

Community Companion

Community Friends Meeting

Volume 15, Issue 6

(513) 861-4353

June 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)

no July newsletter planned

next submissions due 7-20

Calendar

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

June 7th 8:30am Pancake Breakfast followed by Outdoor Meeting for Worship

June 10th 3pm Memorial for Horatio Wood at the New School, 3 Burton Woods Lane, Cincinnati 45229

June 10th 6pm Potluck and meeting about the OVYM Alaska trip

June 14th Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Hold in the Light

Horatio Wood's wife Barbara and grandchildren Olivia and Rachel after his death on May 28th. Woody was one of the founders and elders of Community Monthly Meeting.

Agnes Moon and family after the death of her son Louis Moon on Memorial Day.

Mary Danzeisen after hip surgery.

Joys to Share

The second edition of the new, improved Central Ohio River Valley Local Food Guide was published

Thanks for all the help with and contributions to the Rummage Sale to raise money for the Alaska trip! Jim Rhein did lots of cleaning in the Meetinghouse besides helping with the sale and getting pizzas. Eric Wolff entertained us with some swing dancing and dolly wheeling demonstrations.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Fifth Month 10, 2009

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

1. Items from the Clerk's table:

Appreciation minute from FGC Religious Education Committee was read and appreciated by us all, except perhaps Ken Bordwell who blushed quite prettily.

FGC Annual Gathering Committee request for participation which will be held in Bowling Green. They need local help in planning and preparing for the 2010 gathering.

2. Treasurer's report-Mary Anne Curtiss reporting. Although we are one third the way through the year, we are at only 22% of contributions budgeted. Cash in the bank, however, remains a healthy 16%. Committees have spent on 12% of their budget year to date. Parent body and contributions given are both at 33%. Water bills, Duke electric billings and even billings thereof were discussed, with a hope that the new furnace will lower our utility costs. A question was raised regarding the OVYM commitment and the timing of meeting our obligations thereto. Frank Huss will assist Mary Anne Curtiss in resolving this issue. Treasurer's report was accepted.

Capital campaign report was given by Mary Anne. We will need to spend \$61,808 by the middle of this month. Mary Anne is hoping that pledged but not received balances will be collected quickly to keep the amount borrowed as low as possible. The \$10,000 loan was repaid because we won't need it.

3. Cannon Fund report-Carol Burks Investment unrealized losses of \$2,800 were noted for the first quarter, which is as expected. Three awards were made to young friends; two awards were made for the Alaskan teens and one for a trip to Africa. In addition, awards were made for two scholarships for new attenders to FGC. \$650 remains to be distributed in 2009.

4. Action Items:

Nick Rhein's membership was presented by Ministry & Council. Frank Huss presented the recommendation for Adult membership. Applause by the participants signified approval of his membership. Marjorie Isaacs, with Eric Wolff, Frank Huss and Deborah Jordan, as well as Nick's parents, Sunny and Jim Rhein, will coordinate a welcoming party befitting his acceptance as a member of this meeting. Sunny expressed her appreciation to the meeting for their part in helping raise her sons.

State of the Meeting Report: Frank Huss distributed the text and read the report aloud. Highlights of the report include notations regarding the breadth and growth of our membership, the construction project undertaken this year whereby we replaced and upgraded our HVAC system, committee accomplishments and community activities. The report included outreach activities and volunteer efforts of our members to further the beliefs of Quakerism. A minute of appreciation was expressed to Eileen Bagus for authoring the

report. Report was approved. This report will be presented next week at the Miami Quarterly meeting.

Mary Anne Curtiss, our Treasurer, requested permission to share the amount of donations with the Stewardship Committee, to assist in gentle collection efforts. Marjorie Isaacs, the clerk of the Stewardship Committee, voiced her support of this request. Concern was expressed regarding this request, to the extent that the information shared extended beyond the capital campaign pledges. The meeting approved that the capital campaign pledges/donations and special project donations can be shared on a need to know basis. It was suggested that Stewardship prepare a fair share of operating expenses letter to the members and attenders of the meeting.

Caretaker Search Committee Report was presented by Kate Anthony. The committee has met several times, sent out notices to a variety of local Quaker sources. They collected information forms as a result of the previously mentioned notice. They interviewed candidates and have a recommendation to present to the meeting. They are John Sniegocki and Elizabeth Groppe and their four year old son, John David. John and Elizabeth are both graduates of Earlham College and have been members of our meeting for years. Both of them are professors of Theology at Xavier (they share a position), and their son goes to the New School. The minutes reflect appreciation for the work of the interim caretakers, Travis Brewington and Sue Brewington. The minutes also reflect appreciation to the search committee. The meeting approved the search committee's recommendation. House and Grounds will assist in drafting the contract with the new caretakers committee. Laying down the search committee was approved. John and Elizabeth and John David briefly stopped by and were introduced.

Nominating committee report was presented by Tim Leonard and was revised for multiple positions. The report will be updated and distributed electronically, but was approved with the corrections. The minutes reflect appreciation to the Nominating committee for compiling the listing.

5. Committee reports:

Community-Mary Anne reported a fun and successful Crafternoon last Friday.

FUN- Eric Wolff reported-no written report, but they did the cookdown of the maple syrup. The pancake breakfast will be the first Sunday in June, which is June 7th, and will replace the normally scheduled potluck.

House and grounds-did not meet although it was noted that the new furnace has been installed.

Ministry and Counsel-Frank Huss reported-their big project was the State of the Meeting report, and Nick Rhein's membership as well as discussing the membership.

Music-Gene Marquis reported-the piano was tuned and the piano tuner was paid.

Peace and Social Concerns-Mary Anne reported-met twice since last meeting for business. Discussed Martin Luther King, Jr. Day activities. Interest on healthcare have been discussed at length. Tender Mercies dinner is scheduled for this Thursday.

Stewardship- Marjorie Isaacs reported on the issue of the Treasurer sharing contribution information.

6. Wider Quaker bodies: FCNL- request was made that we call our representatives regarding the war in Afghanistan on the 12th of May.

Closing Worship

Welcome New Caretakers

We welcome the family of Elizabeth Groppe, John Sniegocki, and son John David as our new caretakers. They will be moving in this summer after some apartment renovations (where Friends' help may be needed). Elizabeth and John are very familiar with Quakers as they both graduated from Earlham College and have been attenders at Quaker Meetings in several cities where they've lived.

Since their graduation from Earlham in 1985, they have lived on a Catholic Worker farm in Iowa, spent time living in Ecuador (Elizabeth) and Guatemala (John), worked as co-directors of the Arkansas Peace Center in Little Rock, AR, and did graduate study at the University of Notre Dame. Elizabeth and John have taught at Xavier University since 2001, where they share a tenured professorship in the theology department. John teaches in the area of social ethics, with particular emphasis on global justice issues and the intersection of social justice and contemplative spirituality. He also is the director of Xavier's peace studies minor. Elizabeth teaches systematic theology and is co-director of the university's Ethics/Religion and Society program. She does much work in the area of theology and ecology. Both John and Elizabeth have been deeply influenced by Quaker testimonies and Quaker worship and both plan to be active in the life of the Meeting, while also maintaining their Catholic affiliation. While Elizabeth describes herself as a Catholic influenced by Quakerism, John describes himself as a "Quatholic."

Their four year old son, John David, is a regular member of the primary class and likes to play with his friends at Meeting. He loves the grounds of the Meetinghouse, playing on the playset, walking in the woods, and helping in the garden (which he and his father have been working to revitalize.) John David just finished his first year of preschool at the New School. Living at the Meetinghouse will enable Elizabeth, John, and John David to be within walking distance of both Xavier and the New School, which is very appealing to them for ecological reasons. It will also enable them be more deeply involved in the life of Community Friends (especially Elizabeth, who has been less involved in the past due to her desire to avoid car usage on Sundays in observance of an "environmental sabbath,"), which they all look forward to.

"Peace is the breath of our spirit. It wells up from within the depths of our being to refresh, to heal, to inspire." Universal Peace Covenant