

# Community Companion

Community Friends Meeting

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August 2009

**Presiding Clerk:**

Doug Burks

**Assistant Clerk:**

Ken Bordwell

**Recording Clerk:**

Betty Waite

**Ministry & Counsel:**

Eileen Bagus

Doug Burks (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)

*next submissions due 8-27*

## Calendar

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

**July 29<sup>th</sup> – August 2** Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Sessions at Earlham College

**August 9<sup>th</sup>** Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

*There will be another outdoor Meeting for Worship in August (date to be announced).*

## Hold in the Light

Jane Haldeman from North Meadow Circle of Friends is in hospice care.

John Hubbard was a dear and committed founding member of Community Meeting. He died on 6<sup>th</sup> month 14 where he resided in Atlanta, Georgia. His Memorial will probably be in Sept. in Cincinnati.

## Joys to Share

Welcome our new childcare provider Alyssa Konermann! She grew up in the Cincinnati area and is a service learning scholar at Xavier University. Besides babysitting since age 14, she has worked with children in orphanages in Monterrey, Mexico and in Cusco, Peru. She taught English as a second language to kindergarteners and sixth graders in Thailand and also spent two months volunteering at an HIV clinic in Goa, India where she cared for and taught children living there (ages 4-7). She currently volunteers at the Evanston Rec Center teaching photography to youth. We're glad she's with us Sunday mornings.

## Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – Sixth Month, 14

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

### 1. Items from the Clerk's table:

Treasurer's report-Mary Anne Curtiss reporting. We are 42% through the year. Total unrestricted income is \$8,991.53, we are only 25% of our budget, ytd. Payments to support the Alaska teens has not been fully paid back. Capital campaign did very well this month, with \$6,071.00. We are almost down to the minimum for our bank balance to annual budget ratio goal, having only 11% of our budget in the bank. We are committed to keeping at least 10%. Treasurer's report accepted.

Capital campaign report, also by Mary Anne-Final work done and billed is \$23,360, we are waiting on the ok from the building inspector. We have taken out a loan from the Cannon fund for \$12,663. Minimum payback is \$134 per month, but planned payback is \$500 per month to match pledge contributions anticipated to be received. Mary Anne is proposing to put the payback into next year's budget. A question was raised as to the long term needs of what will be left or needed to be raised to finish the capital campaign projects, such as removal of radiators, repairing of floors under radiators. Mary Anne will present a detailed report next month. It was also suggested that those additional projects could be done through the House & Grounds committee budget.

### 2. Action Items:

- Annual contribution to OVYM-we are committed to contribute \$8,662.50 for 2009-2010. We have 77 members at \$112.50 per member. This results in \$23 or \$24 per month more than we are currently paying. It was determined that we should be able to raise this additional amount and the action item was approved.
- Member Horatio Wood died on Fifth Month 28<sup>th</sup>. A memorial service was held at the New School, under the care of Community Friends Meeting, on Sixth Month 10<sup>th</sup>. He was cremated and buried in the Quaker section of Spring Grove Cemetery. Contributions totaling \$800 to date were received in his honor.
- Approve slate from nominating committee-Eileen Bagus distributed a final nominating committee report. See attached. Stewardship committee was added since the preliminary report from May. A few other changes were made to committee assignments, including adding Ken Bordwell to the MARCC Delegate Council. Elizabeth Groppe was added to FUN committee and John Sniegocki was added to the Peace & Social Concerns committee. This final, changed report will be included in the next newsletter. Final nominating committee was approved.

### 6. Committee reports

FUN – Jamie Fota reported that the pancake breakfast was a HUGE success with maple syrup from our own trees.

House and grounds-Eugenia Mills reported. Second furnace is installed. Routine spring work is ongoing. A new water heater was installed. The apartment is being readied for our new caretakers.

Ministry and Counsel-Frank Huss reported-Met and reviewed the membership listing for those who haven't been seen for awhile.

Peace and Social Concerns-Mary Anne reported- no meeting, but had a presence at the Ceasefire Cincinnati meeting.

7. Wider Quaker bodies

Ohio Valley Yearly Executive meeting-Frank Huss reported that a search committee has been formed to find a new youth coordinator. Appreciation for outgoing youth coordinator Lauren Baumann is hereby minuted.

Friends Association of Higher Education-Doug Burks reported-annual conference at Guilford College in North Carolina is this week

9. Announcements

General and specific thanks for refreshments were extended.

Nick Rhein's welcoming party will be on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 at Ambar India restaurant. Please give Marjorie Isaacs a call if you would like to attend.

A minute of appreciation was noted for the services of Ken Bordwell as clerk for the past two years. His services have been greatly appreciated. This is his last meeting for business as clerk. Doug Burks will be clerk starting next month.

Closing Worship

### Single-Payer Health Care – A Quaker Focus?

Dear Friends,

Health care needs to be seen as a right, not a privilege. Yet, tens of millions of Americans don't have access to it because our patchwork system of private insurance places profits over health and causes the waste of \$400 billion a year in wasteful administrative costs - money that should go to provide health insurance for everyone. The result is unnecessary suffering and tens of thousands of deaths every year because people lack health insurance.

Today, private insurance carriers provide patchwork coverage to their clients. One major difficulty in reforming our healthcare system is the fact that four hundred different plans for healthcare insurance create enormous bureaucracies whose sole purpose is to revise and interpret changes in their plans. Even among federal employees, there are nearly three hundred distinct insurance plans being funded by the federal government. Meanwhile, every local doctor has to have a billing office that is able to manage the four hundred different forms and the four hundred different set of requirements for coverage. In a 200-bed hospital in the United States, a staff of ten to twelve persons is employed full-time to negotiate the complexity of billing. In a comparable hospital in Canada or Europe, two persons manage the entire billing department. Private physicians tell me that they waste enormous amounts of time exploring insurance regs and filling out paper forms. My own physician left private practice because she said, "The insurance companies no longer allowed me to treat the patient with the care and attention they deserved. In every case, both the patient and I had to narrow our treatment plan according to what their insurance company covered." There is a solution to this wasteful inefficiency: a single-payer, health insurance program funded, in part, by employer taxes and, in part, by State/Federal funds. The current private health insurance industry would be relegated to offering supplementary coverage to the state/federal health insurance plan that would be available to all. Every industrialized country has taken this route, only in the USA is this called "socialism."



On PBS' "Bill Moyers Journal", Sidney Wolfe, M.D. discussed why only a single-payer program makes sense for all Americans and why Congress has wrongly excluded it from the debate on health care reform. (You can see the video and read the transcript at <http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/05222009/transcript4.html>)

#### **What does the Democratic National Platform say about health care?**

"The American people understand that good health is the foundation of individual achievement and economic prosperity. Ensuring quality, affordable health care for every single American is essential to children's education, workers' productivity and

businesses' competitiveness. We believe that covering all is not just a moral imperative, but is necessary to making our health system workable and affordable. Doing so would end cost-shifting from the uninsured, promote prevention and wellness, stop insurance discrimination, help eliminate health care disparities, and achieve savings through competition, choice, innovation, and higher quality care. While there are different approaches within the Democratic Party about how best to achieve the commitment of covering every American, with everyone in and no one left out, we stand united to achieve this fundamental objective through the legislative process."

#### **What does Barack Obama say about health care?**

"We have a moral commitment as well as an economic imperative to do something about the health care crisis that so many families are facing."

"I think it should be a right for every American. In a country as wealthy as ours, for us to have people who are going bankrupt because they can't pay their medical bills -- for my mother to die of cancer at the age of 53 and have to spend the last months of her life in the hospital room arguing with insurance companies because they're saying that this may be a pre-existing condition and they don't have to pay her treatment, there's something fundamentally wrong about that." 2nd Presidential Debate, October 7, 2008

For more, see [barackobama.com](http://barackobama.com) "Health Care." and "[The Time Has Come for Universal Health Care](#)," Families USA Conference, Washington, DC, January 25, 2007.

Please be certain that the big insurance and drug companies are not about to let up on their lobbying for legislation that leaves their deep pockets filled. I believe Quakers could make a difference on this issue and bring a moral agenda to the national debate. But will they?

Thank you for all you do,  
**Aaron & Deborah Rose-Milavec**

## Memorial for Horatio C. Wood, IV

Horatio C. Wood IV, M.D., “Woody,” was born Tenth month 29, 1928 in New York City, N.Y. He was the son of Olive Yale Anderson and Horatio C. Wood III, of Radnor, PA, members of the Buck Lane Monthly Meeting in Haverford, PA. Woody cherished being a birthright Friend. The family also had two younger children, twin sisters Ellery Yale Wood and Lovell Wood Royston. Woody’s father changed professions and went to medical school after he had his family, making finances tight. Both Haverford School’s high school and Haverford College awarded Woody scholarships, for which he felt lifelong gratitude.

In college he majored in English literature and then followed his father’s footsteps to medical school, attending Washington University at St. Louis. While there he met Barbara June Youngmeyer. They married during his senior year on Tenth month 3, 1953. They celebrated their fiftieth anniversary in 2003. They had three children: Peter Anderson Wood, Katherine “Kate” Wood Logan, and Nicholas Bacon Wood. Woody is survived by his beloved wife, his sisters, son Nicholas, Kate’s daughters Olivia and Rachel, and Nick’s sons Henry and Charles.

Woody interned at the University of Virginia Medical School in Charlottesville, VA. He served two years of alternative service in the U. S. Public Health Service, first at an assignment he requested at the leprosarium in Carville, LA, then in Texas at a federal hospital for drug addiction treatment. His alternative service involved a significant amount of patient counseling and influenced him to pursue a residency in psychiatry at the University of Cincinnati Medical School. He made Cincinnati his permanent home, working for thirty-five years in the private practice of psychiatry. After retirement he worked for five years as Medical Director of the Federal Medical Center in Lexington, KY.

Woody transferred his membership in the Religious Society of Friends from Bucks County Meeting to East Cincinnati Meeting in Second month of 1958. East Cincinnati joined with Seven Hills Meeting in 1968 to form Community Friends Meeting, of which Woody was one of the founding members. He served his Meeting in many roles: as Presiding Clerk, Recording Clerk, Treasurer and Clerk of Ministry and Counsel committee.

Woody was a leader in wider Quaker circles and the civic community as well. He was chosen permanent president of Haverford College’s class of 1950, which involved him in fundraising and other work for the Alumni Association. Later he also served on Haverford’s Corporation governing body. He both served on and clerked the Board of Trustees of the Quaker Heights Retirement Home in Waynesville, OH for some thirty-five years, seeing it through some of its most extensive phases of construction. Less than a month before Woody’s death, Quaker Heights honored him for his invaluable service. For years he served as a Quaker delegate to the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati and the Council of Christian Communion of Cincinnati. He was also a member of the American Civil Liberties Union board.

Woody was a devoted family man and a fun-loving human being. He mourned the untimely loss of two of his children—Peter in childhood and Kate, who died of cancer, leaving two young daughters. Barbara and Woody, both in their seventies, adopted Olivia and Rachel. At his memorial service, Olivia described Woody as her only father figure.

Woody loved life, from college days in which he captained the soccer team until his last months, when he still drove Olivia to all her soccer events. His college love of books also lasted all his life; he remained an avid reader and collector of them. He traveled to a different province of France for years, sailed in a local lake and went deep-sea fishing in Puerto Rico for decades. He Elderhosteled and learned to bake bread. He trained German Shepherds. He enjoyed hiking and rafting in the West with his son Nick.

On Fifth month 28, 2009, at age 80, he died quietly at home at 222 Greendale Avenue, Cincinnati, OH—the place where he had lived nearly fifty years, and which he never wanted to leave. His Memorial Service was held on Six month 10<sup>th</sup> 2009 at The New School in North Avondale, under the oversight of Community Friends Meeting.

### Query

How does your meeting provide opportunities for Friends to share their leadings with each other, for them to ask others to test with them whether they are interpreting a leading in a way that will bear good fruit and further test their discernment?

“We will be challenged at the implications of the work. The goal is not smooth passage; it is only that we may faithfully witness to God’s work as it unfolds. And the corporate discernment was one step in that unfolding.”

— Robin Greenler article on her experience of corporate discernment

### Queries

When your meeting has been challenged to reach unity in Spirit and what practices have been helpful in that discernment? (e.g. returning to worship, threshing session, appointing a committee to bring a recommendation to the meeting)

“It is hard to give over cherished points of view that may be ego-centered or simply not be in accord with where we are being corporately led at the moment. We seldom have to choose between good and evil. When we do, for most folks the choice is clear. It’s listening for God between good and good that is so difficult for us.”

— Patricia Loring, *Listening Spirituality*, Volume II, p. 162

Consider times when the meeting in session for business had to discern between two good choices.

### Query

How did the meeting respond? How does your meeting approach decisions that do not seem to be choices between good and evil?



“Death is but crossing the world, as friends do the seas; they live in one another still. For they must needs be present, that love and live in that which is omnipresent. In this divine glass, they see face to face; and their converse is free, as well pure. This is the comfort of friends, that though they may be said to die, yet their friendship and society are, in the best sense, ever present, because immortal.”

William Penn