

# Community Companion

Quaker House:

3960 Winding Way, Cincinnati, OH 45229-1950

(513) 861-4353

[www.communityfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.communityfriendsmeeting.org)

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



Volume 21, Issue 2

February, 2015

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## Assistant Clerk:

Lisa Cayard

## Recording Clerk:

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Lynn Funck

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Submissions for the March newsletter due by: Monday, Feb. 23, 2015 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. 1 Simple Meal: Please join us in bringing food for a simple-carry-in meal. Rice and beans is one example or other simple, inexpensive, unprocessed food so we can join in how much of the world eats. The children hope that you will donate\$ saved by bringing simple foods. Proceeds go to Right Sharing of World Resources. See page 10
- Feb. 12 Quakerism 101, 7:30-9:00, see page 4
- Feb. 15 Second Hour: Miami Quarter meets at Eastern Hills. Program is "Socially Responsible Investment: How Community Friends Meeting Divested from Fossil Fuels" see page 8
- Feb. 19 Quakerism 101, 7:30-9:00, see page 4
- Feb. 21 6:00 Game Night, see page 4
- Feb. 22 Second hour: Peace and Social Concerns will present:" Prisons and the Military Industrial Complex"

## Midweek Meeting for worship Thursdays at 7pm

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Caretakers: John Sniegocki and Elizabeth Groppe Childcare: Katelyn Buckman & Rachel Piepsny

## 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?

## January 11, 2015 Business Meeting Summary by Paul Buckley, recording Clerk

Twenty-one Friends gathered in a period of worship during which the presiding clerk read a short section on the unique way we have of knowing and following God's guidance from *Discernment: Living under Divine Guidance* which was printed in the Journal of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) in 2012.

The **Treasurer** reported that 5% of the total 2014 budget that was in the General Fund at the end of December – less than the target of 6%. This means that our funds on hand would pay for only about one-half month's expenses. There were several large expenses in December that resulted in higher than average spending. In addition, all budgeted contributions to other organizations for 2014 were paid in December. For the year, we received about 86% of the unrestricted contributions budgeted for 2014 and expenses were 93% of what was expected.

The Treasurer also presented the **draft 2015 budget**. In it, total expenses from the General Fund were \$40,585 – compared to a General Fund budget of \$38,968 in 2014. A large part of the increase is a rise in the projected Duke Energy bill from \$3,455 to \$4,212. In addition, Religious Development Committee has asked for \$800 more in 2015 – mostly to provide babysitting for second hours in the summer.

It was suggested that the budgeted contribution to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting be increased in anticipation of an increase in the yearly meeting's needs. The meeting **approved** rounding up the budgeted contribution to \$9,000. This brought total expenses up to \$40,785. With this change, the 2015 budget was **approved**.

At our December 2014 Business Meeting, the **Stewardship Committee** proposed using a \$35,000 bequest to establish an endowment fund. During that meeting's consideration, it was suggested that \$10,000 of the bequest be transferred to the Building Reserve Fund to meet immediate needs for work on the meetinghouse and that the rest become an endowment fund. After further discussion, this proposal was laid over for more discernment and possible approval at this month's meeting.

In the intervening month, a second bequest was received, raising the amount under consideration to approximately \$65,800.

In discussion at this month's business meeting, concern was expressed that we not allow income from an endowment fund merely to allow us to slack off in our financial support of the meeting. These bequests are unexpected windfalls and should be treated with care.

A transfer of \$15,000 to the Building Reserve Fund was **approved**.

It was proposed that we use the rest to create a permanent fund. The intention of the fund would be to preserve the principle by spending only a limited portion of the fund each year, but unlike an endowment fund, to still allow the meeting the freedom to spend some or all of the principle if it felt God was leading us to do so. After further discussion, the disposition of the remainder of the bequests was again laid over for further discernment. A threshing session on how to proceed will be held before our next business meeting.

The **Friends in Unity with Nature Committee** will present "Socially Responsible Investment: How Community Friends Meeting Divested from Fossil Fuels" to the Miami Quarterly Meeting at Eastern Hills Friends Meeting on February 15.

Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) is planning another action on February 9 to try to persuade PNC Bank to stop making loans for mountain-top-removal coal mining. The committee asked Bill Cahalan and Kate Anthony to consider what next steps Community Friends could take in support of EQAT.

One of those present talked briefly about his personal ministry in the community. His professional life led him to deep consideration of spirituality in teaching. He is currently the president of the William H. Albers Foundation and is helping with the AMOS Project and with DePaul Cristo Rey High School.

The **Religious Development Committee** is very appreciative of all who worked on a very successful Christmas play. They reviewed staffing for First Day School classes and believe they have nearly filled the need, although they continue to seek to involve parents in the circle of teaching. Childcare looks good for the remainder of winter and spring, but we may have to recruit for summer.

Summary of the January Meeting for Business, continued

**Ministry & Counsel Committee** brought forward a proposed traveling minute for two members who feel called to visit among Friends and others in Japan. The minute was read and **approved**.

The committee also discussed the many ways in which individuals in the Meeting participate in ministry and social activism in their lives outside of the meeting community. It was suggested that Friends be invited to briefly share their experience with this kind of work at monthly meeting. This practice was initiated with the report by a member mentioned above.

The Nominating Committee was named by M&C this past year and it went very well. The meeting **approved** making this an ongoing responsibility. The committee was reminded to look for the broadest possible representation on the Nominating Committee.

A recommendation to create an ad hoc Outreach Committee was **approved**. The presiding clerk will serve as a liaison between this committee and M&C. Volunteers are welcome to serve as members for this new committee.

The **Peace & Social Concerns Committee** is working on a second hour for February 22 and scheduled a presentation and movie night on restorative justice for Friday, April 10. One member will be meeting with AMOS Project staff to discuss raising funds for schools willing to teach W.E.B. Du Bois' *Souls of Black Folk* in area high school American literature classes.

**Community Committee** reported that seven people went caroling at Victory Park Nursing Home on December 21. The residents and staff were very appreciative. Thirty persons attended the New Year's Eve potluck and white elephant gift exchange.

**Adult Religious Education Committee** has devoted their time recently to organizing an all-day event in August. The feedback they received from the meeting community about possible topics has been helpful. They have decided to focus the event on ministry and the diverse gifts people use in contributing to their meetings, other Quaker activities, and in the wider world. Possible presenters were discussed with an emphasis on achieving a diversity of perspectives.

**House & Grounds Committee** reported that five dead trees – 4 ash and 1 beech – have been cut behind the meetinghouse in compliance with meeting policies. Several other trees have fallen by natural causes. Since there is sufficient money in the Building Reserve Fund to paint the meetinghouse, H&G will be seeking bids for the job.

The composting toilet has been repaired and is back in service.

The **Web Clerk** reported our relationship with the Quaker Cloud has been renewed for 2015.

**Quaker Heights'** new construction is making great progress. They are seeking more residents. If you or someone you know is looking for a supportive new home, please consider Quaker Heights.

The meeting closed with silent worship.

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### **Save the date: March 22 Second Hour on the Gathered Meeting**

"It is so much more important that we be prayed than that we pray. And yet the latter has been found to be a frequent preparation for the former. When this tendering happens in a meeting, one feels knit very closely to one's fellow worshippers, and a particular sense of our common ground in the Spirit and of our life in "holy obedience" to it often develops." Douglas Steere

Come learn about and share your thoughts on Meeting for Worship and the gathered meeting. Facilitated by Ministry & Counsel

**State of the Meeting** - It's time to reflect on the past year. All committees are asked to write brief reports to help with our State of the Meeting summary. Please send them to Lisa Cayard ([lisacayard@embargmail.com](mailto:lisacayard@embargmail.com)) by Feb. 28th.



## Quakerism 101

A short four-session course introducing the faith and practice of Quakers, called Quakerism 101 will be offered at the meeting house on four Thursdays: February 12<sup>th</sup>, February 19<sup>th</sup>, March 19<sup>th</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 to about 9:00 each evening. Kate Anthony and Tim Leonard will co-teach this class, in which participants will discuss: Quaker Worship; Quaker Testimonies of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, and Equality; and the history and organization of Quaker meetings. All are welcome to these sessions.

## **New Outreach Committee Forming**

At the January meeting for worship with attention to business a decision was made to form a new ad-hoc outreach committee. This committee is now seeking members. The outreach committee will explore ways to make the existence of the Meeting known to the broader public, assist with welcoming newcomers to the Meeting, and perhaps plan informational sessions for the public (e.g. Quaker Quest or something similar). If you feel led to participate in this committee, please see John Sniegocki or call the meetinghouse at 861-4353.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Greater Cincinnati Human Trafficking Conference**

February 6, Friday, 8:30 am-4:30pm at the American Red Cross Building, 2111 Dana Ave. 45207

\$50 pre-registration, \$30 student ID

Register at [www.endslaverycincinnati.org](http://www.endslaverycincinnati.org)

## **Game Night at the Meeting House aka Meeting for Worship with attention to fun.**

Rachel Ernst Stahlhut has wanted a chance to be social with folks in the Meeting. She has scheduled a Game Night for Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited and it's going to be a "snack potluck".

She has some games that can be played as a whole group, or if you have a board game or other games that you would like to share, please feel free to bring them.

## **OUR MEADOW**

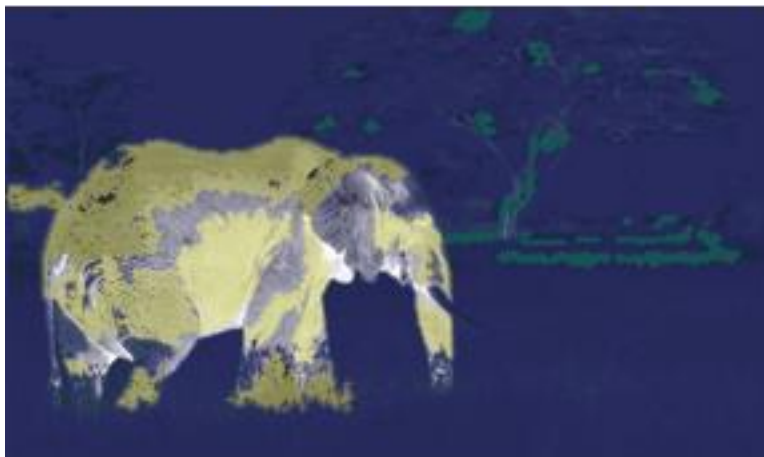


### **THIS MEADOW**

- Has native flowers and grasses
- Attracts butterflies
- Releases oxygen and absorbs carbon dioxide

**NATURAL YARDS ARE  
HEALTHY FOR ALL**

## white elephant



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Jennifer Wolff was inspired by the White elephant event on New Year's Eve, and submitted this white elephant to the newsletter

## NEW PEOPLE AT THE MEETING

### JAMES DYER



James was introduced to Quakerism by a high school friend who thought he would be a good Quaker. James is interested in Environmental concerns and attended The **People's Climate March**. He was one of the estimated 311,000 participants at this large-scale activist event to advocate global action against climate change, which took place on Sunday, September 21, 2014, in New York City.

His first Quaker event was the FCNL dinner event for Young Friends at the home of Mary Anne Curtiss and Ken Bordwell.

Since the end of October he has been attending Meeting for Worship and has joined the FUN committee.

He says he finds the Meeting "Incredibly welcoming and full of very passionate people"

He plans on attending the Quakerism 101 classes.

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### Christine Cardina

Christine found Community Friends Meeting on the web. She liked our website. When she lived in North Eastern New York state, she attended Burlington Friends Meeting in Vermont. She was raised Catholic, but didn't like the patriarchy. She checked out Quakerism and liked that god is not necessarily a man, but the Light. She has been attending since November and is attracted to Peace and Social Concerns. She moved to Cincinnati to be near her daughter, son-in-law and grandson; Solomon





## Ministries outside of the Meeting

The Meeting is following the practice of people talking about their ministries outside the meeting.

**Tim Leonard** spoke at the January Meeting for Worship with attention to Business about his individual Ministries.

[Editor's note: I found his activities inspiring.]



"I consider a life of teaching to have been my major ministry. Teaching religion and philosophy of education as a basis for curriculum are the fields I taught in for fifty years. I learned early on that the main strategy of teaching is listening—listening to students' questions, their opinions, their affect, their ways of reasoning. These ways of approaching teaching were spiritual practices, in which I gradually grew over those years.

In retirement I have edited two volumes of work on Myth, Education, and Spirituality along with a colleague in Australia, Peter Willis. Currently I write pieces for educational conferences, and a bit of poetry. As a recovering alcoholic for 34 years, I have become more active in the work of Alcoholics Anonymous, which involves the practice of listening and being with other alcoholics.

Throughout my teaching and writing, the central issue I have been dealing with is Racism, the subject of my doctoral dissertation, and a theme in all my work and teaching. For this reason, I am currently trying to develop a workable relationship between our meeting and AMOS, an interfaith group committed to the improvement of race relations in Cincinnati."

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### STUDY GROUP FOR **THE NEW JIM CROW** at Cincinnati Friends Meeting

Study Group for *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in The Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander  
The group will meet for 5 sessions on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:30: Feb. 3, Feb. 17, March 3, and March 17.

We will use the study guide from "No to prisons, Yes to Caring Communities" and the campaign to end the new Jim Crow. This was referenced by AFSC- New York Metropolitan Regional Office.

Why Study this book in a Group? It helps to answer important questions and discussion may bring out information and new points of view on questions like:

- Why does the United States have the highest rate of incarceration in the world?
- It costs \$55,000.00 a year to incarcerate a person for a year in NY State. Is this the way we want our society to allocate its resources?
- Why are more African American males under the control of the criminal justice system now than were enslaved in 1850?
- What Supreme Court decisions have eviscerated the 4<sup>th</sup> amendment, which protects us from search and seizure?
- Why did the War on Drugs not make you safer?

For the meetings, you will need to obtain a book. There are copies available through the public library. For the Feb. 3 session read Chapters 2&3. For more information contact: Jean Crocker-Lakness

### Quote from Ronald E. Hampton, executive director, National Black Police Assoc.

"A powerful analysis of why and how mass incarceration is happening in American. *The New Jim Crow* should be required reading for anyone working for real change in the criminal justice center"

**MIAMI QUARTERLY MEETING**

Please join Friends from Southern Ohio and Kentucky at

Miami Quarterly Meeting of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

15th Day, Second Month, 2015 Eastern Hills Friends Meeting 1671 Nagle Rd. Cincinnati OH 45424

**WELCOME & HOSPITALITY**

Campus Meeting is co-hosting. Overnight lodging can be arranged by contacting Susan Krug at 513-313-7629 or [skkrug1@yahoo.com](mailto:skkrug1@yahoo.com).

DIRECTIONS: For a map to Eastern Hill's Meetinghouse, go to [http://ovym.quaker.org/index\\_files/EasternHills.htm](http://ovym.quaker.org/index_files/EasternHills.htm).

SUMMARY: On First Day there will be Meeting for Worship, a potluck lunch, a trip to the Cincinnati Zoo for youth and a topical program for adult Friends. The adult day will conclude with Miami Quarterly Meeting's Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

**SCHEDULE**

9:30 Arrival-fellowship

10:00 Meeting for Worship

11:30 Potluck lunch – out-of-town visitors should bring items that do not require heating (e.g., breads, salads, desserts).

1:00 Program: Fossil Fuel Divestment.

1:00 Eastern Hills Meeting will be taking any children, middle youth and teens to the Cincinnati Zoo.

2:30 Miami Quarterly Meeting – Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (send Agenda items to Veronica Frost, Co-Clerk at [eclectictwelve@hotmail.com](mailto:eclectictwelve@hotmail.com)).

4:00 Depart.

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**WHITE PRIVILEGE CONFERENCE**

The White Privilege Conference (WPC) will be in Louisville, KY March 11-14, 2015. It's time—over the next few weeks-- to make your decision about going and still take advantage of really deep, early discounts offered to Quakers to make it more affordable.

WPC is an opportunity to connect with-- and be challenged by--more folks like you who are committed to examining issues of privilege and oppression in our own lives and in our community institutions. Various workshops also expand the discussions to all the intersections between privilege and its impacts--among race, gender, age, class, sexual identity, etc. Whether you are white or a person of color, in education or community development, a person of faith or a community activist, a social worker or in healthcare, fighting for the environment or for respect and equality for your social identity -- WPC will have offerings and conversations of tremendous value for you.

1. For more information, visit the WPC website ([whiteprivilegeconference.com](http://whiteprivilegeconference.com))

There you will find the schedule, keynotes descriptions, and details on one-day institutes (Wed and Sat), and possibly descriptions of the workshops. If you register for the whole, three-day conference, you can pick a half dozen of these workshops. You might look for increasingly challenging topics, or want to find a mix of topics on personal work and on particular intersections or issues important to your work in your community.

2. **Critical pre-registration steps to get the deeply discounted Quaker registration price--** All Quakers and the staff of Quaker institutions (FCNL, QVS, AFSC, Quaker schools, etc.) are eligible for deep (50+%) discounts. However, you must pre-register on the Friends General Conference (FGC) Ministry on Racism website (<http://www.fgcquaker.org/associated-program/ministry-racism>) before February 6, 2015 to get the full discount code you will need.

The Quaker discount code will be sent out in an FGC confirmation e-mail soon after you pre-register online. You must then register on the WPC site with the code by February 13 to receive the full discount. That is when and where you pay, not at the FGC website.

Do not try to register on the WPC website without the code, or you will end up paying the nondiscounted price and it is difficult, if not impossible, to correct it.

After February 13, the conference registration prices rise quickly.



## WHITE PRIVILEGE CONFERENCE, continued

3. **Housing, meals, transportation, and limited financial assistance**--The online Quaker pre-registration form will also ask you questions about housing and transportation. We understand that for most of you in the surrounding states, housing is your biggest potential expense. Louisville Meeting will try to honor all requests for Quaker housing and try to help you keep housing costs down, one way or another. You should know, though, that we are a relatively small meeting. From past conference numbers, it looks like about half of what accommodations we will be able to offer will consist of floor space and some foam pads at the Meetinghouse and its annex (but we do have plenty of bathrooms, at least!).

Quaker hosts will have continental breakfast fare only. All dinners are yours to arrange outside your lodging. This is intentional; the conference wants you to get out to dinner in our town, with people you meet in your workshops, and to continue your conversations. There are also cultural activities and films every evening at the conference. It does not end at 5 pm.

If requested on the FGC pre-registrations, after February 6 we will help put Quakers in touch with each other for hotel room sharing at the Galt House (the conference home—about \$140/night for two double beds), too. Piling a bunch of people into a Galt House hotel room gives you the time and close access to take advantage of all that the conference has to offer. If you can afford it, I recommend that.

Transportation assistance will be similarly focused and limited. We (Louisville Meeting) unfortunately cannot commit to make all airport pickups and daily transport. You will get airport shuttle information from WPC if you stay at the Galt House. We would help coordinate possible daily in-town carpooling with those Quaker participants with cars, and have information about direct public bus routes.

FGC pre-registration has a section about need-based requests for limited financial aid for Quakers. You may also contact WPC staff through the WPC web site for possible volunteer jobs at the conference--info tables, etc.-- to offset some of the registration costs. Lastly, remember that FGC is a co-sponsor of the WPC. Talk to your local Meeting or Yearly Meeting about possible scholarship monies for attendance at this Quaker activity.

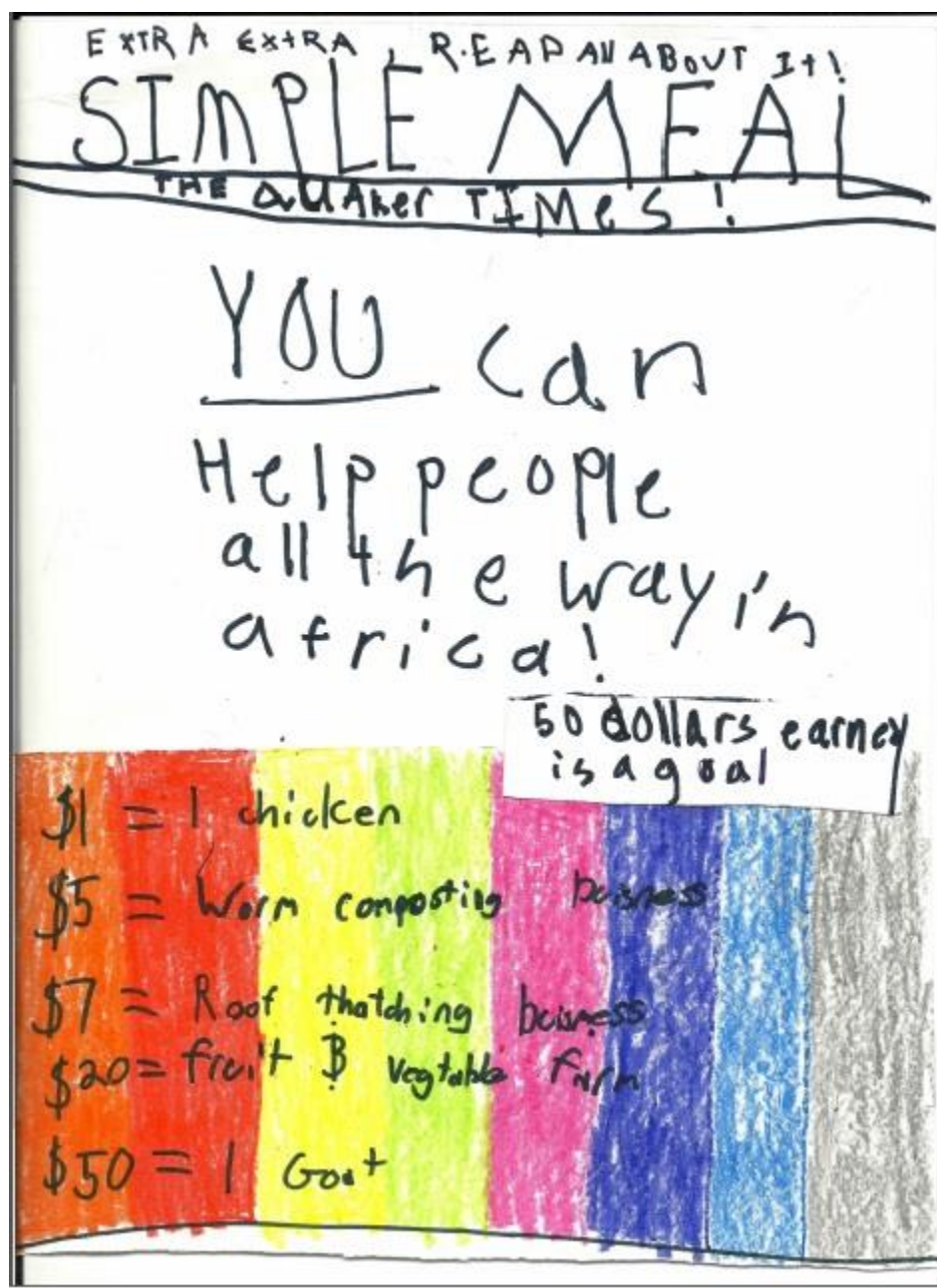
There is no day care available for small children. Middle and high school students are under the care of their parents or school chaperones.

4. **Conference Spirituality Center, Worship, and Quaker caucuses**-- Louisville Meeting has embraced the tradition for local Quakers to arrange for and staff a spirituality center at the conference hotel (Galt House). Details and schedules will come later, but we will have an open room where any conference participant can come for reflection—or just quiet decompression--during the days of the conference. We plan to facilitate daily morning worship, after the manner of Friends. The room will also be a gathering place in the afternoon for any Quaker caucuses and for the very important consultations and coordination around where to go for dinner.

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Who are these lovely ladies from 1996?? That is Jamie Fota on the right. [Editor's note: this photo was given to me for the newsletter with only Jamie identified. If someone can identify the others, we will publish the other names next month]



From the Children in First Day School

The children are asking Friends to donate the money that they have saved by eating simply to RSWR. Right Sharing of World Resources is a Quaker micro-credit organization that supports grassroots income-generating projects in developing countries, led by women, many of whom are making less than one dollar a day. Their goal is \$50.00