

Community Companion

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

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



New member:
Chuck Moore

Volume 20, Issue 6 June, 2014

Presiding Clerk:

Kate Anthony

Assistant Clerk:

Frank Huss

Recording Clerk:

Paul Buckley

Treasurer:

Lynn Funck

Ministry and Counsel:

Eileen Bagus

Erin Bagus

Lisa Cayard (clerk)

Frank Huss

Deborah Jordan

Tim Leonard

Sunny Rhein (SA)

(SA) is special assignment

Newsletter:

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Jean Crocker-Lakness

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Submissions for the July newsletter due by:

Monday, June 24, 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

There is no second hour during the summer months

- June 1 8:45 Pancake breakfast. Bring toppings or juice
June 8 Meeting for worship with attention to business after the rise of Meeting for Worship
June 13 6:00 Welcome event for new member: Susan Gerke. See page 3
June 22 Threshing Session Planned after rise of Meeting. See page 7

July 30-August 3 Save the date for OVYM at Earlham College

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

Sixth Query from OVYM Book of Discipline, 1978: Family Relations

Do you make your homes places of love and hospitality? Do you make a place in your daily family life for reading, meditation and prayer? Do you share your deepest beliefs with your children, while encouraging them to develop their own spiritual lives? Do you encourage their interests in constructive, creative activities and their reading of the Bible and other inspirational literature? Do you maintain a constant companionship within our families by sincere and honest communications? When unsatisfactory relationships exist within a family, is the loving, sympathetic counsel of responsible and qualified persons made available to its members?

May 11, 2014 Business Meeting Summary

Prepared by Paul Buckley, Recording Clerk

Sixteen Friends opened the meeting with a period of worship during which the clerk read a description of “the customs or modes of behavior” of a business meeting from the Glasgow (Scotland) Quaker Meeting website.

Treasurer’s Report. The General Fund balance is low at \$1,405 and the bank balance is only 4% of the annual budget – short of the goal of 6%. Donations would relieve both of these concerns.

The **Nominating Committee** presented a final slate for 2014-15. There are still a few vacancies. The slate was **approved** with gratitude.

The **Ministry & Counsel Committee** is considering holding a meeting Renewal on the third weekend in September. They welcome suggestions from the Meeting.

A Clearness Committee met with Susan Gerke and recommended that she be taken into membership in Community Friends Meeting. M&C brought this recommendation forward. **Approved.**

The **Friends in Unity with Nature Committee** is planning to host a pancake breakfast on June 1. As decided at the April business meeting, the committee is organizing a threshing session to consider divesting the meeting’s funds from fossil fuels.

The **Library Committee** will host a library open house soon. The librarian has delivered a cache of materials to the archives held in the Watson Library at Wilmington College tomorrow. The meeting archives are shaping up, but there is still a fair amount of work needed to organize financial records and old Ministry & Counsel Committee records. Friends were encouraged to refer to the archiving and record-keeping guidelines approved in March 2014 when deciding on what and how to submit records to the archivist.

The inventory of library holdings is still a priority, but will be deferred until the new committee forms to take on this task in a deliberate way.

The report was **accepted**.

The **House & Grounds Committee** reported that although the mower is currently working, it will be replaced soon by a heavy-duty unit. Many projects were accomplished during the May work day – notably the pocket door on the library was repaired. Unfortunately, the list of things still to be done seems to grow despite their efforts.

The **Religious Development Committee** will continue to offer a children’s program through May. Friends were encouraged to volunteer to spend time with the children during Meetings for Worship over the summer.

The **Adult Religious Education Committee** again raised the question of how to accommodate the many requests for Second Hours, including a threshing session on disinvestment from fossil fuels, discussion of the meeting’s use of electronic media, and green burial options. More frequent opportunities for members to share their spiritual journeys would also be of value. The sense of the meeting was that we should schedule some Second Hours in the summer, rather than combining more than one activity on a single Sunday.

Questions were also raised regarding how we spend our time after meeting. The Religious Development Committee has noted that the Second Hours are tending to end later in the day than in the past – leading to increased costs for child care. This may result from more time spent in closing the meeting, more time spent eating and socializing between the rise of Meeting for Worship and the beginning of the Second Hours, longer presentations, or some other factor. The Ministry & Counsel Committee will consider these concerns.

The Adult Religious Education Committee will be sending out evaluation forms for the In reach Groups this week. Friends are asked to fill them out even if they were only able to attend one meeting and to return them to the group leaders.

Planning is proceeding well for the annual sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Susan Starke and George Lakey will be plenary presenters. The deadline for materials to be included in the advanced reports is June 15.

Welcome gathering for newest member: Susan Gerke

There will be a welcoming for Susan Gerke and family on Friday, June 13th at 6pm. We will have a taco bar and fruit bar for dessert. Please contact Jamie Fota about what we need for the dinner (she has the sign-up sheet) by Monday, June 9. Thanks! (Jamie's number is 559-9642)

**Daytrip to Levi Coffin Home - July 19**

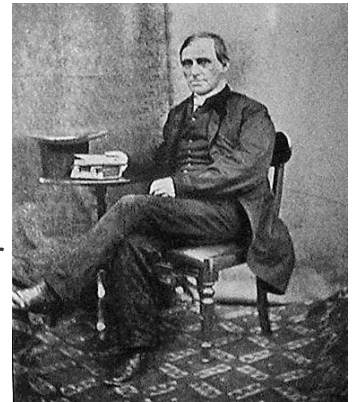
If you're interested in a tour of the Indiana home of Levi Coffin, the Quaker "President of the Underground Railroad" - and an enjoyable road trip with members of Community Friends - please join us on Saturday, July 19, 2014 for an excursion to the Coffin Home in Indiana -

We plan to get together at the meeting house in the morning for the drive (about an hour & a half) and take a guided tour of the home, a National Historic Landmark in Fountain City, Indiana.

<http://www.indianamuseum.org/explore/levi-coffin-house>

The charge for the tour (about 1 1/2 hours) is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children (children under 6 are free).

If you'd like to go, or have any questions, contact Elyce at elycefeliz@zoomtown or [513-351-1254](tel:513-351-1254) - we'll need to have a count to let the tour guides at the Levi Coffin Home know how many are coming -



Depending on the weather, we'd like to picnic at the park in town - we can either pack lunches, or, Janice McGuire, manager at the Levi Coffin House, said there is an Amish store in town with a bakery & deli that makes good sandwiches.

For whoever is interested, we may take a Nature walk afterwards.

Further information will be posted on the Community Friends Quaker Cloud website as we find out who wants to go, and discuss details & preferences for the arrangements -

<https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/community-friends-meeting/events/levi-coffin-house-road-trip>

Join Earth Quaker Action Team Thursday, July 3rd in Pittsburgh!

Since 2009 Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT, pronounced “equate”) has called on PNC, a bank with Quaker roots and many Quaker customers, to end its practice of financing coal mining companies that blow up mountains, poison streams, and destroy Appalachian communities, all while fueling climate change. While this year’s FGC Gathering is not far from the national headquarters of PNC Bank, Friends of all ages from across the country will stand together to insist that PNC stop profiting from this destructive practice and finance renewable alternatives instead. In the tradition of Quaker witness, we will engage in storytelling, both ours and those from Appalachia, at several PNC locations. We will then gather together for prayerful protest near PNC’s headquarters. We will not be committing civil disobedience and will not be risking arrest. We will be joined by Kumi Naidoo, Executive Director of Greenpeace International, and the Gathering plenary speaker that night. Please join us and help us spread the word! Buses will bring Friends from the Gathering site to the action in Pittsburgh. **Signing up now** will help the planning team: Register at www.eqat.org/July3

The Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) is inviting people during this year’s FGC Gathering to play a significant role in our campaign, *Bank Like Appalachia Matters!*, by standing together with Friends from all across the US peacefully and prayerfully insisting that PNC stop financing mountaintop removal coal mining.

EQAT is looking for a volunteer from our meeting to be contacted by a volunteer from EQAT. If you are interested please contact: Chris Baker Evens, Campaign Organizer, Earth Quaker Action Team, www.eqat.org

FGC will be held at the **CALU, south of Pittsburgh, PA, June 29-July 5, 2014. For more info, visit their web site:** <http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>

COMMUNITY FRIENDS MEETING: 2013 STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT**Approved at Meeting for Business on 2/9/14**

Community Friends Meeting has experienced a year of renewed focus, active engagement, and increased support for leadings in ministry. We are blessed with new energy of active attenders as well as the faithful support of long-time members. We comforted and encouraged one another in hard times and celebrated milestones and accomplishments together. Our hearts and prayers were constantly with the Branson family during Byron’s long illness, and we grieved together at his passing in February. Byron Branson, one of the founding members of Community Friends Meeting, leaves us a legacy of love that was made visible through his energetic work and ministry to the Meeting, to the local community, and to the wider Quaker world. Byron truly lived a life that was a pattern and an example for all of us.

Our beloved Meetinghouse Caretakers, John Sniegocki and Elizabeth Groppe and son John David left for a year to pursue a job opportunity, but we were very fortunate to find another wonderful couple to serve as interim caretakers. Alan and Grace recently were blessed with the birth of baby Juniper, who brings new joy to the Meeting!

We held a Meeting Renewal in October, facilitated by Cathy Barney, with a focus on discerning and naming our gifts. The renewal was well-attended with about 30 participants. We enjoyed creative activities, personal sharing, and celebration of the many gifts we each bring to the Meeting community. A follow up activity was to name and celebrate the gifts of the Meeting. Examples of the gifts we named were “We meet God in one another here,” “We minister to each other in different ways,” and “We are held together by love. People come and go, and the love continues.”

Ministry and Counsel has provided support and anchoring committees for a number of members who are feeling called to ministry, or who are seeking clearness in discerning their leadings. We are supporting those who are called to prison ministry, music ministry, writing ministry, and other leadings. We offered a variety of Spiritual In reach groups, growing out of our exploration of the FGC Quaker Quest process in 2012, which led to a realization that we needed to strengthen our own spiritual community through deeper sharing with one another. Our intention has been to create the kind of spiritual community that would attract other seekers as well as nourishing current members and attenders. The current In reach groups, planned and coordinated by Adult Religious Education Committee, meet monthly to share around topics such as indigenous healing, using discernment in our personal lives, and the Bible.

2013 STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT, continued

Adult Religious Education Committee has taken a more intentional approach to planning and coordinating second hour discussions by seeking recommendations from the Meeting for topics to address. Second hour topics have included vocal ministry during worship, environmental issues, and sharing of spiritual journeys. Outreach efforts have included being a presence at the Victory of Light Expo, where 25 people picked up materials about Quakerism at our booth.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee has become active again after a time of being laid down. The committee is focusing on raising awareness about the criminal justice system, restorative justice, and supporting the re-entry into society of persons who have been incarcerated. We have an active Transforming Jail Ministries Worship Team, which is now under the care of Peace and Social Concerns Committee. The TJM Worship Team has participated in twelve worship services at the Justice Center and other prison facilities, worshipping with more than 280 men and women over the year. The team members bring a deep sense of compassion to this ministry, and have felt blessed to share in rich worship experiences. The meeting has also continued its commitment to the Tender Mercies ministry by providing and serving an evening meal once a month for about 35 residents of a local shelter for homeless people with mental illness. House and Grounds has worked with Stewardship Committee to prepare ourselves for anticipated upcoming maintenance expenses by increasing the building reserve fund. Regular workdays were held to complete projects in the meetinghouse and upkeep of the woods. We lost the willow tree in front of the meetinghouse, but left a piece of it for birds. New indigenous trees are also being planted. Friends in Unity with Nature Committee has been working on a concern for divestment from fossil fuel corporations. We continue to support locally grown foods and other steps toward sustainable living.

Religious Development Committee continues to provide a vital First Day School program for about six intermediate age children who attend regularly, plus a few occasional attenders. The core group consists of three sets of siblings who enjoy being together, and it is a joy to watch them maturing. The theme this year is exploring the Bible. Children are being introduced to a variety of ways to center into worship during monthly Children's Meetings, led by different meeting members who are sharing their experiences in worship with the class. The teens in our meeting participated in the OVYM teen service trip to Olney Friends School. Four teens graduated from high school in 20, resulting in a big change in our youth programming. We note with great appreciation Wilhelmina Branson's devoted ministry with the teens over so many years. She was greatly missed while she stayed home to care for Byron.

Meeting for worship continues to be the center of our shared spiritual life. Worship is often blessed with rich and spirit-led ministry. We are grateful for the diversity of spiritual experiences that enrich and challenge us as a meeting community, as we travel together on our spiritual journey.

"We are held together by love. People come and go, and the love continues."

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Photo taken by Eugenia Mills at the work day in May





Cake at Chuck Moore's welcoming party on May 2
Photo by Elyce Benke

CHUCK MOORE

Chuck grew up in what he describes as a very religious family. In his late teens/early twenties he became disillusioned with organized religion. He believed that he could still be spiritual without some of the limitations of organized religion. At Community Friends Meeting he found a place that felt more pure and honest, a place where his personal, philosophical, and spiritual beliefs fit with those beliefs of others. He found a group of people who were spiritually and intellectually engaging. He is very excited to grow personally with the Community and learn ways that he can serve the Meeting.

WELCOME CHUCK

Ask Chuck and Eric what they were doing for this photo op at OVYM last summer



Work Day on May 10, submitted by Eugenia Mills

We had a successful work day even though there were not a lot of folks there. Some of the tasks that were accomplished that day were:

- First floor windows washed inside and out
- filled the pond on the drive with gravel
- cleaned the edge of the drive from brush, dirt and weeds
- more large screws put into railing of outside stairs to basement making the railing very stable
- new railing to basement stairs painted
- back door painted inside and out
- cleaning out of some of the mess that has collected in furnace room
- Sorting of files in basement office
- weeding of several flower beds
- tying up the fence to the garden
- fixing the pocket doors to the library



Tom Zalla to the left and Alan Wight below both hard at work. Photos by Eugenia Mills



Threshing Session Planned after rise of Meeting 6-22-2014

A worshipful gathering to consider (thresh) the topic of divesting our Meeting funds from fossil fuel companies. Friends in Unity with Nature has been considering this topic since last summer and Stewardship since the winter. Both committees are seeking a way forward. This will be a chance to share and hear each other's thoughts and concerns before coming to a decision.