quaker meeting. The visitor comes into meeting for worship and sits beside a Friend. Part way through the silent hour and perplexed that nothing appears to be happening, the visitor leans over and asks the Friend “When will the service start?” The experienced Friend responds: “When worship is over.” Our meetings for business are part of the service of Quakerism. They are occasions when we, by laboring together to discern a direction, put into practice our inspirations and aspirations.

In Lexington we refer to our business meetings as Meetings for Worship with Concern for Business. Arthur Larrabee, former General Secretary of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and leader of workshops on clerking, refers to them as “Meetings for Business in the Spirit of Worship.” Although our Meetings for Business are an opportunity for practical expressions of our testimonies as well as extensions of worship, not all Friends seem to see it that way. Far fewer Friends attend our business meetings than attend Meeting for Worship. In Lexington 30 - 40 Friends attend a typical Meeting for Worship, while only 15 - 20 Friends attend a typical Meeting for Business (M4B).

I think one of the problems that affects Friends’ interest in M4B is Quaker process. Our meetings for business are meant to be conducted in the spirit of worship with Friends seeking a unity that may transcend their own preferred course of action.

Unfortunately, this process is often corrupted when Friends switch to rationally-based behaviors used in the secular world or by egocentric demands to have one course of action adopted. Patricia Loring writes about this situation: *“Friends have been so competent at running the business of the world that they have always been at risk of eroding their life as Friends by assimilating to the secular values of efficiency, decisiveness, effectiveness and dispatch. When Friends make decisions, they are not seeking a consensus of their membership. They are seeking the will of God in a particular matter. They have found the most reliable guide to that will to be the sense of the meeting. The sense of the meeting may be different from consensus because the sense of the meeting can arise only out of a membership which has in fact given itself over to seeking the will of God and has prepared itself spiritually for the search.”*

In our own Meeting we have experienced M4Bs that were grounded in worship – where the outcome of a difficult decision was different from what we initially preferred or even foresaw as a possibility but one that was, ultimately, fully embraced by a unified body. We have also seen fractured M4Bs where Friends have argued to get their way, where Friends have felt so disconcerted that they have stood up and marched out, and where disruptive Friends have had to be asked to leave. A good M4B, like a good Meeting for Worship, demands discipline, centering down, and attention to our traditions to seek a sense of the meeting. The sense of the meeting is above our individual preferences but, when stated, is clearly the one to which we are called. It takes time and integrity to get there, but the outcome is well worth the effort.

*Betsy Neale and Peter Hardy*

---

## **Miami**

We were saddened at the passing of Jeananne Hoch on August 26<sup>th</sup> at Hospice of Dayton. Married for 69 years to Bill, who passed in March. The Hoch's came to Miami from Philadelphia so Jeananne's memorial will be there.

The first screening of the documentary film on the History of the Waynesville Quaker Historic District (including Miami Monthly Meeting) was held on September 4th. Travis Cook put a lot of time and effort into this work and the result is a professionally produced documentary. Copies will eventually go to the Ohio History archives and the Quaker Resource Center, and will also be available to individuals upon request.

We're happy to announce that Children's First Day School has been restarted by David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson and is ongoing. Additionally, we're pleased at the increase in attendance at Adult First Day School. The discussions are active and lively.  
*Lonny Burger*

---

## **Oxford**

Oxford Friends have been regathering after summer travels and activities. We welcomed new members Doug Jones and Jamie Young and their daughter Megan, and many of us attended Yearly Meeting sessions in Richmond. With the help of first-day school youth, we gathered materials for the yearly school bag and health kit projects of Church Women United as part of our Fall potluck celebration. Our youth have also been studying a wide range of topics: the Book of Psalms, forgiveness and apology, social inequality, Ramadan, the afterlife according to different religious traditions, and the cooperative game "Save the Whales." One of our teens planned and facilitated a first-day school lesson comparing Buddha's and Jesus's teachings. Now we're looking forward to resuming our second-hour study of John Woolman's journal. And next week is the local Crop Walk, supporting food projects locally and worldwide, in which we are represented by the dauntless Barbara Diehl. Several of us are looking forward to autumn fellowship at Joint Quarterly Meeting at Camp Kern.

*Andrew Garrison*

---

## **Yellow Springs**

We are excited to have our First Day School program restart for both the youth and adults with new energy and new faces! Our fall retreat, “How Can I Keep from Singing!”, a history of Quakers and music and worship in song will take place on Sept. 18th. It is being lead by Cheryl Keen and Carolyn Stanley.

The meeting has embarked upon the journey to create and implement an official child safety policy.  
*Heather Snediker-Morscheck*

---

## OTHER REGIONAL FRIENDS

### Indiana Yearly Meeting

A few years ago a commercial for a popular antacid asked “How do you spell relief?” The ad suggested it be spelled “R-O-L-A-I-D-S.” If I were to ask, “How do you spell Quaker?” I can imagine a variety of responses. Some would spell Quaker “P-E-A-C-E” while others might suggest “E-Q-U-A-L-I-T-Y.” Is there one word that adequately summarizes who we are? What would it be?

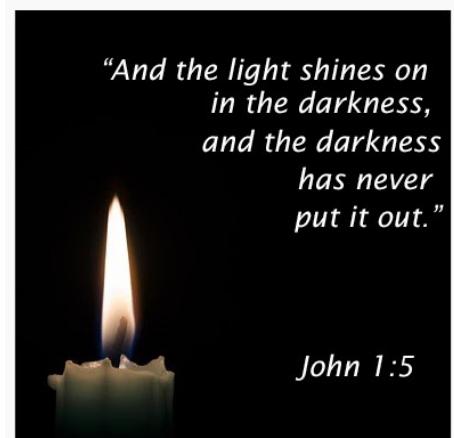
A quote from Dwight L. Moody from the magazine, *Christian History* (no.25), describes Moody’s reason for not enlisting in the Civil War. He said, “There has never been a time in my life when I felt that I could take a gun and shoot down a fellow-being. In this respect I am a Quaker.” Over the years Friends have attracted many members who resonate with our peace testimony, or our commitment to social justice. Sadly, many have come to view Quakerism as a social justice movement that happens to have religious roots. I understand Quakerism to have been, from day one, a spiritual movement centered in Christ.

It’s really interesting to see who Quakers are in IYM today. Many of us come from different religious backgrounds or none at all. It seems to me that God is collecting a people who long to be part of a spiritual movement today. I hope we continue to value our traditional testimonies, but I pray what defines us is our daily experience of God’s powerful presence, not how God was once present among us.

Funny thing about movements – they move! No two waves are identical, but let’s not allow that to hinder us from catching the next one. Surfs up!

*Doug Shoemaker, IYM Superintendent*

Extracted from *IYM Communicator* by *Quill Editor*



### Southeastern Yearly Meeting

#### Family Peace Camp • Labor Day Weekend

September 2-4, 2016 • Camp Ithiel, Florida (near Orlando)

The Historic Peace Churches---Mennonites, Church of the Brethren, & Quakers---held their annual Family Peace Camp at Camp Ithiel, a beautiful natural setting on a lake.

### Fall Interim Business Meeting

Saturday, October 1 • Palm Beach meetinghouse

Among the issues considered were whether SEYM should join the [Florida](#)

#### [Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence.](#)

From the SEYM newsletter

Extracted by *Quill editor*

---

## HOW IS WILSON PALMER DOING?



Wilson Palmer with his son Chris, and his wife, Alice.

Dear Blessed Community, Thank you all for your notes of encouragement. Home is good. (8/20)

I thank you all for your thoughts, prayers, cards and gifts. I have come to a point in my recovery where your prayers are welcome and necessary, but you can move me to the back burner. The initial scary period seems to be over, so wing me a thought or prayer now and then, but hopefully I am off the worry list. (8/24)

Life moves along, however slowly I convalesce. Pain has been slightly receding . . . (9/2)

On the path to recovery, I take what victories I can. Yesterday I cut my toenails. Being able to manage that activity made me happy. (9/6)

#### [Home from the hospital](#)

Excerpts from <https://wilsonspalmer.wordpress.com> after his surgery August 16<sup>th</sup> to remove cancer on his liver. (Wilson Palmer is the current Treasurer of OVYM. He has served 6 years as treasurer and one as assistant treasurer.)

# Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

3960 Winding Way

Cincinnati, OH 45229

[ We're on the web:  
ovym.quaker.org ]

The Quaker Quill is published three times a year in February, June, and October by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. Submission deadlines are the 15th of the month prior to publication so next due date is January 15.

Contact: [quakerquill@gmail.com](mailto:quakerquill@gmail.com)  
Cecilia Shore, editor.

Printed on 100% recycled paper.

## Inside this issue:

OVYM Epistles	1-3
Events and News	4-5
News from Monthly Meetings and beyond	6-9

## Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Officers

Betsy Neale, Presiding Clerk  
Rex Sprouse, Assistant Presiding Clerk

Terre Holada, Recording Clerk  
Paul Buckley, Ass't Recording Clerk

Wilson Palmer, Treasurer

No clear impressions, either from above or from without, can be received by a mind turbid with excitement and agitated by a crowd of distractions. The stillness needed for the clear shining of light within is incompatible with hurry.

~ Caroline Stephen, 1834-1909