


# OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING NEWSLETTER

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Quaker Quill 

February 2006

## First OVYM Quaker Workcamp Planned -- April 29 and 30

Ohio Valley Peace and Social Concerns Committee has been talking about organizing a Quaker work camp for the past year. We know many older Friends have fond memories of AFSC work camps; it's a great way to share in service, study, and faithful community.

April 29 and 30 will be our first try at bringing OVYM Friends together in a work camp model. We explored several options, but the one that came together this time was to meet Saturday, April 29 at the Lauramoore Friends Home in Richmond, Indiana where those of us with a variety of abilities can do a variety of helpful jobs. (The Lauramoore is a retirement home in a loving,

family atmosphere that also preserves a historic property.) We will then retire to nearby Quaker Hill, a conference center, to gather for a simple dinner and Friendly sharing. The next morning we will worship together at Clear Creek Meeting. There is a small fee to cover lodging, but Peace and Social Concerns will be glad to cover that, if requested.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee is enthusiastic about inviting Friends to join us in this gathering. Please call or email Deborah Jordan, Richard Mitchell, Ron Haldeman, or Jack Davis with questions or to express interest. A registration form will also be coming to your Meeting in the near future.

Save the dates and plan now to  
attend OVYM Annual Sessions

**July 26 - 30, 2006**  
**Earlham College, Richmond, IN**

**"Seeking an Earth Restored: the  
Spiritual Path of Stewardship"**

See more details inside ...

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OVYM officers for 2005-2006:

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 Steve Angell, Oxford  
 Murray Cox, White Rose  
 Dale Blanchard, Yellow Springs

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 , Owensboro WG



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 2- mid-Mar Exhibit "The Underground Railroad Story in Art." at the Quaker Heritage Center. Wilmington College, Wilmington, OH
- Feb 17-20 FLGBTQC Midwinter Gathering. Camp Copneconic, Fenton, MI
- Feb 18-19 OVYM Teen overnight. Miami Monthly Meeting, Waynesville, OH
- Feb 19 Miami Quarterly Meeting. Miami Monthly Meeting, Waynesville, OH
- Mar 10-12 Jan Wood's "Overview of the Bible" weekend. Quaker Hill Conference Center. Richmond, IN
- Mar 16-19 FWCC Section of the Americas Annual Meeting. Chuiquimula, Guatemala
- Apr 15 Whitewater Quarterly Meeting. Bloomington, IN
- Apr 29-30 OVYM workcamp. Richmond, IN
- July 14 - Aug 10 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage
- July 26-30 OVYM Annual Sessions. Earlham College, Richmond, IN

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"Mankind must remember that peace is not God's gift to his creatures; it is our gift to each other."  
 -- Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize winner

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## Clerk's Page

— David Garman, Assistant Clerk

I am thinking of hope this year. This is on my mind in part because I have been reading Ecclesiastes once again. I was given the book, *Against the Grain*, by Ray Weddle and this has led me to wrestle with this topic.

A year ago, when I wrote this page, I was reflecting upon all the claims upon my time. This season I am noticing all the claims against my hope.

People are being unkind to each other. A resident of my community was killed by the actions of a careless driver while on his way to work. There is a war going on. Dear friends are seriously ill. The daily collection of bills in my mailbox brings news of ever increasing prices brought about in part by the limits of available energy. It goes on and on.

One response to this long list of problems is to give in to despair and be rendered inert. I remember from studying physics that there is a law of inertia. I wonder if there is a law of spiritual inertia.

I find myself drifting toward being "stuck." If I continue this path, I can picture myself going through the motions. Or, I can give in to a feeling of "what's the use?"

Perhaps hope is the thing that can move me.

People often talk about the tragic things that they are experiencing by saying something like "I'll take it one day at a time." Or, "I've gotten through hard times before and I can do it again." Another sentiment often expressed is "this makes no sense now, but some day I'll understand." Hope is not so much something that we can see but rather something that we feel stirring within and from beyond.

As I attempt to define hope, which is impossible to do easily, I am led to consider the power of hope. It is not an empty "wishing." Rather, it seems to spring from a deep well. It seems to

move from within and lead from without. Sometimes it is at the center and sometimes it is over the next hill. Hope from the center gives me the courage to journey to the boundary and hope from over the hill gives me the strength to step into a new land.

Hope is often obscured by what one experiences in life. However in the stories that people share with me, hope seems to be lurking behind the clouds ready to burst forth upon us.

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## Notes from Planning Committee

Planning for the next session of OVYM, July 26-30 at Earlham, is well under way. The theme is "Seeking an Earth Restored: the Spiritual Path of Stewardship." Our plenary speakers are Doris Ferm and Carl Magruder.

All workshops and leaders are now confirmed though some titles will change. As of this date they are:

- "Embracing Earthcare as a Religious Calling" by Bill Cahalan
- FCNL - on their "green building"
- "The Biblical basis for Earthcare" by Paul Buckley
- "Music and Nature" by Jamie Fota
- "Gardening as Spiritual Practice" by Kate Anthony
- "Developing an Earth Friendly Community" by Faith Morgan, Pat Murphy and Megan Quinn
- "How Monthly Meetings can Develop Earthcare Programs" by Debra Jordan and Marcie Ankrom
- "Alternatives to Dependence on Fossil Fuels in a Period of Decline of Oil Availability - and its Spiritual Implications" by David Pilbrow

Yes, we know. Its going to be very hard to choose!

We have arranged this year to have a gallery space for display of Quaker creativity. We encourage Friends to share your creations in any media. Please contact David Wood for details.

By popular request, the Variety Show will be back on the schedule. We encourage Friends to plan and prepare ahead to ensure the quality and content of the program. We need a volunteer to coordinate the evening's activities and to emcee. (Jack, does thee hear the call?)

We encourage every Friend to consider attending OVYM. It is a joyful time of coming together to learn about ourselves and each other; to meet in the eternal Spirit and stand together in the Light. Financial aid is available.

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## **FWCC Midwest Field Staff Announcements**

– Susan Lee Barton

1) Friends World Committee for Consultation's Section of the Americas would like one contact in each monthly meeting willing to receive the short (one page) e-newsletters and distribute announcements in them to the monthly meeting. Please contact Susan Lee Barton ([susanleeb@fwccamericas.org](mailto:susanleeb@fwccamericas.org)) or Louise Salinas ([louises@fwccamericas.org](mailto:louises@fwccamericas.org)) if you are willing to help in this way.

2) Friends World Committee for Consultation's Quaker Youth Pilgrimage is coming to OVYM's homeground!! 28 teenagers and four adults from the Europe & Middle East Section and Section of the Americas will be traveling in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois 14 July-10 August, 2006 (that's this summer). Their itinerary includes Cincinnati, Wilmington, & Waynesville Ohio, and Richmond & Indianapolis, Indiana.

We need many Friends to help with a variety of tasks. Are you willing to hold the pilgrims and leaders in the Light during their travels in our region? Are you artistic? (Want to make a banner or sign to welcome the young Friends at the airport?) Do you like to cook? (We need snacks and meals supplied.) Do you like to jump around or wave at people or sing or act silly or give youth a friendly smile? (We need a greeting team at the airport on 14 July, and Friends to wave good-bye on 10 August.) Are you a musical composer or song-collector? (Want to

compose or provide a welcome song?) Do you have suggestions for get-acquainted or community-building activities for 32 people attempting to form a diverse international community? Do you want to open your home to two teenagers and spend a weekend with them, or provide a bed and get-away space for a leader? Are you able to provide hospitality if an emergency renders a participant unable to travel? Are you a calm person to contact in an emergency, w/knowledge of local resources? Are you able to help transport pilgrims in your town, or do you know of a meeting bus or van for local use? Are you good at compiling information and coordinating volunteers for a specific task?

There are many ways that you can be involved and help welcome these young Friends to our region. Please contact Susan Lee Barton (765-939-1449 or [susanleeb@fwccamericas.org](mailto:susanleeb@fwccamericas.org)) to offer any type of help.

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## **Teen Overnight**

– Jim Coppock, Clerk Teen Activities

Overnight and Miami Quarterly Meeting  
Miami Friends Meeting, Waynesville Ohio,  
(corner of Fourth and High Street)  
5 p.m. Saturday Feb 18 to  
4 p.m. Sunday Feb 19

The program includes Jennifer Profitt discussing Native American culture and issues to prepare for the trip to Pine Ridge. Local contact is Milton Cook 513-897-5946. If you have questions, call JT at 317-926-5614.

FYI

- The service project at Pine Ridge is not a "done deal" yet and no schedule has been set. We're working on that.
- The tree sale/fund raiser netted about \$1000 -- more details soon.

**Fourth Annual "Quake that  
Rocked the Midwest" at  
Evanston Friends Meeting,  
Jan 13-16, 2006**

*— Jim Coppock, Clerk, Teen Activities*

In all, 27 teens and 11 adults from Lake Erie, Illinois, Northern and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting attended over the Martin Luther King Weekend. The central organizing personality, Kri Anderson Burkander, was under the weather and rested every chance she could. So, the Quake was different this year, more the kids own doing. Six members of OVYM (Jeremy and Nathan Coppock, Dan Montgomery, Shannon Isaacs, Anna Henry, Meara Bucklin) and a friend of theirs went this year. Krystin Schmidt, who was also under the



weather, helped with the driving. Ask them about it!

Workshops, probably 8 hrs total, were led by Zack Moon and Andrew Esser-Haines, who started with prophets and visions and went on to nudging the kids to develop their own prophetic voices.

Traditions were upheld - some of the subtleties of Wink becoming clearer. A mentally and physically disabled girl was included in lots of the work/play. Some couples found each other. New teens were introduced to Friends. One teen spoke in Meeting for the first time in his life. Missing this year were Uncle Leibert and the T-shirts.

This is one special gathering -- full of bubbly enthusiasm.



## QUARTERLY MEETING NEWS

### **Miami**

Miami Quarterly will meet at Miami Monthly Meeting in Waynesville on February 19. The program will be a panel presentation by conscientious objectors presenting their experiences in previous military drafts organized by Eastern Hills Meeting.

### **Whitewater**

White Rose Monthly Meeting welcomed us on January 21 at the Somerset Community Center in Somerset, IN, and provided us with wonderful food and hospitality

During our attention to business, Susan Lee Barton shared ways in which Friends can help make the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage possible in our region. Many different talents are required.

Stan Zarowin is trying to develop Alternative to Violence Project training in Indiana prisons. Friends are needed to go through 3 weekends of training and commit to spending some weekends in a prison, to train prisoners.

Last Fall WQM granted some funds for Mariah Miller while she is studying internationally, and traveling among Friends. Mariah requests correspondence from us (shetravelsalone@hotmail.com) to help keep her grounded and supported.

The afternoon program was led by David Pilbrow, IFCL lobbyist. He shared IFCL's Policy Statement, bills of IFCL interest currently before the legislature, and plans for IFCL to communicate more effectively with monthly meetings and with legislators.

In particular, David spoke about the peak oil problem pending, when the world's oil production will peak and then decline permanently, producing catastrophic results. We need to prepare for this now. David provided a bibliography (accessible through web sites) for information about the problem, government studies, and what can be done. David can be contacted at David@QuakerIFCL.org or 317-882-5301 for more information.

## MONTHLY MEETING NEWS

### **Bloomington Meeting**

*– Terry Reynolds, correspondent*

We recently learned that the cold can't penetrate the spirits of Bloomington Friends. When we arrived at the meetinghouse one winter First day and discovered our heating system wasn't working, we sat together in expected waiting wearing coats and using lap blankets. Our worship was as deep as ever.

Our meetinghouse was full as Bloomington Friends celebrated together at our annual

Christmas party. The children performed a well-received play about a Quaker family's Christmas during the time of slavery and the underground railroad.

Approximately thirty Friends and attenders enjoyed Dinners for Eight together this fall.

We enjoyed listening to Rachel Dean and Krystin Schmidt as they told us of their experiences at last summer's World Gathering of Young Friends.

We were informed by a second hour program led by Bill Stant on the topic of socially responsible investing.

Our monthly query discussions have been better attended than usual, including a special one focusing on building community in our meeting. We asked ourselves: What are we looking for from each other? What are our responsibilities to the Meeting? How do we take care of each other? What do you want from this community? What are you willing to give?

A seven session course on the basics of Quakerism was completed by several seasoned friends and new attenders. The primary text was Michael Birkel's book, *Silence and Witness: the Quaker Tradition*.

We endorsed the Bloomington Coalition against the Death Penalty's moratorium resolution and approved the following minute: Friends believe that there is that of God in all human beings, that human life is sacred, and that it is wrong for the state to end human life. Bloomington Friends reaffirm their categorical opposition to the death penalty.

We enthusiastically welcomed new members Holly Cedar and Julie Chapin.

A memorial service was held for Doug Tipton. In the short time Doug attended our meeting, he found a warm place in our hearts. We miss his presence, his warm smile, and his gifts.

Among our first-time attenders was sweet little Betsy, newborn daughter of member, Julie Chapin.

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## **Campus Meeting**

— *Jim and Millie Ramsey, correspondents*

The meeting approved allocating \$100 to Stephen Potthoff for planning his trip to the FWCC meeting in Guatemala.

The final Spiritual Journeys meeting was held Dec. 7 at the home of Patricia Thomas and Doug Woodmansee. The group discussed the query "What is the significance of Christmas in spiritual life, and do I seek to follow the traditional Quaker belief that every day is the Lord's day?" Following this meeting, Spiritual Journeys was laid down for the winter. The series may be revived in the spring.

Phil Holmes and Richard Coleman both have returned to the meeting following medical leave. Campus Meeting is sharing with other groups the responsibility of providing lunch at Your Father's Kitchen, a food pantry for the needy in Wilmington.

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## **Clear Creek Meeting**

— *Cecile Holvik, correspondent*

This past month brought sad farewells to the family of Jeff Strain and Susan Stark as they shifted their location to Pleasant Hill TN in order to be of assistance to Susan's mother. Daughter Krystal is once again in the New Orleans area where she is reaching for the right direction her life should take. Daughter Satya is still in Richmond where she is completing her work at IU East. The family will be sorely missed.

Steve Ackley and Maureen McCarthy became board certified by the Association of Professional Chaplains. Maureen is the chaplain at Friends Fellowship Community. Congratulations to them both.

Several members have suffered severe illnesses in the past weeks. Eliza Forsythe Rogers underwent surgery in Brazil where she had been studying on a program directed by Mills College. Her father flew to be with her and she will be returning home shortly. John Howell broke his right wrist and will be handicapped for about 6 weeks. The meeting offers its sympathy to both members.

The days before Christmas were filled with inter-generational teams preparing small gifts, an activity that is always fun. The annual Christmas program offered a delightful retelling of the birth of Jesus. This was written mostly by the children themselves and was performed with great energy.

As we go into the month of January, the meeting will be celebrating the 55th year of its founding. It is a time to reflect upon the work of the present and recollect what has been accomplished. May 2006 bring Peace to all the world.

The Meeting extends its heartfelt condolences to Maureen McCarthy on the untimely death of her husband, Steve Ackley on January 9. Until recently he had served as a chaplain for the Covenant Hospice, New Castle IN.

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## **Community Meeting**

*– Jean Stoffregen, correspondent*

Sept. 16 to 18 Community Friends shared a Renewal Weekend at Quaker Knoll led by Ken and Katherine Jacobsen from Chicago Monthly Meeting. These annual retreats bring generations together and build friendships, strengthening our group and increasing our understanding of Friends of the past.

This year the adult discussion group on last two First Days of each month will focus on Friends Testimonies as does the First Day School curriculum for the year. December 19 the young Friends presented their eagerly awaited Christmas play, *The Christmas Star*, authored by Jesse Florio and performed by all the young people. Creating a play has become a tradition in the meeting and once again it was a stellar production. From the queen who guarded the Christmas star to the robbers who stole it and the several needy people who appealed for help to the frantic citizens on a brutally cold and wintry night and were given shelter and sustenance, this play's message was clear. Jesus wants us above all to help those in

need. Could a message be more timely in this year of tsunamis, earthquakes and violence?

In September Audrey Berteux Skeirik joined the meeting. Audrey is a student at the School for Creative and Performing Arts. She and her mother live near the meetinghouse. We are all delighted to welcome Audrey into our fellowship.

On Dec. 10, 2005 Lauren Prewitt and William Morriss were married after the manner of Friends at Community Meeting. William is the oldest son of Mary Ann Curtiss and Douglas Morriss and grew up in Community Meeting. After attending university in Los Angeles and law school at Georgetown in Washington, D.C. he is now settled in Cincinnati. Lauren comes from Santa Monica, CA. Members of her family were here for the ceremony and expressed their gratitude that their daughter would have the support of Community Meeting as she and William make their home in Cincinnati. One of the attenders commented to your reporter that she found the Quaker ceremony to be the most meaningful of any wedding she had ever attended. Most of us would wholeheartedly agree with that statement. The ceremony was followed by a joyous reception.

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## **Dayton Meeting**

*– David Wood, correspondent*

This has been a busy season for Dayton Friends Meeting. We now have a new home, after many years of meeting in the First United Methodist Church. We moved our books, pictures and furniture through the ice and snow in December a couple of blocks further out on Salem to our room in Mack Memorial Church of the Brethren. One of the first activities in our new home was our intergenerational Christmas program, this year including parts for most members, young and old. With the move has come larger attendance at worship, including a new family as well as more of the familiar faces.



We have had our first special meeting on the Friends Peace Testimony with our teenagers. For our second meeting, at the end of January, we are inviting teenagers from Mack Memorial to join us. The hope is that as we get into the specifics of conscientious objection, peace actions and dealing with military recruitment at later meetings we can reach out to the greater community around us. This is the first of what we expect to be many cooperative activities with the Brethren, including joint meetings of Peace and Social Concerns committees and cooperation between our first day school and their Sunday school.

Our women's group is exploring the idea of meeting with women from Englewood Friends, a meeting about our size which belongs to Indiana Yearly Meeting

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## **Eastern Hills Meeting**

— *Franchot Ballinger, correspondent*

The months following Eastern Hills' last report to the Quill have been a mix of loss and accomplishment.

The Meeting offered condolences to the Lund family following the passing of JP Lund's father in September and to Lissa Pogue on the death of her step-father in December.

Also, in September Suzanne Carnwath moved from Cincinnati to Cambridge, England where she has taken a teaching position. We were saddened at her departure but wish her well in her new home.

On a more positive note, Mike Henson's chapbook of poems *The Tao of Longing*, was published by Dos Madres Press in August. On September 25, Henrietta and Franchot Ballinger attended the first Meeting for Worship in the Meetinghouse of the new Meriam R. Hare Quaker Heritage Center. Franchot read lines from John Greenleaf Whittier's Poem "This Still Room" as part of the worship. In addition, Franchot and Henrietta have begun terms as, respectively,

presiding clerk and recording clerk of Miami Center Quarter (Wilmington Yearly Meeting).

In response to acts of ethnic hatred in 1998 and 1999, residents of Anderson Township, where Eastern Hills Meeting is located, formed "Greater Anderson Promotes Peace." A major project of this organization was completed on September 25, 2005 when a peace pole was dedicated in an Anderson Township park. GAPP's peace pole and setting are a work of art. Twelve different translations of "May Peace Prevail on Earth" are inscribed on six stone monoliths surrounding a smooth 9-ft. granite pole. A number of Eastern Hills members contributed financially to the project, as did Eastern Hills Meeting itself. Two members served on the Peace Pole committee, Diana Becket and Barbarie Hill. Barbarie participated in the dedication ceremony, as well.

On October 1, about eight or nine Friends gathered to replace part of the meetinghouse roof. Under the able guidance of Ralph Palmer, we received lessons in laying the tar paper and new shingles.

For Eastern Hills Meeting, thanksgiving extended beyond the Thanksgiving holiday when on November 28 Linda Coppock underwent surgery to remove a brain tumor which proved to be benign.

The Meeting's Christmas celebration this year was a "variety show" in which members and attenders offered musical performances and jokes and displayed of arts and crafts and publications.

Finally, for the last year, Ministry and Counsel has asked a Meeting member or attender to open each month's first Sunday by talking about his or her spiritual journey. We see this activity as a way to come to know others in "those things that are Eternal" and as a means of strengthening our faith community. Apparently, goals are being achieved, for the Meeting asked Ministry and Counsel to continue the practice.

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## Fall Creek Meeting

– Diann Herzog, correspondent

Fall Creek Meeting remains faithful. We continue to seek ways to deepen our understanding and increase service. We are looking forward to spring and to the beginning of the restoration of the meetinghouse.

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## Green Plain Meeting

– Caroline Taylor, correspondent

We were saddened by the loss of our eldest member, Roger Boone. He was a lifetime member and served as Clerk of the Meeting for many years. An October memorial service was held in our Meetinghouse.

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## Lexington Meeting

– Gail Koehler, correspondent

Always undergirded by worship, we continue to be blessed by the faithful work of many F/friends:

- our well-attended First Hour Discussions continue: topics these last months include sharing that arises from a consideration of our monthly queries; from Karen Armstrong's *The History of God*; the work of John Shelby Spong; Rufus Jones on mysticism; seasonal topics concerning Christmas-both regarding civil liberties and religious displays in public space and another regarding commercialism and Quaker Simplicity. We spent our December sandwich Sunday decorating and filling stockings for the local Manchester Center which provides services for at-risk youth in Lexington.
- at the All Kentucky Gathering, hosted this year by Berea Friends Meeting-who celebrated the purchase of their meeting house after many years of rental

occupancy-we reflected on the work of George Lakoff and the challenge to reframe heart's concerns so that our witness is effective.

- the printing and distribution of our first-ever LFM T-shirt with art by painter-Friend was coordinated by the Outreach committee.
- our regular first and third Friday potluck topics have included examinations of membership in the Religious Society of Friends, the viewing of a video concerning a farm sanctuary for rescued factory farm animals, sharing by F/friends concerning food choices, responses to revision of the Book of Discipline, our annual Simple Meal Thanksgiving, and an evening dedicated to "Celebrating the Light," a community-building appreciation of the lives of those among us. A large holiday party, generously hosted in the home of a Friend, allowed more than 50 of us to enjoy a dramatic production by young F/friends, carol singing, musical presentations and general festivity.
- our ad hoc committee working with F/friends of all ages developed a Behavioral Guidelines policy that we are now using at our meetings and potlucks.
- the Joys and Concerns section of our newsletter is a busy one-four new babies have been welcomed to our larger circle of F/friends, including three grandchildren. Numerous surgeries and health concerns have been shared, and we've rejoiced as most have been negotiated successfully. A number of LFM members have family members who are struggling with declining health.
- as full engagement with diversity among ourselves and in the world continues to challenge us we have reflected frequently on yearly meeting's program "Beyond Tolerance: Seeking Spiritual Common Ground."

- many members carry grave concerns about mountaintop removal and local water company ownership-presentations and discussions concerning these issues continue.
- we adopted a Resolution in Response to Same Sex Marriage Amendments in solidarity with clergy in Kentucky and Ohio.
- we have joyfully accepted into membership a new Friend.
- a Carlisle Friends worship group meets on Second Sundays at the home of David Blair: 611 Rose Hill Road, Carlisle, KY. 859-289-7637.
- a hard-working Nominating Committee presented a full roster of Stewards to the meeting, including new co-clerks Geoff Young and Janet Kazimir.

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## **Louisville Meeting**

— *Dona Bisset, correspondent*

Doug and Jennifer Stern welcomed into the world a son, Henry Benedict Stern, born Sunday, September 25, 2005. A Welcoming Worship Sharing was held in Henry's honor on November 23. There were readings and blessings from Catholic, Jewish and Islamic traditions, and many other blessings and gifts were offered in Henry's honor during the worship sharing. Welcome to the world, Henry. Thank you for giving us an opportunity to pause and reflect on what a gift the presence of a child truly is.

Meetings for Healing are now being held each Wednesday evening at the Meetinghouse.

The Meeting is helping a Turkish-Russian family of five settle in Louisville. They are already well on their way and honored the Meeting with a specially prepared meal as a way of thanking the Meeting for its assistance. The food was delicious and disappeared

quickly, and those in the meeting who had not yet met the family, had a chance to meet and chat.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee hosted an information-sharing session on November 27 for families and young people between the ages of 15-20 who were interested in putting together a conscientious objector file.

A lovely new floor was installed in the children's classroom following water damage. The children noticed it as soon as they entered the room. Many thanks to Harry Baldwin for the gift of his time and energy in removing the old tiling.

Hospitality Committee collected many mittens, gloves and hats during November and December, which will be given to those in need of them. The Committee also had a successful Pocket Change for UNICEF Campaign, and collected a grand total of \$237.99 during the months of November and December. The collection jars were decorated during our Harvest Fest in mid-November and folks brought back their jars of change during the December Potluck to be counted.

The children's class offered a holiday-themed puppet show on December 18 following worship. The Grumpy Shepherd made its debut to a full house and was enjoyed by all. In January the classes will resume the curriculum on Conflict Resolution.

One of the Quaker Eight groups has already met and a successful evening was spent together just before the New Year. These gatherings of Friends in each other's homes is a project of Peace and Social Concerns to promote fellowship among members of the Meeting and also to encourage discussion of Quaker values.

Lee Thomas was admitted to the hospital on Friday, December 9, as he had some bleeding in the brain. He is at home now and on the mend. Lee has recently published a book, *Ethical Business Relationships: Partnerships in Peace*. The book chronicles his Quaker-based

philosophy that has guided his personal life and successful business career. It provides guidance on translating principles like honesty, accountability and diversity into ethical behavior in the workplace.

Emily Parr had major surgery on December 13. She asks that Friends hold her in their thoughts and prayers over the next few months. She has no need for any meal preparations but would enjoy short phone calls and notes of encouragement after the surgery. Emily's address is 6516 Six Mile Lane, Apartment 2, Arbor Place Condominiums, Louisville 40218.

A 7-pound baby girl, Annabelle Rose, was born to Casey Shepherd and Joe Clarkson on Thursday, December 15, 2005. Congratulations to Annabel for finding a loving family and to Ivy for a sister who may soon share her stool and her serenity in Meeting for Worship.

Please hold in the Light Dave Klaphaak, Sr. who suffered a mild stroke over Christmas and spent a few days in the hospital. Dave seems to be recovering well, with some speech impairment and difficulty chewing as the most noticeable after-effects.

The January 7 wedding of Rebecca Kelm and James Peterson was accomplished in good order under the care of the Meeting.

Our new editor for the weekly newsletter is Marilyn Jones. She has taken over after Michael Waddington moved away. Marilyn stepped forward to take on the editing job, for which the Nominating Committee thanks Marilyn very much.

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## **Miami Meeting**

*– Lonny Burger, correspondent*

Eyes Wide Open Ohio: During Friday and Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend, Miami Monthly Meeting hosted Eyes Wide Open Ohio: Beyond Fear, Toward Hope. This is a multimedia exhibit on the impact of the War and Occupation in Iraq on Ohio. Visitors

moved through the memorial to the war's military and civilian victims. There were a set of combat boots for each of the more than 100 Ohio troops who were killed so far in the conflict, labeled with the person's name, rank, age and hometown. To represent the more than 100,000 Iraqi civilians that have been killed as a result of the war, more than 100 pairs of shoes were displayed. Eyes Wide Open Ohio is the state version of the AFSC Eyes Wide Open exhibit that has been featured in over 60 media outlets around the world. Details of the exhibit can be found at [www.afsc.net/ewoohio.html](http://www.afsc.net/ewoohio.html) or you can phone the Dayton AFSC office at 937-728-4225.

Miami Monthly Meeting's Christmas Program took place on Christmas morning. We started at 9:00 by roaming the halls of Quaker Heights Care Community singing Christmas Carols and visiting the residents. Following that was a Meeting for Worship and a Christmas Program of music, drama, and stories. This was followed by a luncheon of finger foods.

Passing of Ruth Edgington: Ruth Edgington, a birthright member of Miami Monthly Meeting, passed away on Monday, 28 November 2005. Her memorial service followed the Society of Friends Practice and was held at the Stubbs Conner Funeral Home in Waynesville.

Passing of Sara Cook: Sara Cook, long an active (birthright) member of this meeting, passed away on Monday, 12 December 2005 at Quaker Heights Care Community in Waynesville. Her influence on the meeting is considerable and her presence is much missed. Her memorial service was held on December 28 in the White Brick Meetinghouse.

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## **Oxford Meeting**

*– Camilla Flintermann, correspondent*

We were delighted to welcome Bill Wines into membership, by way of a transfer from his former meeting in Boise, Idaho.

During the holiday season we celebrated with a potluck (what else ?) at the home of Roland and Mary Duerksen, and gathered for candlelight worship on Christmas Eve at the Shore-Garrison home.

During the fall, a number of us took part in Saturday vigils against the war in the uptown park, and also assisted in presenting the AFSC's "Eyes Wide Open--Ohio " exhibit there.

We continue our practice of Wednesday evening worship, for those who can attend, thanks to the hospitality of the Episcopal church, which makes their chapel available to us. And of course we are even more "ecumenical" as we enjoy the Sunday morning hospitality of the Hillel Foundation for the 2nd year.

For the fourth year, a successful "Empty Bowls" lunch, which we and the Methodists initiated and which now includes the participation of other Oxford churches, raised more than \$3,500 for our local Family Resource Center, which serves "needy" families in our community.

We're now planning for the February Quarterly Meeting at Waynesville. As part of the program we will show a video of the life and work of Bayard Rustin, long-time peace and civil rights activist, and Quaker "fellow-traveler." We look forward to seeing many Friends there.

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## **Yellow Springs Meeting**

*— Carl Hyde, correspondent*

Betty Wagner departed this life on December 11, 2005 after a brief illness. She and Paul had joined the Meeting in the early 1950's and were staunch supporters of the Meeting. Betty served as clerk for two years. She was a gifted artist and a devoted mother to her three children. She and Paul enjoyed boating and ballroom dancing. They had been married 58

years. A memorial service was held on January 7, 2006.

Friends had a successful retreat in October. It was a useful opportunity to spend quality time with each other and to deepen our spiritual community.

Irwin Abrams attended the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo. He brought back greetings from Oslo Friends Meeting. His nominee, Senji Yamaguchi, survivor of Nagasaki, was not the recipient, but Irwin felt satisfied that in awarding the prize to El-Baradei the Nobel Committee was addressing the fearsome issue of nuclear proliferation.

Ellen Duell has led a program of Quaker vespers at the Friends Care nursing home.

Karen Tracy has been organizing activities for teens.

On Christmas Eve young Friends acted out the story of the Grinch, and a Friendly choir presented a group of carols.

We are very conscious of the limited numbers of children and young people in our Meeting. The numbers fluctuate from year to year, but are currently low. We look for more young families to come.



## NEWS FROM OUTSIDE OVYM

### Quaker Heritage Center

On Saturday, February 11, at 1:00 p.m., the Quaker Heritage Center will host Ann Hagedorn, author of *Beyond the River: The Untold Story of the Heroes of the Underground Railroad* as part of the opening reception for the exhibit "The Underground Railroad Story in Art." Ann will be sharing information on researching the Underground Railroad in your community. The artworks on exhibit are by Allen Schwartz, and are based on *Beyond the River*. The exhibit will be on display from February 2<sup>nd</sup> through mid March.

The Quaker Heritage Center Gallery is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., or by appointment. If you are interested in arranging a group visit, please contact Ruth Dobyns at (937) 382-6661 ext. 719.

### "Overview of the Bible" Weekend

Jan Wood will be leading a weekend Bible study workshop at Quaker Hill in Richmond, IN, from Friday evening, March 10, through Sunday morning, March 12. Jan will be the "tour guide" for a journey through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. This promises to be an exciting and rewarding experience both for those who are already very familiar with the Bible as well as for those for whom the Bible may seem like largely unexplored territory.

Jan Wood has had twenty years experience as a workshop leader, spiritual director, and pastoral counselor. She is a Recorded Friends Minister who has taught Biblical Studies for over a decade. She is the author of *Christians at Work, Not Business as Usual*, and is the Director of Good News Associates.

Contact Quaker Hill Conference Center at 765-962-5741 or [quakerhill@parallax.ws](mailto:quakerhill@parallax.ws) for registration materials.

### Pendle Hill Appoints Interim Director

The Pendle Hill Trustees are pleased to announce the appointment of Kenneth Jacobsen as Interim Executive Director, effective January 1, 2006. Known to many Friends through his service as Head of Olney Friends School, Ken Jacobsen has worked closely with his wife, Katharine Jacobsen, in financial management, retreat leadership and teaching in several Quaker organizations. Also an accomplished carpenter, Ken Jacobsen is looking forward to living on campus and participating fully in community life at Pendle Hill.

### FWCC Section of the Americas Launched Fundraising Campaign

The FWCC Section of the Americas campaign to raise \$2.5 million is off to a good start with pledges of over \$900,000 already received. The Campaign Steering Committee, clerked by Cathy Habschmidt (Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting) held its first meeting in September.

#### Campaign Priorities

1. Bridging boundaries among Friends in the Americas
2. Strengthening Friends' work and witness in Latin America
3. Investing in the future of FWCC by building a quasi-endowment
4. Building the annual fund

## **Proclaiming Good News: The Gifts, The Grit, The Grace**

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Concerns (FLGBTC) will gather to worship, conduct business, pray, and play at Camp Copneconic in Fenton, Michigan. The 2006 Midwinter Gathering theme, "Proclaiming Good News: The Gifts, The Grit,

The Grace," reflects a history of sharing what is revealed during times together with the wider community of Quakers and with the world.

New and returning attenders alike will, we hope, be pleased with the unhurried pace of the weekend, the depth of our worship together, and our commitment to conducting business in the best manner of Friends.

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## **Quaker Youth Pilgrimage**

### **Learn**

- about Friends, slavery and the Underground Railroad
- about Friends' witness today
- about the variety of Friends
- from each other

### **Serve**

- meals
- by helping a yearly meeting session happen

### **Build**

- a house with Habitat for Humanity
- community by traveling together for a month
- a cross-cultural community of 27 other Young Friends from many countries
- lasting international friendships

16-18 years old?

## **Quaker Youth Pilgrimage, July 14 - August 10, 2006**

Price held down to \$1,000

Friends World Committee for Consultation,  
1506 Race Street Philadelphia PA 19102 (215) 241 7250

[qyp@fwccamericas.org](mailto:qyp@fwccamericas.org)

<http://www.fwccamericas.org/whatwedo/youth.html>

[http://www.fwccamericas.org/whatwedo/images/06\\_qyp\\_pilgrim\\_packet.pdf](http://www.fwccamericas.org/whatwedo/images/06_qyp_pilgrim_packet.pdf)

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Cincinnati, OH 45230

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### RAY STEWART

Many OVYM Friends will remember Ray Stewart who attended Hopewell Meeting and Yearly Meeting sessions for some years, although he had not been involved with Friends more recently.

Ray Stewart died January 20 in St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis. He had been in the hospital a few days suffering from heart problems, liver cancer, kidney failure, plummeting blood pressure, and so on. He had periods when he was in great pain, and some when he was alert and communicative. He was awake enough at the end that he was able to bid his two daughters and son goodby. Ray was a few months short of his 90th birthday. He will be cremated and there likely will be a memorial