

Sharing the Light: Radical Love for the World

2018 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Epistles

Ninth Month 2018



The Quaker Quill

OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

**Epistle from the 198th Session of
Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
held at Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana June 13-17, 2018**

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting lovingly greets Friends everywhere from its 2018 sessions.

Our theme this year has been “Sharing the Light: Radical Love for the World.” Our plenary speakers, Dwight Wilson of Ann Arbor Meeting and Vanessa Julye of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, challenged us to consider and mend our habitual ways. Dwight asked, “How do we construct the beloved community?” and answered, “If we don’t know how to love all the time, there is no hope for the blessed community.”

Vanessa asked “What does radical love for the world look like?” She urged us to acknowledge the ways in which we unthinkingly benefit from a culture of white supremacy and to cast off the unearned privileges that seek to seduce us. This theme of unexamined privilege was unexpectedly echoed in our next-to-last business session, when scheduled agenda items were pushed aside to address a charge of sexual assault in one of our constituent monthly meetings. We were forced to acknowledge the existence of male privilege in our midst. These evidences of unconscious racial and gender biases reveal that we have fallen short of our calling to model Spirit-filled ways of relating to God, to one another, and to all of creation.

These challenges raised difficult questions: Are we still a covenanted people of God? What changes are needed to bring us into new lives of faithfulness? What would empower us to witness to others how to live in right relationships?

We are more than a community of Friends, by Friends, and for Friends. If we are to build the beloved community, we must be of God, by God, and for God.

We hear the call to return to a closer walk with God, and to be valiant for the truth. Friends everywhere, help us follow the guidance of the Inward Light to make our hearts right in the sight of God and unite us for the work we need to do.

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Dear Friends: Reflection on Beloved Community

Dwight Wilson, in his plenary address at the 2018 annual sessions, asked, “Are we a society of acquaintances or a society of friends?” If we are truly friends to each other, he continued, then we will find “soul nourishment” and healing within our Quaker meetings. Wilson was speaking on the topic “Beloved Community.”

What is a “Beloved Community”? According to Wilson, it is a group of friends that loves each other all the time, not just in times of urgency when we, for example, arrange meal deliveries for new parents, make condolence visits to the bereaved or hospital visits to the sick, but ALL the time. To do this, we must trust and accept each other; we must be real and vulnerable. A Beloved Community is not free of conflict, but it dares to believe that conflicts can be resolved with love.

Recently, I’ve heard my meeting, Eastern Hills, described as a Beloved Community. This wasn’t always the case, and we sometimes falter in loving each other, but we know we are blessed to have each other, and many in our meeting faithfully express gratitude or work toward forgiveness and understanding of each other. We took a big step toward becoming a Beloved Community when together we bravely faced a great fear: that our meeting might be dying.

Martha Viehmann



Having glimpsed Hopewell Meeting’s painful process of laying itself down, we acknowledged that our dwindling numbers suggested we could soon be doing the same. We faced this problem head on with “end of life planning.” Clearly, our pitiful efforts at evangelism weren’t working (proselytizing is not a typical gift among Friends). Ministry and Counsel planned a second hour of worship sharing on how the meeting nourished us and whether it was valuable enough to save. Each of us spoke of the love and the spiritual nurture we found in our meeting. The value of our meeting was plain, so we chose to support the life we had. This first step toward facing our fears and being vulnerable with each other seems to have prepared the way for deeper discussions in future second hours where we have shared our beliefs and told each other of the gifts we see and value in each person. The gift of worship sharing and of a small meeting is the space they make to hear from everyone. Listening with love helps each of us to be more open, to go a little deeper.

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Epistle from Young Adult Friends

Greetings to Friends everywhere from the young adults of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. During this session we have revived the Young Adult Friends (YAF) committee. This includes Kaitlyn and Adam Funck, Chie Togami, Kaia Jackson, Dylan Cahalan, Uta Goheen-Brewington, and Shannon Isaacs. Young Adult Friends attended the annual rafting trip and have begun to make plans for the future of the YAF committee and the members of the YAF group as a whole. We look forward to planning and meeting at joint quarterly meeting this year at Happy Hollow.

We would like to include the following statement composed by a smaller group of our Young Adult Friends including Kaitlyn and Adam Funck, Chie Togami, and Kaia Jackson who have felt led to share this. Other Friends felt that they had not had time to season this statement but did not want to stand in our way.

We write to Friends everywhere with a great sense of urgency regarding the issue of sexual violence. We as Young Adult Friends (YAFs) have felt a lack of support from the OVYM community on this issue. This year's session has been fraught with a painful and drawn out discussion regarding our community's response to a documented case of sexual violence against a young adult Friend. Unfortunately, we know that such a case is all too common, and that is why we choose to share our experience in this statement. One of the most difficult issues we have faced over the past couple of days is deep disunity over whether to name the perpetrator and survivor in our session's minutes. We are upset with the Yearly Meeting's indecision on this topic. After attending a discussion where survivors of sexual violence shared their incredibly moving stories and experiences we felt they were not deeply listened to and that requests were ignored by the greater community. Many Young Adult Friends feel clear that naming perpetrators is essential to ensuring the safety of the community, and is in fact, an act of love as we strive to hold all members of our community accountable for their actions. Many YAFs feel that all members of our community need to be further educated on the topic of sexual violence. YAFs realize that continued questioning of whether or not all forms of sexual assault and violence is illegal or immoral shows a lack of complete understanding in regard to the support needs of survivors of sexual violence that is reflective of our larger society (United States).

Through our discussions with each other and with older Friends, we have noticed a deep (although not insurmountable) intergenerational divide over the issue of sexual violence and how it is dealt with. We feel there needs to be greater education on this issue, and that this education needs to emphasize our moral obligation to stand with and for survivors of sexual violence. This entails centering the voices and perspectives of survivors of sexual violence when an incident of violence has occurred in our community. We also feel strongly that perpetrators are not beyond redemption, and that our community can play a role in supporting healing.

We as Young Adult Friends would like to use this statement to show our support of and solidarity with survivors of sexual assault in the past, present, and to any other victim whose chooses to come forward and share their stories in the future. Many YAFs feel strongly that they would not be supported by the whole of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting if they were to come out as a survivor of sexual violence because of the discussions in our sessions. Until a policy is in place that YAFs feel protected by, we feel a great level of fear and emotional unsafety in continuing to be a part of this community. We would like to be a part of the process in every step of creating this policy. If our community chooses to question and ignore our concerns, we feel strongly that this is a step in the wrong direction.

Youth Epistle

This year in the youth program we had eleven youth members. They were Reid, Bing, Toby, Max (Charlotte), Theo, Cecilia, Elana, Miriam, Joy, Grace, and Nora. This year, some of our highlights included swimming at the Earlham College pool, rafting on the Whitewater River, attending several speakers and workshops, watching *A Wrinkle in Time* for Movie Night, creating a skit for the Variety Show, hanging out with our friends in the dorm, and eating many different snacks. The youth also enjoyed activities like playing ping pong and foosball, meeting an extremely friendly dog named Apollo, owned by our new Youth Secretary Kaia, and playing Ultimate Frisbee with our youth staff.

On Thursday we listened to Faith Morgan talk about her work for conserving energy and promoting urban, organic gardens. We also heard Dwight Wilson speak about promoting community and getting rid of racism. On Saturday morning, we were spoken to by Anne Hutchinson. She told us about her work for peace in Africa, such as starting public libraries and alternatives to violence programs with a Friends Peace Team.

The youth this year had such a good time that we are hoping to get together at the Happy Hollow Joint Quarterly Meeting in October. The youth offers their thanks to the staff for their hard work and planning, and we would like to give our yearly meeting and others the message that we learned the importance of peace, love, and community.



Letter from the new Youth Secretary

Dear Community,

I am pleased to announce that our OVYM Middle Youth and Teen Program got off to a great start for the year at our Annual Meeting at Earlham College in Richmond, IN. Participants had a blast rafting down Whitewater Valley, belting their favorite songs in the car, and coming to consensus about which movie to watch for teen movie night! As the new Youth Services Secretary, I will be visiting as many meetings and First Day schools as possible in the months ahead, identifying shifting needs of youth and families, and designing programs intended to energize, engage and perhaps even expand our community.

Some of you may be wondering exactly who I am, and how I came to be called into this position. Well, I could share a very extensive spiritual journey (or two) with you, but to make a long story short, I am a second year MDiv student at Earlham School of Religion. Prior to entering seminary, I spent five years working with youth and young adults, specifically focused in mental health and human service nonprofits. My experiences with young trauma survivors and young adults with developmental disabilities were formational in developing my approaches to activity facilitation, leadership and community-building. They have led me to deeply ponder the concept and practice of accessibility and inclusivity in various contexts. They have led me to understand that in order to deeply listen, I must first provide my young Friends with creative and ongoing opportunities to speak.

OVYM's Youth Services Committee is thrilled to be preparing for a diverse and dynamic year of programming ahead. We are putting our heads and hearts together for Joint Quarterly Meeting at Happy Hollow as we speak. While our middle youth and teen group will be invited to partake in a variety of fun activities, from Comedy Improv 101 to a meditative walk in the woods, they will also be invited to voice their needs and concerns among adults in a multi-generational Youth Engagement Workshop. This will be the first of many opportunities for our young Friends to take on a leadership role in our community. What's next? Plans for the Quake that Rocked the Midwest in January, next year's Annual Meeting, and a service trip next summer are underway.

Want to volunteer with an upcoming youth event or activity? Want to dialogue with us about how we can meet the needs of youth in our community in the age of technology & social media? Want to offer your feedback, perspectives or visions with us? I am here to listen and partner with you and members of the community at large, youth, and parents, so don't hesitate to reach out anytime at ovymyouthsecretary@gmail.com. Thanks for doing all you do to support your local meeting and the young people in your life. Because as we know, it truly takes a village. :)

All my best,
Kaia Jackson
Middle Youth & Teen Youth Secretary



Children's Epistle

Greetings to Young Friends everywhere.

The Children's Program of OVYM met June 13-17, 2018 at Earlham College in Richmond Indiana. We focused on the theme of Radical Love. We learned about ways other children have gone out on a limb and performed random acts of kindness to change the world. We talked about how to react in a positive way to bullying. We read many enlightening books and we shared in worship.

We shared our concerns for animals and children in the world who have no families. We visited the animal shelter and donated toys to them and we made crafts to donate for the Heifer Project.

We send a message to all to go out into the world to pay it forward, to react positively and to be radical.



(Clerk's message from page 1)

Having dared to name the life we find in our meeting, we have grown closer as friends, which makes us better Friends. It is clear to visitors that our meeting nourishes souls. By building up the love within our community, we are attracting more people. Providing a truly welcoming space for visitors and new attenders is another important aspect of building up and sustaining a Beloved Community. I'll share my thoughts about that next time. Until then, I pray that each of us finds a way to nurture our monthly, quarterly, and yearly meetings so that we may better serve each other and the Divine Spirit.

Letter to the Quill Editor

Saturday, June 16, 2018 at OVYM morning business meeting there arose a controversy over the wording of a minute. The good news is that each "side's" version expressed their desire to be truly loving and caring for all of us. On the issue of sexual abuse it is not surprising emotions run very high and there was little room for the Holy Spirit to break through. Sadly, there were rejections of Quaker wisdom and practice, departures such as strongly pressing individual opinion rather than corporate seeking of Divine guidance.

That Saturday afternoon I missed the continued discussion as I assisted our kind and generous Friend, Pat Zarowin, in dismantling her bookstore. I did hear that high emotions continued at the meeting and it descended somewhat into acrimony and disrespect. Dear Friends, no "side" can "win" in this situation, for, if we truly do not love and respect each other, all is lost.
Wilson Palmer

SAVE THE DATE Oct 20-21 Joint Quarterly Meeting

Hosted by Whitewater Quarterly Meeting at
Happy Hollow Children's Camp,
near Nashville, Indiana.



AFSC Midwest Dayton Hosts the

New African Immigrants Commission Meeting

In the spirit of Welcome Dayton, immigrant advocates and public officials recently hosted African Commissioners for a listening tour. Migwe Kimemia writes: "The commissioners were well received, and most non-profit agency representatives expressed keen interest in partnering with the commission to meet the basic human needs of African immigrants and refugees in the Greater Dayton Area. The AFSC's Ohio Immigrant Voice Program works to create a welcoming environment that fosters immigrant justice and zero tolerance for xenophobia in Ohio."

<https://www.afsc.org/story/dayton-hosts-new-african-immigrants-commission-meeting>

Source John Krieg, AFSC Midwest Digest



World Quaker Day is coming on October 7! All Meetings are encouraged to celebrate the diversity of Friends around the world together. The Friends' World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) invites us all to explore "Crossing Cultures, Sharing Stories." Resources and ideas can be found at www.worldquakerday.org.

Submitted by Foote Lund

Friends World Committee for Consultation Traveling Ministry Corps

Last week at Friends General Conference (FGC), Geeta McGahey, Chuck Schobert, and Emily Provance shared about their experiences as members of the Traveling Ministry Corps.

All three told stories of connection and exchange in formal relationships of ministry--circumstances of visitation that they had either created themselves or been requested to fulfill. For instance, Geeta visited Friends in Belize where she shared inter-generationally.

Perhaps more surprisingly though, they also spoke of impromptu opportunities to minister and be ministered to. Emily spoke of her travels to North Carolina as a traveling minister during which the bus broke down, leaving her and other passengers to wait on the side of the road. A woman stopped to pass out water, only returning a bit later to give relief in the form of pizzas. An unexpected opportunity to give and receive.

The conversation at FGC also touched on the role of eldering in the ministers' work. As he travels in ministry, Chuck has felt powerfully held in prayer by Friends from afar, as well as the guidance of the elders that have accompanied him on visits to meetings and churches.

Find more information about requesting a visit, or applying to be a traveling minister at: <https://www.fwccamericas.org/visitation/traveling-ministry.shtml>

Source: FWCC Section of the Americas newsletter July 2018

Friends Committee on National Legislation encourages Friends to ask candidates where they stand on peace & justice issues



You don't have to wait until November 6 to make your voice heard during the midterm elections. What candidates hear on the campaign trail influences the actions they are willing to take once elected. See the source of this article to get started:

<https://tinyurl.com/ydc7ralh>

Support Right Sharing of World Resources Send in your used postage stamps!

Since 1996, the Quaker Missions Stamp Project has collected and sold used postage stamps and used the proceeds to fund Quaker organizations like RSWR. Brad Hathaway founded the project and was its steward until 2009, when Earl Walker took over the stamp ministry. From 2009-2017, Earl raised over \$11,000 for Right Sharing through the Quaker Missions Stamp Project. In 2017, Indianapolis First Friends Meeting became the new home for the stamp ministry. Amy Perry is the current coordinator.

The stamp project is happy to accept used stamps of many types from all over the world. Please note that while in the past we have accepted and sold collectibles in addition to stamps, we are now only able to process and sell stamps. Follow the guidelines provided at the source for this article at: <https://www.rswr.org/donors/stamps-program/>

Inspiration from FGC Gathering

Standing at the podium in the University of Toledo auditorium at the FGC Gathering a few weeks ago, the **Reverend Doctor William J. Barber II** gripped the lectern in front of him and leveled a quietly piercing look at the nearly one thousand Friends gathered around him. He had just reviewed what he called the heresy of government, the wickedness of people in high places, and the malpractice of theology among faith leaders who have preyed upon the poor, the sick, the old, the disenfranchised. And he had a question for us.

“So what should we do?” he asks gently, looking around the room. And then, reminding us of the historic actions of Friends **Levi Coffin** and **Lucretia Mott** to effect change, he called us from our homes and meetinghouses to rise up and join the thousands of others across the country to “speak out from that deep place within,” “to be part of a collective outcry,” to become moral witnesses.”

“It is *time*,” he emphasized. “It is *time*.”

Yes. It is. Author of *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Fear*, Rev. Barber is also author of *Forward Together: A Moral Message for the Nation*. He is the former head of the **North Carolina NAACP**, founder of the “**Moral Mondays**” movement, co-founder of the **Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival**, and has been hailed as the “next Martin Luther King.”

Experience Rev. Dr. William Barber’s inspiring 2018 plenary presentation, along with recordings from other memorable events at this summer’s FGC Gathering.

[Watch now on the FGC website.](https://tinyurl.com/FGC2018) <https://tinyurl.com/FGC2018>

His new book *Revive Us Again: Vision and Action in Moral Organizing* is [available for pre-order here](https://quakerbooks.org/products/revive-us-again) from QuakerBooks. <https://quakerbooks.org/products/revive-us-again>

Source: email from FGC QuakerBooks

AFSC pushes for justice system reform

The incarceration rate in the U.S. is the highest in the world, with over 2.4 million people currently behind bars. Poor people and people of color are incarcerated at vastly disproportionate rates, and few resources are invested in reentry or community programs.

Now is the time to push for a real overhaul of the criminal justice system. Transformative and restorative justice approaches are less expensive, more effective, and more humane than mass incarceration—and justice is best served by helping people heal and preventing further harm.

[Five tips for talking about criminal punishment to help end mass incarceration](https://tinyurl.com/AFSCprison) <https://tinyurl.com/AFSCprison>

[Make your donation today to support change in the justice system!](https://www.afsc.org/give) <https://www.afsc.org/give>

Sources: emails from Joyce Ajlouny, (General Secretary) and AFSC Action Center

“AT THE WELL” Save the Date

Quakers in public ministry whose gender identity is targeted by any form of gender-based discrimination - all women (cisgender and trans), trans men, genderqueer, non-binary, and all gender expansive identities - are invited to gather the weekend of 7-9 December, 2018 to support, encourage, and equip each other to be strong in our faithfulness.

At Stony Point Center in Stony Point, NY USA, we'll share worship, worship sharing, workshops, participant-led sessions, socializing, renewal, and fun.

An optional 24 hour pre-gathering will begin Thursday 6 December to allow personal sabbatical time or guided discernment program.

Detailed information and registration for both events are available at quakersatthewell.wordpress.com

In faith with love - Viv Hawkins on behalf of At the Well planners

New book by Louisville Friend

Living on Automatic: How Emotional Conditioning Shapes Our Lives and Relationships

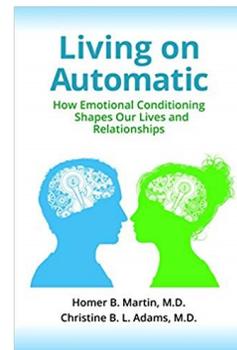
by Homer B. Martin, M.D. and Christine B.L. Adams, M.D.

As Quakers seeking Inner Light, we value better understanding of all mankind. A new book co-authored by psychiatrist and Quaker Christine B.L. Adams, MD, helps us discover how our relationships work and the reasons for mankind’s inhumanity to fellow man and woman.

Written with her mentor, Homer B. Martin, MD, *Living on Automatic: How Emotional Conditioning Shapes Our Lives and Relationships* draws on 80 years’ experience treating people in psychotherapy. The authors reveal a groundbreaking new concept of personalities and relationships.

They describe how we learn to relate as children and how these ways of relating often explode in adulthood, leading to miseries of emotional stress/illnesses, divorce, substance abuse and interpersonal violence. They provide strategies for finding a way out of the quagmire of unhappy relationships.

Living on Automatic will be published August 31. You can pre-order now at Amazon.com, BN.com and abc-clio.com.



Traveling and eldering in a ministry of song

Paulette Meier and Diann Herzog

Dear Friends,

What a joy and a blessing this trip to our “Quaker motherland” was! Traveling with Diann, each of us with our traveling minutes from OVYM, helped so much to keep me grounded in the ministry and in connection with our yearly meeting. We discovered that most British Friends we met were unfamiliar with the practice of traveling with a travel minute and with the role of an accompanying elder, and Diann took advantage of every opportunity to educate along the way. It became clear that her leading to accompany me had a broader purpose than we had perhaps initially realized. She was a beloved presence in every situation and ministered well, not just with me but with so many individuals whose lives she touched.

I was invited to England by Woodbrooke, the Quaker retreat and study center. They scheduled me to do two weekend workshops, 10 days apart from each other. I decided to make the most of crossing the ocean and, over the past year, with difficulty, planned an ambitious month-long trip. We traveled to six different cities: Oxford, Lancaster, Ulverston, Edinburgh, Birmingham and London, where I led three weekend long workshops and five shorter ones. Besides staying at Woodbrooke Retreat Center and Swarthmoor Hall while leading workshops there, we mostly stayed with local Quakers, all of whom were helpful, kind and generous. Staying with Friends in their homes, we got to have many casual conversations, allowing us to learn so much more than if we were in hotels.

We went to Oxford first, where we were hosted by John and Anne Mason. John, who was familiar with my Quaker CD and passionate about spreading word of it, had contacted me nearly a year ago, eager to have me do a weekend workshop there. As it turned out, he arranged for me to do formal and informal sessions in homes and at Oxford and Burford meetinghouses over 4 days. Each of the gatherings was relatively small, but overall a fair number of Friends participated. It was wonderful to witness the love of singing that these Friends had, and to hear them express surprise and joy at re-discovering the power of early Friends’ words, when hearing them sung. The workshop in Burford was particularly spiritually deep; the meetinghouse, built in 1709, felt somehow saturated with the presence of Spirit and of the ancestors who worshipped there over the centuries.

From Oxford, Diann and I traveled to Lancaster, where Rex Ambler, a Quaker theologian I’d gotten to know at Pendle Hill, arranged for me to do an evening workshop. That was a larger attendance, with greater age diversity. Some of the attenders were most interested in singing and less interested in the meaning of what we were singing, and we found out later that a number were from local choirs and came, after misunderstanding from the flyer that it was just a “plainsong sing-a-long” night! In Lancaster, we got to walk the streets where so many 17th century Friends walked, and even visited the castle where they would have been tried, convicted and thrown into the dungeon. On a tour, Diann and I allowed ourselves to be locked into it, standing in the black darkness that George Fox and hundreds of others experienced. It brought home in a visceral way some of what those early Friends suffered for their faith. A personal highlight for me was getting to spend time visiting with Rex the next day, and attending an Experiment with Light session with him at his meeting, Yealand, in Lancashire.

From Lancaster, we went to Ulverston, where Woodbrooke had scheduled for me to do a weekend workshop at Swarthmoor Hall. Being there was truly amazing; our rooms were in the very house where Margaret Fell and Fox lived, the “headquarters” for all the organizing of the early movement. Swarthmoor Hall has been turned into a beautiful retreat center now, with gardens and delicious meals, but tourists can come just to tour this historic home, built originally in 1586. There were 12 people in the workshop from different parts of England, all eager to learn and sing. My co-facilitator was Mark Russ, a musician and a teacher at Woodbrooke, who is filled with love of the Quaker way and its spiritual roots. We were very much in sync with each other, and the workshop sessions flowed and felt very spiritually grounded. The singing of the Quaker chants was like I’ve never heard, with harmonies and such passion, such that it sounded like sacred chant. This, plus the tender exploring of the meaning of each sung text and the personal experiences shared relating to them made for a very profound gathering.

After this weekend, the annual five day “Following in George Fox Footsteps” excursion began, sponsored by Swarthmoor Hall. Actually getting to climb Pendle Hill and stand at the top of Firbank Fell, gazing over the green hills where 1,000 seekers had gathered and Fox spoke to all of them from the top about the inward light of Christ, helped deepen my understanding of these founding stories. Afterwards, we visited with Quaker theologian Ben Pink Dandelion at Clitherow Meetinghouse, who provided more details and explanations of why Fox’s talk there inspired so many to join with him. The days were full, including visits to some of the oldest meetinghouses (and some very taxing with long bus rides!), but each night, it’s the custom to end the evening with a prayer/meditation time called “Epilogue.” On several nights, I was asked to sing some of the early Friends’ quotes I’d set to song. This was especially meaningful there; we met in a large dining room called “The Great Hall,” where Margaret Fell and her large household and guests shared meals and held meeting for worship. It was quite something to be singing the words of Margaret Fell and George Fox there, where they could have been written!

Edinburgh, Scotland, was next. Mary Woodward, whom I had met at Pendle Hill (PA), arranged for us to stay with Friends only a 5-minute walk from the coast of the North Sea, where we could take in the peace of the waves and seabirds! The young couple we were with were very involved in peace and justice issues there, and I was thrilled to get to share some songs with Jane, who composes songs for a community choir she founded there. Mary Woodward also connected me with the clerk of Central Edinburgh Meeting, in the heart of the city, which is filled with noisy tourists in the summer. My workshop was scheduled after meeting for worship, and when drums and bagpipes started right beneath the windows, I knew it was going to be an interesting experience! But the workshop went very well--the clerk of the meeting wrote: “Many of the words were new to us and even quotes we thought we knew from Quaker Faith and Practice tended to have more to them than we realized.”

Continued next page

(continued from previous page) Then we headed south to Birmingham for the weekend workshop at Woodbrooke, where I was scheduled to do a workshop for women on chanting. I spent untold hours preparing, learning many new songs, attending chanting workshops, and reading books on chanting. But I didn't feel clear in how to lead it. However once I got started, I found it flowed out of me so easily, and my relaxed state allowed me to be open to Spirit from the beginning to the end. Diann's prayers certainly helped! The group was only 9 women, but each came prepared to sing full heartedly and to be open to the movement of the Spirit in the singing, in the silence, and in the sharing. One part of the workshop entailed the participants making up their own chants from favorite quotes or texts. We first did one together, a George Fox quote, and then they worked in pairs or on their own. The sharing of the results was wonderful and deeply moving. I came away with greater assurance about the benefits of communal chanting as a spiritual practice and also my desire to engage more in it with Friends in the future. Sitting facing each other in the circle, the vibrations of our voices meeting and resonating was truly heart-opening.

The final workshop was in a London suburb, Bromley Meeting. It was well attended, and there was quite a bit of discussion about the meaning of the texts we sang. Again, Friends shared that singing the texts opened them up in a new way. This was one of the most rewarding things about the trip for me, seeing how the avenue of song could bring new awareness to the power of these early Friends' writings.

On our final day in London, we visited Friends' Center, a large building right across the street from one of the main train stations. This in itself said a lot about the visibility of Quakers in England still today, despite their relatively small numbers. The building houses a restaurant, a cafe, and a bookstore, all very welcoming to visitors. We attended a meeting for worship right there and also met there with the editor of *The Friend*, the Quaker weekly publication that's been published for 175 years. (An interview he did with me was published in a recent issue!) All in all, this trip showed me so much about how Quakers function in England and the immense amount of involvement they have in peace and social justice activities. I came home with an even greater appreciation for the gift that the Quaker faith is to the world, more eager to open myself to the inner spiritual transformation that its practice promises, AND more eager to have Friends experience the heart opening practice of chanting together!

With love and gratitude for all your prayers and support,
Paulette

Dear OVYM Friends,

The depth of my gratitude for your support of this trip to the UK is deeper than I can possibly ever convey. Your notes and words of support and encouragement meant everything and your financial contributions made the impossible possible. From discernment, to commitment, to travel and back, this journey has been Spirit led and Spirit covered and Paulette and I felt your loving support every step of the way. It may well be the journey of a lifetime for me. Where once I felt grafted in, I now feel grown into the body of The Religious Society of Friends. Thank you with all my love.

This was my first experience of being called to accompany someone as an elder. If you've known me for even one minute, you know that I have a long held concern for honoring and re-establishing the practice and acceptance of the gift of the elder. I have provided workshops, retreats and discussions about this spiritual gift and the function it serves in building up and releasing the spiritual energy in our faith communities. I've most often come at it as someone who feels called to ministry, led to service and personally in need of the guidance and advice of elders. This trip was an opportunity to walk the talk and to put into practice the things I have studied and observed about eldering. It was definitely a learning experience and I stumbled while finding my spiritual feet along the way but I have come back feeling more grounded in God, more spiritually mature and more committed than ever.

I would love to have the opportunity to share what I can now say is more than book knowledge of the work of eldering with you personally, with your gathering or your meeting. I am free to travel.

In the Deepest love of Service,
Diann Herzog



Photos from Swarthmoor and Woodbrooke websites

News from Monthly Meetings

Bloomington

First, we wanted to update everyone with our rebuilding progress. Much has happened since our last report in January. We have completed the renovation of the Meeting Room and it looks wonderful!

Our next steps focus on the teardown and rebuilding of the Fellowship and First Day school rooms. (This is the 1950's ranch-style house.) Architectural drawings have been completed and certified by the state. We convened three committees, namely Capital Campaign, Property and Finance, and Building. These meet together on a regular basis. Also, with the help of subcommittees (flooring, kitchen, HVAC), we have developed specifications for builder and contractors to lay out the details on various construction elements. Often, all committees and subcommittees meet together to review details and develop recommendations.

The drawings and specifications were sent to three building contractors. Two responded with similar bids. We are now negotiating with one. We are refining the list of construction elements, some lingering technical details, and the final bid offer. Our negotiations are constantly mindful of our ecological footprint and our financial capacity. In the meantime, we have also been in contact with two sources of finance, one local and one national. We are applying for a construction and mortgage loan with each to see which offers the better terms. If all goes well, we should have shovels in the ground within weeks. Please hold us in the Light as we continue on our journey!

The work of the meeting is ongoing as we continue to meet on First Day at Harmony School. We approved the Transfer of Membership for Virginia (Gini) Emigh from Raleigh Friends Meeting. We were so glad to welcome Gini and her husband, Ted, into our fellowship.

We are blessed with an active Pastoral Care committee. One particular need is to provide transport to meeting for worship and medical appointments for those who can no longer drive or have no car of their own. We are holding these particular concerns in the Light.

The Religious Education Committee has instituted a Quaker Family Service Project. In June, a group gathered at Golden Living Center to hear Janice Clevinger, one of our oldest Friends, share her entertaining stories of her life as a Friend. While the children were listening, they were drawing, cutting, and gluing encouraging cards to pass out to other residents. At the end, one of the kids reported "I want to do this again, I love this."

May the children's enthusiasm for service projects be shared by older Friends as well!
Elaine Emmi and Phyllis Martin



Clear Creek

Clear Creek Meeting remains largely silent during meeting for worship, but loud and rowdy during fellowship hour.

Attendance is usually between 20 and 40, except during special weekends and other special events. During the summer our rowdiness is generally not lubricated by snacks and coffee or tea. Somehow we manage anyhow.

Recently we have been so happy to have a new-to-us family with two young children among us. We hope they will continue to grace us with their presence.

Over the next couple of months we have planned and/or completed a number of interesting events.

Among them: a field trip to the Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Adult Religious Education presentations on spirituality and art (there are quite a few visual and writers among us), a Movie Night, a field trip to a local dark field to observe the Perseids meteor shower, a welcome pot luck for Earlham's newest "Quaker Fellows", and a planned memorial meeting for Rusty Sweitzer (a recently deceased long-time member of the meeting) that is scheduled for Earlham's Alumni weekend September 23rd.

We also expect to participate (along with the other two Meetings in town) in a 5 hour exploratory workshop on the "Experiment with Light" with an eye to some of us committing to ongoing work with this guided meditation process.

All in all this meeting continues to thrive in its own somewhat inward way.

Palline Plum

Community Friends Meeting joyfully invites you to Our 50th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday Sept 30, 2018

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Festivities including some remarks, remembrances, and well wishes

12:15 pm Catered Meal (Donations towards meal are appreciated)

RSVP by Sept. 15th to: Deborah Jordan djordan@fuse.net (with *Anniversary* as Subject) or call 513 251-2558.

Please let us know if hospitality is requested for out of town guests.



Community

Summer brings heat and light, plus abundance. More than 22 Community Friends attended OVYM Annual Sessions at Earlham College. About 14 from Community attended the FGC Gathering in Toledo. A number of us tabled at the first Cincinnati Festival of Faith June 24th which was quite inspiring with hundreds in attendance. Paulette Meier took a trip to Great Britain where she shared her music ministry far and wide. Helen, a granddaughter of one of our founders, John Hubbard, has moved to town with her husband Matt to start her residency at Children's Hospital. We may not see much of her because of her demanding schedule, but we are so happy they are here. Seven of us attended a public hearing about ORSANCO's (Ohio River Sanitation Commission) proposal to step away from their historic multi-state Ohio River pollution control role. One attender of our Meeting, Eira Tansey, gave an impassioned plea and was interviewed on TV. *Brother Outsider*, a movie about Bayard Rustin, was shown at Community in preparation for several concerts dedicated to his memory: Bayard Rustin, the Man Behind the Dream. Ministry and Counsel raised the concern about having a sexual harassment policy so a threshing session is being planned. **And finally, this is Community Friends 50th Anniversary!** We are planning a celebration on Sunday, Sept. 30th after Meeting for Worship. See previous page for more information. RSVP by September 15th to join the festivities.

Submitted by Deborah Jordan

Dayton

We celebrated the anniversary of our first year at the new Dayton Friends Meeting building this spring! We are enjoying having our own space for the first time in our meeting's history and have been busy making improvements. Some of these include: a community garden and a percussion fence area, both spearheaded by Phyllis Tonne. Members continue to help serving meals at St. Vincent's, and we have been able to have potlucks since we have our own space now. The meeting has invited the neighborhood to a heavily attended children's music group led by Phyllis, and a few garage sales as well. We have expanded our membership with new members: Chet Roberts, Dean Parmelee, and Jim Davidson. Chet led a discussion on Interfaith Worship Meeting, and we have had many guest speakers from other meetings also. We shared artwork done by Sue Brezine, Al McGrew's relative, and Scott Hadley after one silent meeting. Barb Robinson continues to volunteer at the Dayton Peace Museum, and a recent Quaker exhibit was well attended. Marian Alter has been leading a writing group, and Peace and Social Concerns is led by Al McGrew. This spring our Peace and Social Concerns Committee hosted several gatherings where Friends watched a series of videos entitled "The Future We Need." These videos were made by Nancy Glock-Gruenich, an occasional attender of our meeting. The intent of the videos is to nurture activism and hope for our future. Phil Henry has been instrumental in the upkeep of the meetinghouse. In July, Dayton Friends joined the other meetings in the area for worship and a picnic at Fort Ancient and enjoyed sharing with each other as we hiked trails together. We have held Tom Applegate in our prayers for his recent surgery and are delighted to have him back at meeting as he recovers. We continue to hold Sue Brezine and her husband in the light in dealing with serious health issues. Dayton Friends have welcomed back many visiting out-of-state members, as well as new visitors this year. Just like our community garden, we continue to grow!

Text Scott Hadley, photo Terri Scarpelli



Eastern Hills

Summer has been a time of taking care of business both near and far at Eastern Hills Friends Meeting. A new chapter is being written in our position as a bridge between Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and Wilmington Yearly Meeting. Two of our members assumed positions of responsibility in each. Martha Viehmann has assumed the Presiding Clerk position in the OYVM, and J.P. Lund has assumed the duties of Presiding Clerk in the WYM.

Closer to home, Eastern Hills members spent time sprucing up the grounds and working to have a new roof installed on our meetinghouse. Eastern Hills also continued to supply lunches on the third Thursday of each month to the residents of the Jimmy Heath House. The Jimmy Heath House is a project that seeks to get chronically homeless people into housing and then assist them with the issues that brought them there. And, as is our practice for every month that has five Sundays, a meeting for healing was held on July 29th following the meeting for worship.

In August, a visit from Charlottesville Friends Meeting member, Barbarie Hill, formerly a member of Eastern Hills, gave us pause to reflect on last year's events in her current home. We pray that all can discern a path forward in unity and peace.

submitted by Eric Heineke

Miami

Annual Fort Ancient Worship and Picnic. Miami and other area monthly meetings gathered at 10am on July 15th for the Annual Worship and Picnic in the peace of this historic Native American site near Oregonia, Ohio. Thirty-seven Friends, family, and friends sat under the trees for worship followed by a picnic in the pavilion and tables on the lawn. Great fellowship and food were shared by all in attendance.

Stone Family Visit Home. It was a real joy to welcome the Stones back to meeting in July and catch up on all that Phil and Gretchen, Katie, Peter and Woody have been up to during the past year.

Quaker Heights News. Quaker Heights Care Community, Waynesville, OH, will have a celebration on September 16 to honor the work of Wendy L. Waters-Connell during her 18 years of service to the community and to hand over the operation of the facility to Ohio Living, a Presbyterian elder care organization.

Miami has recently revamped the format for the bi-monthly worship we hold at Quaker Heights. Changes include the opening time of welcome and explanation of Quaker worship, the music and readings, the silent worship at the end of the meeting, and post-worship conversation with the residents in attendance.

Lonny Burger

North Meadow

Our meeting has been seeking discernment about our meetinghouse in downtown Indianapolis. Before we invest resources into much needed repairs for this facility, an historic home in the Herron Morton neighborhood, we are considering how a building serves the North Meadow mission and our community. Our focus so far has been on gathering information to guide our options and later this fall transition into spirit led process to guide us forward.

Over the summer months, Friends have often been away from our First Day worship for vacation and other pursuits. But we also have been blessed with a stream of Friendly visitors from other meetings, as well as others who are exploring Quakerism.

Lamont Hulse



Oxford

Summertime has brought the flowering of our pollinator and indigenous plant garden at the Interfaith Center where we meet. We thank Nani Ball and Jamie Young, pictured, for their work that has yielded beautiful and beneficial results.

We also continued our tradition of contributing materials for school bags and hygiene kits to Church World Service. We always enjoy assembling the colorful items (e.g., construction paper and hand towels) and imagining the ways that they will benefit the health and education of needy people in this country and abroad.

Cecilia Shore

Yellow Springs

These last few months have seen the end of our weekly first day school program for the kids and adults. Our summer months have been slower and many folks have been in and out on their vacations. A highlight of the summer was the annual Friends Music Camp benefit concert that took place on Antioch College's campus with proceeds going to benefit the Glen Helen Nature Preserve. Yellow Springs meeting hosted all of the campers and staff to a joyful potluck meal at the meetinghouse prior to the excellent concert. We encourage one and all to come and join us next year. The talents of our young people are truly exceptional!

We are looking forward to the start of our first day school year as well as our annual retreat day. As always, we encourage friends to join us on any given First Day.

Submitted by Heather Snediker-Morscheck

OCTOBER 2, 2018 WILMINGTON COLLEGE 2018 WESTHEIMER PEACE SYMPOSIUM SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE OPIOID CRISIS

Artist Maria Maneos, of Montgomery Township, hangs her work, "5577 - 2017" in an exhibit space at the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg, May 21, 2018. (Dan Gleiter/PennLive)

Reflections from Regional Friends

Good Morning!

Being a musician (or at least acting like one, at times), the word *volume* tends to come up quite a bit. Is it too loud? Not loud enough? Can we hear the singer over the drums? That old pipe organ can really pump out some *volume*!

This has me thinking about that inner voice that speaks to us from time to time. This is the voice that motivates us to do or to be certain things. And is that voice really the voice of Jesus, or is it my own voice? I really want to believe it is Jesus.

That's where we come back to volume. If I am at the 'sound board' that controls that inner volume, and I get to decide which voice, my own or that of Christ, gets turned up or turned down...am I placing those volume levels correctly? I *want* to turn down the volume on my own voice, and I *want* to turn up the volume on the voice of Christ. But, am I always getting that right?

As we experienced Christ in such a powerful and meaningful way through our IYM Sessions a few weeks back, I feel now is a time to really check that volume. We can easily leave the experiences we had together behind, as we move into the next phase of our year or calendar. I think if we are really going to head to the places God is calling us as a Body of Believers, we might need to linger in that space for a while. We may need to really be thinking hard about where we are setting the volume.

How might God be using the experience of worship, prayer, celebration, etc. at IYM Sessions this year to spur you into a place where you can get the volume set correctly? -Pat Byers

¹¹ *The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. ¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. 1 Kings 19:11-13*

Indiana Yearly Meeting *Communicator* Aug 15, 2018

Pendle Hill Lectures Available via Streaming and Video

Tune into lectures on topics such as:

A Heart Story: Artist's Talk (Arla Patch)

Black Fire: An African American Quaker Seeker-Activist in a White Supremacist Nation (Dr. Hal Weaver)

First Monday Series: Can We Decolonize Time? Thinking About Settlement, Justice, and Indigenous Oral History (Jill Stauffer)

Stephen G. Cary Memorial Lecture 2018: Holding Tension – Making a Place at the Table for Continuing Revelation (Sarah Willie-LeBreton)



<https://tinyurl.com/PendleHilllectures>

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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Cincinnati, OH 45229

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

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Contact: quakerquill@gmail.com
Cecilia Shore, editor.

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True silence is the rest of the mind; and is to the spirit, what sleep is to the body, nourishment and refreshment.
~ William Penn

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