

# Community Companion

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

Volume 17, Issue 2

February, 2011

**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

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Submissions for March newsletter due by: Friday, February 25, 2011

## 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**

- Feb. 6 Carry In Potluck Meal after Meeting for Worship: Biblical Meal- see page 6  
FUN Committee appreciates and encourages locally grown food when possible
- Feb. 13 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
- Feb. 20 Miami Quarterly Meeting
- Feb. 27 Second Hour: Doug Tallamy's book *Bringing Home Nature* will be discussed

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**Second Query from OVYM Book of Discipline: Silent Worship; Ministry**

Do you so order your life as to include reading, meditation and communion, that you may know more of the presence and guidance of the Divine Spirit? Do you remember the need to pray for others, holding them in the presence of God?

"As Friends we commit ourselves to a way of worship which allows God to teach and transform us. We have found corporately that the Spirit, if rightly followed, will lead us into truth, unity and love: all our testimonies grow from this leading." Britain Yearly Meeting: Faith and Practice

**Summary: Minutes from Community Friends Monthly Meeting for Business, Twelfth Month 12, 2010**

Opening Worship with a quote from Advices and Queries, Query 17.  
20 in attendance for Monthly Meeting for Business, with Doug Burks clerking.

**Clerk's report-**

Doug Burks reporting: Doug noted that he had asked for a holding in the light to find a person who will be asst. presiding clerk so that the leadership of the meeting is seamless. Mary Anne Curtiss noted that nominating committee has been unsuccessful in meeting this challenge. Marjorie Isaacs suggested that perhaps two persons could share this challenge.

**Action Items:****Ministry and Council:**

Lisa Cayard reported for M&C and joyfully recommended Marlane Souder for membership. Kate Anthony noted that Marlane had stepped up to be clerk of Peace & Social concerns, and has been active in the Tender Mercies meal project. Membership approved with joy. We will officially welcome her, with a welcoming committee comprised of Jennifer Snow Wolff, Ken Bordwell, Marjorie Isaacs, Deborah Jordan, Doug Burks and Kate Anthony. Deborah will convene the meeting.

**2011 Budget:**

Quaker Heights was adjusted to include a contribution towards a chaplain's salary for the retirement community. Doug questioned whether the gift should be restricted to the chaplain, or for general use. Eric Wolff noted that because they are in a capital campaign, it is important that each meeting support their cause, as well as individual contributions. This cause is a mission of OVYM, of which we are an integral part. A discussion ensued regarding designation, resulting in making the donation for general use.

CCCO is out of business. The \$50 contribution could be moved to MARCC, or could be just subtracted from the budget. Mary Anne noted that money is very tight as of this moment. A discussion ensued. It was suggested that we give as planned and if a crisis resulted, we have faith that abundance would prevail as it has in the past. We entered into silence to consider the budget after a quick discussion on the Duke Energy savings. Budget approved with the following change to the third draft-move the \$50 from CCCO and the \$25 from Wilmington College to MARCC for a total of \$275 to MARCC.

**Hosting Events**

We are hosting the Cincinnati Peace Church gathering this winter. Miami Quarterly meeting is in late February, FGC stewardship meeting is in March, January would be a good time for us to host the Peace Church gathering, so that Community committee would not be overwhelmed. The date in January would be January 29th. The gathering would consist of a meeting, brunch, and an hour afterwards for a program, mostly to assist synergy. We would be responsible for the food, the agenda and the program. John Sniegocki suggested the topic be the confluence between environmental concerns and peace concerns. January 29th was approved and we will send invitations to the peace churches appropriately.

Quarterly meeting was discussed regarding the coordination of events required to properly host. Frank Huss is clerking the meeting. Deborah Jordan will coordinate many of the other details. A teen retreat will be ongoing at the meeting that weekend, as well as a trip to the Cincinnati Center museum for those who do not want to attend the Quarterly meeting. The teen event will be organized by the teen coordinator. Community committee will bring main dishes; guests will bring desserts and side dishes. On the agenda item will be added for continued planning at our First Month's meeting with attention to business.

**Committee reports**

Ministry and council-Lisa Cayard reporting. At the last meeting, fall renewal follow up was discussed, as well as outreach material, and the recommendation for membership for Marlene. Next meeting is in January.

House and grounds-Eric Wolff reporting, four new windows were installed. Several large posters were found and an extra copy of the Genus of Quakers is available to be used. Successful work day. A printer purchase is being pursued.

Twelfth Month's Minutes, Continued

Friends in Unity with Nature-Kate Anthony reporting. They met last week, a no impact week experience week was discussed, on trying to live in a zero impact way, so that a net carbon footprint of zero could be attained. They will show the movie in January, and some of them will go through the experience and will encourage participation of others. They had a successful woods work day, taking out invasive vines and honeysuckle, and planting tree seedlings, noting that the woods was no longer self maintaining and has needed a little help from us. The composting toilet is working well again.

Community committee-no report.

Music committee-Gene Marquis reporting, the piano was having trouble holding its tune, so he contracted with a different piano tuner, which seems to be now holding its tune. The new tuner noted that the piano seems to be in pretty good shape.

Adult Education: Eileen Bagus reported that Adult Education has formed a renewal follow up group called Circles of Trust.

Treasurer's report-Mary Anne Curtiss reporting. We are at 72% of budget for contributions. Overwhelmingly our money comes from unrestricted contributions. If every family donated \$55 per month, we could meet our budget. A crisis was not intended when Mary Anne paid off all of our contributions. We have not paid our Wider Quaker bodies for December, we still have to pay for the new picture window. She is assuming that Duke will send a refund check. However, we have a need to raise \$2,614 this month in order to meet all of our obligations. Mary Anne also suggests that the Duke refund be used to zero out the Capital campaign, with the remainder going to pay our bills. We don't have extra money to spend, and check requests are still coming in quickly. Treasurer's report accepted. Thanks and appreciation expressed for our wonderful, delightful Treasurer.

Wider Quaker Bodies.

FGC Development meeting upcoming at our meetinghouse, reported by Rich House. He noted that finance and development are attempting to coordinate meetings to solve issues. Probably 15-16 people coming to the meeting. Options for programming are being discussed. They will meet Friday afternoon/evening, all day Saturday, and will join us for meeting on Sunday. Rich feels that the meeting is manageable.

Friends association of higher education invites all to a program the third week in June.

FNCL held their annual meeting in DC, Ken Bordwell noted. Diane Randall was approved as the new executive secretary. She is from Lincoln, Nebraska, lately in Hartford, Connecticut. She has an extensive lobbying background. The lobbying weekend followed the meeting, the object of which was the S.T.A.R.T. treaty, which is a treaty for strategic arms limitations reducing the stockpile of arms, with inspection required. Phone calls to Voinovich were encouraged, even if just to bring the treaty to a vote. Ken spent a few minutes discussing his own lobbying activities. He worked with Women for New Development. They went to Voinovich's office, speaking to the aide involved with foreign policy.

General and specific thanks for refreshments were extended.

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**Pacifists don't always eschew violence**

Taken from Quakers Are Funny! by Chuck Fager, Kimo Press, 1987:

One World War II Quaker conscientious objector had been a professional wrestler. Once when he and some other inmates of the Coshocton CPS camp in Ohio made a trip into town, they were hassled about their pacifism by some local youths, who insisted that only force could change the German's views. In response, the ex-wrestler took off his coat, challenged one of the local boys to a match, and promptly threw the townie across the room. He then asked the youth, "Now do you believe that force won't change people's views?"

"Heck no!" the local boy hollered back.

"That's exactly my point," said the Quaker, who put on his coat and left.

source: <http://www.jokebuddha.com/Quaker#ixzz1C6Me77FT>

## Summary of Minutes from Community Friends Monthly Meeting for Business, First Month 9, 2011

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

Clerks report-Doug Burks reporting: Doug asked that each person look inward to see if they have a calling to be the next clerk, as his two year term is ending.

## Action Items

Modification of 2011 Budget → Adjustments were made to insurance, which is cheaper than anticipated. Mary Anne Curtiss reviewed the changes. The unrestricted contributions budget is \$750 less, and Gas and Electric is \$180 less, insurance is \$570 less. Modified budget approved.

## Updates

- a. Peace Church Meeting → January 29, 2011 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Only one RSVP has been received so far, the program is on the environment, resources and peace and will include a segment on No Impact Man.
- b. Hosting MQM 2/20/11- Religious development is working on the program for children, the community committee is working on the details for food and hospitality as well as the invitation. Lexington is responsible for the main program.
- c. FGC meeting → new dates The FGC Development committee is coming in June, probably the 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup>, instead of earlier this winter. No definite date has been set.

## Committee reports

- a. Treasurer's report-Mary Anne Curtiss reporting. We ended up with plenty of money, considering the percentage of cash in the bank to our annual budget ended at 15%, although last year we had 18%. This year we only prepaid two months of insurance instead of 6 months, and we did not contribute to worthy causes as much as we have in the past. One other point made was that the capital campaign has been adjusted to zero because we have no further contributions or expenses expected. A discussion ensued regarding whether any further capital campaign items would occur in the next year. Mary Anne pointed out that not every single pane window has been replaced but no funds have been designated or raised for such purpose. Whether or not the windows project should be continued as part of a capital campaign was discussed. Changing the name of the capital campaign fund to the Greening of the Meeting fund was suggested. It was also pointed out that restricted contributions can be made to the meeting for a specific purpose, provided the meeting accepts that contribution. We took a moment of silence to contemplate our direction. Doug mused that the campaign to get the new furnace and the new windows has been achieved and should be celebrated. He also acknowledged that there is more work to do, and that we should better enable those that want to continue with this endeavor. He suggested that the fund remain as a designated fund, renamed appropriately, but without pressure from the meeting to give. He suggested that stewardship work out the details. The meeting sat in silence to consider this issue. Doug asked that we table this and that the stewardship committee to consider three things: is the capital campaign complete, do we move forward on the window campaign and do we set up a fund for these types of projects.

Mary Anne pointed out that the Youth Ministry fund has been reopened. She pointed out that people can donate to this purpose and that young people within the meeting can earn money from this fund. The fund was further discussed. Eileen Bagus coordinates this fund.

An inquiry was made about the \$6 in the Money Market fund. An inquiry was made about increases in the building reserve fund. It was noted that only 81% of the budgeted contributions were received, leaving nothing to contribute to the building reserve fund or additional contributions to other worthy organizations. Mary Anne pointed out that in kind contributions to house and grounds were \$2,225. A discussion arose around whether or not we could make a contribution to the building reserve of \$1,500, which would bring the cash to budget % down to 10%.

## Treasurer's Report, continued

It was suggested that Stewardship add this question to their agenda. The meeting sat in silence again. Doug suggested that we pay \$500 to building reserve, \$500 to additional contributions and \$500 kept to pay the insurance. Other suggestions were made regarding how to handle that \$1,500. It was decided to pay \$500 to the building reserve and \$1,000 to contributions to worthy nonprofits. Treasurer's report was accepted.

- b. House and Grounds-Eric Wolff reporting-the non-working pump has been replaced, resolving the sewer smell. We had a successful work day. Other work taken was care of in the garage and other places. Two subcommittees were authorized to make decisions before the next business meeting. 1) to choose our 2011 insurance carriers and 2) to purchase a printer for less than \$300. The printer has been replaced. New insurance was procured with Guide One. Lisa Cayard mentioned that perhaps the new insurance company might have training regarding liability for child care workers. Eric noted that a minute of appreciation to Carol Burks for her help with the new insurance was appropriate.
- c. Community-Ken Bordwell reporting, they are on top of everything. The Peace Brunch is coming up.
- d. Peace and Social Concerns- Kate Anthony reporting. Tender Mercies is ongoing, a dinner is provided every month, one is scheduled for next Thursday. A work day at the free store is coming up on January 22. Peace Church brunch is on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Peace and Social Concerns is now working with the FCNL regarding the Supreme Court decision to allow corporations to make unlimited contributions, about 20 letters were generated.
- e. FUN-Kate Anthony reporting-discussed showing the No Impact Man movie. They scheduled the next woods work day for March 12, with March 19 as a rain date. Barbara Wolf will be discussing water issues on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Doug Tallamy's book Bringing Home Nature will be discussed on February 27<sup>th</sup>.
- f. Ministry and Counsel-No report
- g. Others as Needed-Eugenia Mills suggested that we receive reports from Quaker Heights periodically. Doug asked her to report next month.
- h. Adult Education-Eileen Bagus reporting-Circle of Trust, a spiritual nurturing group will be starting this Wednesday. Quakerism 101 is ongoing. Next Sunday is Queries.
- i. Byron Branson commented that we should reconsider our continuing to recruit folks to go to Carmel Presbyterian Church on the Sunday before MLK day because he feels that it does not reflect a decision made by our meeting as a whole. Ken Bordwell noted that MLK was an American hero, not just an African American hero. Doug suggested that we ask Ministry and Counsel to tackle this issue. It is hard to distinguish between what individuals within the meeting choose to do and what folks do as an outreach of the meeting. A discussion ensued. It was suggested the Peace and Social concerns look into a dinner or some other ongoing interaction with Carmel. Ministry and Counsel will deal with events that overlap with our meeting for worship. It was asked that both groups give a progress report at our next meeting with attention to business.

## Wider Quaker bodies

- a. Miami Quarterly Meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup> <sup>here</sup> at our meetinghouse.
- b. The Quaker plot (section 37) at Spring Grove is open for anyone to apply to the trustees to be buried there. There is no cost for the plot itself. Doug asked Frank to make a report in Third month. Eric Wolff will be nominated as a trustee at the next Miami Quarterly Meeting. Eileen suggested a possible second hour on this subject. She noted that we have second hour slots open in March. Eugenia suggested a second hour dealing with death in general and specifics. Doug will organize this event.

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From Doug Burks:

**Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Survey**

This is an invitation to join hundreds of other Friends to take a regional snapshot of Quakers. There are sections for very young Friends, Middle Youth, Teens, and Adults. Anyone who attends a local meeting is encouraged to take the survey. A number of questions about OVYM is included for those who like to be involved in yearly meeting as well as a section for those who don't get involved. Multiple surveys can be taken from the same computer so families and couples can do it on the home computer.

Your meeting's link to take the survey is found at

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/communityovym>

Just go to the link above. Many will finish the survey in 20 minutes or less. For those of your meeting community that doesn't access the Internet, Deborah Jordan will help make paper copies available that will be entered online afterwards.

## News from the Meeting

### BIBLICAL MEAL FEBRUARY 6

On February 6, the First Day School classes will be hosting a Biblical meal for carry-in. The meal will be served on tablecloths on the floor with cushions for seating, but tables and chairs will also be available. We will dip bread into a stew, and eat with our fingers. Please bring foods such as the following, which would have been typical for the Middle East in Bible times:

- Whole loaves of bread
- Figs, olives, or grapes
- Honey or dates
- Goat milk cheese (or regular cheese is also fine)
- Melon or cucumbers
- Pomegranates or persimmons
- Rice and lentil stew
- Pita bread and hummus
- Grape juice

The children will arrange platters of finger foods, so you can bring packaged items. Appropriate costumes (robes, shawls, head coverings) are welcome!

### The No Impact Experiment, By Kate Anthony

The No Impact Experiment is based on the work of Colin Beavan and his family, who attempted to live for a year creating zero impact on the environment. He wrote a book, *No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process*, about his experiences and a couple of his friends made a documentary film, *No Impact Man*, about it. The film is amusing and entertaining as well as inspiring and educational, showing the struggles of a fairly ordinary New York City family to all get on the same page and figure out how to live without most of the comforts and conveniences most Americans are used to.

The No Impact Experiment is a program for the rest of us to try what they did for a year, just for one week. Each day of the week adds one new area to focus on. The areas include consumption, trash, transportation, food, energy, and water. The idea is not for us to live permanently without electricity, etc., but to raise our awareness. If you follow the program, you will learn a great deal about how much water and energy and what your impact is. It will give you lots of ideas about how to live more lightly on the land and some practice in moving that direction.

The program is challenging. To do it sincerely takes some planning and forethought. For example, it's very difficult to just decide not to generate any trash, without first spending some time assessing what all goes into your trash can and planning ways to avoid those things. I think the program would work much better, be more manageable and more of a learning experience if a group does it together, to support each other and plan together, and discuss outcomes. The manual that comes with the program is filled with little thought provokers: "Ninety-nine percent of the stuff we harvest, mine, process, transport -- 99% of the stuff we run through this production system is trashed within six months." Annie Leonard, "The Story of Stuff."

The program is mostly focused on individual lifestyle changes, without regard to the systems we live in. In some ways, this seems wrong-headed. If cities & neighborhoods were redesigned so that there were workplaces, shopping places, entertainment within walking distance of residences, many of the transportation issues would disappear. If all houses were equipped with solar panels, we would not have to do without refrigeration to have zero impact. Human beings being what we are, it is going to be very difficult to get the majority of the population to make this kind of commitment to low impact living, while it is so difficult to implement. The real solution lies in changing our economic systems to make low impact living the "default mode." Right now, consumers have to choose between buying energy efficient appliances or buying inexpensive appliances. When only energy efficient appliances are sold, then automatically we will all be buying them.

But I highly recommend this program/ experiment to everyone as a learning experience and I would love to see Community Friends get a group together to do the program.

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Wider Quaker Events

**Mt. Gilead Friends Retreat**, 2011 Workshop Series on Paths To Wholeness

The Voice as a Healing Instrument: Tuning into Your Self

With Janiece Jaffe, Sat., Feb. 12th, 9-12 A.M.[]

Using vocal toning and toning bowls, we will learn how to balance our subtle energies. We will begin with a "soundbath" meditation of crystal and Tibetan bowls and toning by Janiece. We will then explore our voices as healing instruments. We will end by creating a group "soundscape" with an intention for planetary healing. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a blanket and pillow for the meditation.



Location: Friends Meeting House, Moores Pike just west of Smith Rd.

To register, send a check for \$25 by February 5th, payable to Mt. Gilead Friends Retreat: 3363 Mt. Gilead Rd., Bloomington, IN, 47408; call 812-679-6835 or e-mail: [mtgilfr@bloomington.in.us](mailto:mtgilfr@bloomington.in.us)

**American Friends Service Committee at Cincinnati Friends meeting**

Community Friends members and attenders are invited to Cincinnati Friends Meeting on Sunday March 6. Karen Light, Development Associate for the AFSC Great Lakes Regional Office in Chicago and Migwe Kimemia, Director of the Dayton, Ohio AFSC Office will be talking about their important work. Immediately after our carry-in meal, they will give us an overview of AFSC and describe their Dayton Immigrant Justice Program. The program will begin at 12:30 pm and end promptly at 1:30. Sponsored by Cincinnati Friends Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

**"Ohio Women & the Civil War Home Front"**

Saturday, April 16, 2011

Quaker Genealogy & History Conference, Waynesville, Ohio

3:30 p.m. – Doing Civil War Genealogy Research workshop with Karen Campbell

5:30 p.m. – Dinner and Guest Lecture by Dr. Kelly Selby of Walsh University

Ohio's political and military importance to the Union victory are widely known, but often less understood is the vital contribution made by the state's female population. This presentation demonstrates the importance of Ohio's women by exploring their wartime activities on the home front, focusing largely on the Soldiers Aid Societies and the Sanitary Fairs in Cleveland and Cincinnati, including stories of Quaker women and their involvement in southwest Ohio.

Registration: \$15 for the workshop, \$10 for dinner and the lecture

Co-sponsored by the Ohio Humanities Council

For more information, please contact:

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