

Community Companion

Quaker House:
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www.communityfriendsmeeting.org
<https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/community-friends-meeting>



Volume 20, Issue 2 February, 2014

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Submissions for the March newsletter due by:
Monday, February 25, 2014 to Jean Crocker-Lakness

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. 2 Biblical Meal Carry in after Meeting for Worship: see page 4 for more info on the Biblical meal. FUN Committee appreciates and encourages locally grown food when possible. Community Committee asks that if you bring something that needs to be heated before eating, please attach brief instructions to your container. Also, it's helpful to mention the name & ingredients of the dish - thanks!
- Feb. 9 Second hour: Meeting for worship with attention to business
- Feb. 13 Tender Mercies dinner, Contact David Funck
- Feb. 16 Miami Quarterly Meeting at Miami Monthly Meeting.
- Feb. 16 Second Hour: Baby shower for Alan and Grace (the caretakers) and baby Juniper
- Feb. 22 Work afternoon at the Meeting House, 12:00-2:00
- Feb. 23 Second Hour: Follow-up on the 2013 renewal (M&C Committee)

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Caretakers: Alan Wright and Grace Conrad Childcare: Emily Spring, Margaret Arney

Second Query from OVYM Book of Discipline, 1978: Prayer; Divine Relationship

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?

Summary of Minutes from the 1/12/2014 Business Meeting prepared by Paul Buckley, recording clerk**January 12, 2014 Business Meeting Summary**

Twenty-six Friends joined in a period of worship during which the clerk read from a discussion paper by Ian Hughes for New South Wales Regional Meeting on the aim of Quaker business meeting to reach a unity in God's purpose, not unanimity, consensus, or a majority opinion.

A December Treasurer's Report was presented in the format used by the previous treasurer. After all our 2013 obligations are met, the General Fund balance is projected to be nearly \$8,000. Our bank balance to annual budget ratio will be about 25% – well above the target of 10%. The estimated \$4727 in excess funds on hand at the end of 2013 will be transferred to the Building Reserve Fund.

The first draft of the 2014 budget was presented. Committees and programs were budgeted at about what was actually spent this year. Friends are encouraged to review the draft carefully. In light of Olney School's decision not to accept money from fracking, it was proposed that the meeting increase its contribution. It was decided that this, along with other proposed changes to the draft budget, be referred to the treasurer for consideration in the 2014 budget. In future years, we will return to the practice of Peace & Social Concerns Committee reviewing the contributions and proposing any changes to that part of the budget.

Committee clerks were again reminded that year end reports will be needed so that the State of the Meeting Report can be compiled. These should be sent to the clerk of Ministry & Counsel Committee by the end of January.

The Stewardship Committee is working with the Friends in Unity with Nature Committee on a plan for divesting ourselves of investments in fossil fuels. This broadened into a more general consideration of socially responsible investment practices. It has been pointed out that, if we were to conscientiously follow such practices, it may result in reduced income.

House & Grounds Committee informed us that a new mower will need to be purchased soon. The meeting approved paying up to \$5000 for the mower from the Building Reserve Fund. In addition, the committee will be addressing a number of backlogged house repairs in the immediate future.

Religious Development Committee is doing some outreach to involve more parents in the work of the committee. They reported the Christmas play was a great success. The committee appreciates the Friends who are sharing their experience of centering into worship with the children. Friends of all ages enjoyed making snowmen last week as our intergenerational activity.

OVYM teens will be attending the Quake that Rocked the Midwest over Martin Luther King weekend and are planning a service trip to Philadelphia this summer. Next year the teen service trip will be to Costa Rica!

The primary focus of the Peace & Social Concerns Committee this year is to raise the meeting's consciousness about the character and effects of the criminal justice system. It will work to mitigate the effects of its injustice, particularly with regard to re-entry. As part of this work, they plan to discuss the book *The New Jim Crow* beginning in April.

The committee will also lobby on behalf of the meeting and will inform the meeting about how we might try to affect our national and state legislatures. The pentagon budget is our focus on the national level with voting rights our focus on the state level.

The Library Committee reported the basement archives have been updated with minutes and newsletters filed by month. The current filing should be acceptable for transport to the Wilmington College Watson Library Archives whenever the Meeting is ready to authorize this. While they have begun an inventory of Library holdings, the process has progressed slowly and volunteers may be needed to help in the process. Signage in the Library to facilitate loans and returns of materials will be implemented very soon. We hope that all members and attenders will feel free to borrow Library materials to enrich their Life in the Spirit.

The Ad Hoc Committee to Consider Meeting Record Keeping met and decided who would have responsibility for keeping meeting records. The goal is to have meeting records stored in the meetinghouse (rather than in private homes) in an accessible form with copies in the OVYM Archives in the Watson Library at Wilmington College. The proposed guidelines were approved. The committee was asked to consider issues of how committee minutes should be archived and stored.

Summary of Minutes from the Business Meeting 01/12/2014, continued

The Web Clerk reported that about 20 people in the meeting have created accounts on the new website – many more need to be created. The web clerk currently approves requests to establish an account. If the requestor is unknown to him, he will check with the presiding clerk before approving.

The web clerk is attempting to assemble a file of significant minutes from the meeting's past – what is traditionally called a Book of Extracts. He is seeking help in identifying these and asks Friends to send him items that they feel should be included.

Ministry and Counsel Committee reports from several ministry support committees and formed a clearness committee to respond to a request for membership. They are working on a memorial minute for Barbara Wood in recognition of her many meaningful ties to the meeting and on the State of the Meeting report. They are encouraging some faithful attenders to consider requesting membership in the Meeting.

The Adult Religious Education Committee has been considering holding a multi-hour event on Quaker Diversity. This might be held on a Saturday in the fall and they were uncomfortable moving ahead without meeting approval – which they received. It was hoped that other local meetings could help with costs and other sources were suggested.

The Friends in Unity with Nature Committee has two work days planned for February 22 and March 8 – both running from noon to 2PM. As part of this, they hope to be rehabilitating the composting toilet. They also will be holding a Green Living Exchange on April 27.

The Liaison Committee has met with the caretakers and feels things are going well. They expressed special appreciation to the caretakers for shoveling the meetinghouse drive by hand.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Some years ago, the need arose for a mechanism to coordinate the meeting's second hour events and a calendar committee was created. Over time, this evolved into a committee with somewhat broader and vaguer responsibilities. This year, that committee has undertaken an evaluation of its role and responsibilities and brought a proposed statement of purpose and a new name to the monthly business meeting. As accepted by the meeting, that statement is:

"The purpose of the Adult Religious Education Committee is to identify the religious and spiritual education needs of Community Friends Meeting, and to plan Second Hour or other events to meet those needs. The committee also coordinates the calendar of meeting second hour events initiated by meeting committees or members."

The committee has tried to take a more proactive and intentional approach to its work. In July, it held an open session seeking the meeting members' views on what topics and issues were "gaps" that needed to be addressed in second hours or other sessions. Several topics were considered:

1. Service & discernment process (especially exploring the spiritual basis of our social action),
2. Quaker history (especially Local Quaker abolition activities 150 years ago),
3. Alternative visions for addressing environmental issues, and
4. Current Quaker diversity.

There was particular interest in Quaker diversity and some discussion on having a presentation lasting several hours on a Saturday – perhaps even starting on Friday evening. It was recognized that this would require significant advance planning. We will be considering how to move ahead in the coming year.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE, 2013 ANNUAL REPORT, CONTINUED

Another major activity has been the ongoing implementation of two series of In reach Groups. The first batch of these grew out of our consideration in 2012 of the FGC Quaker Quest program. This program consists of a series of workshops to help Friends share their spiritual stories, deepen the meeting community, welcome new life, and plan a series of outreach events for the wider community. We didn't feel ready to take on that program, but were inspired to create a set of opportunities for small groups within the meeting to help us get to know each other better both in the things that are eternal and in those things that are not.

In our first series, we had five small groups. One used Rex Ambler's "Experiment with Light," while a second was a theological book study group. The others were "Moving with the Spirit," "The Spiritual Healing Practice Group," and "Work as a Spiritual Practice."

These were such a success that we scheduled another round starting in October 2013. In some sense, the topics of these groups are just excuses for meeting members and attenders to gather in a supportive environment. The current groups focus on indigenous healing, discernment in our personal lives, living the last third of our lives, "The Joy of Business Meeting," and the Bible.

We had a presence again this year at the Victory of Light Expo in November. Many people stopped by our booth – about 25 picked up materials – and may show up at meeting for worship in the future. Eight meeting members and attenders, including one who first came to know us at last year's Expo, participated.

In addition, the committee has stayed true to its origins. There have been second hour presentations on a wide variety of topics nearly every Sunday throughout the year. These ranged from members' spiritual journeys to committee and individual presentations on topics such as ministry in meeting for worship, to a video on environmental issues and the children's Christmas play.

Green Living Exchange

Friends in Unity with Nature (FUN) is planning a Green Living Exchange for second hour on Sunday, April 27th to share information and practices for green living.

If there is something you would like to learn more about, or if there is something you would like to share, please contact Elyce, who is facilitating the exchange. We'll have more information about this event in the near future. elycefeliz@zoomtown.com

BIBLICAL MEAL FEBRUARY 2

On February 2, the First Day School class will be hosting a Biblical meal for carry-in. The meal will be served on blankets on the floor with cushions for seating (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 or pita bread
- Figs, olives, or grapes
- Honey or dates
- Goat milk cheese (or regular cheese is also fine)
- Melon, cucumbers or pomegranates
- Falafel
- Tabouleh
- Rice and lentil stew
- 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!

FGC Gathering this summer in the temperate highlands of western Pennsylvania: June 29-July 5, 2014, on the campus of California University of Pennsylvania.

FGC Evening Programs

"Let Love Be the First Motion." Judy Anne Williams, Victoria Greene, and Noah Baker Merrill speak to the theme.



Tony Vacca and Bideew Bou Bess, In Concert. An evening of world music, featuring drums and a contemporary West African music trio.

"Connecting the Issues, Acting with Courage." Kumi Naidoo, Director of Greenpeace International, speaks from his experience as an anti-apartheid and climate change activist.

"Love in the Belly of the Beast." Laura Magnani speaks about 40 years of work in U.S. prisons.



Prices and the NEW Family Discount

Prices are now published on the FGC website. Every full-time and half-Gathering registrants pays three fees: (1) program fee, (2) housing and campus use fee, and (3) meal plan fee.

Family prices are easier to understand with the new Family Discount, a 15% Discount on family members' program fees. Please read the detailed description online. Note that an adult couple registering without dependents does not qualify for the Discount. (photo by Joanne Clapp Fullagar)

College Students and their parents, take note! Students under age 24 attending with a parent or younger sibling are eligible for the Family Discount.

As always, financial aid is available: read the details on the Gathering website. **You are more likely to receive the maximum scholarship if you register between April 2 and April 13.**

Did you know that if FGC and your Meeting do not provide the aid you need to attend, you may cancel your registration without penalty? This is one more reason to register early!

Yes, There Is Camping



The Gathering site selection committee always prefers a campus with a camping option, and this year we have one!

The campground is appropriate for both tents and RVs. The tent area has numerous trees. Port-a-potties will be provided, with showers and toilets available 300 yards away during key times. (photo by Joanne Clapp Fullagar)

Campground location. Although it is on Cal U property, the campground is two miles from the main campus, up a very steep hill with no shoulders. Walking is not safe; bicycling is discouraged and only for the very fit. For those using the campground without a car, the Gathering will coordinator ride-sharing with other campers.

Early Registration starts April 2. All full-time registrations completed with this period will have equal access to workshops and housing options, and priority consideration for financial assistance

Standard registration starts April 19. Workshops and financial assistance will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Beginning June 1, there is a \$60 late fee for all full-time and half-Gathering registrations. Late fees will not be charged for part-time registrations.

THREE UPCOMING EVENTS**Sponsored by the Cincinnati Friends Meeting Peace & Social Concerns Committee**

The scheduled events below (presentations or panel discussions followed by Q&A) will take place in the Cincinnati Friends Meeting, 8075 Keller Road, Cincinnati, 45243.

Events will begin at 12:30; those attending are invited to join Cincinnati Friends for a light lunch from 12:00-12:30.

1) On March 2, after Meeting for Worship, **Bonita Porter & Bob LaGesse** of Oxford, Ohio, and **Ken Bordwell & Mary Anne Curtiss** of Community Friends Meeting will give a presentation on their experiences working among Friends in Bolivia through **Quaker Bolivia Link**. (Bonita grew up in Cincinnati Friends Meeting; she is Ruby & Virgil Porter's daughter.)

2) On March 23, after Meeting for Worship, **Lynn and Stephen Newsom, Co-Directors of Quaker House in Fayetteville, North Carolina**, will discuss the history of Quaker House. **Joining Lynn & Steve will be Joe Henry**, who recently spent some time at Quaker House with the **Baptist Peace Fellowship**.

3) On Sunday, April 6, Cincinnati Friends Meeting will host a panel discussion on the death penalty. This event is open to the public and publicized through the Interfaith Justice & Peace Center (IJPC) network and the Peace Churches. Panelists will include Cincinnati death penalty opponents & activists, **Howard Tolley of the UU Ohio Justice Network and Sister Alice Gerdeman, Director of the Interfaith Justice & Peace Center (IJPC) along with Margaret Hawthorn, a Quaker and anti-death-penalty activist from New Hampshire.**

ALSO OF INTEREST

The **2014 Willson Lecture** at Earlham School of Religion, Richmond, Indiana.

Feb. 17, 2014 ~ "When Does War End? Moral Injury & Soul Repair" ~ Keynote

speaker: Rev. **Rita Nakashima Brock**, Research Professor of Theology and Culture, Founding Co-Director of The Soul Repair Center. Event is free; optional lunch \$15. For more information, contact Miriam Bunner at bunnemi1@earlham.edu or 800-432-1377.

Baby Shower for Kristi Turnbull

Evie Hoffmann and Eileen Bagus join with other friends of Kristi Turnbull to invite you to a baby shower given on her behalf at Meeting House on Sunday, February 9 following Meeting for Business, about 2:15-4:00. Kristi is expecting a little boy, due March 7. [For those of you who don't know Kristi well, she is one of the two ladies Eileen has been mentoring the past couple of years.]

If you would like to get an idea of some things Kristi could use, she put together a baby registry at www.Target.com. It can be accessed under Kristi Turnbull. Everyone is welcome, including last minute, but if you are pretty sure that you will come, it will help us plan refreshments if you let us know. Leave a message for Eileen at bagus.eileen@gmail.com or [513-891-8780](tel:513-891-8780).

Submitted by Tim Leonard:

God Creating....God Inviting

I experience God through two sets of symbols: symbols of Creation and symbols of Invitation. Both God the creator and God the inviter live beyond and within time and space. They are separate, yet complementary versions of transcendence and imminence.

I have no idea how creation happened or happens. I know that it did happen and continues to happen. That it exists, and does not exist is quite mysterious.

What a marvel creation is: the power and energy of the sun and the myriad stars and galaxies; their life and death cycles; the intelligence of viruses, photosynthesis, and anthills; the tilt of the earth's axis; the fragility of the atmosphere; the surprising emergence of human life, love, comedy, and tragedy. In its parts and in its whole creation proclaims the glory of God. Yet even God cannot make a physical universe without failure, without loss, without death such phenomena are inherent in the structures of matter and energy.

Such reality led many in the 18th century to adopt Deism, the belief that God wound up the clockwork universe and left it to run on its own. They had something there, those Deists, for the universe does indeed seem to follow laws, even though we do not know them all, and cannot even account for what we call dark matter and dark energy, which makes up most of the universe. Though they are accounted for at best by the laws of probability, the laws of the universe appear to preclude natural miracles. The order of the universe is a network of interlocking conditions that can be investigated and understood by a community of inquirers who publicly share their data and their methods of collecting and interpreting it. Anomalous events, which some call miracles, raise up questions. Such questions are invitations for further investigation.

The creation is full of such invitations: invitations to wonder; to revere; to respect; to pay attention; to inquire; to understand; to seek justice; to live lives of compassion. That is how I experience God the inviter. God's face is in the Buddha who invites me to breathe; to smile. God's revelation is in the life of Jesus who seeks justice and lives compassionately. Loving, intimate conversation is God inviting. So are prayer, meditation, and work. And when I pay attention, meditate, and pray, in the words of Douglas Steere, "coincidences happen." I recognize the meaning of the invitations and of my response to them. I cannot change creation and its laws, but I can learn how better to respond to them. I am thrust more fully into being – into the life of God. That is when the miracles happen: when one person feeds another, shelters a homeless person, visits a prisoner, teaches reading, heals the sick.

The availability of instruments for response to such invitations has multiplied immensely with the growth of technologies through history from the discovery of fire and the invention of the wheel to systems of public health, public education, television and the Internet. To use such technologies without losing awareness that they are instruments whereby one can respond to invitations of God may be the biggest challenge of our time.

Tim Leonard, Jan 8, 2014

Opening by Lisa Cayard

Walking in the bright blowing snow,
Gulping the wind, the winter sky, the whisper of snowflakes,
I am stopped, stunned in my tracks,
Filled with a flashing awareness of the vast Mystery,
Held by, bound into, the sentient universe.

I see myself as a minute sensory organ,
A bright flicker of knowing:
I am an opening
Between the pulsing infinite and the present moment
Through which the burning oneness flows.

I see clearly for an instant
That life is being this open place,
Being filled to overflowing,
Until we are drawn back into the Whole,
To sing with the soul of the wind and the stars.

Set up a Quaker Cloud account

As you are probably aware, Community Friends Meeting has a new website which is part of FGC's Quaker Cloud.

One of the significant benefits of joining the Quaker Cloud is that we now have the ability to post resources to our website that are available only to members and attenders of the meeting (i.e. not everything posted will be accessible to the public). In order for this to work, however, members and attenders need to identify themselves with Quaker Cloud accounts.

If you visit our website at <http://communityfriendsmeeting.org>, you'll initially be able to view all the "public" information which is available to anyone. Information that is "private" and available only to members and attenders will not appear at all. Once you log in with your Quaker Cloud account, however, the private information will also become visible.

The process for setting up your Quaker Cloud account involves several steps, and may be a bit confusing, so I've written up the following instructions:

Setting up your Quaker Cloud Account

If you have registered for a past FGC Gathering or ordered books from Quaker Books, you probably already have a Quaker Cloud account. To find out, go to this page:

<https://www.quakercloud.org/user/password>

Enter your email address and click the "E-mail new password" button. You'll either get a message saying that further instructions have been emailed to you, or you'll be told that your email address is not recognized.

If you are told that your email address is not recognized, then you don't have an account yet. You can create one by filling out the form here:

<https://www.quakercloud.org/user/register>

After doing that, skip over the next paragraph to the "Requesting Access" section.

If your email address was recognized, you should receive an email with a subject line that begins "Replacement login information..." Open that email and go down to the last section about the Quaker Cloud and click the link there. That will take you to a page titled "Reset password" where you can set a password for your account.

Requesting Access

Once you've created an account or set the password on your existing account, the next (and final) step is to join the Community Friends Meeting group on the Quaker Cloud. To do that, go to this page: <https://www.quakercloud.org/node/4599/join>

And click the "Request to Join this Group" link at the bottom of the page. (If you are prompted for your email address and password, use the ones you just set up.)

Once you've done that, the site administrator (me) will need to approve your request. When that happens, you should receive an email informing you that you now have full access to the site.

Hopefully, these instructions will make this process go smoothly, but if you run into problems, feel free to email me at davidpc@gmail.com or call me at 631-4744.

David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson

Memorial Societies

From the Book of Discipline of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting:

“Friends are encouraged to foster the growth of memorial societies for simple burial or cremation”

There is such a group here in Cincinnati: Funeral Consumers Alliance of Greater Cincinnati. They have priced the most economical cremation at \$695.00 at the Grunn Funeral Home on Main street or All Cremation in Milford. They tell me that green burial is available here in Cincinnati in some cemeteries on the west side of town. They will be holding a meeting on Feb. 20 at 1:00 and 7:00 pm on “Green Burial”. The meeting location is 270 Northland Blvd. suite 308. For more information visit their web site: www.FCAGC.org



Photo by Eugenia Mills

Before carry-in on Sunday, January 5, the intergenerational activity was to make snow characters. Here is the Quaker snow woman.