

Community Companion

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



Harvest Fest
Photo by
Eileen Crowe

Volume 22, Issue 11 November, 2016

Presiding Clerk:

Lisa Cayard

Assistant Presiding Clerks:

Mary Anne Curtiss

Deborah Jordan

Recording Clerk:

Rachel Moore

Treasurer:

Lynn Funck

Ministry and Counsel:

Ken Bordwell

Lisa Cayard (ex officio)

Sarah Hoffmann

Frank Huss

Deborah Jordan

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Sunny Rhein (SA)

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Submissions for the December newsletter due by: Monday,
November 28, 2016 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

- Nov. 6 Meal Carry in after Meeting for Worship: 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!
- Nov. 13 Second Hour: Meeting for Worship with attention to Business
- Nov. 20 Extended Meeting for Worship at 8:00 AM (but come at anytime)
Second hour: Building Community Through Quaker Process - presented by Ministry and Counsel, see page 4
- Nov. 27 Second Hour: Mary Anne Curtiss will present on Mass Incarceration

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Caretakers: John Sniegocki and Elizabeth Groppe

Childcare: Ellie Czejkowski & Sarah Rudolph

Eleventh Query from OVYM Book of Discipline, 1978: Peace and Cooperation

Do you live in the life and power which takes away the occasion for all wars? Do you, on Christian principles, refuse to participate in or cooperate with all military effort? Do you work actively for peace and the removal of the causes of wars? Do you endeavor to cultivate good will, mutual understanding and equal opportunities for all races, creeds, and nations? Have you examined your life style and possessions to make sure that the seeds of war are not found within them?

Summary of Minutes from the Oct. 9 Meeting for Business

Fifteen Friends began the Meeting with a period of worship during which the Presiding Clerk read from the Faith and Practice of the Pacific Yearly Meeting, page 47

"Friends try to seek Divine guidance at all times, to be mutually forbearing, and to be concerned for the good of the meeting as a whole, rather than to defend a personal preference. Thus, having once expressed a view, a Friend is expected to refrain from pressing it unduly, at length, or repeatedly."

Treasurer's Report for September, 2016: We are at 5% of our 6% annual goal for the year, but this is mainly because we have not made contributions to outside charities that we have previously supported. In the past we have transferred surplus balance in the general fund into the building reserve fund at the end of the year and we did not do that at the end of last year so that has also impacted this number. We are meeting our financial obligations on bills and committees that have expenses but income continues to be an area of concern.

Adult Religious Education - We have a 2nd hour scheduled that will be led by a member who traveled to South America with FWCC. Another has been scheduled for November 27th on mass incarceration that would include inviting Representative Chabot. There are still a few openings this year if Friends are interested in presenting.

Ministry and Counsel - The committee met Sep 25th. The committee was happy with the success of the retreat and are grateful for the gifts of Stephanie Crumley-Effinger. They have been preparing queries for use with worship sharing on Quaker Process and the Community. Work has begun on finding Friends to serve on the Naming Committee which will nominate people to the nominating committee.

Tender Mercies - Things continue to go well with our outreach. We have a regular group of Friends who participate every month but new Friends are always welcome. It has been a source of joy for those who serve the food and it is received with gratitude by the recipients.

Religious Development - Plans are underway for Joint Quarterly Meeting activities and we are working with a member of our Meeting on what things the kids will be doing. We have had an applicant for the position of child care provider for the school year and are in the process of checking references right now. There is still a need for more teachers to sign up for 1st day school for the year, especially for intermediate classes. The Christmas Play will likely need to be rethought this year due to smaller numbers of kids. An intergenerational play or talent show has been proposed.

Unity with Nature Committee - No Report

Stewardship Committee - Contributions exceeded our expenses but we have not contributed to the building reserve fund or made contributions to charities we have supported. To address this we decided that a member will share in announcements one of the charities that are not getting contributions because of this shortfall to raise awareness of the issue. We are considering participating in a Friends Journal contest to write and share your discussions of how your meeting would handle a large bequest. The winning meeting will receive \$500.

Stewardship Committee Action Item - Reconsider Proposed Gift Policy A proposed gift acceptance policy that was presented at last month's business meeting which we were not able to find unity on was presented again. Of particular concern was how the business would handle the donation of stocks that derive their value from means that are opposed to our Quaker testimonies. The committee proposed that we liquidate those stocks and send a letter stating our moral opposition. Other friends spoke passionately against even accepting the stocks of such companies, comparing it to the fencing of stolen goods. This is a difficult issue to discern given how we all live in and benefit from an economic system in which multiple layers of revenue and supply chains which often profit from things that go against our deeply held beliefs. The meeting feel clear in approving the proposed gift acceptance policy with the addition of the words "if a concern is raised" after the "a proposal will be presented to business meeting" in item 6 and with all references to "readily marketable securities" stricken from the proposal. A second hour led by ministry and counsel on the subject of stocks, accumulation of wealth, and spirituality to help our meeting thresh this subject.

Outreach Working Group - Several members of meeting attended the World Peace Day Festival and had a table. Despite a less than ideal table location the committee was able to share our values and tell many people about who we are and what we believe.

Community Committee - The committee met on Sept 18. We are in the process of reviewing the surveys that were returned. So far the only activity we have planned is the Harvest Fest on Oct. 28. We are preparing a signup sheet for Friendly Sixes also.

Peace & Social Concerns - No Report

House and Grounds - The committee met to discuss the list of long term expenses for Meeting that House and Grounds has made. Mold in the air conditioning and possible work on the roof will be the likely biggest issues to be dealt with in the future.

Summary of Minutes from the October 9 Meeting for Business, Continued

House and Grounds and Stewardship committees are also dealing with the issue of the \$417 we used to put into the Building Reserve Fund. Though it was supposed to have been reinstated in July, we were unable to do so, and instead were charged by Meeting for Business to meet together and plan a Second Hour on our Meetinghouse needs and how to address them. We are not ready yet to request a Second Hour for the Meeting as a whole to discuss these topics. Instead the Joint House and Grounds and Stewardship committees request that we take \$200 every month from the General Fund and put it in the Building Reserve Fund, beginning in November and continuing as ongoing until further notice. This request was approved.

Miami Quarterly Meeting: Joint Quarterly Meeting registration - Registration for Joint Quarterly is due today.

OVYM- Annual sessions next year are to be held June 14 - June 18th at Earlham College.

FGC - No Report

FCNL – Three members will be traveling to Washington DC Nov 10-13 for FCNL annual meeting.

Music Committee suggests that their budget for piano tuning be reduced from \$170 to \$100 for next year but other items may be brought forward.

From the Community Committee

– submitted by Sue Brungs

Celebration of New Beginnings! **New Year's Eve** we will have a pot luck starting at 5:30 followed by a time of silent reflection when we will write down any thing we want to let go of, old habits, old hurts, anything that's holding us back from the peace we all seek. We will then proceed to the fire pit outside where we will place our notes in silence or with spoken word as we feel led to do. We will retire to the meeting house for games or fellowship. All are welcomed. Please feel free to revise, ideas or suggestions appreciated.



Friendly Six groups are being re-formed. Submitted by Susan Gerke

Friendly Sixes are a group of six friends that meet together during the year. The group meets and decides what they want to do. Most groups rotated meals among the member's houses. Some played games or had other fun activities. The time frame is up to each group. Many met monthly. The idea is to get to know each other away from the meeting house and be friends. Turn in your availability to Community Committee, Susan Gerke or Sue Brungs



October Nature walk: (AKA Meeting for Worship with attention to Nature)

Sam and Sophie climbing a tree they discovered at the end of our walk. (Photo by Paulette Meier)



November 20 Second Hour

Ministry and Counsel Committee will be facilitating a Second Hour discussion on November 20 to explore what Quaker Process means, and how it helps to build and strengthen a spiritual community. We will share some examples of how Quaker process is used in many of our practices such as clearness committees, threshing sessions, business meetings, committee work, and in our relationships with wider Quaker bodies. We will read some selected quotations about Quaker process together, and then there will be an opportunity to discuss our responses to the quotes in small groups. We hope Friends will come to gain insight into our uniquely Quaker way of seeking for and listening to the expression of the Divine in one another!

2016 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions
Epistles from *One in Spirit: Becoming a More Inclusive Religious Society*
Earlham College, June 14-18, 2016

Gateway



Community & Technical College

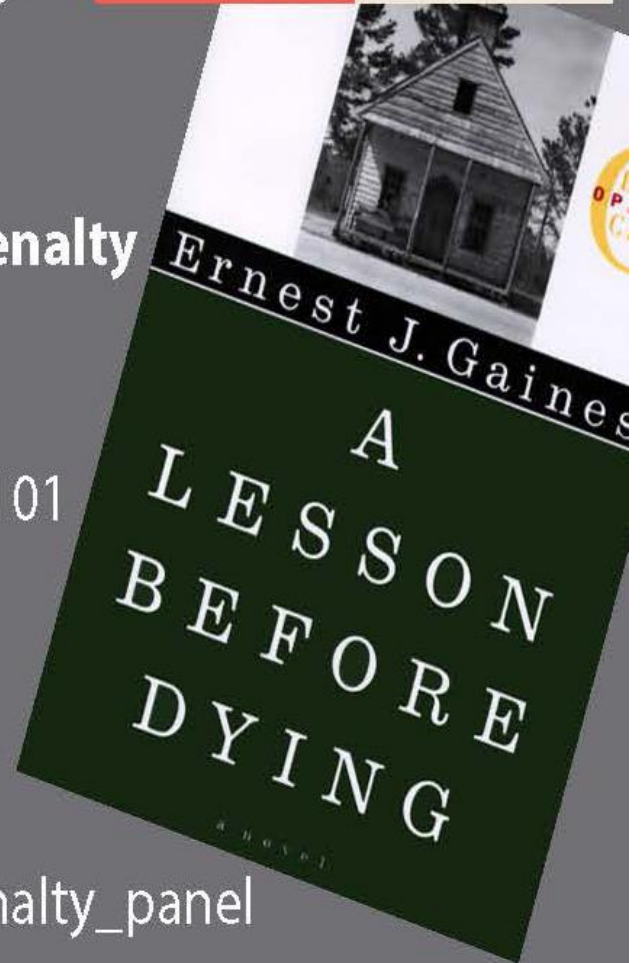


Panel Discussion with KY Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

November 9, 6 - 9:30 p.m.

Gateway Edgewood Campus, Room E101
790 Thomas More Parkway
Edgewood, KY 41017

For more information, go to:
gateway.kctcs.edu/landing/death_penalty_panel



Continued on next page

Join a distinguished group of Kentuckians for a robust discussion of the death penalty and its use in Kentucky. Note: Ben Griffith from the Lexington Monthly Meeting and past Clerk of our Yearly Meeting will be one of the presenters

- Professor **Michael Mannheimer** co-chaired the Kentucky Assessment Team that spent two years studying how the process works in Kentucky. Assisted by staff of the American Bar Association this group issued its 500 page report in 2011. Professor Mannheimer will describe what they found lacking in our system and the recommendations made to improve it, none of which have been implemented.
- Thomas More College President **David Armstrong** brings a unique perspective to the discussion. Before his current job, he was a prosecutor and will share his insights about that role and how it led him to conclude the death penalty should be abolished.
- **Ed Monahan**, a northern Kentucky native and current Public Advocate for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, brings years of legal experience to this event. As a trial lawyer who tried cases where the death sentence was asked for, he has seen firsthand how the system works. As Public Advocate his job is to insure defense for the indigent and justice for both the public and those charged with capital murder.
- **Ben Griffith** advocates on behalf of those who lost loved ones to murder and who do not want to see anyone sentenced to death. He lost a brother to violence and knew the death penalty would not bring him any comfort. Ben has testified before the members of the Senate and House Judiciary committee and serves on the board of the coalition.
- **Mike VonAllmen** spent many years in a Kentucky prison and on parole for a crime he did not commit. False witness identification, the leading cause of wrongful convictions, put him in prison. His story has fascinated audiences throughout Kentucky and his meetings with legislators have raised their interest in abolishing the death penalty, because what happened to Mike can happen to someone facing death.



More photos from the Harvest Fest at the Meeting House on Oct. 29.

To the left, unknown scary person (I don't know who it is because of the disguise)

Below: Frank Willey with Angelique Willey

