

# Community Companion

## Community Friends Meeting

Volume 15, Issue 9

(513) 861-4353

October 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 10/28*

### Calendar

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

**First Day or Sunday: Singing 9:45am. Meeting for Worship 10am Second hour @11:40am**

- October 3<sup>rd</sup>**     **6pm Potluck** for 28 FGC visitors organized by Community Committee. Please join in and bring a dish. Questions, contact Rachel Ernst
- October 4<sup>th</sup>**     **Intergenerational Activity** after Meeting for Worship. Followed by **Carry In (potluck) Dinner** (*FGC visitors will be with us so bring extra*)
- October 11<sup>th</sup>**     **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**
- October 18<sup>th</sup>**     **Second Hour: Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice Revision**  
**Miami Quarterly Meeting** in T. Canby Jones Meetinghouse, Wilmington, OH.
- October 24<sup>th</sup>**     **Community Work Day** 10am to 3pm
- October 25<sup>th</sup>**     **Second Hour: Deepening Ecological Awareness in Everyday Life** Bill Cahalan
- October 30<sup>th</sup>**     **7pm, Friday Harvest Fest** Bring your own pumpkins and join the Community Committee in a celebration of the harvest! We'll carve pumpkins, make crafts, and celebrate autumn together. Light snacks will be provided and Friends are invited to bring any craft ideas/supplies or snacks to share. This is a family friendly event and all are welcome! Also, any artists who would like to share their skills by painting faces during the party can contact Rachel to volunteer:  
[rachelkernst@gmail.com](mailto:rachelkernst@gmail.com)     **Special guests: Lynn and Steve Newsom**
- December 6<sup>th</sup>**     **Carry In Meal** following Meeting for Worship. Teen Alaska presentation

## Hold in the Light

Lisa and Mark Cayard's grandson Nevin  
Kate Anthony  
Tim Leonard's wife Mary

### Summary of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – Ninth Month 13

19 in attendance for Monthly Meeting for Business, with Doug Burks clerking.

1. Approval of proposed agenda was requested. It had been emailed to all prior to meeting for worship with attention to business. Tim Leonard noted that he would like to address Peace & Social Concerns regarding the war in Afghanistan. Byron Branson noted an addition regarding the minute for John Hubbard. Agenda was approved.
2. Items from the Clerk's table:
  - a. Miami Quarterly Meeting for Fall is October 18th
  - b. FGC Gathering committee on October 2 through 4
  - c. Please send written reports a week and a half before meeting with attention to business
  - d. Clerks of committees meeting will be held after fall renewal
  - e. Hopefully we will go back to approving minutes as we go along in meeting
  - f. Improvement of communications between committees could be improved. As we get more committees and more action happening, communication gets more complicated. An ad hoc committee is proposed to address these concerns. Byron asked Doug to stand aside as clerk and give his opinion. Doug concurred that a need exists, especially when something needs to be acted upon quickly. He does not think that a great deal of work is necessary, just a phone tree or other means of communicating especially for those without daily email. Others expressed their concurrence and examples of successful phone trees. A centralized decision making process to initiate a phone tree communication was also suggested. Doug summarized the two point goal of the ad hoc committee-establishing the logistics of the improved communication (ie phone tree) and figuring out who decides that a phone tree communication is necessary. Volunteers were suggested. An Ad hoc committee was approved.
3. Committee discussions
  - a. Adult Education –Tim Leonard listed the committee members, and discussed the committees work and expectations, beginning with the history of the committee. Providing second hour education, as well as other evening type educational opportunities has historically been their charge. Tim requested feedback and suggestions for ideas for second hour and other times or occasions. He is not doing a questionnaire, but simply soliciting feedback. Content, especially, was requested, of interest to other Friends. Paulette Meier noted that such feedback has been requested in the past and there is a fine balance between individual leadings and the needs of the meeting as a whole, with a need to find the pulse point that beats in many hearts. She suggested using a full second hour on this topic specifically to assist Adult Education in this quest. Eric emphasized finding that pulse point, and hopefully, it

would indulge a myriad of topics. Jamie Fota added that a sharing component is important. Mary Anne Curtiss noted that another meeting does a sort of book club after meeting with a discussion about Quaker historical figures. Ken Bordwell noted that as clerk, he was sent much literature about adult education opportunities involving local groups and universities. Alvin Jose noted that he especially enjoys hearing about books other people are reading. Another topic was the frequency of adult education opportunities, noting that it can be of any frequency that the meeting desires, we are not limited to second hour. Doug stepped aside again and suggested that perhaps a survey might be in order, just to discern the will of the meeting, even if it is simply a sheet passed around during announcements requesting items in which Friends are interested. Paulette relayed a Barnsville experience regarding Quakerism in the workplace. It was also suggested that committees use second hours to share their work, and that movies of interest to Friends are often well attended. Paulette noted that the sense of outreach also sometimes gets lost, and we were invited to keep that motive in mind as adult education sorts through the needs of the meeting. Eileen Bagus suggested that those with ideas or a willingness to be facilitators bring these ideas to the committee so that they can be incorporated into the schedule. Good, heat seeking ideas could be second hours, functioning as kickoffs for evening groups for additional sessions on hot topics.

b. Committee Reports (oral reports every other month)

- Budget Report-Mary Anne Curtiss noted that while we are still making progress, the bank balance is increasingly becoming a smaller % of our annual budget and there is some concern in that regard. She noted a change to the eighth month minutes that \$447 payback accidentally got taken out of the general fund instead of the capital campaign fund. A large insurance bill is due next month and she hopes that Quakers will be generous in their offerings over the next few months. She noted that \$5,800 is due still to the Cannon fund. Eric Wolff requested guidance to big spender committees as to how to proceed over the next few months as it related to financial priorities. Kate Anthony noted that the Duke Energy even billing might change with the replacement furnace. Mary Anne noted her opinion that we continue the discretionary spending to the charities we support and postpone parent body spending until the last few months when our income is higher, if discretionary spending must be postponed at all. Kate suggested that all committees tighten their belts until the budgetary dust settles, where ever possible, but that we continue to meet our obligations to all parties to whom we have commitments. Eugenia Mills agreed, with the understanding that some of the H&G expenditures relate to commitments we made to the fire marshall. Doug suggested that we take the money to pay for the shed out of the building reserve funds. Approval requested to continue paying parent bodies and the free store. Approved. Approval requested to take the funds for the shed from the building reserve fund. Approved. Approval requested for committees to postpone noncritical spending. Approved. Byron pointed to page three of the treasurer's report to clarify which parent bodies were being discussed.

Treasurer's report accepted. Also noted was that Treasurer's report sometimes contains details of contributions, which will be fixed post haste with the assistance of other Friends.

- Peace and Social Concerns-Kate Anthony reported that the committee has met twice. The theme for this year is Violence in our Community. They are planning a second hour to bring in people from Out of the Crossfire and Ceasefire, working against violence in the Avondale area. Three Peace, IJPC and Tender Mercies are also continuing efforts of the committee. Three committee members have left and new energy is requested. Peace and Social Concerns will review the minute on Afghanistan submitted by Tim Leonard.
- House and Grounds-Eric Wolff requested that a minute of appreciation be noted for Ed McAndrews on behalf of House and Grounds and Peace and Social Concerns because of his invaluable contributions to the meeting, the care of the trees and his attention to the building. Minute approved. The Caretaker contract has been finalized and signed. The contract is in House and Grounds folder. Gutter seams will be repaired as soon as funds are available. The Quaker House rental agreement, for use by outside organizations, is in the process of being re-written, if anyone is interested in sharing their opinion. The smoke detectors are functional, wasp nests have been dealt with, work day is scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup>. The elevator has been subjected to some additional work. Our elevator installers have gone out of business, but we found a new company to service the elevator. The problem with the elevator was that it needed a second on/off switch which has been taken care of. The elevator is now fully functional and has been for the past three weeks.

4. Wider Quaker bodies:

- a. Westheimer Peace Symposium will be October 21<sup>st</sup> at Wilmington College. They will have a Sudanese war survivor discussing his experience.
- b. John Hubbard memorial. Byron Branson coordinated the memorial, with all of John's immediate family in the area, carried out in good Quaker process and in good order.

5. Announcements

- a. October 24<sup>th</sup> → Work Day
- b. Peter Seidel has an ecology related book, 2045 coming out with a signing on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, at Joseph Beth Booksellers in Norwood.
- c. Updates on continuing items: Doug is working on the parameters of a statement regarding the use of gifts to meeting, financial and otherwise.

**A Blow For the Lord**

A Meeting was raising funds for a new meetinghouse, and the clerk was calling on members for pledges. One weighty and affluent but tightfisted Friend rose and said, "I'll subscribe five dollars." Just then a piece of old plaster fell on his head. Half stunned, the weighty Friend mumbled, "I mean f-five hundred dollars."

At that point a voice was raised in prayer from the back of the room: "Oh, Lord, hit him again!" (Ed Note: This was not from Stewardship Committee but from the Renewal. ☺)

## Friends' Peace Testimony

Friends' understanding of the Peace Testimony has changed in form and substance as continuing revelation has spoken to countless generations. In a declaration to Charles II in 1660, we see an early statement and witness to the developing peace testimony of Friends. In this document it states

*We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretence whatsoever. And this is our testimony to the whole world. The spirit of Christ, by which we are guided, is not changeable, so as once to command us from a thing as evil and again to move unto it; and we do certainly know, and so testify to the world, that the spirit of Christ, which leads us into all Truth, will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for the kingdoms of this world. ... Therefore we cannot learn war any more.*

As seen many of the earliest statements about peace are centered on war and participation in war. This view has broadened to a statement on the Peace Testimony at Earlham College where it is stated that

*The Quaker peace testimony is perhaps the most distinctive of Friends' beliefs, distinguishing Quakers from many other believers. It holds that violence, whether physical, emotional, or verbal, is an injustice that harms not only victims but also those who are violent, and is never the means to achieving a just and lasting peace. Friends also seek to challenge institutional and social structures that, while sometimes invisible or taken for granted, still do violence.*

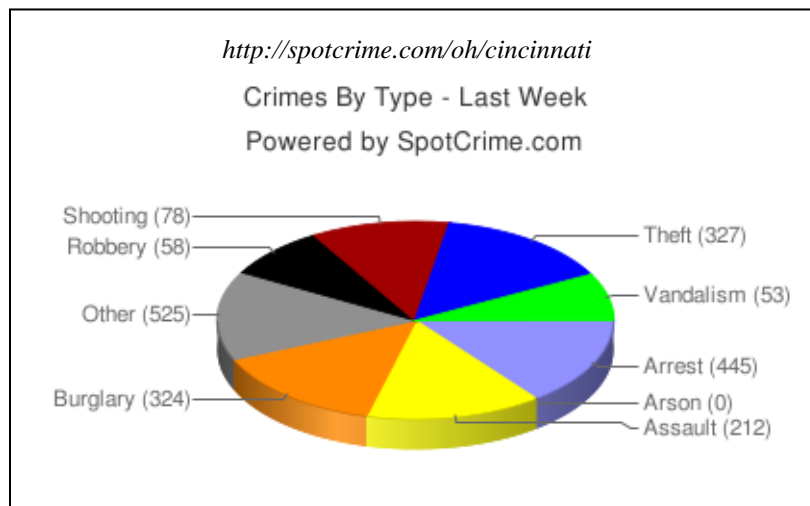
*Many thoughtful and moral people disagree with the strong form of Quaker pacifism that deplores all use of violence, but the Quaker peace testimony will always challenge us to seek non-violent responses to conflict and to look for just and peace-making solutions.*

The Chester Meeting in Pennsylvania states

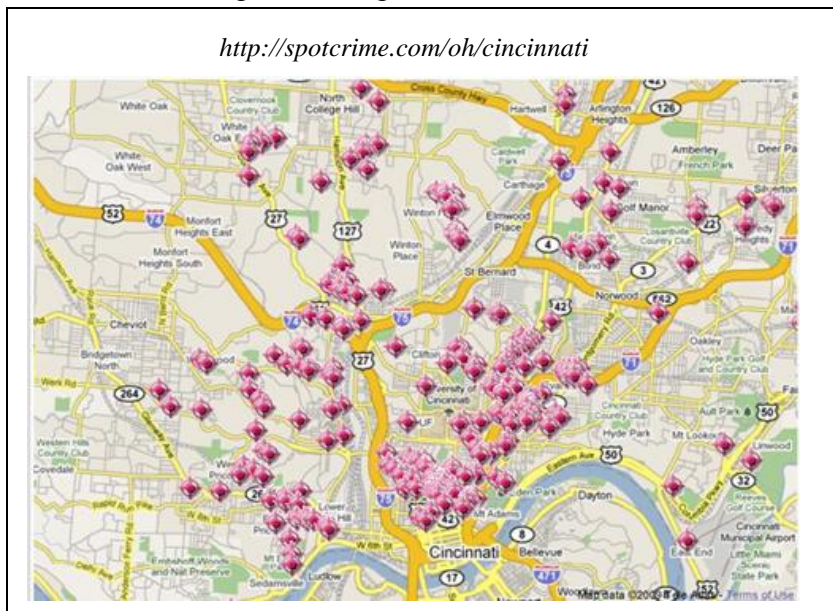
*Peace testimony: When everyone is of value before God, violence is not a good way of conducting relations. We try to practice a constructive non-violence in our lives, particularly in the upbringing of children. Quakers are often involved in peace activities, including conflict resolution and mediation, and many Quakers oppose military action, seeking to reduce or eliminate military spending.*

We observe violence in all aspects of our daily lives and in our community. The more radical modern statements of the Peace Testimony challenge us with the question of can one live the Peace Testimony if they do not actively address personal and societal violence. Peace and Social Concerns has taken as its theme for this year addressing violence in the communities we live in.

**Gun Violence in Cincinnati** The week of August 30, 2009 saw 78 shootings in Cincinnati, (firing of a gun reported; not number of wounded), according to spotcrime.com.



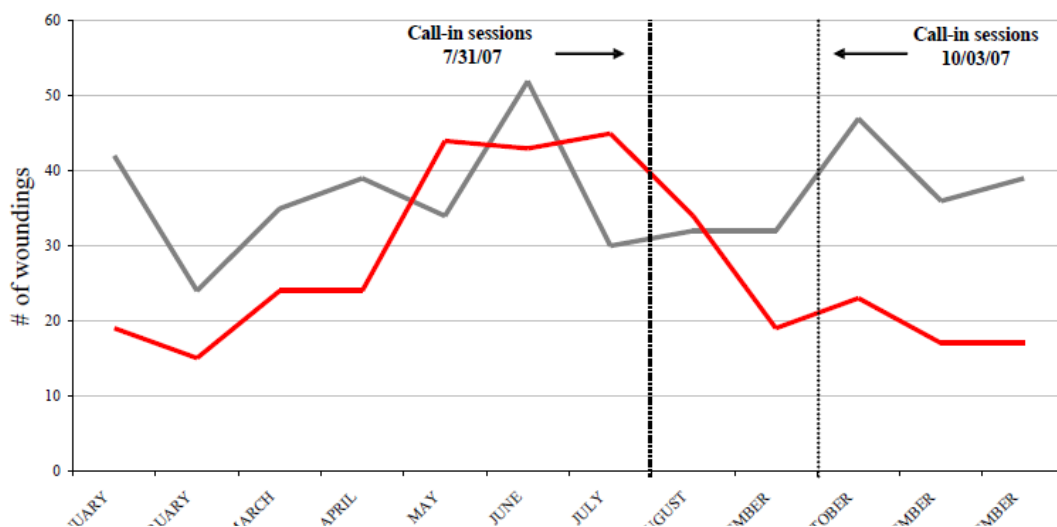
Locations of gunshots in the Cincinnati from January 2009 to September 2009 were concentrated in certain communities. You can see that Community Friends is surrounded by neighborhoods with a significant number of shootings including Avondale, Evanston, North Avondale, and Roselawn.



Non-fatal gunshot wounds in Cincinnati approach near 370 in 2006 compared to 72 in 2000.

<http://www.outofthecrossfire.org/OOTC%20Annual%20Report.pdf> (out of the crossfire)

**Figure 8. Cincinnati Non-fatal Gunshot Wounds: 2006-2007\***



In a 2007 CBS nightly new report our police chief stated "When I started policing in the early 80s, a Cincinnati policeman finding a gun on a citizen happened three or four times a year. We have it happen three, four and 10 times a day."

CBS news <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/03/08/eveningnews/main2549939.shtml>

## Organizations Involved in Meeting the Gun Violence Challenge

*"CeaseFire is a community-based campaign to reduce gun violence in Avondale. After every shooting resulting in death in Avondale, CeaseFire organizes a public demonstration to call attention to the shooting and to encourage a nonviolent response. They involve prayer, testimony of*

*affected parties, and community engagement. Please call or sign up for our mailing list to learn more about shooting responses and how to participate”(http://www.cpopcenter.org/ceasefire.html ).* This group after every shooting in Avondale organizes a vigil that includes prayers for affected individuals and to bring forth a witness to call attention to the neighborhood and city for the need to stop violence. It engages members of the affected communities to find effective ways to minimize gun violence. CeaseFire also provides educational programs to youth groups in Walnut Hills, Over the Rhine, and Walnut Hills along with programs at school assemblies in Cincinnati Public Schools.

**Out of the Crossfire** is a program in Cincinnati started by physicians who serve at ER trauma centers in response to the number of gunshot wounds they treat. It is a mentoring program to help victims and family members of victims of gunshot wounds to move their lives forward as they heal and to turn to patterns that reduce their involvement in violence. Out of the Crossfire states that *“When there is no "prescription" for change, the victim of violence enters a "revolving door," where one violent act leads to another ... and another ... and another in an unending cycle. Out of the Crossfire helps people change their lives by breaking out of this cycle”* (<http://www.outofthecrossfire.org/about.htm> ).

**Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV)** is a multi-agency collaborative aimed at reducing gun violence in the City of Cincinnati. It is a partnership amongst several law enforcement and social services agencies in the Cincinnati area.

**On November 15**, Peace and Social Concerns is hosting a second hour at Community Friends in which a representative from either CeaseFire or Out of the Cross Fire will lead a discussion on how we can help to reduce violence in our neighborhood (Cincinnati). We hope that you will attend this important and informative second hour.

### Exploring Our Spiritual Journeys: Meeting Renewal

September 19<sup>th</sup> was a day of exploration for Community Friends at our annual Renewal. We reflected on and shared our journey in a variety of creative ways. We were prompted by queries, meditation, mindful walking, jokes, shared work, shared meals, and games. Thanks to Kate Anthony for her thoughtful facilitation. If you missed the day, the theme will be continued in various ways throughout the year. As a reminder or an introduction to the Renewal, here are a few of the queries we meditated on (shared by Kate).

**Question 1:** How old were you when you first had an experience of the Divine? What was that experience like? How did you recognize the Divine? Who or what was God to you in your earliest memories?

**Question 2 :** How did you recognize the Society of Friends as your spiritual home? What about us lead you to that? At what point did you commit yourself to membership in Society of Friends and what lead you to that, helped you decide? (If you haven't yet, what are your thoughts and feelings about joining Friends and is there something holding you back?)

**Question 3:** How has your understanding or experience of God changed over the years?



## Meeting for Healing– a new opportunity for local Friends

by Paulette Meier

This summer I attended a week long workshop on Quaker healing at the FGC Gathering. It was a moving and informative experience, and I came home wanting more. The leader, Richard Lee, presented much information about George Fox and other early Friends as healers. Apparently Fox had documented scores of cases where spontaneous healings occurred through Quaker worship, but Friends at the time of his death decided not to publish the collection, fearing more persecution at a time when accusations of witchcraft still occurred. The historian Henry Cadbury did locate many of these accountings and published them in a book, *The Miracles of George Fox*.

The single most often used phrase in Fox's Journal is "the Power of the Lord" (388 times!). This had many meanings, but the most common one was to refer to an energy or divine power that could be actually sensed; early Friends would sense this power flowing through them or surrounding them, and sometimes it was so powerful as to cause some kind of involuntary physical or mental phenomenon (e.g. quaking, visions, vocalizations, healings or sudden strength.) These experiences helped solidify early Friends' resonance with Jesus and the the first Christians, who relayed so many stories of that healing power.

When I was at Pendle Hill, we had a Meeting for Healing once a week, and anyone could come who felt a need to be held in the Light or who wanted to participate in holding others in the Light. This is one way that Friends today are trying to be more intentional about accessing that divine healing energy, "the power of the Lord." The concerns could be either physical or emotional in nature, and shared with the group to whatever extent desired. The facilitators held the space for the Meeting every week, no matter

whether anyone else came or not. ("Where two or more are gathered...") Often there were people present who were known to have the gift of healing and maybe who had studied such methods as Reiki or Healing Touch. I believe the group can be helped by having people with these gifts present, as they already have developed a keener awareness, perhaps, of their bodies being used to channel the energy of the Spirit.

It's been the experience of other Friends, who've started Meetings for Healing in their communities, that these gatherings can have a deepening effect on the Meeting as a whole. Having more opportunities where we gather in worship means more attendance to the Spirit in our lives, and this can't help but spill over in many ways. Also, it's a fine way to invite others to join us who might not be familiar with the similarity of Quaker practice to contemporary healing modalities.

Eileen Bagus and I have discussed a possible format that could include ten minutes or so of education about specific topics such as energy healing, Christian and early Friends' experiences, or other relevant themes. If you would be interested in participating in such a Meeting for Healing, please let Eileen ([eileenbagus@gmail.com](mailto:eileenbagus@gmail.com)) or me ([paulette@lessonsongs.com](mailto:paulette@lessonsongs.com)) know. We are considering a biweekly schedule, perhaps on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, to begin at the end of October. The commitment need not be made to come for every session, so please let us know if you are interested in exploring this with us!

Check out Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's revised website:  
<http://ovym.quaker.org/>



## Two Hundred Years of Miami Quarterly Meeting: Looking Back, Looking Ahead

In our quarterly meeting program we will reminisce about our rich history. We invite visitors from our sister group Miami Center Quarterly (Wilmington Yearly Meeting) to join us and participate. After a presentation on our history from Byron Branson (attending since the late 1950's) with the help of other long-time members, anyone who wishes from both quarters will add their own stories. Then we will hear queries about how we may be called to grow and develop as a quarterly from this point, as an opening into worship sharing. Don't miss this special opportunity to visit and reflect together.

### Schedule:

10:15: Arrival.

10:30: Meeting for Worship.

12:00: Lunch. *Travelling Friends are asked to bring salads and desserts.*

1:00: Program.

2:45: Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

4:00: Adjourn.

## Faith and Play Faith and Play

Have you seen the George Fox clothespin look alikes? Or the children wearing hats and bonnets? This is part of Faith and Play, created by Friends General Conference Religious Education Committee, where children are invited to participate in stories. Lisa Cayard has once again developed the primary curriculum; she has incorporated Faith and Play stories. Since the focus is Quaker History this year, watch for evidence of Mary Fischer and others.

### *Hats on to the Primary Class*



- news from Religious Development

**OVYM Teen Alaska Trip Presentation**  
**Sunday, Dec. 6th after Carry In Lunch**

Alaskan Food Welcome ☺



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*Address Correction Requested*