



## The Quaker Quill

# Epistles from Living Up to Our Light

## 2014 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions

### Earlham College, July 30 - August 3

**Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path. Ps 119:105**

The Friends of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting met at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana from 7/30-8/3/2014. We gathered under the theme "Living up to Our Light". The question that we addressed in our time together was: how is our light embodied in action? As Friends met, the answers that gradually emerged began to move us toward the truth that light is entrusted to all of us, not just to us as individuals.

In plenary sessions, workshops, small groups, interest groups, and other activities all of us were given the difficult question: how can our light make a difference in a broken world? As our sacred time together progressed, we experienced not despair but a powerful sense of hope that we can make a difference. In living up to our light together, we are empowered to change the world.

The light given each of us is like a screen made up of many pixels that alone do not look like anything, but taken together form a beautiful picture. From our individual gifts we have a role to play, however small, that is our part of the whole. We were given encouragement, tools, and opportunities to put our gifts and testimonies into practice.

We were reminded that we are not alone in this enterprise. Others join with us to bring growth in each one of us, much as plants grow toward the light. An awareness of the problems of our world could not be avoided but seeds were planted that can only bear fruit if we care for ourselves, our families, our meetings, and the communities where we live, breathe, and have our being.

There is much work to do in the healing of our world and we received both encouragement and tools to set about this work.

*Continued on p. 2*

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

By Rex Sprouse

As I write this, I am still in the afterglow of yesterday's meeting of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's Religious Nurture and Education Committee at Fall Creek Friends Meetinghouse. Spending five hours in worship, discernment, discussion, and casual conversation with six people one deeply loves, respects, and admires is naturally a delightful privilege.

Please be aware that the Friends serving on RNE hold a loving concern for all of us and seek to deepen our spiritual life by responding faithfully to the leadings and prompting of the Holy Spirit as they perceive them. I am persuaded that this is indeed the intent of all of our Yearly Meeting committees. Please be sure to check out the Quaker Quill, e-mails, the OVYM web site, and reports from your representative to the OVYM Executive Committee to keep abreast of events, opportunities, and resources, offered or facilitated by the Yearly Meeting's committees.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends sometimes say that our structure is not "top-down," but rather "bottom-up." This formulation does not really resonate with me. I prefer to think of our structure as a very messy Venn diagram with a few concentric and many overlapping circles, all illuminated by the Divine Light. The Yearly Meeting is not "out there" nor "over there" nor "up there." \*We\* are the Yearly Meeting—all of us together—joined together in the radical faith that God can and will speak directly to us and through us. Let us be prepared for deep listening and faithful action in the weeks and months that lie before us.



*Continued from p. 1*

### **Epistle from the Teens**

On the last week of the seventh month in the year of two thousand and fourteen, nine teens joined the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting sessions to foster community and spiritual growth. Most of our objectives were met to the highest degree. Through various activities, such as the intergenerational canoe trip, creation of crafts to fundraise for our service trip to Costa Rica, and late night interactions and conversations helped develop deep bonds within our community and to the larger body.

Community building was not the end goal of our interactions. We sought and continue to seek a deeper spiritual grounding within our lives. We returned this session to the practice of worship sharing and personal spiritual time every night to enhance and develop our knowledge and bond with our own spirituality. Along with this daily routine, this year the teen program was centered closely upon understanding our inner light and using the light to practice our Quaker testimonies. This included an in depth panel discussion with three gathering members all from different backgrounds in their Quaker practice. Diann Herzog, Wilhelmina Branson and Erik Cleven joined us in this conversation and gave different perspectives on spirituality and practice.

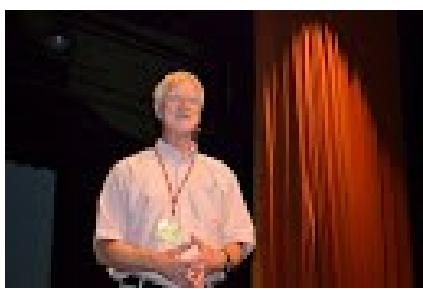
As always we would like to thank the members of the larger community who reached out to us to share their wisdom and who made space to listen to us. We appreciate the realization that intergenerational communities require effort from all age groups and look forward to future interactions. Special thanks goes to Susan Stark, George Lakey, Roland Kreager, and all others who shared their stories and beliefs with us this year.

We would like to take a moment to ask all of you to hold in the light several members of our community who could not attend OVYM sessions this year because of health or family issues.

Hold in the light all those who live in parts of the world affected by war and violence, those who have yet to find the light through peace, and those who need our help and compassion. Also, take a moment to hold in the light All of our loved ones, whether or not they were able to attend the OVYM. Thank you.



Susan  
Stark



George  
Lakey

### **Epistle from the Middle Youth**

Greetings from the Middle Youth who attended the 194<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting held at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana the 30<sup>th</sup> day of Seventh Month, 2014.

Nine Middle Youth Friends from Ohio and Indiana were present. It was the largest group we have had for several years.

We did many activities that connected to the theme of "Living Up to Our Light." On Thursday we went to the Levi Coffin House and learned about how his family helped slaves on the Underground Railroad. On Friday we went rafting on the Whitewater River. The red raft won the first leg and the blue raft the second but both groups had fun, counted turtles, and went swimming with the fish.

Saturday we went to Huddleston Historic Farm. We learned about how the Huddleston family helped travelers going west on the National Road and volunteered our time weeding the garden and moving tables to help maintain the farm for other visitors. Later that day we talked with George Lakey about his activism to stop mountaintop removal and how we can help.

Mountaintop removal inspired the idea for our skit for the talent show, which took up most of the Saturday.

We had a great week seeing our friends and making new ones while learning what it means to live in our light. Special thanks to Erin Polley from AFSC and Susan Stark who both spent time with us this week.

We look forward to coming to yearly Meeting again next year, and not just for the ice cream.

### **Epistle from the Children**

Greetings to Young Friends Everywhere,

The Children's Program of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting met July 29 – August 2, 2014, on the campus of Earlham College. The theme of Living Up To Our Light guided our program.

We discussed how God is like Light. God shines the Light on people. When people are sad they can feel God and the spirit and be lifted to know God is holding them in the Light.

We shared many concerns. We went to the animal shelter to give the homeless cats some catnip. We raised money to help kids with cancer and to stop pollution. We are also concerned about chickens being eaten and trees being cut down.

We enjoyed rhyming with our new friend, Susan Stark. We shared and would like to send our message about the importance of reaching out to make new friends and find our common ground with people we don't know.



## Calling all Friends

### Writing and the Nonviolent Life

Interested in writing, creativity, and work for justice? Check out the Ministry of Writing Colloquium at the Earlham School of Religion, in Richmond, Indiana. Held on Friday, Oct. 31, and Saturday, Nov. 2, the event has talks and workshops for aspiring writers of faith. Keynote speaker John Dear is an activist priest and Nobel Peace Prize nominee John Dear. More: <http://esr.earlham.edu/news-events/events/writing2014>

### Opening Comments from Presiding Clerk, Eugenia Mills, of the Quaker Heights Care Community Board of Trustees

### Ground Breaking Ceremony for the new Short Term Care Rehab Wing Eighth Month 27, 2014

Quaker Heights has long supported the care of our elders and chronically ill in this community. The boarding home built in 1905 gave security for elders who had been living alone in the community. In reaction to changing needs in the community, and led by a Waynesville Quaker, Raymond Braddock, in 1972 the 58 bed nursing home was opened. Need continued and in 1978 the nursing home was expanded to 98 beds. Change again directed us seek closer connection to this community, and the board of trustees which had been 100% Quaker, became a board of both Quakers and residents of the Waynesville area. Changes in health care needs again moved us to open an Assisted Living complex for seniors in 2003, and again recent changes in health care delivery is the reason we are making more changes and adding a Rehab unit.

As you all are very aware, when one needs hospital care, this care is given professionally and quickly, and within a very few days the patient is released. Many elderly patients have not recuperated to the point they can care for themselves at home. Thus we find more and more seniors need short term post-acute care to assist their rehabilitation so that they can function at home. Thus the reason for this new wing where private rooms and a large rehabilitation program will assist seniors with medical conditions such as cardiac, stroke, and those recovering from a hip fracture or joint replacements to rehabilitate and go home. The new wing also means that young folks such as school aged persons with sports injuries will not miss a lot of school to make a trip away for rehab. They can get all of this here -- in Waynesville.

What has not changed is the care given at Quaker Heights.

### Review of *My Conversation with Sophia: Reflections on Wisdom's Contemplative Path* by William Shetter

*'From everlasting I was firmly set, from the beginning, before earth came into being.' (Proverbs 8:23)*

Drawing from a variety of traditions, this beautiful book is an organic conversation with wisdom, also known as Sophia. The dialogue grows out of several years of the author meditating on this subject and a lifetime of interest in the topic. Chapter, by chapter, this dialogue explores themes familiar to Quakers such as simplicity, discernment, questioning, and grace, as well as those perhaps less familiar like attunement and cocreating, taking readers along on a journey into the insights of a lifetime. This book might best be digested slowly in daily reflection or regularly in a study group as the reader listens deeply to what is called forth. (by Deborah Jordan).

<http://bookstore.iuniverse.com/Products/SKU-000945247/My-Conversation-with-Sophia.aspx>

Someone once described the care this way "There is a closeness, a bond between our staff and our residents that is hard to explain, difficult to put your finger on, but impossible to ignore." The board and staff remain committed to our mission—Quaker Heights is a place where love is made visible by service. Let us begin by breaking ground for this new rehab wing.



QUAKER HEIGHTS CARE COMMUNITY  
SHORT TERM CARE REHABILITATION UNIT



## **16<sup>th</sup> White Privilege Conference will be in OVYM's neighborhood! Louisville, KY March 11-14, 2015**

### **Save The Date and sign up now with Friends General Conference for updates**

The White Privilege Conference (WPC) is a national gathering of 2,000+ students, educators, health and social workers, activists, faith groups, labor, and community people of all ages, colors and descriptions from across the country. We will come together in a safe, collaborative environment to examine challenging, intersecting issues of privilege-- in race, gender, sexuality, class, disability, etc. — and the different ways in which we all experience and are affected by them.

The conference has literally scores of different workshops, plenary speakers, unstructured caucuses, and arts and media on all aspects of “unearned advantage” and the lack of it. The focus is on recognizing it and then responding to it in our own lives and working to dismantle it in the institutions of our society.

There has been increasing Quaker involvement, including students from Scattergood and Guilford among last year’s 80 Friends. FGC is a co-sponsor of the WPC. At FGC’s website, you can find more information, testimonials, and details about registering (for Quakers only) through FGC for large discounts:

<http://www.fgcquaker.org/events/2015-white-privilege-conference-wpc16>

Please sign up there immediately if you have any interest and want to know more. They will send more details earlier than the WPC website, and alert you to the beginning of Quaker discount registration in January. They are also connected with Louisville Meeting, which will try to provide hospitality with local Friends.

For more general information and a look at the last WPC schedule, workshops, institutes and speakers, go to: [white-privilegeconference.com](http://white-privilegeconference.com); Facebook at [got privilege?](#); or Twitter at [got\\_privilege?](#)

**Quaker Speak** is a weekly video series on YouTube. They release new 5-minute videos every Thursday. Several of the videos feature members of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting! Subscribe! <http://quakerspeak.com/subscribe>

Some titles include:

- How Quakers Can Transform the World
- Thomas Kelly: Room for the Infinite

QuakerSpeak is hosted by *Friends Journal*.

## **The Quaker Heritage Center Presents “All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914”**

### **7:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday; November 11, 13, and 15**

The events that eventually brought about the Christmas Eve truce of 1914 create one of those stories that almost defy believability. While Pope Benedict XV had suggested a temporary hiatus of the war for the celebration of Christmas, the warring countries refused any official cease-fire. But on Christmas Eve, many German and British troops sang Christmas carols to each other across the lines, and on Christmas Day, soldiers from each side emerged from the trenches to exchange presents of cigarettes and plum puddings, sing carols and songs, and play soccer. That the truce did indeed happen, and that we can experience that story by way of the recollections and words of those who were there, make for an incredibly compelling story of the better parts of human nature winning out in an unbelievably horrible situation.

“The young men who found themselves in the trenches that Christmas were experiencing a type of warfare that was incomprehensible to all of them,” Cantabile Director Steven Haines said. “That so many of them dealt with the horrors through the written word is equally astonishing. Yet, write they did; leaving us with words that are full of pathos, humor, confession, and revelation. Collectively they left us with a ‘script’ that no single author could have written, let alone imagined.” That “script” takes the form of “All Is Calm,” a choral performance by the Cantabile Men’s Ensemble, which will be presented at the Quaker Heritage Center on November 11, 13, and 15.

The performance offers the words left behind combined with music to tell this story without interference from an author’s intrusion. The poetry, letters, journal entries and random musings tell a profound and moving story without the need for any further embellishment. Inhumanity gave way to sense and civility for short time during the early months of one of the most horrific events in world history.

The program is being offered in conjunction with “The Pity of War: Words and Images of World War I,” a student-produced exhibit on display at the Quaker Heritage Center of Wilmington College through December 12, 2014. The Center is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the last Saturday of each month, 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Contact Ruth M. Brindle, Curator, or visit [www.wilmington.edu/qhc](http://www.wilmington.edu/qhc) for more information on the exhibit and a full calendar of events.

## **WHAT DOES THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DO?**

"This committee shall transact business for the Yearly Meeting between its annual sessions in all cases where the welfare of our Society makes this desirable, and shall carry out instructions given it by the Yearly Meeting.

"In general its duties should include printing and distributing Friendly literature, furnishing forms to Monthly Meetings for use in keeping records of membership, transfers, births, marriages and deaths, maintaining a current list of members with their addresses, endeavoring to extend the knowledge of our principles, rendering advice and assistance to Meetings in the matter of property and trusts, upon their request, and to individuals who feel the need of support in maintaining our testimonies. Executive Committee shall oversee responsibility for maintenance and updating of a Yearly Meeting Handbook which accurately reflects the practices and procedures of the Yearly Meeting. This Committee shall keep in close and sympathetic touch with other committees appointed by the Yearly Meeting and help to coordinate their work. It may act for the Yearly Meeting in all cases when that body is not in session, but it shall not make changes in the Book of discipline or issue any statement of faith. Executive Committee serves as the naming committee for nominations to Nominating Committee." (Book of Discipline)

## **OTHER REGIONAL FRIENDS**

Indiana USFW Fall Gathering

Saturday, October 18, 10 AM

Winchester Friends Church

What's Up With Jamaica? Come to learn! We will have a panel discussion about the work in Jamaica over the years, where it stands with FUM presently and the state of Jamaica Yearly Meeting. Take a quiz...check out photos and displays...and report back to your meeting! This is not just for the ladies, there will be plenty of information for everyone! Lunch will be served. There is no cost to attend. A free will offering will be taken for lunch. Registration begins at 9:30 AM with snacks and coffee, convening at 10 AM.

## **FGC Meets Annual Fund Goal!**

Thanks to more than 1,500 donors, FGC has made and slightly exceeded its \$682,000 Annual Fund goal. Barry Crossno, General Secretary, says, "We deeply appreciate the large number of Friends, meetings, foundations who make financial contributions. We are also deeply grateful to the hundreds of volunteers who support our work and the thousands of people who use our programs and services!"

## **EXPLORING QUAKER DIVERSITY EVENT AT COMMUNITY FRIENDS MEETING**

On Saturday August 16, three meetings—Community, Cincinnati, and Eastern Hills Meetings--sponsored an exploration of the spiritual diversity found among Friends. The purpose of the event was to come to a better understanding of the varieties of beliefs within the Religious Society of Friends in the United States, not only between the our major branches, but also the multiplicity of individual experiences within each branch.

Four Friends spoke about what it means to them to be a Quaker. The presenters are members of Friends United Meeting, Evangelical, Conservative, and Friends General Conference meetings, and each has experience with other kinds of Friends. None could be described as "typical." Perhaps in this way, they are typical of our society as a whole.

The day began at 9AM, gathering with bagels, coffee, and other light food. Then, each presenter spoke for about half an hour, followed by a short question and answer time. After lunch, they all interacted with the other presenters. A simple lunch was provided which attendees enjoyed in small groups to allow them to get to know the presenters and each other better and discuss queries associated with the theme of the day's gathering.



# News from Monthly Meetings

## News excerpts from Bloomington MM Newsletter

The meeting is forming an Ad Hoc Capital Campaign Committee. The mission of this committee is to put together a plan to raise funds for the Meetinghouse renovation, then shepherd the process to help the Meeting to implement the plan. For several months, four members of the meeting have gathered to read the book *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We Are in Without Going Crazy*. They read chapters aloud and members worked on creative projects while listening. The newsletter featured the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice, approved in April 2012 at the Sixth World Conference of Friends held at Kabarak University in Kenya. The text concludes: "We dedicate ourselves to let the living waters flow through us -- where we live, regionally, and in wider world fellowship. We dedicate ourselves to building the peace that passeth all understanding, to the repair of the world, opening our lives to the Light to guide us in each small step."

*Newsletter editor: Willowbei Eversole. Excerpted by Quill Editor*

## Community

Community Friends are in motion. Fourteen of us attended FGC Gathering in California, PA. A group made a day trip to the Levi Coffin house outside Richmond, IN. At least thirty of us attended Yearly Meeting sessions later in Seventh Month in Richmond. Fifty Friends from eight yearly meetings gathered at our Meeting 8-16-14 to participate in "Exploring Quaker Diversity," organized by Community Friends and co-sponsored by Community, Cincinnati, and Eastern Hills Friends Meetings. This day-long program featured speakers from the four largest branches in the Religious Society of Friends in North America. And next weekend, three of our Friends will be attending the People's Climate March in NYC.

There were also times of reflection and celebration. We reflected on the life of Agnes Moon and her cheerful service to all at her Memorial 7-12-14. She was one of the founders of our Meeting and is dearly missed. We celebrated our new members, Chuck Moore and Susan Gerke, and honored three Friends turning eighty this year: Wilhelmina Branson, Frank Huss, and Tim Leonard. Using Religious Nurture and Education's spring retreat model (except we called it a renewal), twenty of us took time to reflect and worship together at Quaker Knoll for a beautiful weekend in September. We are also looking forward to our Quaker Fest 10-5-14 with food, entertainment, and a celebration of the fact that we came to unity and have divested our funds from fossil fuel corporations to be reinvested in fossil fuel free funds around this time.

With the Meeting's support, a group of us are spiritually accompanying Eileen Bagus as she is at home under hospice care. Eileen has been a beloved member of our Meeting for many years and was the initiator of our prison outreach, Transforming Jail Ministries. She continues to remind us of the gift of each day and to "let love be the first motion." (Ed. note: Eileen died Oct. 3, 2014..)

*Deborah Jordan*

### Community Friends Meeting Moves to Divest

Community Friends has undergone an extensive discernment process in considering what actions it should take in building a more sustainable world and dealing with climate change. Quaker testimonies have always challenged us to do what we can to live our values of simplicity, stewardship, working towards a peaceful world and removing the occasions of war and suffering and to witness publicly to these actions. Moving forward on this is a complex challenge that requires moral courage and a long term commitment to meet our moral obligations. Divestment of our funds from fossil fuel corporations is a small step that says to the corporations and the world that reducing the release of greenhouse gases from human activity is one necessary component in responding to global climate change due to rising surface and ocean temperatures.

Divestment is only a first small step. Community Friends must build upon this step to begin dealing with the questions of over-consumption and over-population. We need to intensify our work towards being an example of how to live lives that are gentle on the earth and sustaining. It is important that we start taking concrete steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, and over-use of water resources. We need to work on building collaborative relationships with others to amplify our actions and beliefs. In doing this we need to continue to be true to all our cherished values at Community Friends.

This is a major challenge that will take a long-term commitment on the part of the Meeting.

The Minute adopted 7-13-14:

Community Friends is committing itself to divest our funds from fossil fuel energy companies' stocks as soon as reasonably possible. This divestment effort must also keep our investment practices in line with all of our values.

Community Friends needs to use this first step of divestment from fossil fuel stock to begin addressing the challenges of climate change, overconsumption, and overpopulation. The Meeting will work on developing programs and proposals for helping us live with a smaller ecological footprint, both as a Meeting and as individuals. We will also work toward developing relationships with others outside our Meeting who share our concerns.



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## **Eastern Hills**

While leaves are still mostly green in Cincinnati, we know summer has “passed” at EHF, marked by the growing fall “line-up” of activities on our Meeting calendar. Fall “kicked off” with a group discussion of faith and belief with a focus on the writings of William James that was held during a recent Second Hour. And I believe that exhausts all EHFM football metaphors for now.

Our hearts and prayers are with the family of Linda Coppock whose mother and grandmother, Laurel Anne Sherer of Richmond, Indiana, recently passed away. She is also survived by her husband, Dr. Kenneth Sherer, of Friends Fellowship Community.

In addition to her living legacy of six children, fifteen grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren, Laurel also contributed many acts of service, first as an RN, and later through volunteer roles in Richmond. These efforts spanned mentoring children as a Sunday School teacher at First Friends Meeting, Study Buddy at Crestdale Elementary School and Brownie leader, as well as other volunteer activities with Stephens Ministry Program, Y's Men's-Women's Club, Richmond Medical Auxiliary and Yokefellows.

We are thankful for the loving people we have had in our lives and hold them very dear.

Susan Reutman

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## **Englewood**

Englewood Friends welcomed the Collopy family into membership. David and Rachel and their son Zach as members and their daughter Sophia as a junior member. Rachel and Zach were members of Ann Arbor Friends Meeting.

Russ and Kay Wheeler traveled to England recently to attend the Britan Friends YMG 2014 in Bath, England. Over 2,000 Quakers were in attendance. The organizing committee did a tremendous job and rich worship and experiences were available to all. Friends in Britan are very much like Friends in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting making the experience all the better.

Englewood will be observing World Quaker Day on October 5th.

*Russ Wheeler*

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## **Fall Creek**

We have been considering how our meeting can be more welcoming and visible. Two major efforts towards this have been improving our signage and developing a meeting website. In this and other projects, some Friends are being drawn to increased involvement and new roles within our meeting.

Our large, old, and beautiful meetinghouse continues to be both a gift and a challenge, as we struggle to maintain it.

*Josh Medlin*

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## **Fort Wayne**

Fort Wayne Friends have been busy and scattered over the summer. Lots of traveling and being with family and friends. Several attended FGC and OVYM.

We are thrilled to have a baby among us. Adric Johnson, son of Calum and Leah, has been singularly responsible for many smiles on Sunday morning. (See photo.)

We are gearing up for some projects this fall including making toiletry kits for men leaving drug rehab programs, collecting diapers for a local agency helping new mothers, cooking and serving some meals at the family shelter, and helping provide Christmas gifts for local families.

We are looking forward to Joint Quarterly Meeting and, as always, we welcome Friends to visit and worship with us.

*Terre Holada*

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## Hopewell

Hopewell Friends had representatives at 2014 Yearly Meeting. They have been sharing the wealth of information gleaned from the workshops. Other friends also attended Susan Stark's concert and spoken message as a Plenary speaker. Since Susan and John were married under the care of our meeting, we felt a particular closeness to Susan.

Our second hour discussions have centered on the Margaret Wheatley and Deborah Frieze book *Walk Out Walk On*. As we've discussed leadership, it was shared to not be the sage on the stage, but rather be the guide on the side. \We listen, even to the whispers. ...We listen to the voices of everyone: the faceless, the nameless, the invisible, the indigenous people of Chiapas,... the homeless in Columbus (and Richmond), and everywhere, the voices of women, elders, children.

Earlham hosted Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, author of *Americanah*. A Hopewell Friend attended her convocation. Race relation discussions in the US may stem from this read. This fall Gretchen Rubin's self-help book *The Happiness Project* may help Friends get in touch with their own HAPPINESS.

*Susan Scott*

## Lexington

After years of planning and 16 months renovating, Lexington Friends held our first meeting for worship in our newly renovated building on Sunday, August 17, 2014. As many of you know, Lexington Friends have spent many years discerning, planning, fundraising, and finally overseeing this total renovation of our meetinghouse. The renovation incorporates two important principles – full accessibility and environmental sustainability in both design and execution. We followed LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) practices in the initial partial demolition and the reconstruction. We installed an elevator, a geothermal heating and cooling system, and full insulation in walls and roof.



For the project we assembled a design/build team consisting of an architect; Prajna Construction, a firm of builders who have architecture and design training; and two master craftsmen who have worked on our meetinghouses in the past. These artisans listened to us and came to understand the Quaker sensibility and what we need in our meetinghouse.

Our team has created a building that is simple and expertly crafted. One Friend noted that early meetinghouses in New England and Philadelphia were built on the same principles. The interior of the meetinghouse features lots of wood, much of it recycled from the building. Windows on the exterior walls, skylights, and glass panels in the interior walls allow lots of natural light to flow through the building. The lower level, which hosts our First Day School and will host a daycare center during the week, no longer feels like a basement. There are windows on three sides, and the north side has windows and glass doors looking out onto a sunken courtyard.

On Sunday, August 17, the worship room fairly bulged with Friends and visitors – 77 in all! Lexington Friends were joined by Friends from out of town – Ann Olson from eastern Kentucky, Carol Simmons and Ralph Simmons from Yellow Springs, OH, Jennifer Elam of Swarthmore, PA, and the Horvaths from New Jersey. Several of the professionals who contributed to the renovation also attended – Larry Forester, our banker, and his family; Tim Klarer, master carpenter; Garry and Mary Murphy of Prajna Design, our contractor; and Van Meter Pettit, our architect.

We were moved that our banker, architect, and some of our builders wanted to share this special time with us. At rise of worship Van said that this project is the one he's most proud of. When Larry introduced himself as our banker, the whole group broke into peels of laughter – we're not used to bankers in our midst. From the outset Larry has believed in what we were trying to achieve with this renovation. He and his bank agreed to finance the project when other banks turned us down. In recent months Garry and Mary Murphy have become regular attenders at worship.

Many of us found it difficult if not impossible to center down. We felt such excitement and delight to be in the beautiful space that has been created for our worship. Worship was rich with messages about the meaning of our return to our renovated meeting home. After worship, we shared lunch in our social hall, and the teens told us about their OVYM service trip to Philadelphia in June.

We are grateful to have such a lovely space for worship and other activities. We believe it will foster our individual and collective spiritual growth and enable us to be of greater service to the community. We view the renovation as an investment in Quakerism in central Kentucky for generations to come.

We invite you to come visit us in our revitalized space. We would be happy to provide overnight hospitality. We would also be happy to share our experiences with LEED and the benefits of that approach and to discuss fundraising with any Friends considering renovating or purchasing a meetinghouse.

*Betsy Neale*



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## Louisville

Kevin Klaphaak is now the presiding clerk of our Meeting.

One of the first decisions made by Meeting under his clerkship is a change of Meeting time. Our Meeting for worship will begin with a settling time at 10:45a.m. during which time a query, a very short story, or other prompt will be offered for reflection. At 11a.m. waiting worship will follow to close at noon. Children will remain in Meeting for worship until 11:15a.m. when they may go to First Day School.

It is our hope that young Friends, new attenders, those attending first hour programs or Meeting for Business will find the settling time a good transition to deep listening. We also hope that the later time will help address some chronic lateness of arrival. First hour programs will continue to start at 9:15a.m. and Meeting for Business at 9a.m. the second first day of the month.

This new later time will start the first First day in the tenth month, 10/5/2014. We will evaluate this effort in six months.

*Beth Parrish*

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## Miami

**WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER.** On August 10, 2014, Friends joyfully welcomed Michael Bogan into membership of Miami Monthly Meeting. Michael has been attending 1<sup>st</sup> Day School and Meeting for Worship faithfully for many months and met with the Clearness Committee on July 13<sup>th</sup> during the annual Fort Ancient Worship and Picnic.

**QUAKER HEIGHTS GROUNDBREAKING.** On August 27<sup>th</sup>, members of Miami Monthly Meeting participated in the groundbreaking ceremony and luncheon for the new wing and barn at Quaker Heights Care Community.

*Lonny Burger*

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## Oxford

Recent events at Oxford Friends Meeting include:

A fall potluck, in which we were joined by members of West Elkton Friends Meeting. Our guest was Donald Miller, author of *From Just War to Just Peace*, who shared his experience in forming an international initiative toward a just peace.

Assembling and shipping school bags and health kits in coordination with Church World Service.

First Day School units on the role of art and music in social action, and the flourishing of the children's garden at our meeting place.

Sharing a celebratory meal with West Elkton Friends Meeting on the occasion of the 98th birthday of their Friend Robert Stubbs.

We're looking forward to discussing social and economic inequality in the light of John Woolman's *A Plea for the Poor*.

*Andrew Garrison*

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## News Excerpts from Yellow Springs MM Newsletter

Adult Meeting for Learning has been discussing: *Life at Koinonia, A Christian Farm Community* and *Remembering Joel Hayden*. At the annual retreat on October 26 the meeting will explore Creation Stories from around the world through skits, storytelling and song in the morning. In the afternoon adults will engage in exercises, discussion and sharing to explore the next steps in our spiritual paths. Alice Robrish reported that a group of friends has developed a concern for prison work after reading as a group *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness*, by Michelle Alexander. To date, the group has met, but has not developed a program or firm plan.

*Correspondent: Cheryl Keen. Excerpts by Quill Editor*

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**By the time this edition of the Quill is published, we will have met for Joint Quarterly Meeting at Happy Hollow camp Tenth Month 11-12. Enjoy these pictures from LAST YEAR's gathering!**



# Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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There is a principle which is pure, placed in the human mind, which in different places and ages hath had different names. It is, however, pure and proceeds from God. It is deep and inward, confined to no forms of religion nor excluded from any, where the heart stands in perfect sincerity. In whomsoever this takes root and grows, of what nation soever, they become brethren.

-John Woolman, "Considerations on Keeping Negroes," 1746

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## Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Officers

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