

Community Companion

Quaker House: 3960 Winding Way, Cincinnati, OH 45229-1950
(513) 861-4353 www.communityfriendsmeeting.com

Volume 16, Issue 12

December, 2010

**Presiding Clerk:**

Doug Burks

Assistant Clerk:**Recording Clerk:**

Betty Waite

Treasurer:

Mary Anne Curtiss

Ministry and Counsel:

Eileen Bagus

Byron Branson

Doug Burks (ex officio)

Lisa Cayard

Evie Hoffmann

Frank Huss

Tim Leonard

Paulette Meier

Sunny Rhein

Newsletter:

Deborah Jordan

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Email: j.crockerlakness@gmail.com

Submissions for January newsletter due by: Monday, December 27, 2010

Calendar

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

Singing 9:45 am, Meeting for Worship 10 am

Second Hour or Carry in Potluck @ 11:40 am

Dec. 5	Carry In Potluck Meal after Meeting for Worship FUN Committee appreciates and encourages locally grown food when possible
Dec 12	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Dec. 18	Free Store work morning-see Peace Focus on page 6
Dec 19	The Alliday Party from 7:00 to 9:00 PM Holiday Program by the children

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John Sniegocki will be the closer for December and the teens will be greeters.

Twelfth Query from OVYM Book of Discipline: Stewardship; Business Relations

Do you regard your possessions as given to you in trust and do you part with them freely for the needs of others?
Are your means of livelihood in keeping with your ideals as Friends?
Are you concerned that your business be primarily a service to people?
What are you doing to foster upright practices in business relations?
Do you maintain strict integrity in all business transactions?
Do you bear a faithful testimony against all forms of gambling?

Summary of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Tenth Month 10, 2010

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

Clerks report-Doug Burks reporting:

Doug discussed zero based budgeting processes, referring people to Mary Anne Curtiss if they have questions about our budget.

Priority list of funding charitable and Quaker organizations was prepared by Peace and Social Concerns.

Government agencies have been taken off the list, CCCO is out of existence, and will not be funded.

After a moment of silence, Doug clarified the process, noting that this is a revision of this year's budget, revised because the meeting charged Peace and Social Concerns with the revisions rather than make the changes as a group.

After another moment of silence, after noting that the meeting approved a total of \$1,500. Doug suggested adding \$25 to Quaker Bolivia Link, bringing the total to \$1,500. A few more comments were made regarding the process, with tenderness to each other suggested. The treasurer requested that we go line item by line item to clarify who was getting what when. She also reminded everyone that although we budget for a minimum of \$1,500, we typically make \$3,000 if the meeting has the funds through end of year generosity. Decisions regarding that possibility are postponed until the end of the year and will be made by the meeting. Another discussion of line by line donations ensued. Doug read the list of donations, with a total of \$1,500.

Committee reports

a. Ministry and Council-Frank Huss reporting, discussed clearness committees and the renewal

Stewardship -Doug Burks reporting, they are working hard and are doing a really good job. They are preparing for the intermediate and long range goals of the meeting and are looking at planned giving.

House and Grounds -Eric Wolff reporting, one interesting item of note is that John Sniegocki bought a gizmo (kilowatt meter) to measure electric usage and the composting toilet uses a surprising amount of electricity. A subcommittee of H&G is reviewing our insurance needs. Window replacement decisions are still being discussed, including what to do with the broken picture window in the meeting room. Several hypothesis of how the window was broken were discussed, noting that the caulk on the window was buckled, leading towards the concern for a possible reoccurrence. It was then discussed that this may mean needing a safer window as a replacement. Double paned would be with a new frame and would be more energy efficient. The question was raised as to whether people sitting in front of the window caused the problem and whether precautions to guard against this with a new window should be taken into the decision making process. Tempered glass was also discussed.

Adult Education -Reported by Eileen Bagus, A new Quakerism 101 starts on Oct. 30 at 9:30 at Kate Anthony's house.

Treasurer-Reported by Mary Anne Curtiss, she noted that our cash balance is in good shape at 15% of the budget, that cash is available to make some of the contributions, that she is catching us up on the parent bodies' commitments. She hopes to catch us up in contribution commitments by the end of the month. She expressed thanks to everyone for their financial commitments to our spiritual community. Frank Huss noted that John has assisted this effort by getting groups to rent the meeting house, which is up by almost \$1,200 over last year. In kind contributions have been generous as well. People are encouraged to document their in kind contributions so that Mary Anne can include it in your tax statement at the end of the year. It benefits everyone. Treasurer's report accepted.

Religious Development-Lisa Cayard reporting. They are working on intergenerational activities and the children's play. Anyone with ideas about intergeneration activities is requested to contact Lisa

Wider Quaker bodies

Lisa attended part of Joint Quarterly meeting yesterday and a survey is being developed to give input to thoughts about the future of yearly meeting. The business meeting was to discuss the question of whether the Miami Quarterly Second month meeting will be laid down.

Ken Bordwell and Frank Huss are OVYM reps who will go to Friends (FCNL) committee on national legislation annual meeting in November.

Summary of DRAFT of minutes from Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**Eleventh Month 14, 2010**

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

1. **Clerk's Report:** Doug Burks asked that the meeting hold in the Light the need for an assistant presiding clerk for the coming year, as this position is currently vacant. Friends were asked to prayerfully consider if they might have the calling to serve the meeting in this important role.
2. **Hosting Cincinnati Peace Churches' winter meeting:** Community Friends Meeting has been asked to host the winter meeting of the local peace churches, which include three Quaker meetings, a Mennonite church, a Church of the Brethren, and two Unitarian churches. The meeting would be on a Saturday in January, February or March, and host responsibilities would include planning a program and providing a meal. There was discussion of possible program topics, and it was noted that the majority of attenders at past meetings of this group have been from our meeting. It was agreed that Peace & Social Concerns, FUN Committee, and Community Committee would be asked to consider if they want to participate in planning a program. We will seek further clearness on a decision to host this group at our next business meeting.
3. **Hosting FGC Development Committee:** We received a letter from FGC Development Committee, thanking us for our offer to host their spring meeting. They have chosen the weekend of April 29 – May 1 from the dates we offered, which the meeting APPROVED. We will have adequate time for planning and preparation in order to be gracious hosts. The responsibilities of hosting include providing space for the meeting on Friday evening and all day Saturday, transportation for committee members to and from the airport, overnight hospitality for committee members, and one or two potluck meals on Saturday. FGC Development Committee's offer to provide a workshop will be shared with Adult Education Committee for input. Several options for such a workshop were offered. Rich House and Eric Wolff, who are FGC representatives, will be asked to give a report on highlights of the organization's activities.
4. **Hosting Miami Quarterly Meeting:** It will be Community Meeting's turn to host Miami Quarterly Meeting on February 20, 2011. The program will be planned by Lexington Meeting, and will focus on a visioning process for OVYM. Religious Development Committee will provide a field trip to the Museum Center for any children attending. There will also be an OVYM teen overnight in conjunction with Quarterly Meeting. It was clarified that the hosting meeting usually sends out an invitation to the other meetings in the Quarter with the schedule of events, and provides main dishes and drinks for a potluck lunch. Attenders from other meetings are asked to bring side dishes and desserts.
5. **Meeting Participation in Christmas Gift Collection:** Hannah Branson has again offered to coordinate collection of Christmas gifts, toys, or cash through CAIN (Churches Active in Northside.) which provides a "gift shop" where needy families can select gifts for themselves and their children. The gifts would be needed by December 13. The meeting APPROVED participating in this project.
6. **Proposed Budget for 2011:** Treasurer Mary Anne Curtiss reviewed the proposed budget for 2011, which totals \$30,827 (compared to \$31,744 in the 2010 budget.) It was noted that gas and electric expenses are decreased to energy efficiency of the new heating system and windows. Committee budgets will not change much, except for Ministry & Counsel which requested an increase to cover the cost of more outreach materials and renewal expenses. Concern was raised about the need to replenish the building reserve funds. It was clarified that this is not part of the budgeting process, and this decision is made annually at the end of the calendar year if there are unspent funds remaining. It was agreed that line 14 for Administrative/Clerical expenses would be eliminated, as no such expenses are anticipated. The treasurer will check with Stewardship Committee to see if they anticipate the need for budgeted funds. The treasurer will also check with Peace & Social Concerns Committee to confirm recommendations for outside contributions before the December meeting. The 2011 budget will come back to the meeting in December for final approval.
7. **Discussion of the Meeting's Office Equipment:** During the budget discussion, concern was raised about the need for a new printer/copier for the Meetinghouse office, as well as the ongoing expense of ink cartridges or toner. The question was raised as to who is responsible for maintaining office equipment? After some discussion, it was suggested that House & Grounds could be asked to purchase and set up a new printer/scanner/copier, and the caretaker offered to be responsible for upkeep and maintenance. These expenses would come out of House & Grounds budget. This recommendation was APPROVED. House & Grounds will also consider the need for another phone line for internet access and faxing.
8. **Minute of Appreciation:** The meeting APPROVED a minute of appreciation for the diligent and faithful work of our treasurer, Mary Anne Curtiss, in developing the budget.
9. **Treasurer's Report:** Mary Anne Curtiss noted that the bank balance to annual budget ratio is at 17%, which is helpful as there are some large anticipated bills to pay in the coming month. Mary Anne also highlighted the need for donations of \$203 to the Capital Campaign to pay the remaining window installation expenses. We expect to have sufficient funds to pay our other expected expenses for the remainder of the calendar year. Stewardship Committee will remind Friends to continue to support the meeting financially as the year draws to a close. The treasurer's report was accepted with gratitude.
10. **Report from Religious Development Committee:** Lisa Cayard reported that the children's annual Christmas play will be presented on December 19. The First Day School class will also be hosting a Biblical meal for carry-in February 6 as part of their theme on Exploring the Bible.
11. **Report from House and Grounds Committee:** Eric Wolff reported that the large picture window in the meeting room has been replaced, and the faulty pump in the basement has been repaired. Much good work was completed at the work day on November 13, including the addition of a new light fixture in the basement.

12. **Ministry and Counsel Committee Report:** Byron Branson noted that the Fall Renewal last weekend, with the theme "Weaving Community and Welcoming the Soul" was very successful and well attended, thanks to good planning by Ministry and Counsel. The meeting APPROVED a minute of appreciation to members of Ministry and Counsel for planning and carrying out this event.
13. **Wider Quaker Bodies:** The clerk has copies of the minutes from Miami Quarterly Meeting held at Happy Hollow in October for anyone who would like to read them. Deborah Jordan announced that OVYM will be sending out a visioning survey in the next few months to gather input on future priorities for the yearly meeting. Ken Bordwell and Frank Huss will be attending the upcoming meeting of FCNL where legislative priorities for the year will be decided.

Notes and News from the Meeting

- People are encouraged to document their in kind contributions so that our treasurer, Mary Anne can include it in your tax statement at the end of the year. It benefits everyone.
- *All-iday Party*
Our All-holiday All-iday Party will allow us to celebrate winter, the solstice, and our favorite traditions from the religious holidays of the year's end. We'll be baking cookies, making crafts, sharing snacks, and decorating a tree with all-natural ornaments.
Join us at Community Friends on Saturday, December 18th, from 7:00-9:00 pm. The Alliday Party on Saturday, December 18th, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. It will include Chanukah, Christmas, Kwanza and the solstice, all rolled into one. We talked about making 2" x 4" block candleholders, wearing reindeer antlers, etc. We need to find out more about Kwanzaa values.

- Request from Jennifer Wolff:

WANTED: LAST YEAR'S OLD, USED-UP PHOTO AND PICTURE CALENDARS.

Jennifer uses last year's calendars to decoupage on oatmeal boxes, tin cans and glass jars to make recycled pencil holders and children's treasure boxes. So don't throw those old calendars away, save them in a box for Jennifer. She doesn't have a website set up so you can go see what she does, but someday, she will.

Contact information:

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FALL RENEWAL: WEAVING COMMUNITY, WELCOMING THE SOUL, NOV. 5-6, 2010

The renewal was facilitated by Mary Ann Downey and Bill Holland from the Atlanta Monthly Meeting and Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting. Bill said of the weekend: "It was a wonderful gathered feeling. I think we went to a deep [place this weekend and I appreciate the enthusiasm and welcome from Community Friends. Mary Ann said that they were very happy to receive the invitation and she complemented us on our flexibility. She was glad that people were engaged immediately and that we responded thoughtfully.



Fall Renewal, Continued

Al Jose said of the weekend: "It was a reverent experience"

Sue Brungs commented: "This is such a neat group of people- interesting and caring. It is such a comfort to be around like minded people. She was glad she was able to attend the discussions sessions about *A Hidden Wholeness*, by Parker Palmer prior to the renewal.

Marlane Souder celebrated her birthday.



We had a great catered meal made from local foods. Loved those pies.

We had 3 clearness groups in which we were able to practice and develop our skills

Evie Hoffmann related that it was "A gift to all of us. It is a process that is building trust among us. It offers a process for sorting out dilemmas in our lives".

Paulette Meier reflected that as a focus person she felt somewhat vulnerable, but at the same time, it felt good to have such caring listeners.

From Tim Leonard

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And, I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And, I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

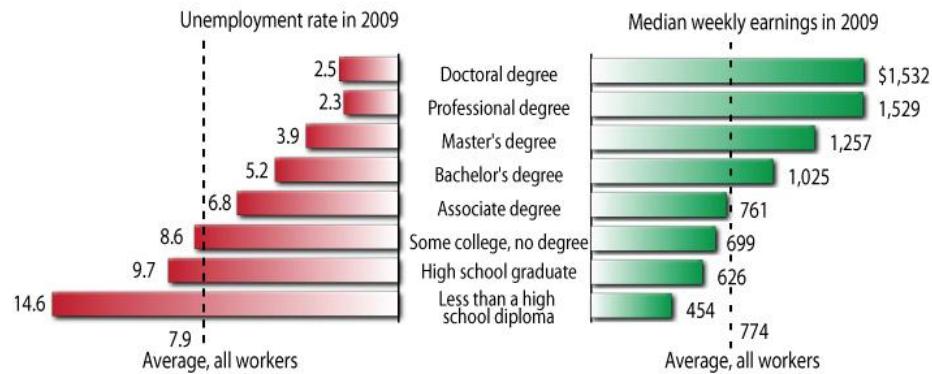
Thomas Merton

PEACE FOCUS FROM DOUGLAS BURKS

The Impact of Poverty and the Recession on Educational Attainment

In the United States, poverty begets poverty. As more families enter into poverty during this recession, there is a real danger of more individuals entering the vicious poverty cycle. One of the major contributing factors leading to the cycle of poverty is the relationship between poverty and educational attainment. Several studies have demonstrated that income level and educational attainment are correlated. The impact of educational attainment on income is dramatic (Figure 1) and the converse is also true that income level has an effect on educational attainment (Figure 3).

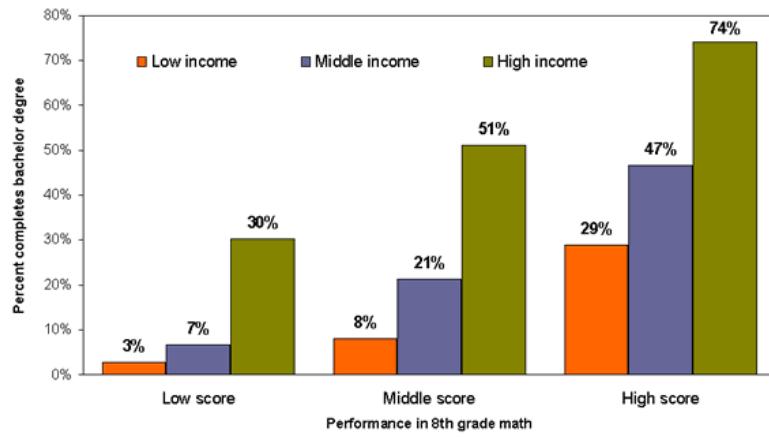
Figure 1. Education pays



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_chart_001.htm

Figure 3. Educational outcomes and socioeconomic status



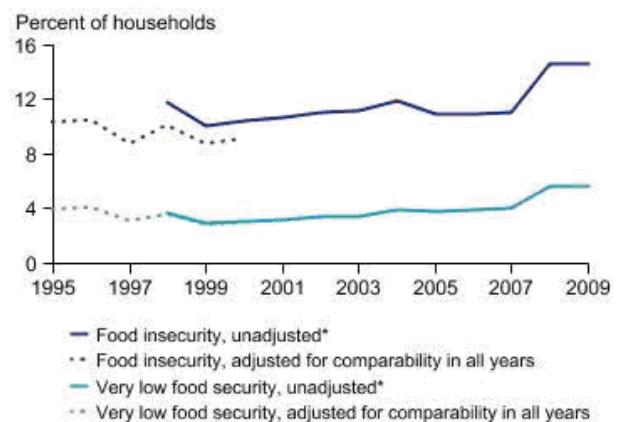
Source: Fox, Connolly, and Snyder 2005

http://www.epi.org/economic_snapshots/entry/webfeatures_snapshots_20051012/

In 2007, 12.7 million children faced food insecurity and an additional 4 million families faced food scarcity according to Mark Nord of the USDA. In 2008 it was reported that were living in households in which food at times ran short and that the number of children who were outright hungry rose to 1 million in the United States according to Amy Goldstein of the Washington Post. This represents 1 in 5 households with children. In 2009, 50.2 million people lived in food-insecure households, including 17.2 million children. It is clear that food insecurity and hunger have increased during the recession (Figure 2).

Several factors seem to contribute to the decreased educational attainment of those in poverty. Factors include **poor nutrition**; the inability of families to provide needed support such as books in the home, health care, access to summer and after school programs, and help with study; and ability to pay for higher education. This article will focus of these factors in greater detail, the impact of poor nutrition.

Figure 2 Trends in prevalence rates of food insecurity and very low food security in U.S. households, 1995-2009



*Data as collected (unadjusted) in 1995-97 are not directly comparable with data collected in 1998 and later years.

Source: Calculated by ERS based on Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement data.

Several studies indicate that nutrition impacts cognitive development. Brown and Pollit state in a Scientific American article that Children who suffer from poor nutrition during the brain's most formative years score much lower on tests of vocabulary, reading comprehension, arithmetic, and general knowledge. That poor nutrition has an impact on older children is revealed in studies of Six- to eleven-year-old children from food-insufficient families had significantly lower arithmetic scores and were more likely to have repeated a grade as reported by Alaimo. Even temporary "hunger" has an impact on learning as reported that Morning fasting has a negative effect on cognitive performance, even among healthy, well-nourished children. A test of the speed and accuracy of response on problem-solving tasks given to children who did or did not eat breakfast found that skipping breakfast had an adverse influence on their performance on the tests by Pollit in studies.

The Cincinnati Free Store has a program called the Power Pack Program to feed hungry children by providing them with nutritious and easy-to-prepare food to take home on weekends and school vacations. The need is great according to the Free Store "*In Cincinnati, Covington, and Newport Public Schools, there are schools with at least 85% of students participating in the national free or reduced-cost breakfast and school lunch program, according to Ohio and Kentucky Department of Education data. We estimate that at least 10% of these students face such food insecurity that they may have little or no food at home over the weekend and would be eligible for Power Pack. This means we could provide almost 3,000 Power Packs per week in these schools alone.*" At Peace and Social Concerns last work day at the Cincinnati Free Store Warehouse we packed around 1,000 Power Packs. Our hope was that this would help these children accomplish more. We hope that more members of Community Friends will consider volunteering for our next work morning at the Free Store. It is one small tangible thing we can do to help alleviate poverty in Cincinnati. We are hoping to have a group work at the Free Store on Saturday December 18 in the morning. Look for the announcement.

Bibliography of cited sources and additional information.

Alaimo, K., Olson, C.M., Frongillo Jr., E.A. Food insufficiency and American school-aged children's cognitive, academic, and psychosocial development. *Pediatrics* July 2001;108(1):44-53.

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