

# Community Companion

Monthly Newsletter of  
Community Friends Meeting

October 2017 Volume 23, Issue 10

Quaker Meeting House

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



## Our Purple People Greeters

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*The Lord showed me, so that I did see clearly, that he did not dwell in these temples which men had commanded and set up, but in people's hearts ... his people were his temple, and he dwelt in them.*

~ George Fox, *Journal*, 1694

### Queries for October 2017:

How do I affirm that of God in everyone?

In what ways is our meeting an open and affirming community, welcoming to all?

In what ways do we need to grow?

**October Calendar:** All events and meetings take place at the Meeting House unless otherwise noted.

**First Day: Singing 9:45 am, Meeting for Worship 10 am, Second Hour at 11:40 am.**

**First Sunday: Carry-in Potluck**

<b>Oct 1 - Sun</b>	<b>Monthly Carry-In Potluck</b> 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! We appreciate and encourage locally grown food when possible.
<b>Oct 8 - Sun</b>	Second Hour: <b>Meeting for Worship with attention to Business</b>
<b>Oct 10 - Tues</b>	<b>Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) - 6:30 pm</b>
<b>Oct 12 - Thurs</b>	<b>Holistic Mental Health Network Meeting - 7-9 pm - Topic: Laughter Yoga</b>
<b>Oct 15 - Sun</b>	Regular Worship; no Second Hour <b>Miami Quarterly Meeting, Yellow Springs</b>
<b>Oct 21 - Sat</b>	<b>Work day from 10 am - 4 pm</b>
<b>Oct 22 - Sun</b>	* <b>Trip to Eastern Hills Meeting</b> Arrive at the meeting house to carpool at 9:15 am. Second Hour: Holistic Mental Health (tentative) <b>Submissions for the November newsletter due</b> to Elyce Benke - <a href="mailto:elycefeliz@gmail.com">elycefeliz@gmail.com</a> <b>Surveys for Newsletter due online or at at Meeting House</b>
<b>Oct 29 - Sun</b>	Second Hour: <b>Ken Bordwell, Spiritual Journey</b>

\* **Inreach: Intervisitation:** We will visit with other meetings in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Those who are interested in going will meet at the meetinghouse and carpool to another meeting to attend their meeting for worship. Each visit is open to everyone. Come when you are able. Put your name on the sign-in sheet or contact Paul Buckley to be included on a group email list. Our first visit will be on October 22 to Eastern Hills Meeting.

## Donations for Hurricane Relief

Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma caused great devastation in the South, which will take many months to recover from. While giving cash to reputable relief organizations is generally the most helpful way to respond, Matthew 25 Ministries (<http://m25m.org/>) here in Cincinnati is one of the few groups willing and equipped to accept donations of clothing. These donations are sorted in their warehouse and then

redistributed to the poor and disaster victims in the United States and around the world. They accept gently used clothing, non-perishable food, school supplies, and more. For recommended items to donate, please read the list of supplies on their website <http://m25m.org/help/product-donations/>

To save you a trip out to their location on Kenwood Road, Eugene has offered to take donations to Matthew 25 Ministries; as this will be an ongoing effort, we are putting a marked box in the library to collection donations.

You can see more information about their work with these disasters at <http://m25m.org/work/disaster-relief/>



## Update on Quakers and Hurricane Harvey

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/news/update-quakers-and-hurricane-harvey>

On August 29th, 2017, FGC received a message from Liz Yeats, the Clerk of South Central Yearly Meeting (SCYM), regarding Friends and Quaker meetings that are located in areas impacted by Hurricane Harvey in Texas. She wrote: “So far Friends in SCYM affected by Harvey are in safe places, no one has suffered injury and are working hard to take care of one another and others...no meeting houses have been harmed. Coastal Bend Friends meet in rented space,.” When it comes to immediate needs, Liz mentioned that “First and foremost, Friends in the affected areas are asking for our prayers...Sending [...] Light and Love comes first. It really helps.” If Friends feel led to make a donation to help the general population of Houston, especially those with less than most Friends, Live Oak Friends Meeting has suggested giving through this group online. For Friends who want to give specifically to Friends in need, Liz shared that Live Oak is discerning setting up a fund for suffering and SCYM will steward the funds. “There are Friends in Live Oak who have damage to property. There is at least one Friend in Coastal Bend Meeting in Corpus Christi who had damage to her home, don’t know how much, and there may be more in Baton Rouge and New Orleans as this crisis continues.”



**Friends who wish to give can mail their donation in the form of a check to:** Live Oak Friends Meeting, 1318 W 26th St, Houston, TX 77008 or South Central Yearly Meeting, 9835 Greentree St, San Antonio, TX 78230. Please write “Hurricane Relief” in the Memo field of your check. For Friends who wish to see updates, Liz recommends following the Greater Houston Community Foundation and South Central Yearly Meeting's website.

As Quakers on the ground in Houston organize volunteers and resources to help Friendswood Friends Church repair and rebuild their meeting house, Friends of Live Oak Friends Meeting have offered to provide hospitality to Friends who are able to come to Houston and lend a hand. Other Friends’ churches in the Houston area were also affected, so please spread the word in your Quaker meeting that the need for volunteers during the post-Harvey recovery is great.

**The process of rebuilding will be ongoing for some time, so Friends planning to volunteer in Houston at a later time are most welcome.** From Liz Yeats, Clerk of SCYM: “Obviously, Friends in Texas are closest and travel to Texas may be hard right now, but we are looking at a long haul and I think this kind of cooperation between branches of Friends needs to be encouraged.” Please get in touch with Jane Houser from LOFM if you can offer help: [jhouser@compassnet.com](mailto:jhouser@compassnet.com)



# Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Grassroots Advocacy House Party

*Contributed by Mary Anne Curtiss*

On Saturday September 23, our FCNL Grassroots Advocacy group gathered to further our lobbying outreach, and incidentally to try out a brand new media skill: hosting a live-streamed house party from FCNL's national headquarters in Washington, D.C!

All our recruiting only brought in one completely new member, and one explorer who confirmed that lobbying wasn't for her. Nonetheless, we had a good time sharing at ever-deepening levels our true strengths and abilities, as well as our doubts. We ate all the popcorn!

As for the media, it took a young person, John David Sniegocki, to run the projection equipment and successfully live stream the training as planned. Good thing FCNL is devoting huge amounts of effort to recruiting, training, and employing the next generation!

As for us seniors, the good news came out today that Senator Portman received over 9,000 telephone calls in a single day regarding not repealing the Affordable Care Act.

No matter what is the outcome, he can't say he wasn't warned! Maybe we'll win this one (again)-- by the time you read this, you'll already know.

**The next FCNL  
Lobby Group  
meeting is  
Tuesday  
October 10 at  
6:30 PM**  
at the Meeting  
House. Come and  
share the idealism  
and the fellowship!  
Coming out is not a  
commitment to  
lobby.



## **Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Recently Adopted Queries for Faith and Practice as of Summer 2017**

The queries invite Friends, both individually and as a meeting, to examine themselves periodically relative to the grounding principles that Friends have established. Faithful consideration of the queries in openness to the Spirit has been found to enrich the life of the meeting and its members. Friends have found different ways to make use of the queries. Some read them as a starting point for personal inward reflection. Meetings may consider a query in a period of meditation and worship at the beginning of their business meetings. It is good practice to consider each query at least once a year. A meeting's responses to the queries may provide a basis for writing its annual state of the meeting report. The presentation of the queries to the local meeting is the responsibility of the clerk unless assigned to a committee, such as Ministry and Counsel.

**First Query** - What is Quakerism or the Quaker way? What does that mean to me? What marks our meeting as Quaker?

**Second Query** - What does worship mean to me, and how do I worship? How does our meeting worship as a community?

**Third Query** - What helps me seek Divine guidance in business meeting? How does our meeting seek and follow the group's spiritual discernment in our meetings for business?

**Fourth Query** - What spiritual disciplines enliven my spirit? How does our meeting facilitate spiritual growth?

**Fifth Query** - What binds me to my meeting community? What fosters mutual love and communion in our meeting? How does our meeting resolve conflicts when they arise?

**Sixth Query** - How do I seek to act with integrity? How do I follow the ever-opening pathway of Truth? How does my meeting help me to be faithful?

**Seventh Query** - How does simplicity guide my days? How does our meeting practice simplicity?

**Eighth Query** - How is my life a daily example of nonviolence? How does our meeting nurture peace in the wider community?

**Ninth Query** - How do I live in harmony with all creation? How does our meeting community exercise responsible stewardship?

**Tenth Query** - How do I affirm that of God in everyone? In what ways is our meeting an open and affirming community, welcoming to all? In what ways do we need to grow?

**Eleventh Query** - How have I fallen short in the past year? When has our meeting avoided doing things that are hard to do?

**Twelfth Query** - Where have I experienced the Divine Mystery in my life? How do we keep the Divine Spirit at the center of the life of our meeting?

## Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Ninth Month, September 10, 2017

Opening worship: "In this spiritual process of submitting to Guidance, we go beyond negotiation, in which we give and take to find something we can all live with. We reach out for the new thing being offered us that is beyond our human desires and ideas. In order to enter this unity together, we reach out to receive the guidance of God that fulfills and surpasses our desires and ideas. We sacrifice nothing but our human willfulness."

~ Patricia Loring: *Listening Spirituality; Corporate Spiritual Practice Among Friends*, Vol II, pg 182.

1. Treasurer's report: Our income for the month of August was \$1,16.17 and our expenses were \$2,386.29. There were some expenses from committees but nothing unusual. It was noted that we still have a fund for prison ministries that we are not currently using. If Friends are aware of a prison ministry that would be a good match for these funds please bring it to the attention of the meeting.
2. Ministry & Counsel: Ministry and Counsel met on September 3. The committee discussed taking up the practice of reading the OVYM queries again, and agreed that a member of M&C will read a query each month during announcements, on the first Sunday of each month beginning in October. The committee reviewed the third in our series of second hour discussions on "Our Quaker Story" and noted that almost everyone attending worship stayed for the discussion. There was good participation and sharing, including several newer attenders. M&C is planning to offer a Quakerism 101 class, possibly starting in October. Paul Buckley has offered to teach the class. The committee is seeking a second person to teach with him. The committee finalized plans for the September 30 Fall Renewal on the topic "How is the Quaker tradition of Christianity relevant today?" A registration form will be distributed. We will ask for a voluntary donation of \$15 per adult to cover the cost of the catered lunch. Pastoral care concerns were also discussed. The Report was accepted.
3. House and Grounds: The large elm tree that neighbors are concerned about was discussed. Another arborist is scheduled to evaluate it on Monday, Sept. 11. Several trees in front of the meetinghouse need to have dead branches removed. We are awaiting a revised estimate and will have the work done later this month. A new awning over the front porch will soon be installed. The committee approved needed concrete work on the back stairs by the garage. A neighbor brought to our attention the fact that there are extensive vines growing on trees in the woods near her yard, that are detrimental to the health of the trees. The committee agreed to attend to this and some related cleanup of vegetation near her fence at an upcoming work day, hopefully in collaboration with the Unity with Nature committee. The Meeting washing machine was in need of replacement. A new machine was installed. The caretakers asked for feedback as to whether or not to place signs in the front yard about the new security system. The committee approved the use of signs, to be placed at the edges of the front lawn rather than along the main walkway. The committee will call the insurance company to see if this system will get us a break on our home insurance premiums. Committee decided to share costs related to recent meeting house burglary with the caretakers by covering the cost of replacing stolen bicycles. Caretakers covered cost of all other items. The caretakers have requested permission to get a dog. As their agreement terms state that they can have two pets and they currently only have one cat, this request was approved. The caretakers agreed to take care that the dog never be on the first floor and will not disruptive to the meeting. The Report was accepted.
4. Community Committee: The committee discussed the Rise Up Singing Concert community concert, which was recently held. Several committee members helped out and the event was a success. The Report was accepted.
5. Religious Development: No Report but we are still looking for teachers for the intermediate class. Please see committee members to sign up.
6. Adult Religious Education: Adult Religious Education Committee met on first day of the ninth month. We planned for the second hour for third week that is upcoming. We began work on inreach and discussion groups and began planning for 10 month second hours. The report was accepted.
7. Unity with Nature Committee: They committee had a work day on September 9th to cut vines and care for the woods. The report was accepted.
8. Library Committee - There are new labels and items in the library. There is a list to sign out items that you borrow. When you return them you can put them in the returns basket and the committee will reshelve them. There is a box for

suggested donations. Items donated will be either accepted and shelved or donated elsewhere if they are not appropriate. The report was accepted.

9. Outreach Committee - New Meeting business cards have arrived and are available for anyone who wishes to take some. A children's booklets entitled "Quaker Meeting and Me" have been ordered and will be given to Meeting children. A suggestion box for banner slogans has been placed near the mail baskets. We have had several requests for 'coffee with a Quaker' (an option in the new guest sign-in book); one has been held; others are being arranged. A suggestion was made to hold evening potlucks a few times a year, to which both newcomers and longer-term members and attenders would be invited, in which there would be conversation about Quaker spirituality, practices, etc., including the opportunity for newcomers to ask questions they may have. We hope to hold the first one later this year. The current literature packet that is distributed to newer regular attenders was reviewed. Items that will for certain continue to be included are William Taber, "Four Doors to Meeting for Worship," Thomas Kelly, "The Gathered Meeting," and the revised section on membership from the OVYM Faith and Practice manual. Additional items are still under review, including "Advices and Queries" of Britain Yearly Meeting. Suggestions of other items to consider are welcomed by the committee, especially regarding vocal ministry.
10. Stewardship - No report
11. Peace & Social Concerns - No Report but the committee will be meeting for the first time this month.
12. Tender Mercies - Continuing with the themes, this month's theme will be breakfast for dinner. Several fun food times are planned. Anyone interested in helping out should contact David Funck. Several members offered their gratitude for the working groups work. The report was accepted.
13. OVYM - Nominating Committee Priorities were discussed. Needs include Budget and Finance, Assistant Treasurer. Assistant Recording Clerk, Publications Coordinator, Youth Committee, AFSC, FWCC, and FCNL. Intervisitation is still being encouraged by Religious Nurture and Education. Minute Books are ready to be picked up. Yearly Meeting Planning is reaching out to Young Adult Friends and asking them to attend the next meeting to decide on the theme and find plenary speakers. A list of writing prompts was sent to monthly meetings asking children and adults to share their experience at yearly meeting. Looking ahead, 2020 will be our 200th anniversary. June 13 - 17th 2018 are the dates for next summer at Earlham College. The deed for Hopewell Meeting (part of Whitewater Quarter) has been turned over to Dublin Meeting which is a part of the New Association of Friends. WWQ will be responsible for laying down the meeting formally. Thanks to Tom Hill for keeping a database of monthly meetings in North America. Friends may search "monthly meetings in North America" and use their database for information on Quaker properties. We received a letter from FGC in regards to our work on challenging racism. A working group was appointed to work in coordination with the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. The goal would be activities for the Yearly Meeting and resources for Monthly Meetings which would then be posted on the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting website. The next executive committee meeting will be November 4th at Earlham College.
14. Miami Quarterly Meeting: Miami Quarterly Meeting will be held October 15th at Yellow Springs. Community Friends will be hosting the February meeting of Miami Quarterly Meeting. The report was accepted.
15. Approval of minutes: The minutes were approved.
16. Announcements: There is a meeting work day on October 21st from 10 am - 4 pm.
17. Closing worship

**Presiding Clerk:**  
Mary Anne Curtiss  
**Assistant Presiding Clerk:**  
Lisa Cayard

**Recording Clerk:**  
Rachel Moore  
**Assistant Recording Clerk:**  
Douglas Burks  
**Treasurer:**  
Lynn Funck

**Ministry and Counsel:**  
Ken Bordwell  
Lisa Cayard  
Sarah Hoffman  
Frank Huss  
Deborah Jordan  
Tim Leonard  
John Sniegocki  
Mary Anne Curtiss (ex officio)  
Sunny Rhein (SA)  
SA= special assignment

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## October Birthdays

7-Priscilla Thompson, 25-Mark Roberts, 27-Francis Ganance, 31-Eugene Marquis

**Inreach Groups** - Sign-up sheets will be available on Sunday morning, October 1st the the Meeting House; including Intervisitation (see page 2). All meetings will be at Meetinghouse unless otherwise decided by group members.

Name	Leader	Meeting times	Description
<b>Parables</b>	Tim Leonard	5 Meetings on Wednesdays, 7:30-9PM: 11/1, 11/15, 12/6, 12/20, 1/10	<p>This group will be researching and praying over the phenomenon of parable in the Bible. There are several kinds of stories in the Bible. Some proclaim a Myth, like the creation myth in Genesis, which serves to give a sense of home and wholeness to the community. Myths are confirmed by other stories that help the big myth touch the real world, or even satirize the myth, like the Book of Jonah, which is in part makes fun of prophets and prophecy. Still others are parables which undermine the myths by reversing the audience's expectations, and challenge them to reconsider their biases. In this sense Jesus himself was a parable, as when he upset the money-changers tables in the temple, or when he accepted death saying he said he was a king, but not of this world. The parables are among the most beautiful and challenging stories in all of literature, and we will read and discuss them, and discern how they might lead us in a world in much need of such stories. Texts you may want to look at are C.H. Dodd, "Parables of the Kingdom", Joachim Jeremias "The Parables of Jesus" and John Dominic Crossan "The Dark Interval", But no reading is required. Basically what we want to do is read and tell stories and learn from each other.</p> <p>Each session is open to all. Come to any sessions you can.</p>
<b>Living mindfully: Opening to natural spirit for healing</b>	Bill Cahalan	Meeting monthly for 6 months, 90 minutes (Length, frequency and place might be changed based on group decision.)	<p>Mindfulness is the intentional practice of present-centered attention to self and world. It comes from the Vipassana Buddhist tradition, has been brought into psychotherapy, and appears to overlap with Quaker deep listening as practiced in (and outside of) worship. It can be helpful with stress, pain and conflict because it seems to access a pervasive natural intelligence, which is the dance of creative interdependence within and between people, and on many levels of the non-human natural world that we are embedded in. Learning to sense and resonate with this intelligence or wisdom will hopefully deepen our experience of what we call spirit.</p> <p>In the first two or three sessions I will elaborate these ideas, lead five mindfulness practices that embody them, and explore peoples' reactions. In the next three or four sessions things will be more open, as we discuss participants' attempts to apply and adapt the practices in worship/meditation and in everyday situations. You might want to read in advance Lisa Gould's keynote talk given at Southeastern Yearly Meeting in 2002, called "Be Ye Perfect: The Quaker Call to Wholeness". I have found it deeply inspiring, although she uses different terminology than I use here.</p>
<b>Quaker Book Reading Group</b>	Paul Buckley	Monthly, possibly on a weekday during the day – there will be a brief organizing gathering after meeting for worship on 10/1 to pick a day and time.	We will read books by Quaker authors and discuss them. I will bring several on October 1. If you have other ideas, bring them that day.



<b>Meditative Spiritual Practice, “Lectio Divina” * Style Reading, and Journal Writing</b>	Paulette Meier	Once or twice a month, depending on interest, on a weekday evening or late Saturday afternoon time. We'll figure it out with those who are interested.	I would like to offer something akin to what another woman and I led at The Hive: A Center for Art, Contemplation and Action last year. We will come together to touch down deep through a meditative practice such as Centering Prayer (or possibly the Quaker Experiment with Light practice), followed by a lectio divina style reading of a poem, a Quaker text, or a brief passage from Scripture. Through journaling, we will reflect individually on our experiences or responses, and take time for voluntary sharing from those who would like to read their writing. If everyone in the group is open to it, I would like to precede our meditation time with some brief group chanting, as an embodied way to open ourselves to a receptive state. I am using the phrase “lectio divina” style not in the strict sense of the 3-step Benedictine practice of reading Scripture, but more to indicate a contemplative style of reading, slowly taking in the words, and opening to what might be being communicated on a deeper level, spiritually.
<b>Lighten Up in the Light</b>	Marjorie Isaacs	To be determined by the group: 4-6 1-hour meetings in late winter and early spring, just when a touch of simple brightness would be nice.	Cooperative Games and easy theatre improv as an experience of Quaker testimonies and Friendly process. Relaxation, structured activity that everyone can do easily, and worship sharing.  "What is all that laughter?" people asked at Quaker Religious Education Collaborative last summer. The answer was a workshop of these Friendly activities based on Improv Wisdom, a book by Stanford theatre professor, Patricia Ryan Madson, who personally helped plan that event.



## The Cincinnati Sanctuary Coalition "Next Step" Meeting

On September 24, Community Friends joined with members of the 24-congregation Cincinnati Sanctuary Coalition at Clifton United Methodist Church, to discuss what we can do NOW, as we continue to prepare for hosting the next threatened family. Two churches, Christ Church Cathedral and Clifton United Methodist, are Sanctuary Churches, and the rest of us are Solidarity Congregations. The situation for undocumented immigrants remains tense. Distrust and fear are huge barriers to community building. Even legal immigrants, many of them children, are developing a sense of second

class citizenship as they and their families can no longer expect their humanity to be recognized. The Steering Committee has been meeting weekly working on legal details (we are "offering sanctuary" not "harboring", and have to be careful to observe the definitions if we want to be effective over the long run). They have been busily building a nice set of accommodations at Clifton United Methodist, since any situation is likely to develop very fast.

In the meantime, we are all challenged to be "Solidarity Congregations" for our immigrant community. Because of the barriers of mistrust as well as culture, it was suggested that if we want to form personal ties, we work through such groups as Su Casa, Heartfelt Tidbits, the Interfaith Workers' Center, Santa Maria Community Services, the Greater Cincinnati Latino Coalition, IJPC [the Interfaith Justice and Peace Center] the Centro de Amistad in Covington, the Healing Center, or the Immigrant Dignity Coalition.

We can advocate for the Dream Bill, which is due to expire March 5, 2018. We can donate our professional services--medical, therapy, legal, child care (especially needed on Saturday mornings)--or we can accompany immigrants to medical or social service visits. Translation is always needed and welcomed. We can educate ourselves. Keep alert for developments from Peace and Social Concerns, whose chair Frank Huss was present! Clifton United Methodist is asking each congregation to consider donating \$500-\$700 to the Amos project, with "Sanctuary Congregations" on the memo line to meet their budget for construction costs. The photo to the right shows Reverend David Meredith in Clifton United's refugee kitchen under construction.



Additionally, the construction workers doing alterations on Clifton United Methodist are citizens returning from incarceration, employed by Jubilee Ministries. Look for Action Items soon, from those of us who attended--John Sniegocki, Frank Huss, Ken Bordwell, and Mary Anne Curtiss, who wrote this article.

**We are doing a survey about the monthly newsletter in order to have a better idea of what you find necessary; it is available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KNXF89C>**

*If you are unable to access this link, you can answer the following questions and return this page by Sunday, October 22, by dropping it in the meeting house mail tray, or by mailing it to: Quaker Meeting House: 3960 Winding Way, Cincinnati, OH 45229-1950.*

1. How often do you read the newsletter?
2. How much of the newsletter do you read?
3. What do you most often read in the newsletter?
4. What do you never or rarely read?
5. Do you think the newsletter provides relevant and timely information for you? (circle one) YES  
NO
6. What do you think are the most important purposes or parts of the newsletter?
7. What do you think might improve the newsletter?
8. Anything else?