



The Quaker Quill

*A Publication of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends*

Volume 33, No. 1

"Walk as children of the Light" Eph. 5:8

February 2008

A Note From the Clerk--

Virginia Wood, Reporting

Featured in this issue of the Quill you will find the Epistles approved at the conclusion of the 187th session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. As you will note from the words shared by adults and youth, those sessions were busy ones filled with opportunities for fun, worship, nurture, meaningful decisions, and actions. You have already received a letter from Peace and Social Concerns Committee following up on thoughts shared about the Earth Charter. Please acquaint yourself with the charter so that you can participate in discussions that will occur at Quarterly Meeting. Three other items will return to you this year. Monthly Meetings will be asked to continue to discern how they feel

about funding Yearly Meeting activities by using a covenanting process. Finance Committee has been asked to provide more guidance. If you or your monthly meeting found the process rushed, awkward, or confusing last year, make your needs known so that Finance Committee can address your concerns. The process for revising our Book of Discipline continues. Disciple Revision Committee will be sending out shortly additional drafts to the section on Membership, including one regarding the membership of children. We have an opportunity to reach out to Friends from central, north, and South America by being the host for the annual meeting of the Friends World Com-

mittee for Consultation, Section of the Americas. That meeting will be held south of Indianapolis in April. Volunteers are needed. Then there is just the usual stuff. Workshops are already in the planning stages by the Advancement and Nurture and Religious Education Committees. Yearly Meeting Planning is working on plans for the 188th sessions. The Teen and Middle Youth Committees have their activities outlined for the year. Be watching for announcements at quarterly meetings, by e-mail, or listings on the OVYM news notes site (ovymnotices.blogspot.com). The Children's Program has a query for you that is posted elsewhere in the Quill. Please respond to the query by e-mail to me or by

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Transitions for OVYM Teens---

Cynthia Sibrel, Clerk of the Teen Committee, Reporting

The Teen Committee has gone through a year of transitions that started with the resignation of Jim Coppock as Clerk of the Teen Committee after his sons graduated from high school. I want to stay thank you to Jim for his work with the teens for many years. In December there was another change impacting the teens; James Taylor, the Teen Secretary, decided to resign to pursue some

other opportunities with his prison work. I want to extend my thanks to JT for working with the teens. I know it was much more than a job for him.



Fortunately, for OVYM, Lauren Baumann decided to leave Phila-

delphia and move to Richmond to study at Earlham School of Religion. Lauren and another candidate were interviewed for the Teen Secretary position. Lauren also attended the Fall Creek Teen Retreat so she could meet some of our teens and FAPs (Friendly Adult Presences). Lauren most recently worked for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting in

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An Epistle from OVYM's 187th Annual Session

To Friends everywhere,

Greetings to Friends around the world, from Friends meeting for the 187th annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, July 25th to 29th 2007 at Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, USA.

The theme of our Yearly Meeting has been "Growing our Faith to Transform the World," words that in a variety of ways have inspired us in the time we have spent together. We opened our Yearly Meeting sessions reminded of the words of George Fox "Do all that you can in peace and love and in the fear of God, condescending one to another, in the simplicity and innocence of truth, and in the wisdom of God, that this may be everyone's crown, that nothing may be done in strife to occasion words; for you are called to peace and holiness in which the kingdom stands and to serve one another in love."

Our worship-sharing groups focused intensively on this year's theme, and gave us the welcome opportunity to meditate and discern together our role in transforming the world at all levels from the local to the global. We considered the central role our faith plays: how can we nourish our faith to transform our impact on the world? We pray that our small daily tasks of caring for the earth and for one another may serve as seeds of God's transforming love.

We are still in the lengthy process of revising our Book of Discipline, and are grateful for the engagement and participation of the entire Yearly Meeting. It was with a sense of accomplishment that we were able to take the first concrete step in giving voice to our faith as we found unity to give final approval to the Introduction of our Book of Discipline which sets forth the ways in which we experience our Quaker faith.

We see a welcome chance to 'grow our faith' in the sense of spreading our Quaker values as we move closer to clearness on adoption of the Earth Charter, a process that is still being seasoned.

We continue to discern our way forward in the development of a spirit-led 'covenanting' process for meetings to determine their share of the Yearly Meeting's budget.

We have vigorous programs for children and youth. We appreciated their participation in the business sessions as they shared their own epistles and queries. The youth programs included opportunities for center-

ing worship and Quaker business practice. We lifted up the important role of youth in the life of our yearly meeting, and recommitted ourselves to nurturing and learning from our children and youth. Opportunities for intergenerational sharing included having adults serving as worship mentors to the middle youth and 'simply speaking' discussions between teens and adults.

We have held a number of workshops, among them alternatives to violence, internalizing the Quaker message through songs and chants, religious education for children, and one called "Be ye transformed," which used passages from scripture that contained stories of transformation, and asked Friends to share how these stories spoke to them. In the workshop on transforming our relationships with food and the land, we considered that change needs to come from deep moral and spiritual roots. We shared the joy and hope found in living closer to the land, and in creating community through sharing locally grown food.

Each year we hold a session called 'Living Witness' where an experienced Friend is given the opportunity to recount a life in Quaker faith. This year featured Bob Vetter, currently a member of the Board of Trustees of Right Sharing of World Resources, who told us of his spiritual journey which involved, among others, joining Ohio Yearly Meeting Conservative in his teens, and later spending time in prison for non-compliance with the military draft.

It is with a sense of eager anticipation that we look forward to hosting the FWCC Annual Meeting in April 2008. At this session we have taken steps toward preparing our resources to meet the numerous challenges this event will bring, as we anticipate being able to welcome Friends from the entire Americas region.

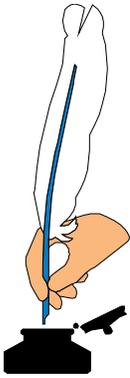
We were pleased to welcome into our sessions a small group of Friends from another Yearly Meeting who were exploring avenues toward the healing power of a different Friends' faith community.

We were inspired by the wise words of our two Plenary speakers, Margaret Fraser of FWCC and Paul Buckley of OVYM. Margaret provided a strong voice in addressing several themes, beginning with the assurance that transforming the world is indeed possible even in a time when we have largely lost confidence in the inevitability of progress. Only a radical trust in

God's hand will enable us to address the many problems of transforming the world. We are often called a 'peace church', she also reminded us, but we cannot talk peace unless we practice it totally among ourselves. She moved into helping us prepare ourselves for the hosting of the FWCC Annual Meeting next year, reminding us of the rapidly increasing dominance of the southern hemisphere in the world of Friends. We are no longer the 'mainstream' Friends, and we need to take leave of any traces of ethnocentricity. We cannot even claim to be guardians of Quakerism (for instance saying "Friends believe ...") in matters of religious practice. But giving up this dominance does not mean giving up our values.

Paul Buckley asked us to join him in a meditation on the passage from Romans 12:2 KJV "And be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Friends were reminded that, although conforming to the world may often be the route that works, we are called to a much higher standard. Whatever we do must come out of love. We are not called to be effective, we are called to be faithful. We were given some examples of how the world may be transformed by patient obedience to the will of God. Even our daily choices for simplicity may make us feel good, but we still like to be in charge. The real purpose of discernment is trusting God to transform lives. Are we willing to give up all to discern the will of God, to be tools in God's hands rather than individual agents of change? This is how the world is transformed.

We call on Friends everywhere to discern their own ways of growing their faith to transform the world.



Quaker Quill is published three times a year in February, June, and October by the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of the month prior to each publication month. Editor: Annie Glen, 7632 George Doherty Road, Centerville, Indiana 47330; (765) 855-5787 (quakerquill@gmail.com).

Children's Epistle

Eleven children between the ages of one and ten met at the 187th annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting at Earlham College in Richmond Indiana from July 25-29, 2007, to consider the theme of "Growing Our Faith to Transform the World."

We understand that growing our faith is like tending a garden. First the soil has to be cleared of rocks, sticks and weeds. A seed is planted and must have water and sunlight to have any hope of growing. There are tools we can learn to use, such as choosing what is best for us, saying "I don't like it when you do that," encourag-

ing, helping others and sharing our gifts with others. These tools help us transform the world with our family, friends and ourselves.

Finally after much waiting and working this garden we see blossoms, the fruits of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control. Taking action to make a change is possible. We expressed these fruits through writing a song to share, giving gifts and singing for the seniors at Lauramore Home and raising money for the Heiffer Project by selling crafts. To quote our song,

"Day by day,
week by week,

Transforming our world is what we need
to do.

Sharing, caring, helping each along.
Taking care of earth so she's here when we
are gone.

Day by day,
week by week."



This year the Middle Youth of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting tried to create a little community inside of a larger Quaker community. We got to know each other through activities. This included community service at a local animal shelter where we walked and washed dogs and played with cats. While we were working at the animal shelter there was a good feeling that we have a lot to give to the community. We went kayaking and during the lunch break we learned about worship sharing. Some of us really enjoyed the experience. We also felt that the kayaking trip helped us build this small community because it required

An Epistle from the Middle Youth

teamwork to finish the eight miles. Working together made the trip more enjoyable. Then we biked to Quaker Hill where we ate lunch, played soccer and worked on our skit for the talent show. We tried to connect our skit to what Alisha McBride taught us about lobbying. In our skit we wanted to get the point across that since we are older we wanted to be treated with respect. In preparing our skit we became more of a community. When we performed it we

felt like we had become closer to the larger community and earned more respect.

Some of the most valuable things that we thought we learned this year were from Shannon Isaacs about Conscientious Objectors. We found that it's harder than we expected to be completely non-violent. We don't know exactly what we would say if the Draft Board asked us such hard questions. We realized that being in the Quaker community may come as a challenge to some of us, but it's worth it.

The Teen's Epistle

Dear Friends, thirteen teens between the ages of fourteen and eighteen met at the 187th session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting in Richmond, Indiana from July 25th through 29th 2007 to explore the theme "Growing Our Faith to Transform the World". Through worship, discussion and community we have learned that it takes the whole community from the smallest to the largest to accomplish transformation.

We began Thursday morning with the idea that our annual canoe trip would be another normal event of floating lazily down the river eating bagged meals but much to our great dismay we actually learned something. We got to spend good ole quality time with our much-missed Friend the wonderful wilderness that used to inhabit the places we now live. On the river we felt led to latch together our canoes and float sloppily down the river as one. We braved rapids, large streams and a giant whale-

shaped stone, all as a group.

On Friday we immersed our hearts and minds in the workshops of the afternoon. The teens all went their separate ways and chose what interested them most. One of the workshops attended was Paul Buckley's "Be Ye Transformed" which left us with answers and questions alike. We enjoyed hearing others insights on scripture and it challenged us to explore our minds, and sit still. Other young Friends went to Richard Mitchell's "Health Care for all" and were reminded that these are pressing issues that will be knocking on our doors in a short 45 years and maybe sooner.

Although not a Yearly Meeting sponsored activity we find it important to mention our journey to the Ichthys House. The Spirit came down on us like water and much was realized about ourselves, our lives, our faith, and each other. Amidst all the books and comfy well-seasoned furniture, it felt like venturing to that small, warm, secret

corner of your heart where the passion for great books and a deep love for your fellow creatures of Earth is sealed away. After worship, much to the amusement of Clyde Johnson we formed a pile of Quaker bonding on his squishy, green couch (no you did not mis-read/hear, seven of us literally stacked up on his couch).

This year's Plenary and workshop speakers seemed to unofficially be themed with the tough question, "Is this God's will and part of the bigger plan or my will and part of my plan?" At any point during our spiritual journeys this is a question that is very important. In your teen years you feel like you are at the beginning of an actual sized version of the board game Life "choose college or career," spiritual callings are something we need to pay very close attention to at this turning point. We realized that you just have to open up to God and be willing to give up everything for His plan, to trust that He knows where your life is

See Teens on page 13

Monthly Meeting News



Bloomington Friends Meeting (Bloomington, Indiana)

We welcomed the arrival of fall with our Retreat, which we held at Bradford Woods on October 19 & 20, 2007. Friends enjoyed fellowship and activities Friday evening and were joined by more Friends the next morning for worship. After worship we divided into smaller worship sharing groups focused on multiple writings about Quaker meeting for business and decision making. That afternoon, Whitewater Quarterly Meeting was held and conducted its business. The weather was beautiful and more than a few enjoyed pleasant walks in the woods and watching the leaves fall gently to the ground.

First Day School continues to thrive with six classes! We are appreciative of the many volunteers and we hired a delightful friend to teach our Pre-K class. Every Sunday morning after meeting and before announcements, the children file in and report on their classes. It is always fun and energizing when the room starts to fill up with young people.

We continue to educate ourselves as adults. This fall, we wrapped up an Adult Religious Education on chapters from Quaker Faith and Practice: The Book of Christian Discipline of the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain. We also enjoyed the pleasure of a second hour forum with Paul Buckley speaking on Elias Hicks' understanding of Jesus.

We are growing as a meeting both literally and figuratively. The long-range planning committee has convened to begin the discussion of space and how we plan on reacting to the growing numbers on First Day. We aim to make our wonderful community as healthy and welcoming as possible as we work on developing better habits of regarding affirmation of and appreciation for those who come forward to serve our community. We are also examining our committee and decision-making processes as we strive to truly trust

the power of God by embracing disagreements while continuing to cherish peace. One decision on which we met unity with ease was the minute in which we supported universal, single-payer health care.

Friends continue to travel and visit other Friends. Rex Sprouse wrapped up his traveling ministry throughout Whitewater Quarterly Meeting this past summer. Three friends had the good fortune to attend the annual meetings of the Corporation and the AFSC's 90th Birthday Party in Philadelphia in early November. Four Bloomington Friends joined 63 Friends from fifteen monthly meetings at a threshing session at Irvington Friends Meetinghouse in Indianapolis addressing the query, "Are there reasons for progressive pastoral meetings to form an association for encouragement and mutual ministry?"

We wrapped up the year with celebrations. Our dear Friends Leah Roy and Colin Schoder-Ehri were married on December 15 and the next day we held our Holiday Party after the rise of meeting. During the party we gave Gifts for Mother Earth, as arranged by our Earthcare Witness Committee. This activity involved choosing cards with "gifts" on them (e.g., using energy saver light bulbs, taking time to enjoy nature) and putting half of the card in a globe-like earth model. A great way to wrap up the year!



Campus Friends Meeting (Wilmington, Ohio)

No report submitted



Clear Creek Meeting
Richmond, Indiana

Clear Creek Friends Meeting (Richmond, Indiana)

Clear Creek Monthly Meeting has been both caring for its own and reaching out to the wider world this past



Monthly Meeting News

quarter. Ruth Sims, an elderly member of West Richmond Friends who attended Clear Creek for several years with her son Dan, died the end of November; we experienced a wonderful memorial service on her behalf. We gained one new active member, Newell Pledger-Shin, and welcomed college students as they come and go. Our mid-week meeting for worship, monthly potlucks, book group and women's spirituality group continue to nurture many of us. Our small first day School class continues with the help of a beloved college student as well as volunteers from the Meeting. Our Peace Committee brought forward a letter to our U.S. Representative and Senators urging diplomacy instead of war with Iran; First Friends Meeting joined Clear Creek in signing this letter.

Several actions were planned in 2007 due to leadings of our members and attenders. Long-time member Susan Lee Barton was led to take a peace training and then to join a Christian Peace Team witness on a two week January 2008 delegation to the country of Colombia. Members of the Meeting signed up to pray for her and help with communications with her family and the media, etc. We hear she is safe and has had a wonderful community experience (minus mosquito bites and lost sleep) and we look forward to hearing her full report! She will be sharing her experience with other groups as well.

Attender/Friend Jane Telfair Stowe, who traveled to Israel/Palestine a year and a half ago, envisioned a benefit concert for Ramallah Friends School with Clear Creek member Susan Stark as the lead musician. This turned into a collaborative concert supported by the Newlin Center for Quaker Thought and Practice at Earlham College. Despite the concert date being in January, we were blessed with relatively warm weather, as well as a serendipitous visit by Ramallah FS Director, Joyce Ajliouny. About 200 contributors came to hear wonderful songs of freedom and peace, hear stories and see slides of the School, and buy Palestinian free trade olive oil and soap. Proceeds and donations will help keep the School going and fund scholarships for Muslim and Christian children who suffer from violence and injustice in the West Bank.



Community Friends Meeting (Cincinnati, Ohio)

No report submitted



Dayton Friends Meeting (Dayton, Ohio)

Several members and attenders of Dayton Friends Meeting attended our meeting retreat in October. The nature walk, fellowship, and food were very much enjoyed. The discussions, in which we talked about life transitions, both personal and corporate, were also very meaningful. Many thanks go to Dale Hayes for leading our discussions and to Gene and Christine Snyder for hosting the retreat.

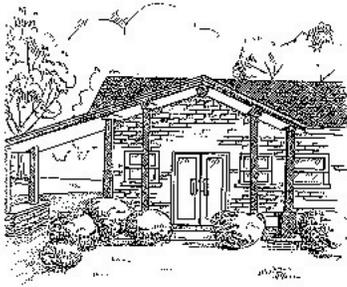
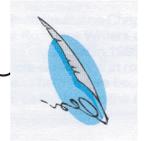
On December 23 our Christmas celebration included singing, seasonal reading and a finger food lunch at the rise of Meeting. Also, for a Christmas project, we had been collecting household items and gifts for a local family whose home burned this fall. The gifts were taken to the family after our Christmas celebration.

The topics for our recent Second Hour Discussions have included the epistles of Paul and the book of Romans.

In January we will hold a threshing session where we discuss the question, "What is the proper use of our resources with regard to our meeting space?" We will continue a discussion, which we started at our December business meeting, about the possibility of moving to a new room, in the same building (Mack Memorial Brethren Church) in which we currently meet.

For six weeks starting in January our youth will be meeting with the Mack Memorial youth for First Day School. Their study will focus on the testimony of Integrity.

Monthly Meeting News



Eastern Hills Friends Meeting (Cincinnati, Ohio)

Our faith sharing series on the First Sunday each month has drawn to a close as all members and attenders of Eastern Hills Friends have been offered the opportunity to present their experiences. Through the sharing of our experiences we have gained a greater appreciation for the diversity of our meeting. We also continue to schedule second hour discussions on the Second Sunday each month. Our December and January discussions have focused on our meeting's current status and future directions.

In September we resumed our First Day School for the children attending our meeting. Our education committee has reviewed available materials and recommended two new educational curricula series. First Day School and teaching our young friends were the topics of our Second Hour Second Sunday discussion in September.

Our fall workday focused on up-dating classrooms and repairing broken equipment in addition to the routine maintenance of our building and grounds. We particularly appreciate the efforts of Ralph and Wilson Palmer who placed additional insulation to our attic as we strive to improve our energy stewardship.

August 21st was the 89th birthday of Ruth Palmer. The meeting helped her celebrate by sharing in birthday cake following meeting for worship on August 26. On September 22, Tom and Barbarie Hill's second grandchild, Graham Hayden Hill, was born.

During the holiday season, EHFM collected school supplies for donation to Project Connect. On December 16, Eastern Hills Friends held their Christmas potluck following rise from meeting for worship. Following potluck the annual talent show and caroling were enjoyed by all. JP and Foote Lund invited friends

to their home on Christmas Eve for worship followed by caroling and cookies.



Fall Creek Meeting House
Pendleton, Indiana
1857

Fall Creek Friends Meeting (Pendleton, Indiana)

Fall Creek Meeting continues to grow in Spirit and numbers. As one dear attender put it, "I'm so excited about this meeting. I envision the meetinghouse and smile knowing that it will be a good place for people to enter. And it isn't just because our house is clean and orderly. It's also because we are a community, albeit small, we are a unit. A welcoming community that really has begun to define itself through its members/attenders. We have had laughter and tears, play and work, food and fun, discussion and silence . . . all the events that bring folks together. We have a place for people to come - literally and figuratively. We are a community!!! How exciting!"

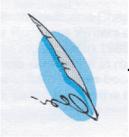
Another attender stood and spoke at WWQM about being new to this form of worship and wondering how it would feel to worship in a larger group, as was present for QM. She went on to say that even in our small meetings for worship, that the Spirit of God is known and feels just the same as in a larger group.

We are very grateful.

Work on the meetinghouse continues. We have completed our original list of restoration tasks and are developing a second list. The outside of the building was painted in October and the interior trim recently painted. The meetinghouse is warmer than I ever remember it being thanks to the new insulated windows, thresholds and insulation. Our next biggest projects will be attempting to waterproof the basement and we would very much like to restore the resting room to its former usefulness.

We offer our deeply heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed to our efforts and are pleased to invite you to an Open House on Saturday, May 3rd from noon till 5pm.





Monthly Meeting News



Hopewell Friends Meeting (Straughn, Indiana)

Hopewell Meeting continues to work on the Peace Garden with the First Day children helping to plant and water. They also assembled a picnic table that members and attenders of Meeting enjoyed while eating outside on the glorious late summer and early fall days. The Labyrinth is slowly being completed and plans are being made for the unveiling of both to the community at a later date. We have been enjoying our outside activities, the sharing of concerns and fun while learning a great deal about each other, botany and watering of plants.

I can not begin to express the knowledge we have gain about how things go together and patience required.

Our youth Meeting is growing with one or two added member. We took a vacation from the outside summer work to a rock and gem in Greenfield after first hour. Grown up Meeting members enjoyed this trip as well.

We have been working on aspects of religious education concerning Biblical stories and heroes and social issues.

Those members who have been under the care of the Meeting because of sickness are being cared for with whatever help they need to survive the crisis that sometimes are overwhelming. It is noted by this writer that this expression is gratefully appreciated and was needed.

The nominating committee has been reorganized after a member could not complete the task because of a family illness and is proceeding with its recommendations.

Several members attended part of all of OVYM and have reported on the meetings and activities and their enjoyment of the sessions. We are looking forward to setting a date for Brent Bill to speak to us havingwe

needed to reschedule. We enjoyed reading and studying his book, Mind The Light.

The new sign is completed that announces our Meeting times and that we are a Meeting of the Society of Friends so that our neighbors will know we are there and open to new attendees.

Folks are returning from vacations, summer study sessions and ready for fall. The Meeting, while dedicating itself to a Center for Peace and Justice, help and love for those members overwhelmed with life, still plans to work for environmental issues. We feel that by expanding our work into the community that others might have a healthy atmosphere in which to live, work and worship.

We have long ago decided that making the choice to be a Quaker gave us a challenge to follow. We will work toward this goal.

So we continue to hold in the Light all of those who work and die for Peace. We hold in the Light those who follow the path of violence in the Light also that their hearts may be tendered to Peace. And we hold ourselves in the Light that we may find all the pathways we can to express our love of all humankind, this planet and the universe.

May Spirit Bless, respectfully Sherita Saffer Campbell



Lafayette Friends Meeting (West Lafayette, Indiana)

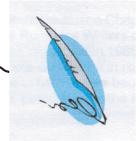
No report submitted



Lexington Friends Meeting (Lexington, Kentucky)

Our very good Friend, Burton Rogers, passed on June 18 – a large group of family and Friends and friends gathered to be blessed once again by this weighty Quaker's presence when we held a memorial service celebrating his life on the 23rd. Preparations to host gave us informal opportunities to

Monthly Meeting News



tell stories and appreciate the witness to Light we all experienced by knowing Burton.

While the summer found many of our number traveling for activities for recreational and Quakerly, our ministry and worship committee held a spiritual nurture potluck that included the sharing of a Friend's spiritual journey, and recently we were led in a special sharing time inspired by the "circles of trust" described in Parker Palmer's Hidden Wholeness. The Quaker Quoir sang for a Friend while she recuperated at a health facility, and blessed the other residents there too. We held our annual RE retreat from which emerged the themes we want to look at this year; the first is conflict resolution, which we've been exploring in FDS, in First Hour Discussion (where we focused on Quaker peace testimony and nonviolence) and will also address at the All Kentucky Gathering on the weekend of 14-16 September – it's our meeting's turn to host the event; we're at Camp Kentahten this year, near Campbellsville. First Hour Discussion is now using Rex Ambler's small book *Light to Live By*, which we heartily recommend.

The outreach committee hosted a well-attended event open to the public called *Piece/Peace Work*, a collaborative "quilt-like" presentation between poet George Ella Lyon, our own Roberta Guthrie, cellist, and all attenders.

The weekly Peace Vigil expanded to a 48 hour intensive to call attention to the need to make policy changes in Iraq.

To end on a quotidian note: we've been having building challenges as our valiant property management committee members deal with a break-in and burglary and some troublesome leaks.



*Louisville Meetinghouse
Louisville, Kentucky*

Louisville Friends Meeting (Louisville, Kentucky)

Louisville Friends are blessed to be able to befriend and embrace our three Burundi Quaker families. Many in our Meeting are actively involved with both children and adults, providing back-to-school clothing, transportation to the doctor, and even help learning to drive.

The Ngendakumana and Ntiruvakure families shared their stories of surviving the Burundi civil war and harrowing days (really, years) in a refugee camp in Tanzania. The stories of a violent environment and a will to overcome it were moving and tearful. (The Dironge family recently arrived from Connecticut, turning two Burundi families into three)

The families performed native songs of faith along with members of the Christ the King Catholic church youth choir at a special songfest held at the Meeting House in June. Marilyn Jones organized the event, with the help of Friends, who were rewarded with an ice cream cone.

Zachary and Kevin Klaphaak and Harry Baldwin constructed a new fence for our play area. It will especially benefit the great influx of African children, along with Henry Stern, Ivan Peterson, Hartsul Bratcher and Ivey and Annie. Thank you, Friends!

We seek the guidance of the Spirit as new ways open for service and community with both the African families and in other matters. One important concern is our building space, much on the minds of Friends for many years now. We are engaging experts to work with us in this endeavor.

Ellen Galbraith and Ron Cooper are co-convening a Quakerism 101 course this summer and fall. Topics so



Monthly Meeting News

Our past meetings have included the Peace Testimony and Simplicity Testimony. All those interested in this primer on our faith are welcome to join us.

Friends celebrated the 60th wedding anniversary celebration of Dave and Maie Klaphaak at their home of 40 years. The Klaphaaks are a close-knit family that has grown to include many friends and admirers. Congratulations to Dave and Maie!

Health news: Morris Mengel, former faithful member of our Meeting and now residing in Montgomery, Ill., is recovering from surgery. Doris and Andrew Best of Corydon, In., have faced a series of health problems and ask to be held in the Light. Beth Parish's husband Gerald has suffered a series of minor strokes.

Shorts: Lee B. Thomas Jr. spoke at the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance Day in Louisville on August 5. Friends bid a fond adieu to Jon and Kim Saderholm and their three boys (Ben, Ian and Levi) who moved to Berea where Jon has accepted a professorial position with Berea College. James Wheaton graduated from St. Francis High School, where his father John teaches. Steve Thomas and Mollie Eaton were married on May 27. James Deng and Achai Akol, one of our Sudanese boys and his wife, are happy to welcome a son, Anthian Deng, born April 29.

and relationships with the earth to Native Americans and modern human civilization. Friends were asked to hold the Earth and the plight of Native Americans, especially Leonard Peltier, in the Light. The following poem by E.E. Cummings, shared during worship, summarized well the climate of that worship.

I thank You God for this most amazing day;
 For the leaping greenly spirits of the trees
 And a blue dream of sky;
 And for everything which is natural
 Which is infinite
 Which is yes

In July, a sign was erected in the Miami burial ground at the dividing line between Hicksite and Orthodox sides of the burial ground. On the Hicksite side of the sign is listed the names of all those interred in the Hicksite side of the burial ground. Despite exhaustive efforts over several years including announcements in this publication, no list of names of those buried on the Orthodox side. Therefore, the Orthodox side of the sign currently is blank.

Improvements to the Miami Burial Ground continue, the most recent work was the early December removal of a number of trees between the Red Brick Meeting-house and the Burial Ground.

On Saturday, September 1st, Miami Monthly Meeting was privileged to host Byron and Wilhelmina Branson's 50th wedding anniversary celebration.



Miami Friends Meeting House
 Waynesville, Ohio
 1911

Miami Friends Meeting (Waynesville, Ohio)

Members of Miami Monthly Meeting gathered at Fort Ancient for our annual outdoor Meeting for Worship and picnic and were joined by Friends from Dayton, Oxford, and Cincinnati Community Friends Meetings. More than three dozen gathered to worship in the cool shade of the wooded parkland of this famous ancient site of Ohio mound builder Native Americans. Much of the verbalized thoughts centered on the Earth



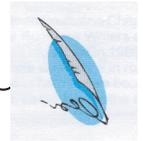
North Meadow Circle of Friends
 Indianapolis

North Meadow Circle of Friends (Indianapolis, Indiana)

No report submitted



Monthly Meeting News



Oxford Friends Meeting (Oxford, Ohio)

Though we remain a small meeting we are active locally and through OVYM. We continue to provide First Day School for our youngest Quaker, Rita. We are continuing with second hour programs on Quakerism 101 that we started in the fall. Andy Garrison volunteered as a Friendly Adult Presence at the Fall Creek Teen Retreat. Bill Cahalan from Community Friend Meeting presented a second hour discussion about buying local food as part of a spirit-led life. Several of us participated in the annual Bread Not Bombs fundraising dinner benefiting the Oxford Community Peace and Justice Center. We had our annual Advent gathering on December 9, 2007, a very cold and icy evening. We brought donations for the local food pantry. We finished the evening by singing carols.



White Rose Friends Meeting (Wabash, Indiana)

No report submitted



Yellow Springs Friends Meeting (Yellow Springs, Ohio)

The most interesting development in the history of the Yellow Springs Meeting is that we are now functioning without a clerk! Dale Blanchard had served with skill and grace for three years and continued on a month-to-month basis until October, at which time she made her resignation final. Meanwhile, a special search committee had been unsuccessful in finding a new clerk.

A special called meeting for worship with attention to business did not produce a clerk. At present the clerk's duties are parceled out among several Friends.

The search continues.

Our Friend and former clerk, Bruce Heckman, was seriously injured in a bicycling accident in early fall. Friends held him and Ann in the light, and he has made a dramatic recovery, for which we are thankful.

Following the death of Harold Putnam in June, Jean Putnam is now living in Massachusetts, close to her daughter, Nancy.

A memorial service for Jane Morgan was held October 7.

Irwin Abrams was honored by induction into the Walk of Fame in Dayton. He spoke on "Dayton, the City of Peace."

We support the continued life of Antioch College, especially since our Meeting has always been on the Antioch Campus.

FWCC News



Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's membership has held steady over the years, but that may be changing because of new worshippers in Louisville, KY. Two extended refugee families from Burundi settled in Louisville, and began attending the Friends Meeting there. Evangelical Friends from Kansas began the first Friends churches in Burundi more than 70 years ago, and there are now more than 12,000 members there. Friends have played a key role in reconciliation following the genocide. Worship in Louisville is much quieter than the Burundians are used to, and the first fifteen minutes when the children are present are characterized by a little more fidgeting than previously - but the meeting has embraced the newcomers, and a third Burundian family is on its way to Louisville to settle. Both groups appreciate what the other brings. Burundian adults have taken to the unprogrammed worship, and the children are beginning to get used to it. For the Burundians, worship has to include hymn-singing, so if you walk past the meetinghouse before or after worship, you are likely to hear the sounds of Kentucky Friends learning to sing in Kirundi and French.

More News From Outside OVYM

FWCC has a policy of not allowing use of FWCC as a venue for requesting personal contributions. This focus of Annual Meeting is sharing mutual experiences as Friends and not setting up donor/recipient relationships.



There are lots of volunteer opportunities relating to the upcoming FWCC Section of Americas Annual Meeting at Waycross Episcopal Camp, Morgantown, Indiana. We will need volunteers from March 31 to April 7. Many of these volunteer opportunities are in Cincinnati and Indianapolis helping to get people to and from the meeting. For more information, contact Susan Lee Barton at 765-935-5762 or by email: susanleeb@fwcca,erocas/

The 4th annual Quaker History and Genealogy Conference will be on April 24-27, 2008.

The topic is: "A Woman's Place... Southwest Ohio Quaker Women and Reform Movements, 1800-1860." The conference is sponsored by Quaker Heritage Center, Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio & The Mary L. Cook Public Library, Waynesville, Ohio, a member of the Freedom Station Affiliate Program of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati.

Speakers so far confirmed include the following:

- 1) Dr. Shirley J. Yee, assistant professor of women's studies at the University of Washington, author of "Black Women Abolitionists: A Study in Activism" (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1992);
- 2) Dr. Tom Hamm, Archivist at Earlham College Library and author of many books and articles on Quaker history;
- 3) Dr. Steven Vincent, author of "Southern Seed, Northern Soil: African-American Farm Communities in the Midwest, 1765-1900";
- 4) Dr. Mary Garman, Professor of Quaker Studies at Earlham College, author of "Hidden in Plain Sight";
- 5) Dr Julie Roy Jeffrey, professor of history at Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland, author of "The Great Silent Army of Abolition: Ordinary Women in the Antislavery Movement."

Any questions? Contact: Ruth Dobyns
Curator, Quaker Heritage Center
937-382-6661 x719
Ruth_dobyns@wilmington.edu

No Longer Strangers: A Conference for Friends of Color in the Midwest and their Families

Date: Apr 25, 2008 - Apr 27, 2008

Location: Colombiere Conference Center, Clarkston MI (Detroit area)

The Friends General Conference Committee for Ministry on Racism is offering an opportunity for Friends of Color and their families in the Midwest to come together to build an incredible community through mutual support and sharing, worship, exploring our faith, and sharing what brought us to Friends.

Middle Youth (MY) on the Move

Up to 12 middle youth (ages 11 to 14) were at OVYM for at least part of the time to share, bike, center, joke, listen, strategize, lobby, worship, help at an animal shelter, play, canoe, eat, and more. As one young Friend said, they got a lot of exercise. We think it was both a spiritually enriching and fun time. Gratitude to the adult Friends who shared and spent time with MY and to any I forget to mention: Alicia McGee of FCNL, Margaret Frasier of FWCC, Paul Buckley, Marjorie Isaacs, Shannon McKelvey Isaacs, David Wood, numerous worship mentors, MY committee, and, of course, our much loved MY staff, Jason Dean and Ann Holzer. A special thanks to Jen Filbrun and Cati Reynolds for stepping in to be Friendly Adult Presences at a late evening pizza party. We appreciate all the interest in, support of, and engagement with our Middle Youth.

Next stop for MY is at Miami Quarterly Meeting in Cincinnati. There will be a Saturday overnight (Oct. 20th). We plan to gather two more times before our next Yearly Meeting. The Middle Youth group is truly a delight. Join us!

Deborah Jordan for MY Committee (Jason Dean, Dinah Duvall, Gail Koehler, Nancy Long, Yoshiya Togami, and unofficial member, Peter Hardy)



There still is time to get an application to attend

Friends Music Camp

Camp is held from June to August 5, 2008.

Go to www.friendsmusiccamp.org

Religious Educators Institute 2008: Out of the Living Silence

Date: Aug 14, 2008 - Aug 17, 2008

Location: Bradford Woods, near Indianapolis,
Indiana

What is REI 08???

It is the Religious Educators Institute, a conference of Friends General Conference. It is immersion workshops, interest groups, multigenerational activities, worship, and engaging conversations. It is laughter, new friends, insight, and inspiration. It is four days of learning and sharing about how we nurture one another, children and adults, in the meeting community and in the home. It is a conference that can benefit everyone in your monthly meeting.

How much does it cost???

Approximately \$250 to \$300 for adults. Final fees will be available in March of 2008.

Who should come???

Parents, adults and young adults of meetings across the USA and Canada will find this conference exciting and rewarding. For First Day School teachers, helpers, coordinators, and adult program leaders this conference is a must! A program (3 years of age thru 6th grade) will be offered for those participants who opt to bring their children.

The REI only comes around every four years, so don't miss out on this event! Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for more news about this important conference.



Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

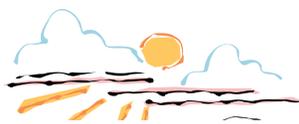


Annual Session

is meeting

Seventh Month 30th day through
Eighth Month 3rd day
at Earlham College in
Richmond, IN

Delve Deeply, Walk Lightly, Dwell in Harmony



See the next *Quaker Quill* for more information.

Teens continued from page 3

going, and although you may not see it the Light is everywhere waiting not to just be heard but to be understood, not just to be seen, but perceived.

A few of us, we won't name any names, have realized that our singing voices are not up to par. In fact, while singing alone we actually sound like dying animals. This yearly meeting bellowing together during the hymn singing sessions to our great surprise we made a joyful noise while trying to achieve a semi-harmonious state. Really, isn't that what being a Friend and changing the world for the better is like? Alone we may not be able to accomplish much, but together through fellowship and improving our faith in each other we can transform the world!

Transitions continued from page 1

several capacities, including initiating the young adult Friends program, coordinating PYM's 2007 annual sessions and assisting with the high school program. Lauren has also worked at Olney Friends School and spent a few summers working with Baltimore Yearly Meeting's camping program. We are very happy to have her onboard. Lauren's contact information is baumala@yahoo.com and 215-432-9854. She is working with Lexington Friends to plan a Middle Youth/Teen overnight as part of the upcoming Miami Quarterly Meeting in Lexington, February 16 - 17.

The Clerk's Note continued from page 1

writing on a banner that will be circulated at Quarterly Meetings during the year.

The middle youth stated in the closing sentence of their epistle that "We realize that being in the Quaker community may come as a challenge to some of us, but it's worth it." The teens within their epistle stated that "Through worship, discussion, and community we have learned that it takes the whole community from the smallest to the biggest to accomplish transformation." The children sang us a song

"Day by day, Week by week,

Transforming our world is what we need to do.

Sharing, caring, helping each along,

Taking care of the earth so she's here when we are gone.

Day by day, Week by week."

One often leaves an event such as the Yearly Meeting feeling like so much has been accomplished or that one understands better the needs of others, only to later realize that work still needs to be done. Our young people have given us good advice on how to move forward. Whatever your age accept the challenge, be a part of the worship and discussion at your monthly meeting, quarterly meeting, and special events, and share, care, and help each other along. It has to happen day by day over many weeks. A warning, however, is given. You may be changed and you might change the world. That is the invitation God extends to us all by Jesus' invitation to join his table. Be a part of His community, know love, share love, and give it away to the world as you grow together.

The Advancement & Nurture Committee of OVYM announces:

FAP Workshop (Friendly Adult Presence Workshop)

Have you asked the following:

Do I feel comfortable in the presence of our younger Friends? Am I effective in helping them grow? Is there more that I can do to show them that they are a valued part of our meetings and, indeed, a major part of the future of Quakerism?

***OVYM Advancement and Nurture
are joining with the Teen committee to
present a spring workshop,
Friendly Adult Presences,
on 4/12/08 at 10 am
at Earlham School of Religion.***

***Featured will be Cynthia Sibrel,
Clerk of the Teen Committee and our new
Teen Secretary, Lauren Baumann.***

***Please let us know you plan to
attend by contacting Victoria Burke at
onespirited@yahoo.com***

Come and see how you can be a

***FAP
to the youth of OVYM.***

Third Month 2008

9th to 15th - North Carolina Friends Disaster Service will be repairing or rebuilding homes in Nappanee, IN. (see below for more details)

Fourth Month 2008

5th - OVYM Executive Meeting at Earlham College, Richmond, IN.

3rd - 6th - FWCC Annual Meeting hosted by OVYM will be held at Waycross Episcopal Camp in Morgantown, Indiana

12th - Discipline Revision Com. 11am to 4pm at Community Mting, Contact Betsy Neale

12th - (new date) Friendly Adult Presence Workshop for those working with youth - at Earlham School of Religion sponsored by A&N

24th - 27th - 4th Quaker Genealogy & History Conference: A Woman's Place... SW Ohio Quaker Women and Reform Movements, 1800-1860, Contact Karen Campbell at: campbeka@oplin.org

Fifth Month 2008

17th -18th - Teen Retreat at Miami Quarterly Meeting in Yellow Springs

23rd - 26th - Young Adult Friends conference at Earlham College to focus on leadings and callings. For more information, go to www.Quakeryouth.org

Sixth Month 2008

7th - OVYM Executive Meeting at North Meadow Circle of Friends, Indianapolis

14th to 22nd - Teen Service Trip

25th - Discipline Revision Com. 11am to 4pm at Community Mting, Contact Betsy Neale

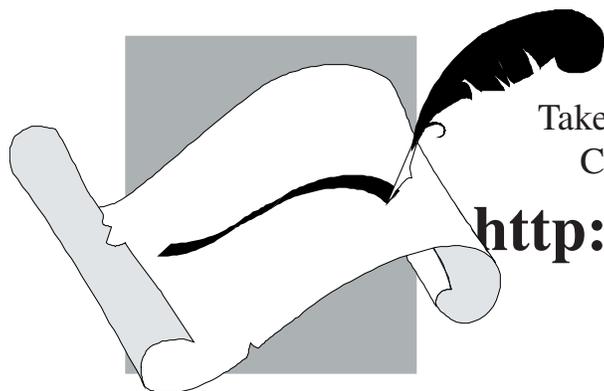
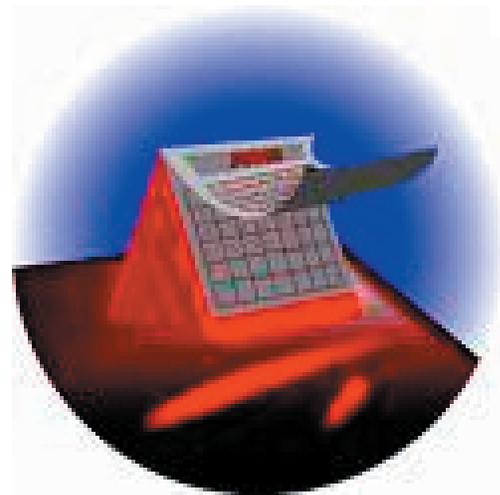
Seventh Month 2008

6th to 8th Month 5th - Friends Music Camp, go to www.friendsmusiccamp.org/

And save the dates:

7/30 to 8/3 (New date) OVYM at Earlham College, Richmond, IN.

8/14 to 8/17: Religious Educators Institute of FGC meeting at Bradford Woods, IN. For more information, go to: www.fgcquaker.org/2008-religious-educators-institute-out-living-silence

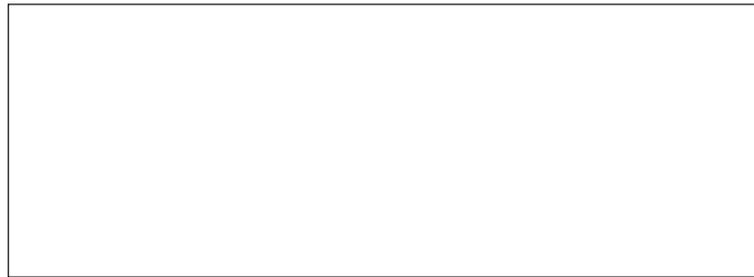


Taken from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's Blogsite
Continually check this site for more updates:

<http://ovymnotices.blogspot.com>

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
7632 George Doherty Rd
Centerville, IN 47330

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“Yet there is a Time in which this Principle of God doth stand as a faithful Witness against all Unrighteousness and Ungodliness in the Hearts of Men and Women, and leads, draws, moves and inclines their Minds to Righteousness, whereby an inward, thorough and real Redemption may be wrought in the Hearts of all Men, of what Kindred, Nation or People soever, notwithstanding any outward Benefit or Priviledge they may providentially be deprived of, yet is the Lord so gracious as to dispense such a Measure of his Grace, Power and Spirit unto all the Children of Men; yea, though they never had the Scriptures amongst them, nor never heard Christ outwardly named to them. However, we do say, That the Scriptures, in which we have a Declaration of what Christ hath done and suffered for us, those do much facilitate Salvation through Faith in Christ Jesus; and therefore they ought thankfully to be received by us, and borne witness to, whenever the Lord shall require us, so as that we may not be ashamed to own, nor afraid to confess him to be our Saviour.”

Elizabeth Bathurst, “Truth Vindicated,” (London: 1691, 1773), pp. 147, 148.