

*escape the heat. We spent our final night in Chicago sharing a potluck with local Friends, and dancing in a thunderstorm under an orange sky.*

*The pilgrimage ended with a final retreat at Quaker Knoll Camp where we had Bible studies and discussion. There was also plenty of free time for relaxation, singing and dancing.*

*As we walked together in community we were challenged by queries regarding the nature of God, Quakerism and how to live meaningful lives. We leave with vivid memories and close friendships.*

Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness, and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying for one another, and helping one another up with a tender hand. —Isaac Penington, 1667

*Signed on behalf of Quaker Youth*



*Moving of Junior Illinois Yearly Meetinghouse at Clear Creek*

*Pilgrimage 2006.*

## **Monthly Meeting News:**

### **Clear Creek Open House**

By Grayce Mesner

If you were one of the seventy-seven guests that attended Clear Creek's Autumn Open House, you would have been greeted at the door and found yourself looking at a beautiful array of cookies and cakes. After filling a plate with a slice of cake and cookies brought in by various members, you would have seen displays of Clear Creek's projects and watched a Power Point presentation showing the various stages of the building's restoration.

You would have taken a tour with Carol Bartles throughout the IYM building and listened as she told of its history. If history and humor is the combination you enjoy, you were fortunate to be here. Jim Bumgarner regaled us with his stories about what it was like to be a young Quaker boy growing up around the life of Clear Creek Meeting. Kay Drake acted the part of one of the first Quaker family members to travel into this area. She told of their trip as they emigrated in wagons to the mid-west.

For a change of pace the visitors of our Open House were offered the opportunity to enjoy a ride in a surrey with a fringe on top. At that very slow pace there was time to feel yourself unwind and leisurely talk with fellow riders while enjoying the view of newly harvested corn fields.

The perfect end to our Open House was with Maurine Pyle. She read from a book by Phillip Gulley. We laughed over the foibles of his Har-

mony Friends characters and their plans to install a new kitchen oven in time for the famous noodle dinner.

For those of you who were here during IYM. You must see the newly completed cabins. The new hardware is on the meetinghouse screen doors (it looks great against the white door).

### **Helen Jean Nelson, 1918 –2006**

Helen Jean Nelson showed her love through her consistent commitment to Clear Creek Friends Meeting and Illinois Yearly Meeting. The two historical documents she authored and coauthored on Clear Creek and its community preserve our historical information for future generations.

The IYM 150th anniversary was documented by Helen Jean with a book filled with clippings of Yearly Meeting minutes, reports and photographs of Friends and our property. This book gives the reader a good perspective of the Yearly Meeting, its growth and changes over our 150 history.

Helen Jean served as Clerk for the Monthly Meeting and Yearly Meeting, gave the Plummer Lecture and served as Yearly Meeting Trustee after her father's passing for the rest of her life. She served as a representative for IYM to FCNL and FWCC. Even at 88 years of age she was consistently asking about the progress and changes on the meetinghouse grounds. "How do we like the new piano?" was her last question of me, three days before her passing.

In her later years, Helen Jean became an elder with kindness and wisdom. Asking questions, encouraging good action, listening, smiling and caring were her gifts as an elder. Her skills in listening helped shape the understanding of a situation. Her approach included sharing her oral history, asking questions, listening and lifting up a concern or joy. Anyone who could spend time with Helen Jean would grow as a Friend .  
—Carol Bartles

For those of you who may be musically inclined, our almost new piano is ready and waiting for an enthusiastic crowd of players and singers. We hope to see you soon!

### **Downers Grove**

By Sue Styer and Carol Mangiaracina

We continue to labor on the plans for our new meetinghouse. The bids were nearly twice as high as our budget, mainly due to the passage of time and the increased cost of materials, as well as our dream of "hardwood versus plain pine" materials. We are looking at ways to cut costs, by finding where we could put in our own labor, substituting less-expensive building materials and simplifying the existing plans. These changes may require that we get a new design.

Peace and recycling were the themes underlying the DGFM presence at Heritage Fest from June 23-25. The folding of origami cranes has become a peaceful tradition in memory of Sadako Sasaki, a 12 year-old radiation victim of the bombing of Hiroshima. Her attempt to fold 1000 cranes was cut short by death but finished by her friends. Teaching children to fold cranes from recycled paper provided a no-pressure way to meet families and answer questions about Quakers. Joe Davison reported that the only unhappy participant was a young man who found his finished crane would not fly like a paper airplane.

On June 30, several Friends went on a field trip to the Illinois State Museum, Lockport Gallery to view a quality collection of quilts representing artists from the 1800s to the modern period. They shared lunch, quilts, and fun and saw 24 historic quilts made by IL residents. Of note were the three quilts (1937-1945) pieced by Albert Small, a dynamite handler in an IL quarry.

Christine Bruder has moved into the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Charles and Linda Bruder, after a fire during the last week of September destroyed her home. Christine was uninjured and removed safely by firefighters. Friends

are thankful for her safety.

We welcomed two new members, Sarah Sainsbury, and Laura Hans. We celebrated many weddings this season. In April, Mike Ero went to England for the wedding of his son Michael and bride Charlotte. On August 5, Rebekah Fitchett, daughter of George and Judy Fitchett, married Kristian Damholt at McDonald Farm in Naperville, IL. On August 8, Sue and Joe Davison were in Cape Town, South Africa, for the wedding of their son Jesse to Tammy. On the same day in Sophia, Bulgaria, Pam and Bruce Wolfe attended the wedding of their daughter Meredith to Marsel Tadger. Laura Hans and Martin Zelder married on September 1. We wish our Friends every happiness in their future together. We were also blessed with the birth of Aaron Lamar Aguirre Jr. He was born to Amanda Studhorse on July 30.

We were happy to reacquaint with old Friends. At the end of June, James Baker returned to take part in the National University of Health Sciences (Lombard) Centennial Celebration and visit friends. Barbara and Joe Matt visited in July. We were also delighted to have Martha Davis and Betty Clegg visit in September. Martha was on her way to the North American Fruit Explorers conference in Kentucky. Betty was checking on her Lombard home and about to spend some time with her daughter Judy and family.

We were sorry to see the McMahon family leave because of an employment opportunity in Florida. We sent them off with a picnic/going away party in July.

We held a spiritual growth retreat on October 7 and 8 at Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center at Tiskilwa, IL. Nineteen Downers Grove Friends and the Pastoral Secretary of Chicago Monthly Meeting gathered the first night in Lost Meadows Room in the activity building to get acquainted and enjoy some snacks. After breakfast the next morning, we hiked over a wooden

bridge and down the path that meandered past wetlands and fall flowers to the activity building. After worship, we considered "Images of God" or "Companions Along the Way." It was a splendid autumn day, so we took some time outside to appreciate the peace, quiet and seasonal beauty that Menno Haven offers. After lunch, a small group considered the query, "How can we live in greater harmony with the Earth?"--outside, of course. The rest of us gathered indoors to learn about the gift of silence.

## Lake Forest

By Pam Kuhn

We are saddened by the loss of Alice Hayes who died on October 13. She was 84. We remember her most as the hostess of the annual picnic at Ragdale, her summer home in Lake Forest on the edge of a big virgin prairie. On the property is a log cabin that actually was the first meeting place of Lake Forest Friends Meeting in 1952.

Mary Ellen Sarbaugh passed away on October 6. She was a sojourning member at Lake Forest Meeting from Gwynedd Meeting north of Philadelphia. Some years ago she moved to Foulkeways and reunited with her home meeting which is across the street.

Also in the news, we have new babies, William Patrick Brown and Abigail Estelle Stacy.

Our member, Genevieve Wimp-McCann, is Minnie Jane Quaker Artist-in-Residence at Pendle Hill for the year.

Jason, Michelle, and Abigail Stacy moved to Edwardsville, Illinois-- lucky you, St. Louis Meeting!

We have embarked on a listening project concerning meeting finances. The idea is for each Friend (who is willing) to be interviewed by two Friends, one asking prewritten questions and the other noting down a summary of the answers. Unlike a survey, a listening project allows for

exploration by the interviewee and there may be some follow-up questions when appropriate. At the end of the project, the answers will be compiled and read by one or two Friends who will write up a summary. Our goals include talking about finances in a safe place, helping Friends who have been swept along in the budget process to really think about issues, and to gather ideas or common trends in our meeting. Listening to each other is a pleasure.

We have had some interesting forums including one by Vanessa Julye from the Friends General Conference ad hoc Committee on Race and Racism. We also enjoyed a visit from Julian O'Reilley of Pendle Hill who gave a presentation to us about this Quaker study center. Former IYM Friend Paul Buckley came to talk to us about his research on Elias Hicks.

Our adult discussion group decided to read three Pendle Hill pamphlets: *Traveling In* by Douglas Steere (#324), and two by Bill Tabor, *Four Doors to Quaker Worship* (#306) and *Prophetic Stream* (#256). We find that reading Pendle Hill pamphlets works well for our fall curriculum.

## Milwaukee

By Elizabeth Evans

As the leaves fall, those of us in Milwaukee Meeting who know and love IYM are adjusting to the decision we made at our September Meeting for Business to lay down our membership in IYM. When Northern Yearly Meeting was formed out of Northern Half Yearly of IYM in 1975, we could not discern a path to leave IYM and thus continued our membership in both for the past 31 years.

As you know from our report at Annual Session this past year, we do believe that this dual membership has taken its toll on our meeting. Being

a part of two yearlys has meant confusion and uncertainty for newcomers and resulted in many people coming to our meeting who have never experienced the complete relationship a monthly meeting should have to its yearly meeting. I wonder if we have believed that we had to struggle through some questions alone because we are have not been familiar with the close corporate relationship that would make reaching out to our Friends in our yearly second nature.

We hope to discern our leaving process within the next few months, or as long as it takes. The matters before us include the timing of the end of our formal membership, a financial plan, and how we might support those who wish to remain involved in IYM. Since we have been members of IYM for 56 years, we need to move through this leaving with some grace and some grieving. We know that we are well loved and welcomed anytime at IYM gatherings, and we look forward to frequent contact with northern Illinois Friends through the Regional Gathering.

For many years we could not face breaking each other's hearts around leaving one yearly or the other. It finally became apparent that continuing to shy away from a decision was hurting our meeting, and we began to recognize the need to consider the injury to the meeting as a greater harm than the heartbreak we would cause individuals. In order to make it possible for us to move forward to this decision, we have recognized the deep spiritual connection that individuals from our Meeting have with IYM by minuting our commitment to continue to support those who want to maintain their close connection with IYM. We hope that our IYM Friends will also help us in this regard, so that those who wish to continue to call IYM their spiritual home will be able to remain engaged in the important work they are called to do in spite of our status as a "legacy" meeting.

*"For many years we could not face breaking each other's hearts around leaving one yearly or the other." — Milwaukee*

## **Farewell to Milwaukee Monthly Meeting**

*Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends learned during annual session that Milwaukee Monthly Meeting was in the process of choosing one yearly meeting; and that subsequently their clerk notified their Ministry and Advancement Visitor of the final decision to affiliate with Northern Yearly Meeting. The letter was written by Joan Pine, the Ministry and Advancement Visitor and seasoned by Ministry and Advancement Committee for presentation to Milwaukee Friends during their final hosting of Continuing Committee.*

Dear Milwaukee Friends,

With understanding as well as sadness, we receive your Meeting's decision to withdraw from membership in Illinois Yearly Meeting. We are aware that this decision required many months of discernment and still is difficult for a few among you to accept.

You have been a cherished member of our Yearly Meeting family for many years. We are deeply grateful for your active involvement in all of that time, for the leadership skills of your members, and for your Meeting's important contributions to our communal life and work. Our shared experiences of deep worship and memorials, inspiring speakers and noisy dinners, thorny business sessions and thoughtful workshops, spontaneous laughter, heartfelt worship sharing, and singing on the porch have created lasting bonds.

We have rejoiced in the burgeoning growth of your membership, in your remodeling and stewardship of your beautiful meetinghouse, in your witness to social justice, in your riverside acreage's testimony to earth care, and in your active support of the wider organizations of Friends. Your energy, commitment, and creative ideas have enriched and inspired us all.

We want to assure you that the dissolution of our formal ties will not diminish our love for each of you as Friends. We will always welcome any of your members and attenders to our annual sessions and our monthly meetings. We are delighted that many northern Illinois Friends will continue to participate in the regional gatherings that you began. We look forward to seeing many of you often at FGC Gatherings and in activities of FWCC, AFSC, and other Quaker bodies. And we trust that our shared history will encourage individuals and families traveling north and south to continue the practice of Friendly visits.

As you now look ahead to fulfill your decision of commitment to a single yearly meeting, we are pleased that Northern Yearly Meeting can continue to benefit from your many talents and resources. We join you in the hope that this undivided focus will release more energy for your wider participation at the yearly meeting level and beyond.

So we say to you fondly, "Farewell and Godspeed," as we commend you to Northern Yearly Meeting's love and care.

Your Friends in Illinois Yearly Meeting

## South Bend

By Denise Thompson-Slaughter,

The year 2006 has been one of ups and downs, growth and loss, for South Bend Meeting. In February, the meeting was much blessed to celebrate the wedding of clerk Monica Tetzlaff and member Brad Laird. This was the major social event of our year, as the wedding was well-attended and guests at the reception were entertained with music and well-fed with soups, salads, and lasagnas contributed potluck style. We were doubly blessed that Edna and Floyd Wynn came from their retirement village, over an hour away, in order to attend the wedding; for we did not know that Edna, beloved long-time member and one of our few birthright Quakers, would be taken from this world in April.

A memorial meeting was held to honor her, and a lovely memorial book was procured and started for the meeting by our librarian, Madelyn Godsey, with a photo and written memories of Edna filling the first pages. We hope it is a long time before our next entry in the memorial book, but under Madelyn's leading, the meeting has been examining how we can improve our preparedness and services for such losses in the future.

In May, South Bend Meeting held the first of what is hoped will be annual retreats. A number of members and attenders "retreated" for a lovely weekend at Quaker Haven, an hour or so away from South Bend, and held a visioning session led by IYM Field Secretary Maurine Pyle. Our "visioning" continues as we consider whether we have a particular mission in South Bend and whether our future involves having our own meeting house or not.

We are fortunate that new members and attenders continue to find us in the Charles Martin Youth Center on Sundays, and our meeting continues to grow. This growth is, however, sometimes offset by people leaving. We were sorry

to say goodbye to member Kate Gibbons this summer, as she left for graduate school in Canada, and to the Melendez-Gallagher family, just beginning to apply for membership after several years of attending and contributing in many ways to our meeting. But John was offered a dream job in Utah and—who can blame them—off they went! All these F/friends will be much missed.

Happily we have a new F/friend by transfer from Oakland (Chris Morrissey, a graduate student at Notre Dame) and another by conviction (Jessica Tannenbaum, a law-school student at Notre Dame working on immigration issues)—plus a number of new attenders in the last year or so, some of whom are in the process of applying for membership. "Make new Friends, but keep the old; one is silver and the other's gold" is a good song to remember for this small meeting, so much in flux.

Our newlyweds Brad Laird and Monica Tetzlaff kindly decided to open their home to Kally Thierry, a refugee from Chad who, as a Christian, endured torture and imprisonment. Jessica Tannenbaum helped work on his case for political asylum, which he now has been granted. He is currently trying to get his driver's license. He was an ambulance driver in Chad, and hopes to find employment in the medical field. In the meantime, South Bend Friends have tried to help out with his support. If Friends in other meetings can help out with this endeavor, either financially or with job leads, please contact: Monica Tetzlaff, Clerk, South Bend Friends Meeting, c/o Charles Martin Youth Center, 802 Lincoln Way West, South Bend, IN 46616 or leave a message on our answering machine at (574) 232-8258..

## Urbana-Champaign

By Mariellen Gilpin

Meetings for worship in our new meetinghouse are often completely silent, but also we're hearing new voices sometimes, and seeing new and younger faces in worship. Sometimes there are instants when we sense a gathered quality. I'd like to see two or three instants back-to-back, before I'd be willing to declare we've had a gathered meeting for worship, however.

We have a live-wire Peace and Service committee under convener Jay Mittenthal. They are planning to focus on global warming in the upcoming year. Barbara Kessel has created a radio show called *Acting on Faith* on a community radio station. We are supporting coal miners in the Danville area, which has led to outreach to the Friends United Meeting Quakers there, where many of the coal miners attend worship. Peace and Service has also worked with other area churches on a Hiroshima Day commemoration, and co-sponsored several peace and justice events with some of those churches.

Study group is currently reading the *Journal of David Ferris*, edited by Martha Grundy. David Ferris lived about the time of the Revolutionary War. He grew up Presbyterian and attended seminary. He reflected deeply and convinced himself of the Quaker view long before he attended a Quaker meeting. He left seminary months before ordination, giving up a job he fully expected was his, with no idea where the Spirit was calling him. At his first worship among Friends he felt he'd come home. He was moved to speak in worship but resisted the calling — for 22 years. Once he began to speak, he traveled thousands of miles in the ministry. We're expecting to read next some materials that IYM's Peace Resources Committee has recommended, with the idea of inviting Peace Resources Committee to give a workshop in

Urbana in the spring.

We have been delighted that some of our brand new attenders are not waiting to be invited to participate in the work of the meeting, but are volunteering to get involved. Also, Deborah Jadhav, Kim Thoren, and Charlotte Green have applied for membership and are meeting with their clearness committees now. We have organized Friendly movers for Deborah and Charlotte, both of whom have moved into houses very near me. As you may know, central Illinois is not plagued with any of those annoying differences in elevation called hills and valleys, so we have decided to call our neighborhood Pendle Flats.

We're holding silent retreats about every two months. At the July retreat we ended the final worship on a rainy afternoon with a double rainbow. Jacqueline Hannah organizes the retreats. You're all welcome to join us for these — let me know (m-gilpin@uiuc.edu) and I'll put you on my e-list to receive announcements of silent retreats and other Friendly events.

*"We're realizing that, thanks to a Mortgage Challenge Grant, we're within a year of retiring the mortgage on the meetinghouse." —  
Urbana-Champaign*

We're realizing that, thanks to a Mortgage Challenge Grant, we're within a year of retiring the mortgage on the meetinghouse. Fundraising Committee, with convener Ann Lowry, has invited us all to participate in a Meeting for Brainstorming, in order to discern together what our spending priorities should be next. After worship on October 8, committees will present up to three dreams what they'd do if they had more money. Individuals may also present dreams. We will discern together what to undertake.

Religious Education Committee, with co-conveners Sandy Bales and Kim Thoren, expect to make a proposal at the Meeting for Brainstorming: hiring a Religious Education Coordinator, who would spearhead efforts to have a set curriculum and a more consistent teacher, so the

kids can develop a sense of continuity and community.

*To speak or not to speak:* that is the question. Knowing when and how to speak in worship is sometimes an obstacle to worship for Friends. Maurine Pyle is coming October 20-22, to give an all-day Saturday workshop on speaking in worship. Friends in nearby towns are also invited to attend this workshop. We'll have a shared brown bag potluck lunch on Saturday for this event. In preparation for Maurine's visit, the query for October will be: *Have you ever suppressed delivery of a message in worship? What happened to the message?* Y'all come!

## **Opportunities and Reports:**

### **High School Friends Invited to New York City Trip over Spring Break**

By Marti Matthews

High School Friends of Illinois Yearly Meeting are invited to participate in a trip to New York City, principally to visit the United Nations and the Quaker U.N. Office (QUNO), and to do service work with the poor in NYC. Details of the trip are still in the planning, but basically, the dates will be March 24 - April 1, 2007.

We will travel either by train or plane. We'll possibly stay at the American Youth Hostel, where people from all over the world gather; the hostel is in the university neighborhood, and a walk from Harlem. Staying there includes breakfast. We expect to work with the Youth Service Opportunity Project, a Quaker-run volunteer organization, perhaps working with the homeless. We will spend one or two days visiting the United Nations and QUNO, perhaps other Non-Governmental Organizations with offices at the UN, such as the Red Cross. We



hope to take a bus tour of the whole city, a ferry ride to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, possibly do Ground Zero of 9/11.

It may work out that we can take a train down to Philadelphia and visit the Quaker offices there and also do some volunteer work in Philly for a day. All of this is yet to be worked out in detail. If anyone knows of other Quaker projects we could visit or places to stay, please let the planners know.

A rough estimate of costs is around \$600 per Friend. We ask a down payment of \$100 by January 10th, 2007. This is sponsored by the Quaker Volunteer Service, Training, and Witness Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Questions: contact Marti Matthews at martim1234@sbcglobal.net, or Julia Pantoga at jpantoga@core.com. Mail downpayment to Marti at 746 N. Taylor, Oak Park IL 60302; make check out to Illinois Yearly Meeting with notation "NYC."

### **Go to Kenya with IYM Friends!**

By Dawn Amos

In 2007 there is a special opportunity for IYM Friends. The African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) will organize a shared work camp for Friends from Illinois Yearly Meeting and Lugari Yearly Meeting in Kenya. The project is to build a structure to serve as meeting space and nursery for the HIV Women's Group. Work campers would stay in the large home of Florence Mahayo. The location is between Kakamega and Eldoret (near the smaller town of Turbo). This is western Kenya, near the border with Uganda, not far from the Serengeti National Park and Lake Victoria.

Dawn and Mark Amos have committed to attend, and they will be bringing their daughters Delia (11), Marlina (8) and perhaps Miranda (19). If you have ever considered attending an AGLI work camp, perhaps joining this IYM



group is the perfect opportunity! Consider bringing the family!

Travel will be for 4-5 weeks from late June to late July, but planning should begin right away. You'll need to fill out the AGLI application with support from a clearness committee. You should get your passport and immunizations. Together with the Amoses, we will solicit financial support from individuals as well as monthly, quarterly and yearly meetings and other organizations, and hold fund raisers that also spread the word about AGLI. For each adult we will need to raise about \$3,600.

While the work camp building project is important, the richness of this opportunity lies in forming new friendships in Africa as we work side by side. Is God calling you to immerse yourself in a distant corner of creation?

To learn more, visit [www.aglionline.org](http://www.aglionline.org) and contact Dawn Amos at 866-262-1625 or [dawn@amoses.net](mailto:dawn@amoses.net).

## Grants for the Study and Practice of Christian Mysticism

The Elizabeth Ann Bogert Memorial Fund for the Study and Practice of Christian Mysticism, administered by Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, makes annual grants of up to \$1000.

**RECENT GRANTS:** A variety of proposals relating to Christian mysticism are given consideration by the Grants Committee. Projects funded in 2006 included: a 10-day writing retreat for prayer and research into the mystics and their spiritual senses; a study of the relationship between permaculture and Christian mysticism; publication of an anthology of accounts of mystical experience; establishment of a library section on Christian mysticism in a state prison; travel costs to visit key landmarks in France

important in the life of Joan of Arc, assisting completion of two one-woman plays for performance.

**APPLICATIONS:** Grant proposals should be no more than two pages and include a statement of the applicant's working definition of mysticism, a description of the project, the specific amount of money requested, the way in which a grant will be used, other sources of funding, and plans for communicating the results to others.

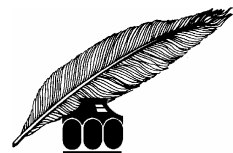
Seven typed copies of the proposal should be mailed to Bogert Fund Secretaries, Vinton and Michelina Deming, 4818 Warrington Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143. Two or three people familiar with the applicant's work should mail letters of reference directly to the secretaries.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Proposals and references for 2007 grants are due by March 1, 2007. Decisions will be made by the committee in May; grants distributed in June. Recipients are asked to send a progress report within a year. A brochure describing the fund is available. Inquiries may be sent by email to the secretaries at [muccidem@verizon.net](mailto:muccidem@verizon.net).

## Call for Articles for *What Canst Thou Say?*

By Mariellen Gilpin

*What Canst Thou Say?* is a newsletter on Quakers, mysticism and contemplative living — a worship-sharing group in print, with each writer contributing his or her experience in response to a central theme. Themes for upcoming issues are as follows:



*February 2007*

***The Workplace***

Guest Editor: **Fred LaMotte with Patricia McBee**

*To turn all the treasures we possess into the channel of universal love becomes the business of our lives....* (John Woolman). Have you sorely needed spirituality in the workplace? What are your spiritual practices at work? Have you known God's presence on the job - God's interest in that repetitive task, difficult customer, office gossip, intransigent boss, dysfunctional colleague, wrongly-ordered profession? How were you changed? How has your working changed? Deadline November 15, 2006

May 2007

### **Unseen Hands**

**Editors: Kathy Tapp and Mariellen Gilpin**  
*Nothing in death or in life, in the realm of spirits or superhuman powers...in heights or depths...nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God.* (Romans 8:38). Have you ever felt you were being helped by unseen hands? Who do you think your helpers were? What did you learn from the experience? How has it affected your spiritual journey? Tell us your stories. Deadline February 15

August 2007

### **Hospitality**

**Guest Editor: Maurine Pyle with Mariellen Gilpin**  
*Do not neglect to show hospitality, for by that means some have entertained angels unaware.* (Hebrews 13:2) Have you made room in your heart for the other, the one who is different from you? Have you been challenged to shed prejudices and be taught by God through the stranger? What was it like? Did you have second thoughts? How did you make room for the other? In sharing the gift of hospitality, have you entertained angels without knowing it? Deadline May 15

November 2007

### **The Feminine Face of God**

**Editor: Judy Lumb**

*For in wisdom there is a spirit intelligent and holy ... she pervades and permeates all things because she is so pure. Like a fine mist she rises*

*from the power of God, a pure effluence from the glory of the Almighty.* (*The Apocrypha, Wisdom of Solomon 7:22-5*). It is hard to find feminine aspects of the Divine in the Bible. Where else can we find Her? What is your experience of the feminine in the Divine? Deadline August 15

We'd love to hear from you. Articles can be from 350-1500 words long. Don't worry about writing perfectly. You can send it directly to me at [m-gilpin@uiuc.edu](mailto:m-gilpin@uiuc.edu). Articles should be in electronic form, if at all possible, but we're happy to accept a handwritten story, if necessary.

When you write for *What Canst Thou Say?*, here are some things to keep in mind: Articles that best communicate to our readers generally focus on specific events and are written in the first person. There is a special richness when the writer goes beyond describing the experience and tells how it has changed her/his attitude and/or behavior. However, mystical experiences and contemplative insights may transcend editorial processes, so please consider these guidelines as gentle assistance rather than limitations. In general we shy away from articles that expound on theoretical or theological propositions. With joyous expectation we look forward to receiving your contribution to our worship-sharing group in print.

If you can open pdf attachments, I can email a back issue to you. Save a stamp and save a tree. *What Canst Thou Say?* is \$10 for four issues a year. Subscriptions can be sent to WCTS, 1035 Hereford Drive, Blue Bell, PA 19422-1925, or [whatcanstthousay@verizon.net](mailto:whatcanstthousay@verizon.net).

## Project Lakota 2006

By Bobbi Trist

My journaling group sits in the cool, darkened room on this hot, bright summer afternoon, listening to Native American flute music. The cool, sweet music is so different from the Lakota chants and drumming I heard so often during our recent stay on the Pine Ridge Reservation: at the Oglala Lakota College graduation, at the powwow the same afternoon, at the Leonard Peltier commemorative ceremony and walk the next day, in 100 degree heat, and on KILI Radio out of Porcupine.



*Oglala Lakota College graduation*

This soothing music is in total contrast to the lives of poverty and discrimination the Lakota and other first nations endure. That didn't end after Wounded Knee I in 1890; it continues today. The Black Crow family received no help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The agency claimed that the spring storm that ravaged the family's own mobile home, *and* the newly donated double-wide awaiting hook-up, did not register as a tornado in "Rapid" (City).

Register in Rapid, a hundred miles away!?! All



*Double-wide, turned on its side*

Midwesterners know that tornadoes can be a house wide, a block wide, a mile wide and totally capricious. And who made up those rules, anyway? If your home is destroyed, it's destroyed. What does it matter if it was a twister or straight-line winds? That double-wide, turned on its side, each half separately, will corrode on their land forever, joining the dead hulks of trucks and cars found everywhere in the dry hills of the rez.

The Red Cross took some minimal pity and gave the family \$100. One hundred dollars! Project Lakota spent nearly \$2000, which bought only material enough to repair the two narrow ends of their trailer, plus replace all the broken windows. That wasn't enough for the long walls where the shutters were pitted with hail holes and the siding was deteriorated beyond recognition.

But most of all, I saw the effect of this life on the children. I observed the great enthusiasm of little granddaughter Sarina, who came out