

# *Community Companion*

Community Friends Meeting

Volume 15, Issue 2

(513) 861-4353

February 2009

**Presiding Clerk:**

Ken Bordwell

**Assistant Clerk:**

Doug Burks

**Recording Clerk:**

Betty Waite

**Ministry & Counsel:**

Eileen Bagus

Ken Bordwell (ex officio)

Byron Branson

Lisa Cayard

Jamie Fota

Evie Hoffmann

Frank Huss

Paulette Meier

Sunny Rhein

**Treasurer:**

Mary Anne Curtiss

**Newsletter Editor:**

Deborah Jordan

(djordan@fuse.net)

## Calendar

All events and meetings take place at the Meeting House unless otherwise noted.

**February 7th** Saturday, 7pm **Valentine Game Night** sponsored by Community Committee Games for folks of all ages – sweet treats will be provided.

**February 8th** **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**

**February 15th** **Miami Quarterly** meets in Louisville

**February 21<sup>st</sup>** Saturday, 9am to 12 noon, **Brunch gathering** for Peace & Social Concerns Committees of all 3 Meetings plus interested Friends. Explore a Quaker response to urban violence and homicides in our city. Hosted by Linda Coppock. RSVP Linda at 321-3696 or Mary Kay Rehard at 376-7768

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>** **Second Hour:** “Local History of Quakers in Southwest Ohio” with Karen Campbell, author and genealogy librarian at the Mary L. Cook Public Library in Waynesville

**February 24<sup>nd</sup>** **Newsletter** items due

**March 7th** Saturday, 10am to 2pm, **Cheesemaking** RSVP (see article on p. 6)

**March 14th** **90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party for Agnes Moon** (More details in March newsletter)

Saturday, 7pm, **Simple, Sample Craft Night** (see article on p. 6)

## Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Summary of 12<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Months

### Twelfth Month 14, 2008 Summary

11 in attendance for Monthly Meeting for Business, with Ken Bordwell clerking.

Items from the Clerk's table: Proposal to approve minutes as we go when necessary but mostly at the end of the meeting was approved, to be evaluated as we go.

#### Treasurer's report

Cannon Fund report as of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2008 was presented by Mary Anne Curtiss, based on values from the internet, pending receipt of the actual year end statement. Her conclusion was that because of the unpleasant reactions to the economic crisis on Wall Street, there will be no funds available in 2009 for disbursement. A question was raised as to whether or not there were any undisbursed 2008 funds available to be disbursed in 2009. These recommendations need to be made by the members of the Cannon Fund committee.

Mary Anne reported on the eleventh month, noting that while we are 92% into the year and have only 78% of the budgeted revenue received as of December 11, 2008. She also noted that we are still well above requirement to have 10% the budget in our cash balance.

Mary Anne reported on the capital campaign. We need \$61,808 by the end of April, we have collected \$26,147.68 so far. We have \$7,175 pledged but not yet collected. Loans are still in process.

#### Action Items: 2009 budget

If we take out a loan from the Cannon Fund, we need to be cognizant that this expense will be unbudgeted, but may very well need to be paid during the year. She presented two budgets, a low and a high, one based on actual collections in 2008, the other based on budgeted collections for 2008. Duke Energy costs are fairly accurately stated, with water and real estate taxes more speculative. Committee budgets were guestimates. Mary Anne expressed a hope that House & Grounds will under-spend, that we won't have any natural calamities to throw a wrench in the budget works. Parent body support had the same number in the low and high budgeted amounts. The low budget for contributions was exactly half of the high. The high was mostly the same as 2008. No recipients were eliminated, most were simply cut in half. Although some contributions were reduced below \$50, because we want to stay on the lists of these organizations, she left the budgets in many organizations at \$25.

A question was raised as to the budgetary effect of having new furnaces. Mary Anne responded that we can't estimate what the effect of those changes will be, that the budget is based on a conversation with Duke Energy as to what even billing for the meeting house would be. Betty Waite offered to donate the printing of the newsletter, with a request to document the cost of that donation so that the treasurer can record an in-kind contribution. However, a budget of \$100 for misc. printing costs was added to the budget. A suggestion

was made that the FUN committee budget should be increased to \$100. Another question was raised regarding the budget for the directory, as all of the costs were donated this year, but there is no guarantee that those costs will be donated again next year. The budget for the directory was increased to \$150, the actual costs to put it together. Religious Development was increased to \$1,200.

Unity was heard that the lower budget with the above corrections, be approved. A suggestion was made and approved that if collections improve by the end of 2009, the contributions to outside organizations be increased to the higher budget level.

Mary Anne reminded everyone that a budget is simply a guideline.

The treasurer's report was accepted and the minutes up to this time were approved.

#### **Committee reports:**

Furnace installation report was presented by Eric Wolff. The installation is going as expected with an older house. Eric instructed Mary Anne to not pay the final invoice until a walk through approving the installation is performed. Asbestos will not be taken out until the first floor furnace is installed this spring. Eric was happy to see that there was no overage in the bill we received for the upstairs furnace. Mary Anne reported that in fact, we were refunded, via our utility bill, \$600 by Duke Energy.

### **First Month 11, 2009 Summary**

24 in attendance for Monthly Meeting for Business, with Ken Bordwell clerking.

#### **Treasurer's report**

Update on capital campaign-Mary Anne Curtiss reported that \$61,808 was needed for the capital campaign, ad that \$31,812.68 has been collected so far. \$11,000 has been pledged, but has not yet been collected. The Widow's Mite has matched \$117. We still need \$19,486. Work done and either paid or to be paid totals around \$24,000.

A suggestion was made that the first choice of loan should be from the Cannon Fund because we essentially pay interest to ourselves. Mary Anne responded that she agreed and would explain her reasoning when she made the Cannon Fund report.

Mary Anne then made the treasurer's report, noting that 83% of budgeted revenues were received, noting specific variation in the 2008 budget to actual comparisons. She also noted that all contributions were made per our obligations to Wider Quaker bodies. Mary Anne apologized for some possible errors in the calculation of the general fund balance and the building reserve fund balance, noting that she will be meeting with Betty Waite to resolve her concerns on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

The treasurer's report was accepted.

#### **Action Items:**

1) Carol Burks reporting on the Cannon Fund. The Cannon Fund Trustees are requesting that the Cannon Fund suspend the three year average method for determination of funds available for disbursement for 2009, and that they be permitted to disburse up to \$3,000 in 2009, to be divided equally among their three areas of concern. Carol noted that although 2008 funds disbursed were greater than \$3,000, this amount is reflective of most year's disbursements. Legal ramifications were expressed as a concern for suspending the disbursement rules, which were answered based on the fact that the Cannon Fund Trustees have the ability to revise rules with the monthly meeting's approval. A bit of history was recounted as to how this was possible, noting also that we have lost a big chunk through the stock market fluctuations and that caution is appropriate. On the other hand, it was noted that the purpose of the fund was to do good, and good uses of the fund have been requested, which are difficult to refuse when we have the funds within our reach. It was also noted that the suspension was just for one year, and that perhaps, after the capital campaign has reached conclusion, fund raising could help replenish the Cannon Fund for the losses it has sustained from the stock market.

2) Cynthia Sibrel reported, representing Teen Committee Clerks from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. They are requesting funds to help with the Alaska trip. Five teens are signed up to go to Alaska, two of which are from our meeting. Another teen is also considering participation. Each teen going had to write an essay in an application, all of which were impressive. Each teen is working diligently on their own to raise funds for their trip. So far, around \$9,500 has been raised, with another \$3-4,000 needed to completely fund the trip. Also of note is that individuals as well as the meeting can contribute to the trip, using checks made out to OVYM, noted in bold on the memo line that it is for the Teen Alaska Trip. The trip is a total of 14 days, with five days in the wilderness. Ken Bordwell will present an action items in Second Month to formally request the meeting's financial assistance.

## Committee reports

Adult education-Tim Leonard reported that 8 Second Hours are open through the year if people want to consider a presentation. The Heart Of Christianity by Marcus Borg is being considered as a study group discussion.

Community- Sue Brungs reported that the loaves and fishes theory is alive and well at Community Friends Meeting. She asked for signups for help with potluck setups and clean up. February 7 is family game night and March 14 is simple craft night. On April 10<sup>th</sup> we will color Easter eggs. Sue also discussed that she hopes that the Community budget for flowers stay intact.

FUN- Bill Cahalan reported that the aluminum can crusher has been purchased, with the funds going towards the furnace purchase. A sign will be erected describing the functions of the meadow. Continued woodland restoration is ongoing to remove honeysuckle, cut vines off of trees, etc. Trees donated by members are being nursed in the garden space to be transplanted into the woods as they mature. The FUN committee will host a second hour on April 19<sup>th</sup>. A brochure is in the works to describe the history of the meeting doing ecological innovations.

House and grounds-Eric Wolff reported. The community gardens are being reconsidered.

They are not being appropriately utilized right now. Certain caretaker concerns are being addressed. The furnace upstairs has been installed and inspected. The one item noted in the inspection has been resolved, awaiting final inspector's signature before requesting payment. Two trees have been removed. An update on the tree and fence policy was discussed. See attached report.

Music-Gene Marquis reported that there is a problem with the piano heater. Gene is working on resolving this problem with the installer.

Newsletter-Deborah Jordan reported, asking for article submissions. Ken encouraged all of us to act as reporters and submit articles to Deborah for editing, rather than asking her to do the reporting herself. Articles are due the last week of the month, which is January 25<sup>th</sup> this month.

Peace and Social Concerns-Mary Anne reported. They had a simple toy drive, had a cookie baking party with soup and a birthday, raising \$103 for the Heifer project. They have also had a Tender Mercies dinner last month. They are meeting again on January 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30.

Religious Development-Jim Rhein reported. Intergenerational activities are continuing before each first day carry in, with a singing of rounds at the next event. Bring word texts if you are interested. They are replacing some of the older toys and equipment downstairs. The teens are being very active, two participating with the Alaska trip, and many assisting with game night. The Christmas play was awesome. More intermediate age kids are appreciated.

## **Wider Quaker bodies**

Miami Quarterly meeting-will meet in Louisville on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February

FCNL- A Spring FCNL party/fundraiser is planned for March or April to learn what Quakers are doing at the national political level, reported by Mary Anne. Frank Huss noted that we are a distribution center for War IS NOT the Answer. If you want a yard sign, with a donation of \$5, one can be artfully installed in your yard. Byron Branson noted that the Obama Administration has been working closely with our national organization, and donations are greatly needed to continue this good work.

## **Announcements**

“Seeking right relationship with food and land” minute to be considered in February

**...Meeting for worship is at the center of Quaker life. Because we rely on direct experience of the Divine, our meetings have neither a pastor nor a program. We gather to worship in expectant silence, centering on God – the Divine Presence, the Spirit, the Seed, the Christ Within, the Inward Light – and by this we are nourished and led.**

Brought to you by Community Committee

## Little Reminders about Our Bountiful Gifts of Food

Community Committee would like to thank everyone for providing such bountiful gifts of food for First Day carry in and at the rise of Meeting before Second Hour. Friends in Unity with Nature Committee would like to remind folks that we have supplies available so that you can identify your gift as locally grown, vegetarian or any other helpful information you care to share.

Also, it would help the Friends organizing set-up if you could leave any instructions such as – serve at room temperature, heat in oven at 350 degrees or microwave for how long. Sometimes we are unsure as to preparation. Many thanks! *Sue Brungs for Community Committee*

**Building Community:** Two great events so please join in the fun!

# Valentine Game Night

Saturday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at Quaker House

Games for folks of all ages – sweet treats will be provided.

## Simple, Sample Craft Night

Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Quaker House

Do you quilt, knit, embroider or any other handcraft that you could share with others? We know there is much talent among Friends. Please consider sharing your ideas and crafts. Call Sue Brungs 941-3837 or Rachel Ernst 604-9250. Let us know what you would like to share and what help we can provide.

## Become a Cheese Whiz

Have you ever considered making your own cheese? Well, Friends in Unity with Nature (FUN) has just what you need! As part of our plan to seek a right relationship with food, we are planning a cheese making workshop:

*Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>  
10am to 2pm at Quaker House*

Nancy Ogg will guide us through the steps of cheesemaking – guaranteed to be a FUN experience!  
Please RSVP to Sue Brungs 941-3837 or Judy Trombly 681-8185

*Editor's note: David Fankhauser, who has past connections with our Meeting, has one of the best cheese sites on the internet.*

**Simple Joys**  
**In Meeting for Worship**  
**For Thanksgiving Weekend**

I love the looks	New Friend Aaron
On Friends dear faces	Exuding caring
Being here	A message of love
In our meeting places.	Lovely Eileen sharing
Young friends' glee	Our dear Alvin smiling broad
At quarter past ten	And bright in white sweater wearing
Richard's happiness	Our quiet attender who leaves at eleven minus ten
To sit where they've been.	And the many others in our meeting room den
Eric's resting upon	Sharing community
The window sill	And the "light within."
Mary Anne and Ken	We remind me squarely
In seats they usually fill.	Of the joys of meeting,
Kate and Jamie in row number two	Of time shared sweetly
Along with Wilhelmina, Bryon and our Gardener	With attention to Fairly
Sue	Of "that of God" in everyone
Who sits by the window always her way	And love enjoyed routinely instead of rarely.
Evie and Sarah side by side today.	In "thanks giving" am I
The Cahalan-Jordans, one head up, one bowed,	On this wet and gray day
The Light messages sharing	For the simple joys of our meeting
Sometimes soft, sometimes loud.	That have and will "light" my way.

- By Sherry Kelley Marshall, 11/30/2008

## Understanding Islam

On the 15th day of the First Month of 2009 Brother Riyad Shamma and two young women from the Cincinnati Islamic Center in Clifton presented material on Islam, its history and current practice in the world and in Cincinnati.

Brother Riyad explained the two major branches of Islam: the Sunni and the Shia to an interested group of some 25 - 30 friends in the meeting room. He then fielded questions, and listened to comments from the floor.

Emphasizing the notion of Islam as submission to God, Brother Riyad said that all persons who submit to God are Muslim, and

that God is the center of all parts of human life as Muslims see it. Islam, then, does not primarily ask what one thinks or believes, but focuses on how one lives. That living, grounded in submission to God, is manifested in compassion and almsgiving.

Questions of friends tended to be about the status of women in Islam and the meaning of the Quran. Clear differences between Quaker ideas on these came out, but were handled with straightforwardness and dignity. Brother Riyad was happy to be with us, and we with him. He is a friend of Richard House, a member of our meeting.

*Submitted by Tim Leonard*

**Community Friends Meeting**  
3960 Winding Way  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45229

*Address Correction Requested*