

199th Session: *Navigating the Depths of our Sacred Connections*
June 19-22, 2019 at Earlham College, Richmond, IN

Second Month 2019



Save the dates Wednesday, **June 19**, through **Sunday, June 22**, for the 2019 annual sessions! We'll be back at **Earlham College** with a full slate of all the things that make annual meeting special. Details are being finalized now — look for updates and registration forms on the OVYM website, www.quaker.org/ovym/.



The Quaker Quill

OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Dear Friends:

In the last issue of the Quill, I used Dwight Wilson's plenary address at annual sessions to reflect on Beloved Community or, in Wilson's terms, becoming truly a Society of Friends rather than a society of acquaintances. A loving, nurturing community is good for our spiritual lives and it will appeal to visitors, too. Becoming a truly welcoming meeting is part of building Beloved Community.

The physical environment, the quality of worship, and the clarity of materials, on websites and in print, that introduces Friends practices and Quakerism to newcomers are all part of providing a welcoming environment. Regular review of our buildings and grounds, websites, and handouts with thought to both those who are in our meeting and those who we wish to attract is thus an important part of maintaining a vital meeting. Additionally, we need to pay attention to how we greet visitors and integrate new attendees into the life of the meeting.

This summer I visited a meeting near Philadelphia and was warmly greeted by someone stationed at the door. Varied refreshments awaited me after the rise of meeting. But between the meeting room and the coffee urn, I only received the briefest "hellos." I had finished the coffee in my china cup and was considering leaving before anyone from the meeting came in and started to talk to me. That conversation was a little prickly because someone inserted his assumption rather than showing curiosity about me. This particular meeting likely sees itself as welcoming, but my experience suggests they could pay closer attention to every step in the process, especially that critical moment after the rise of meeting when a friendly word and curiosity about the visitor can make a significant difference in how welcomed they feel.

**Martha
Viehmnn**



FGC offers a number of resources to help individuals and meetings explore their welcoming practices. There are queries, suggestions for how to turn assumptions into open-ended questions, practical tips for websites, and more. Sections focus on children and diversity because being prepared to welcome all people is essential to being loving. Look for "Becoming a Welcoming Friend" under the Outreach section of the Deepen tab. < <https://www.fgcquaker.org/deepen/outreach/becoming-welcoming-friend> >

Beloved Community is the continual work of loving each other. It requires a broad commitment from the meeting, which in turn assures that no one neglects a visitor because they assumed that doing so was someone else's job. Beloved Community requires intention or commitment to both your own and your meeting's spiritual well-being. Paying less attention to refreshments and more attention to friendship and spiritual nourishment will make visitors and new attendees feel like they matter. If we also offer tasty snacks or bountiful potlucks, that's a bonus, but it's not why people return for worship. Taking time to reflect on why our monthly, quarterly, and yearly meeting matters to us and asking others about what matters to them is a good start to building the kind of community that nurtures seekers.

My Olney Story: Discernment about Service

By Lisa Cayard

I was recently asked to consider becoming a member of the Olney Friends School Board of Trustees. I was invited to attend a Board meeting in August to meet the newly hired Head of School, Christian Acemah and hear about his vision for the school. Christian is a graduate of Olney and former Executive Director of the Uganda National Academy of Science. He brings extensive experience in organizational leadership, fundraising, and rebuilding a financially struggling organization. He also brings a dedication to service grounded in spirituality, which he says he developed at Olney at a formative time in his life. It was extremely encouraging to hear Christian's vision for strengthening relationships and faculty development, focusing on an integrated curriculum that emphasizes stewardship, responsibility, and developing what he calls "learner-dreamers." He is also developing a strategic plan for rebuilding financial stability of the school.

Friends have probably heard that Olney is experiencing some very serious financial issues. In order to move from crisis mode to a long-term outlook, support from the wider Quaker community will be critical. Friends may remember that in 2013, the school made the important decision, with support of alumni and other stakeholders, not to sell the fracking rights to the school property. This decision was based on a strong spiritually-based commitment to stewardship of the land. Olney operates an organic farm that is integrated into the curriculum and is a source for much of the school's food, and the school has been deeply involved in the preservation and sustainability of the Captina Creek watershed that has one of its sources on school property. However, this decision meant forgoing financial gain that would have significantly helped the school's bottom line. We all backed this decision, saying we would commit to making up the difference. Friends, now is the time to step up and fulfill this commitment.

I already have a full plate between working full time as a Head Start director, being active in my monthly meeting, and the important role of spending time with my grandchildren. I wasn't initially sure if I could take on the additional commitment of serving as a Board member at Olney. However, during meeting for worship, I realized that I do feel clearly led to serve. Olney was the place where my own Quaker values, and my life goals and dreams, were shaped, where I learned to live in community, where I learned to write college-level papers, where I was valued and accepted for who I really am. I made life-long friends there, including my husband! Olney gives young people the experience of living in community with a diverse international student body, of living closely with the land, of learning to practice Quaker values and daily waiting worship. Olney shapes young people into the kind of adults that our country, and our world, needs most in these trying times. It's my turn to give back to the school that gave so much to me, as a way to do God's work in the world.

OVYM Middle Youth and Teens Program



**Miami Quarterly Meeting: ALL Youth
February 17th
Wilmington College Campus**

**Middle Youth Retreat
March 16th-17th
Lexington Meeting**

**Contact Kaia:
Ovymyouthsecretary@gmail.com**

**Find Us On Facebook: Ovym Middle
Youth And Teens**

Help Paulette promote Quaker Wisdom and LessonSongs for Peacemaking!

In recent years, Paulette Meier's CD of chants based on Quaker quotations has been of interest to non-Quakers, as Paulette has been introducing the chants to gatherings of contemplative Christians, who express delight and amazement in learning about the Quaker faith through the songs. Both this and her children's CD continue to have appeal, according to download sales as well as reports from individual purchasers from around the country. In addition to her website (www.paulettemeier.com) she has two Facebook pages dedicated to her music. You can help spread the word by going to Facebook and searching for LessonSongs Music and Timeless Quaker Wisdom in Plainsong, and clicking the "like" icon. Then invite your FB Friends to like the page by sharing the link with them!

Also, Paulette would benefit greatly if she had someone to help out with all the tasks of promoting her music — from creating a marketing plan to designing ads for Quaker journals or Facebook; from improving web design to entering emails into a data base. Compensation may be possible, if needed. If you can offer any support or know of someone to recommend, please let Paulette know at 513-681-8851 or paulette@lessonsongs.com.

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) News and Resources

Not only did *Love Knows No Borders: A moral call for migrant justice* generate more than 2,600 stories in newspapers, online, and on TV and radio, but this week *The Nation* named it Most Valuable Protest of 2018! <https://tinyurl.com/NationMVP>

Bystander intervention: One of our most popular resources, check out these tips for how to stop public instances of racist, anti-Muslim, homophobic, or other forms of harassment. <https://www.afsc.org/bystanderintervention>

Changing systems, changing ourselves: A series of webinars for congregations and other groups that want to do Spirit-led social justice work while following the leadership of people most impacted by racism and oppression is now available as a self-study course. <https://tinyurl.com/AFSCchanging>

How to talk about Trump's "zero tolerance" policy: Use our messaging tips to avoid reinforcing harmful ideas about immigrants and make a case for policies that treat everybody humanely. <https://tinyurl.com/AFSCimmigration>
Source: AFSC weekend reading email 12-22-18

AFSC Midwest Digest

The Refugee Working Group of Indiana joined other groups December 15 in Indianapolis in response to the American Friends Service Committee call for a national week of action on the theme: Love Knows No Borders: a moral call for migrant justice.

In the linked article, Migwe Kimemia, who directs AFSC's work in Dayton, talks about the program's leadership training and civic engagement work with young people from Africa. Migwe shares the story of Yahayh Khamis, who describes his own journey toward becoming president of the Sudanese Community of Dayton. Yahayh was honored by Welcome Dayton for his work in support of others. <https://www.afsc.org/story/dayton-program-mentors-new-leaders>

Sources: emails from Jon Krieg and
<https://tinyurl.com/AFSCIndy>

Quaker Heritage Center celebrates Conscientious Objectors of WWI On exhibition through May 14, 2019

The Quaker Heritage Center at Wilmington College is excited to display the "Quaker Conscientious Objectors of Wilmington College at the Great War's End: Reconstructing Themselves and Their World." This exhibit reveals the deep commitment to non-violence of five young Quaker students at Wilmington College during World War I (1914-1918). Amidst tremendous social and political pressure to register as soldiers through the 1916 Selective Service Act, these five young men left their families, their studies, their athletics, and their fraternities to serve non-violently by rebuilding a war-torn Europe. In so doing, they rebuilt their image of themselves, their Quaker identities, and their firm belief in the need to abolish war.

Source: email from Quaker Heritage Center

Friends Committee on National Legislation

FCNL is committed to providing training, resources, and programs for young adults to be leaders of movements for peace and justice. See information about opportunities such as Advocacy Corps and Summer Internships at: <https://www.fcnl.org/about/young-adults>

Adapted from FCNL website

Indiana Yearly Meeting Friends

...I once heard John Maxwell tell of a small struggling church that resisted all his suggestions to help them grow. When he asked why, they honestly replied, "We're afraid we might fail." In turn he asked, "What are you doing now, succeeding?" That's a good question for all our churches...

Has your church ever considered trying something that might fail? What is your congregation doing now that doesn't depend upon the current resources on hand? A biblical principle indicates that those afraid to fail rarely succeed.

Source: Doug Shoemaker, *IYM Communicator*, 9/12/18

Friends General Conference

Institutional Assessment on Racism. Based on this report and recommendations, FGC has committed to becoming an anti-racist organization. <https://tinyurl.com/FGCracismreport-minute> Source: email from Barry Crossno.

White Privilege conference. The 2019 White Privilege Conference (WPC20) will be held on **March 20th-23rd, 2019** in **Cedar Rapids, Iowa**. Registration opens January 21 and Friends can get a discount by registering through FGC. <https://tinyurl.com/FGCWPC>

FGC will hold an eRetreat on building Beloved Community, starting March 17, 2019 and another Understanding and Healing White Supremacy, starting September 22, 2019. More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/e-retreats2019>

Friends of Color: There are upcoming Virtual Meeting for Worship for Friends of Color calls: Sunday, February 3 at 2 p.m. EST; and Sunday, March 3 at 2 p.m. EST. Vanessa Julye at FGC can provide more information. FGC has some money available for those who might want to attend People of Color retreats from the FGC Bayard Rustin Fund: <https://tinyurl.com/BRustinfund>

FGC Gathering Plenary Speakers. ...the **2019 FGC Gathering** [takes] place June 30th to July 6th in Grinnell, Iowa. Our plenary speakers will address the theme: *Peace in Our Hearts, Justice in the World*. We're excited to welcome Earthcare activist **Beverly Ward**, singer/songwriter **John McCutcheon**, criminal justice reform advocate **Tony Fish**, as well as **Diane Randall** and **Hannah Graf Evans** of Friends Committee on National Legislation. <https://tinyurl.com/2019Plenaries> FGC will be reducing the costs for children and teens to attend the Gathering, with no program fees for those under 18 and no meal charges for those ages 5 and under.

Sources: *Vital Friends December* email; email from Ruth Reber, *Martha Viehmann*.

Proposed Sections in the OVYM Book of Faith & Practice

The OVYM Faith & Practice Committee has written two more pieces for the new book: **Meeting for Worship** and **Civic Responsibilities**. These new sections are largely based on corresponding sections in the 1978 OVYM *Book of Discipline*, so they have been sent to the monthly meetings for their review. Responses and comments should be emailed to the committee clerk, Rex Sprouse, (rsprouse@indiana.edu) by April 3, 2019.

Meeting for Worship

Waiting Worship

The basis of meeting for worship is silent and direct communion with God. It provides an opportunity to step together into the holy stream of reality which is the unchangeable and eternal living Christ, making it a time of expectant waiting for the leading of the Divine Spirit.

Gathering in an outward silence is not enough. Each individual must consciously and earnestly seek in humble reverence for a renewed sense of the inward power of the Spirit. From the depths of that stillness comes the consciousness of the presence of God. In this experience individuals will not only find direction for their lives and strength for their needs but will also feel an urge to share with others the openings that have come to them. As the worshippers seek to be led to deeper understanding and pray to become more obedient to the Christ within, their shared communion with the Divine will release to all in the meeting the riches of the Spirit.

True worship, whether vocal or silent, is offering ourselves—body, mind, and soul—to do God's will. During the silent waiting, the flow of the Divine Spirit from heart to heart is often felt. Worshippers should gather in a spirit of silent prayer with a willingness to give, as well as to receive, so that the full possibilities of the meeting hour can be reached and its influence extended throughout the community from week to week.

Vocal Ministry

The Society of Friends believes that vocal ministry in the meeting for worship should arise out of a personal call to service. Such a call may be divinely inspired revelation of truth or the sense of a need in the meeting. Our conviction is that the Spirit of God is in all and that vocal utterance comes when this Spirit works within us. As we listen for God's counsel we become willing messengers; as we receive the insurging power of divine love, we are consecrated to the service of God. Therefore we do not set anyone apart to supply the spoken word in our meetings. The varying needs of a meeting can best be supplied by different personalities, and a meeting is enriched by the sharing of any living experience of God. The responsibility rests upon every member to be ready and willing to take part in the vocal service under a due sense of divine prompting.

The call to speak is a normal experience. It may come to any earnest seeker for divine help and is recognized by a persistent inner urge to share religious experience or aspiration. Those who are timid or unaccustomed to speak should have faith that God will strengthen them to speak their messages. Experienced speakers should be watchful not to speak at undue length. It is helpful to have a period of silence between vocal expressions.

Children are a spiritual part of the meeting and there should be consideration of ministry suited to their understanding and needs.

Preparation for Worship and Ministry

Frequent periods of private retirement, meditation, reading the Bible or other inspirational texts, prayer, and appreciation of beauty and nature are recommended as preparation for the meeting hour. To awaken and sustain the spirit of worship, both teaching and prophetic vocal ministry are valuable. Spiritual sensitivity must always be the first requirement for this ministry. Constant openness to be guided by the Inward Light and a commitment to live with integrity are preparation for ministry, as are thoughtful meditation on the importance of this opportunity and a sincere dedication to the purposes of God.

Civic Responsibilities

Citizenship

We desire that Friends be instilled with a spiritually grounded conception of citizenship and service to their nation and to humanity. Citizens should encourage their country to cooperate for the betterment of the world. Working to improve the civic, economic, social and moral condition of one's own country is a truer expression of patriotism than exalting one's own nation at the expense of others or supporting and justifying its actions irrespective of right or justice.

Obedience to Law & Civil Disobedience

Our first allegiance is to the will of God and every Friend should act to influence the making and changing of secular laws so that they may more nearly accord with Divine law. It is the duty of all citizens to uphold and obey all legal enactments, unless they violate the dictates of God. If conditions arise in which civil laws appear to be at variance with Divine law, Friends should take prayerful counsel to arrive at a decision in accordance with God's will. They should also sustain and uphold with spiritual encouragement those who are impelled by allegiance to Divine law to take a difficult stand to deliberately disobey civil laws. Special care should be given to make clear that the action is not taken in disrespect of the law nor with intent to evade its consequences, but to live in accordance with the dictates of a higher law. Those who act on the principle of obedience to God must be prepared to suffer for the sake of their convictions.

Holding Public Office

Some Friends may be called to serve in public office. Their participation in the responsibilities of government may help to find wise solutions for the many problems facing city, state and national governments. If called to serve, Friends should consider the public good and serve with diligence and integrity. Public office should not be used for the gratification of personal ambition or for pecuniary gain.

Voluntary Public Service

While the number of those who are able to serve in public office is comparatively small, there are many opportunities for voluntary public service in various organizations for civic betterment. Friends are urged to be faithful to their responsibilities in taking part in such service.

Treatment of Civic Offenders

Enlightened treatment of civic offenders by constructive methods is a reform challenging those who endeavor to follow Quaker principles. While condemning unrighteous acts, we should seek to have offenders treated in a manner conducive to strengthening their moral character, maintaining their self-respect, and reclaiming them as fully engaged members of society.

For many offenders, incarceration means further training in crime, rather than rehabilitation and preparation for re-entry into society. In addition, for their families, it means social disgrace and economic insecurity. It should be considered only when the individual is a real danger to society. Friends should be counted among those who actively seek and support alternatives to incarceration.

Friends are opposed to capital punishment as contrary to the Divine law of love. The death penalty is brutalizing and degrading both to the person executed and to the public mind. It leaves no room for the reformation of character nor for revision of the sentence in the event of a miscarriage of justice.

Updated Section in the OVYM Book of Faith & Practice

In addition to the two sections sent to OVYM monthly meetings, the Faith & Practice Committee has reviewed and lightly edited the section on **Individual Spiritual Disciplines** from the 1978 book. Since the changes made in this section are minimal, our procedure is to print the updated material in the *Quill* and incorporate it into the new edition of the *Book of Faith & Practice* without further review.

Please note that the current version of the OVYM *Book of Faith & Practice* is on our website.

Individual Spiritual Disciplines

Prayer

Prayer is the aspiration of the soul. It is our communion with God and is essential to religious life. Prayer may be experienced throughout the day by noticing that of God in one another and in the natural world. The result of prayer becomes apparent in the more deeply centered lives of those who are constant in its exercise. We should cultivate individually the habit of turning to God at all times and of seeking divine guidance in all things. Vocal prayer, when prompted by a deep concern and a sense of human need, is a vital part of worship and often helps those assembled to come into the consciousness of God's presence.

Scriptures and Other Spiritual Writings

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.¹

We earnestly recommend the reverent, habitual and intelligent reading of the Bible and other inspirational writings for spiritual enrichment. We would ground our children solidly in the Judeo-Christian faith while yet remembering the words of John Woolman.

God has spoken to all generations. Prophets and teachers to whom the message has come with more convincing power have recorded these revelations of Truth. The hopes and fears, aspirations and trust of devout people whose quest was to find God and obey God's teaching are recorded in the Bible and other spiritual writings.

The progressive development which it records leads us from the primitive conceptions of an early religion to the culminating gospel of forgiveness, love and fellowship as taught and lived by Jesus.

Many of the various literary forms of the Bible are characterized by dignity, sublimity and beauty. Its spirit transcends the medium of expression. Through the ages people have turned to the Bible for consolation, for strength, and for hope. Our prayers are often uttered in its language and our ideals of social justice are found in its pages.

¹Woolman, John, *Considerations on Keeping Negroes*, part 2 and/or Moulton, Phillips, *Journal of John Woolman*, 1971, p. 236.

Woodbrooke Study Centre, located in Birmingham, UK, was founded in 1903 by George Cadbury and John Wilhelm Rowntree. Our experienced tutors offer a range of online learning opportunities, accessible anywhere in the world, which give the chance to deepen your connection to the spirit, discover more about the Quaker tradition, explore contemporary issues and learn about Quaker roles. www.woodbrooke.org.uk
Source: email from Kira Thompson

News from Monthly Meetings

Bloomington

This fall's events reminded us of Quaker witness worldwide. In September, we joined with the Unitarian congregation to welcome Kate Gould of FCNL, who gave a lecture on work to resolve the tragic situation in Yemen. Also a Young Friend, Leo Quirk, reported on an FGC workshop on the involvement of Quakers in establishing and maintaining Native American boarding schools. He gave us much to think about. On October 7 we celebrated World Quaker Day in Meeting for Worship and, in a second hour discussion, shared how involvement with other meetings had enriched our experience of being a Quaker.

Locally, we continued outreach working with a local immigration lawyer and service organizations to try and help immigrants caught in the uncertainties and inhumanities of the present national and state situation. Other work such as help with the Community Kitchen, and support of Bloomington's homeless population continues.

We enthusiastically welcomed Kristin Brethova to membership. Overall the Spirit remains strong.

There is much to report about our rebuilding. By fall we finalized our lending documents with the bank. In November, we demolished the old house and quickly began construction of the new building. As you can see, the addition fits nicely



with our existing Meeting Room. An end of year fundraising made us more confident. We are grateful for all who have helped make this possible: the dreamers, the organizers, the technical experts, the skeptics, and the donors. All have helped make this a reality. We gather strength in accomplishments to date.

Submitted by Elaine Emmi and Phyllis Martin

Community

Thanks to all who helped make Community Friends' Anniversary Celebration on Sept. 30th a success. The day was beautiful on our front lawn under a tent top; old and new Friends joined together to share memories and reflections and music. With more than 75 people in attendance, we did run low on food, but there was plenty of cake! We are counting our blessings as we go forth into our 51st year. (Left photo)

Fall brings the commencement of our annual "inreach" groups (reaching into our community). This year's offerings include the God Seekers, Complicated Conversations, Dance, and Primitive Quakerism Revived book discussion. Paul Buckley, who authored Primitive Quakerism Revived, has been traveling in the ministry with that concern as well.

On November 10th, David Fankhauser presented about his participation in the Freedom Rides during the summer of 1961. The program was sponsored by the three local Quaker Meetings. David is the son of our former caretaker, Polly Brokaw. We also were sad to say farewell to Shannon Isaacs and excited for her as she moved to Philadelphia to work as the Director of Advancement at Pendle Hill. (Right photo)

Finally, Wilhelmina Branson received a call one recent Saturday evening; it turned out to be a former student of her father, Raymond Braddock. Her father taught at Lebanon Correctional Institute after he retired from his job teaching high school. When the caller got out of prison, he passed a test to get a job and ended up doing well. He said her father was the best teacher he ever had; and he would like to give back by donating to the Braddock Prison Ministry Fund. The circle of giving continues.

Submitted by Deborah Jordan



The Quaker Quill



Dayton

In September, some members participated in the Shakespeare in the Park play, "Much Ado about Nothing" in the South Park neighborhood, and were well received.

Two of our members suffered the loss of their spouses: Sue Brezine lost her husband, Don, and Dean Parmelee lost his wife Lorraine. Memorial meetings were held at the Meetinghouse.

Grief Healing with worship sharing was begun on a regular basis.

In October, we lost Tom Applegate who was one of the few elders of the meeting. Because so many wanted to attend his service, and limited meeting space, it was held at Grace United Methodist Church. The service was heartfelt, with many personal testimonials about Tom's mentoring, coaching basketball, and spiritual leadership.

Community Peace Talks began with the theme 'Who is My Neighbor?' Speakers discussed an intentional community of people moving out of poverty. Al McGrew arranged for Migwe Kimemia to speak about the refugee's experience. A later talk was planned to support Nancy Glock-Greulich and her work at the Dayton Peace Museum, which has been a good support for her programming. Two members went to the LEAD meeting regarding Issue 1. Five members attended the vigil at Temple Beth Israel. Wilmington College is creating a documentary on how faith groups in Dayton address poverty issues.

More work was done on our meetinghouse with Al McGrew working on landscaping, with Phyllis Tonne and Phil Henry working on the hall and floor inside.

In December, Phyllis Tonne had a children's music recital with students performing on piano, finishing with the singing of carols.

Submitted by Scott Hadley

Eastern Hills

Eastern Hills Friends Meeting has been enriched by several recent second hours led by various members and attenders. We have reflected on the "Spirituality of Place", experienced the harmony of "Sacred Rounds and Chants", explored the course "A Course in Miracles" (Schucman, Thetford, Wapnick), and discussed how to maintain a civil and productive discourse while "Coping with Biblical Idolatry"

The holidays are a time for feasting. In November, members of the Eastern Hills participated in Turkish and American Thanksgiving Feast organized by Greater Anderson Promotes Peace (GAPP) with the Turkish American Society of Ohio. GAPP is a coalition of concerned citizens committed to the ongoing work of peacebuilding in our community. For Christmas, Eastern Hills Friends gathered again to share their gifts in the form of food, crafts, music, story and jest

On Jan 5, we gathered at Eastern Hills in a meeting of worship to celebrate the life of Mike Sears, who passed away November 30. Friends and family shared their memories and stories of Mike's life. Mike's reserved humor, intellect, and sense of adventure were admired and cherished.

Submitted by Eric Heineke



Miami

Memorial Worship. We are saddened to announce the passing of former member, Terri Furnas. Her memorial meeting was held January 5th at 10:00 am at the White Brick meetinghouse with a lunch to follow in the Red Brick.

Concerns about Violence. Miami Friends have had deep discussions about their concerns about violence and responses to violence in the world, especially in light of recent events in Pittsburgh. Friends made a donation to the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh to support the survivors and their families.

Paul Buckley's Sharing during First Day School. Friends welcomed Paul Buckley to our First Day School Adult Discussions in November of 2018 as part of his traveling ministry among Friends, sharing his message on the need for Quaker Revival with readings from his translation of William Penn's *Primitive Christianity Revived* and his book, *Primitive Quakerism Revived*.

Sharing with Others. As part of its community outreach, Miami has donated a number of Quaker-themed books to the local Waynesville Library. Additionally, we have participated in donations to the local food pantry, Friends Music Camp, and have provided financial assistance to members and attenders as the need has arisen in recent months.

Holiday Celebrations. In addition to making our facilities available to families for Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings, Miami shared a half-hour Christmas-themed meeting for worship for the residents of Quaker Heights Care Community on December 23rd, including readings and carols. Following our own Meeting for Worship, we had a light luncheon and Christmas program.

Submitted by Lonny Burger

North Meadow

Our meeting is working on building stronger community connections with each other. We are planning to continue host a pitch in on a Friday night with music and singing afterward. Since we started these a few months ago we have had large turnouts and much fun.

We are also trying to become more structured in having Spiritual Journeys once a month and worship sharing every other month. We have been using some of the Quaker Speak videos as topics to start a worship sharing experience.

I think one of the gifts of our kitchen is that we get to share the dishwashing duties. People step in and start the process. Then someone else comes along and starts drying. After a bit someone will say "I will wash for a while." And you can nurture new and old friendships while you wash or dry.

Our meeting is on a very intense journey to discern how to best fit our worship and outreach with our meeting house needs. We have been engaged in this and are starting on a most interesting phase of this now. Brent Bill is leading us on a discernment and awareness path. As part of the process we will have a couple of retreats to focus on our perceived mission and what we value in our meeting. Then we will focus on what type of facility will help us meet our needs. We are discussing cost, sell and buy, investing in repairs and upkeep, what size and shape would we ideally want in a meeting room. It feels that out of this process we will become clear in what our direction will be.

Part of our experience in having a meeting near the central city area is encountering someone who sometimes attends our meeting and who is homeless. We have learned lessons in what help is available and how to help without enabling. People in the meeting have done some soul searching as to what our role can be. It is painful as a Quaker to not be able to find a quick and easy fix for a need that is close at hand.

Submitted by Pat Zarowin

Oxford

Oxford Meeting celebrated World Quaker Day October 7 with a First Day school lesson in which member Anne Hutchinson shared about the history of Friends in East Africa as well as her recent work there. Afterwards, members of the meeting talked about Meetings they had worshipped at in other parts of the world and marked them on a globe. Collectively, we had been to meetings in many parts of the US, and several meetings in Asia, Latin America, Europe, the United Kingdom, and Africa. We also enjoyed a cake decorated for the occasion. We appreciated this day of fellowship with Friends throughout the world. (Left photo)

Friends helped the community to raise over \$9000 to alleviate local hunger at the annual Empty Bowls soup luncheon November 10. We cooked and served soup in bowls that had been locally made and/or decorated. Friends also donated bread and desserts for the meal. (Right photo)

We are grateful for several gifts of ministry this fall. Karen Francis led us in two "Write from the Heart" experiences in September and November. Paulette Meier from Community Friends led us in Quaker quotations in song on October 14. Dan Mudd, of Earlham School of Religion, led an introductory session on Experiment with Light on December 9.

We were pleased to welcome Kaia Jackson, OVYM Youth Secretary, to our annual Advent Event potluck, where we learned about the work of AFSC and collected over \$200 in donations for our their #loveknowsnoborders program.

Submitted by Cecilia Shore



Yellow Springs

Greetings from Yellow Springs!

Our Peace and Social Justice Committee is seeking to unite with other local faith communities in creating a Sanctuary Community in Yellow Springs in response to our national treatment of undocumented immigrants. This process is on-going.

The meeting continues to participate in a Yellow Springs grassroots program, PORCH, an all-volunteer, community-wide hunger relief organizations collecting food and dry goods for hungry families in our community. When you come to visit with us (which we hope that you will do!) bring something to donate! There is a collection box in the meeting house.

Our dear member, Terry Snider, passed away on the morning of December 22nd. We had planned a goodbye party for him on that day, as he was moving to Florida to be with his family. Instead we had an impromptu celebration of his life. Over 100 meeting and community members were in attendance. The hole that Terry's passing leaves in our hearts and in our community is immense. A formal memorial service is planned for the spring.

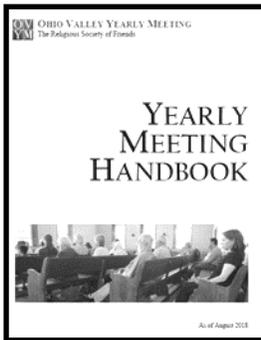
Submitted with love, Heather Snediker-Morscheck

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting has a Website!

The screenshot shows the website's header with navigation links: OVYM Annual Sessions, FGC OVYM Article, Contribute/Donate to OVYM, Quaker Job Openings, Find a Meeting, and Contact Us. The logo for Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (OVYM) is on the left, with the text "OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING The Religious Society of Friends" next to it. On the right, the address is listed: "OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING c/o Community Friends 3960 Winding Way Cincinnati, Ohio 45229". Below the header are links for Youth Programs, Officers/Staff/Committees, Latest News, and Events Calendar. A red navigation bar contains: Home, About Us, About Quakers, Community Pages, Ministries/Youth Programs, Publications/Forms/Minutes, and Links. The main content area features a photo of people at a meeting and a section titled "OUR ANNUAL SESSIONS" with a description: "We get together every summer for our Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions. Visit our Annual Sessions Page for the Program, Schedule, Minutes, Reports, and much more." Below this is a "Welcome to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting" section with a paragraph: "Welcome you to our website. Whether you're a first-time visitor looking for information About Us or About Quakers, or a member checking the Events Calendar, we're glad you're here. Please explore our site, including the Community Pages, and we hope you find all the information you're seeking. If you have any questions or questions, please take advantage of our Contact Us Page." Social media icons for Facebook and email are also present.

For years, OVYM has had a website that is loaded with information about Quakers—history, faith, and testimonies—and about OVYM—officers, committees, ministries, history, individual Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, annual sessions and special events. There are **also** back issues of the *Quill* (dating from 2002) along with other Minutes, Publications, and forms. Need the latest version of *Faith and Practice*? It's there. Wondering about upcoming events? There are two pages to check the calendar.

Type OVYM.Quaker.Org into your favorite browser and explore our 50 pages of information.



And our Handbook!

The OVYM Handbook contains a set of descriptions of the duties and procedures for committees and individuals with official positions and other information about how we do business as a Yearly Meeting.

It's good practice for a committee to set aside some time reviewing the committee description from the handbook during their first meeting after new members come on board as well as to keep the description and duties of each committee up to date.

The Handbook is available on the Publications and Minutes Page of the Website along with various Minutes and the current version of *Faith and Practice*

And also a Facebook Page!



Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
@OhioValleyYearlyMeetin
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Like and follow us on Facebook to receive updates and information about upcoming events. There's a link to our FaceBook Page from on the pages of our Website, so it's easy to get to.

Submitted in joy by Lonny Burger, OVYM Website Administrator

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

3960 Winding Way

Cincinnati, OH 45229

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

The Quaker Quill is published three times a year by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. Because the dates of Annual Sessions have changed, the publication schedule has been adjusted. The first issue will come out September 15, so the submission deadline will be August 15. The second issue will come out February 15, so the submission deadline will be January 15. The third issue will come out June 1, so the submission deadline will be May 1.

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

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The love of God again makes us free, for it draws us to set a low value on those things wherein we are subject to others – our wealth, our position, our reputation, and our life – and to set a high value on those things which no man can take from us – our integrity, our righteousness, our love for all men, and our communion with God.

-Kenneth Boulding

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Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Officers

Martha Viehmann, Presiding Clerk

Betsy Neale, Assistant Presiding Clerk

Terre Holada, Recording Clerk

John & Elizabeth Edminster, Ass't
Recording Clerks

Wilson Palmer, Treasurer

Dale Hayes, Ass't Treasurer