



OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING NEWSLETTER

A publication of the Religious
Society of Friends

Vol.26, No.4

Quaker Quill

February 2002

Thoughts about Discipline

Lisa Cayard, Assistant Clerk

The Discipline Revision Committee is undertaking the long and careful process of revising Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's Book of Discipline, which was last revised in 1978. Each Monthly Meeting has been asked to participate in the revision process by discussing certain questions and sharing their leadings and insights with the committee. The issues being considered by the committee this year are whether or not to change the title, revising (and possibly renaming) the section on family life, and writing a new section on the environment.

So far, the committee has heard quite a bit of support from monthly meetings for changing the title to "Faith and Practice." Some Friends feel that this title more clearly conveys what we are seeking to express in our document. "Discipline" has connotations of judgment and punishment today that many Friends are not comfortable with. However, other Friends are concerned that our Monthly and Yearly Meetings still need "discipline" in the sense of guidance and teaching. I would like to suggest that, if we choose to eliminate the word "discipline" from the title, it does not mean that we act without discipline in our Monthly and Yearly meetings. As we consider what to call the book we are revising, it may be helpful to consider the following explanation of the two meanings of "discipline" from the Faith & Practice of North Pacific Yearly Meeting:

"The first relates to how one lives a religious or spiritual life by following one's inner leadings and adhering to practices or teaching to which one is committed. It was in this sense of loyalty and commitment that Jesus' followers were known as his Disciples. The other meaning of the word "discipline" relates to the conduct of the affairs of the religious body, i.e., corporate rather than individual discipleness. Such discipline describes the system of order by which the religious body seeks to remain true to its principles, and to help its adherents remain true. It is a system of order chosen as a conscious alternative to the religious anarchy which can occur when impulse is the

basis of decision and individuals or groups move on their own tangents without benefit of the discoveries and procedures that have been tested over time."

"A Quaker Book of Discipline, also called Faith and Practice, reflects both of these meanings as it sets forth the attitudes and experiences of Friends as guideposts to be considered prayerfully and carefully, and the practices which Friends Meetings have tested and revised over the years. Each such book reflects the attitudes, the experiences, and the unique approach to Quakerism of a given body of Friends at a particular time and place."

Perhaps the word "discipline" carries too many negative connotations that outweigh the original meaning of guidance and teaching. If this is so, the word will not convey our intention. In the discussion held at Community Meeting, it was noted that the title should reflect the intended purpose of the book as clearly as possible. It should also reflect our perceptions of the role of the Yearly Meeting in relation to Monthly Meetings. Are we a loose collection of independent meetings, or do we have enough shared faith and trust in one another to accept decisions made by our representatives at the Yearly Meeting level? We can take this opportunity, not just to re-write a book, but also to re-think and clarify who we are as a Yearly Meeting. I encourage each Monthly Meeting to engage in prayerful discussion about these questions, and to share your thoughts and leadings with the Discipline Review Committee.

During these troubled times, I pray for healing, for forgiveness, and for reconciliation. May each of you be blessed with the miracle of divine love.



Quaker Quill is published three times a year in February, June, and October by the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of the month prior to each publication month. Editor: Barbarie Hill, 6921 Stonington Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45230; (513)232-5348 (bhill@one.net)

OVYM officers for 2001-2002:

Cindi Goslee, Presiding Clerk
 William Shetter, Recording Clerk
 Richard Mitchell, Treasurer
 J.P. Lund, Ass't Treasurer

Quarterly Meeting officers:

Miami
 David Wood, Presiding Clerk
 Tom Hill, Recording Clerk
 Roland Kreager, Treasurer

Whitewater

Jack Davis, Presiding Clerk
 Eileen Pierce, Recording Clerk
 Peggy Spohr, Treasurer

Monthly Meeting Clerks:

Jim Morgan, Bloomington
 Ron Rembert, Campus
 David Garman, Clear Creek
 Kate Anthony, Community
 Barbara Robinson, Dayton
 Wilson Palmer, Eastern Hills
 Carl Pierce, Fall Creek
 Caroline Taylor, Green Plain
 Susan Scott, Hopewell
 Peter Neisel, Lafayette
 Betsy Neale & Maryrhea Morelock,
 Lexington
 Kathy Wood, Louisville
 Julia Dunn, Maple Grove
 Milton Cook, Miami
 Terry Kent, North Meadow Circle
 Nani Ball, Oxford
 Murray Cox, White Rose
 Ruth Kutter, Whitewater
 Richard Eastman, Yellow Springs

Allen Oliver, East Hill WG
 Claire Ferguson, Fort Wayne WG



UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 21 "Afghanistan" by speaker from the Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Waynesville Area Heritage and Cultural Center
- March 2 Executive Committee meeting. Community Friends Meeting, Cincinnati, OH
- March 3 FWCC Midwest office open house. 2:00 - 5:00. Richmond, IN
- March 8-10 Listening to the Holy Spirit. Friends Center, Barnesville, OH
- March 9 The Persistent Celtic Vision. Earlham School of Religion, Richmond, IN
- March 13 The Conflict over Palestine: A Brief History. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Waynesville Area Heritage and Cultural Center
- March 14-17 FWCC Section of the Americas annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA
- April 5-7 Intentional Living and Mindful Dying. Friends Center, Barnesville, OH
- April 26-28 Understanding Robert Barclay, Friends Center, Barnesville, OH
- June 20-23 Friends' Association for Higher Education Conference, "Educating for Peace and Social Justice." Wilmington College. Call (937)382-6661, x264 for details.
- June 29 - July 6 FGC Gathering, "To Be Gathered Still." Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- July 7 - Aug 4 Friends Music Camp. Barnesville, OH
- July 31 - Aug 4 OVYM yearly meeting. Earlham College, Richmond, IN

Clerk's Page

Healing the World

—Cindi Goslee

Themes for Yearly Meeting and how we engage with the theme are an ongoing avenue paved with prayer and listening for OVYM. I understand that some Yearly Meetings do not identify a theme for their annual meeting and I don't know the history of how OVYM came to do so. I do know in my years of service as presiding clerk as well as past clerk of OVYM executive committee, I am touched with the prayerful care and concern that members of Yearly Meeting Planning committee place on their charge to clarify a theme for the annual meeting.

In October the committee met to review the evaluations from the previous year, to hear Friend's comments about the theme for the previous annual meeting and to hear suggestions for the upcoming year. Attempting to integrate these comments with insights of the committee, this year, one month after the attack on the World Trade Centers, the committee listened to a leading of a theme toward healing. After a month of seasoning, the above theme was identified: **Healing the World**. "The theme was intended to encompass individual healing, non-violence, and environmental concerns." (From November 10, 2001 Planning Committee Minutes)

Two plenary speakers have confirmed: Joe Volk, Executive Director of Friends Committee on National Legislation and Jennifer Bing-Canar, AFSC Chicago office. Workshops on Art and Healing, led by Susan Scott; the environment, led by Bill Cahalan and a workshop with John Calvi (of Baltimore YM) have also been confirmed.

As always we will have rich youth programs for all ages of young people as well as opportunities for adults and youth to better get to know one another. Fellowship and opportunities for worship are a core of the session as are our opportunity to meet for worship with attention to business.

Please mark **July 31 - August 4, 2002** on your calendar to join us in opportunity to deepen our faith as we engage with the theme of **Healing the World**. I trust that you will find the experience as one Friend wrote on her/his evaluation of 2001 a "much needed spiritual refreshment."



Psalm 108:1 My heart is steadfast, O God; I will sing and make music with all my soul.

Psalm 96:1-3 Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Psalm 95:1-2 Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

Psalm 47: 6-7 Sing praises to God, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

Psalm 33:1-2 Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.

Psalm 57: 7-8 My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music. Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.

Psalm 59:16-17 But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble. O my Strength, I sing praise to you; you, O God, are my fortress, my loving God.

Psalm 89: 1 I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

Psalm 5:11 But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy.

Psalm 147: 1 Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

Ephesians 5: 19-20 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

QUARTERLY MEETING NEWS

Whitewater

— Jack Davis, Clerk

Thanks to all who attended the last Quarterly Meeting in Hopewell. The day was worshipful, positive, and we enjoyed beautiful weather and great food! Our special thanks go to our hosts, the Hopewell Friends Meeting and Susan Scott.

During the meeting for business, we approved two minutes:

1. Sustainability Minute
2. A minute asking the Yearly Meeting to form a Peace and Social Concerns committee.

We discussed three main subjects during our afternoon session:

1. sharing our spiritual lives with one another,
2. increasing attendance at the quarterly meeting, and
3. addressing the needs of our Quarter's youth. We had an interesting discussion and shared many ideas.

Our greatest concern was making the meetings relevant so that more people would attend. We are all so diverse in our experiences and paths. One person's experiences may speak to others in our midst. Someone else's living witness may encourage or revitalize another's flagging spirit. We will be asking for volunteers to work with youth and adult programming at future meetings. We are also exploring the option of having the quarterly meeting on the same day (i.e., the third Saturday in September, January, April, etc.) in order to facilitate long range planning.

To this end, we are asking for volunteers to work with each Monthly Meeting when it is their turn to host the Quarter. The volunteers will help plan both the adult and youth programs for the day. Hopefully, this will help some of the smaller meetings feel less overwhelmed when it is their turn to host.

Our next meeting will be January 19, 2002 in Lafayette. I hope you will mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

Miami

— Tom Hill, Recording Clerk

Miami Quarterly Meeting of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends opened at 1:21 p.m. on October 21, 2001 in the Lexington, Kentucky Friends Meetinghouse with a brief period of waiting worship and Presiding Clerk David Wood's reading of the following passage from William Penn in 1693 quoted in (24.03 of the Quaker Faith & Practice of Britain Yearly Meeting:

"A good end cannot sanctify evil means; nor must we ever do evil, that good may come of it . . . It is as great presumption to send our passions upon God's errands, as it is to palliate them with God's name . . . We are too ready to retaliate, rather than forgive, or gain by love and information. And yet we could hurt no man that we believe loves us. Let us then try what Love will do: for if men did once see we love them, we should soon find they would not harm us. Force may subdue, but Love gains: and he that forgives first, wins the laurel."

... Miami Quarterly Meeting agreed to host a joint Quarterly Meeting in October 2002... Miami QM chose Byron Branson (Convener), Lisa Cayard, Ben Griffith, Frank Huss, and Kevin Klaphaak as our representatives to the joint planning committee.

... we have heard from Ellen Fleischmann and John Benvenuto about their experiences at the Friends Schools in Ramallah, Palestine under the title "Personal Perspectives on the Palestine-Israel crisis." We express gratitude for their bringing this program and raising our awareness of the historical context of this situation.

Bill Cahalan presented the "Sustainability Minute" adopted by Community Monthly Meeting ... We heard the responses of various monthly meetings. Some monthly meetings have adopted it as their own minute and forwarded it to the Yearly Meeting. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting has informed us that at its last session it endorsed the Sustainability Minute... After further extended discussion, Miami Quarterly Meeting decided to take no action on this matter until the February Quarterly Meeting at the earliest. Miami QM asks that the monthly meetings each have some discussion of whether to join this minute prior to the February sessions.

American Friends Service Committee's No More Victims Campaign

– Susan Lee Barton

To diminish feelings of isolation and inefficacy in the midst of the war frenzy, I encourage everyone in our Yearly Meeting to learn more about AFSC's No More Victims Campaign and to get involved. The OVYM representatives will be happy to provide you with information (myself, Deborah Jordan, Tom Bennett, and Jack Davis).

The No More Victims Campaign states, "We provide humanitarian aid and support to the victims of September 11th, the victims of the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan, and victims of hatred. All victims of war and hate are human beings and children of God. AFSC and Friends have historically provided humanitarian aid to all sides in wars or conflicts."

AFSC's New York office, one block from the disaster area line, has been in an excellent location to provide emergency assistance including supplies and food for rescue workers, family assistance, hot meals for a nearby shelter, and translating aid lists into several languages. Your previous support of AFSC's international work made our aid to Afghanistan possible since staff in the Middle East and working relationships already formed with other organizations have enabled aid to reach the Afghan people, especially women and children who may have more difficulty obtaining aid. Reports indicate food distribution being done in an orderly fashion, unlike USA food drops which became black market items. These are excellent examples of how long-term, ongoing support of AFSC enables us to respond lovingly and effectively in a crisis.

In addition to continuing our peace work in the Middle East, other parts of the No More Victims Campaign include education about the reality of life in the Middle East, grassroots training in nonviolence and presentation of alternatives to war (check out www.peaceresponse.org), participating in peace coalitions nationwide, training in citizen lobbying for peace and distribution of CO info., participation in civil liberties coalitions, working w/immigrants and monitoring the situation of detainees, translation of recent legislation and distribution to immigrant communities, youth programs to "Know Your Rights" when dealing w/racial profiling and hate crimes, and more.

What You Can Do :

1) Make a contribution to AFSC's No More Victims Fund or Afghan Refugees Fund by calling 888-588-

2372, ext. 1, or by visiting the AFSC website at www.afsc.org.

- 2) Help promote understanding and dialogue between Muslim and other faith communities in your town.
- 3) Write your representatives and senators and tell them how you feel (sample letters on the AFSC web page). Relative bills and resolutions are going through fast, so stay informed!
- 4) Send letters to the editor of your local paper to call our communities to act responsibly in the days ahead.
- 5) Organize a vigil for peace with faith-based and other groups in your community.
- 6) Educate yourself about alternatives to war.
- 7) Work against violence aimed at anyone who is perceived as Muslim or Arab. Contact a local mosque or civic organization to express your support and ask how you can help.
- 8) Call in to radio talk shows to support peaceful alternatives to war.
- 9) Insist on maintaining and protecting the civil liberties that citizens in the United States have worked so hard to create. Working in our communities to use and protect these rights in the weeks ahead will guarantee that terrorism has not destroyed the fabric of liberty.
- 10) Contact your local AFSC office in Dayton (937-278-4225), Richmond (765-966-6484), or Chicago (312-427-2533).
- 11) Invite one of your AFSC representatives to come talk to your meeting.



MONTHLY MEETING NEWS

Bloomington Meeting

—*Jim Morgan, correspondent*

Bloomington Friends and Unitarians jointly sponsored an Afghan dinner and concert on Nov. 11 to benefit the "No More Victims" campaign of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). \$2,579 and 45 blankets were collected for relief work in New York and Afghanistan and peace building in response to the events of Sept. 11. The sold-out Afghan meal for 150 (catered by Bloomingfoods with dessert from Samira Restaurant) was followed by a remarkable concert with our Meeting's own Carrie Newcomer, classical guitarist Sulaiman Zai, and the group Salaam playing Middle Eastern music from several countries. Thanks to Carrie Newcomer, Aase Loescher, John Daschke, Mitch and Eileen Rice, Phyllis Martin, Jan Grant, Terry Reynolds, Greg Haas, Tony Minich, Unitarians and others for their help in making this a success. And Carrie Newcomer writes "... I was very moved by the spirit at the event, the bravery and stories of our local Afghan community, and the willingness of everyone to help in what ever way they could. My sincere gratitude goes out to all who worked and attended. It's one more proof that small things done with great love can be enormously powerful."

The Meeting has also been cosponsoring a monthly "Peace Vespers" that alternates between the Unitarian Church and our Meeting.

We had a duty both sad and happy in December to respond to a request by Cameron Gearen and Andy Junker to transfer their membership to New Haven Monthly Meeting. Cameron and Andy were active in many aspects of our meeting during their sojourn in Bloomington, including Andy's participation in Ministry and Counsel. OVYM teens will remember Andy served as OVYM's youth secretary, 1997-1998.

Janette and Bill Shetter will be away from about January 15 to about February 25 2002. They will be mainly in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) on their biennial visit to daughter Jessie and son-in-law Mohamed. During most of this time they will remain in easy contact, since they hope to check their e-mail about every other day.

This spring we are beginning our adult discussion group on Spiritual Growth, while the midweek evening

meeting is migrating to Tuesday, and planning to focus on the Gospel of John.

Our Friends on Campus group (Quaker Student Association) is reconvening, and we hope for the participation of any OVYM friends at Indiana U.

Campus Meeting

—*Terry Miller, correspondent*

Campus Friends find themselves witnessing to the historic peace testimony in a number of ways this winter. Lena Mae and Larry Gara continue to maintain a vigil against war and military involvement in Afghanistan every Tuesday at noon on the campus mall at Wilmington College. Canby Jones recently addressed Professor Michael Snarr's Religion and Politics class in the Department of Social and Political Studies on the topic of the "Is the Bible political?" Also, Dale Hayes taught a graduate "intensive" seminar for the Earlham School of Religion at the West Hartford (Connecticut) Meeting on conflict resolution/mediation. He returned to Wilmington on January 21st and began teaching a similar course (mediation) to undergraduates at Wilmington College. The course is part of the Peace Studies Program maintained by the college and administered by Professor Ron Rembert and the Religion and Philosophy Department.

Finally, Terry Miller continues to act as a liaison to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of the Wilmington Year Meeting for the Friends Peace Teams. FPT supports individuals and meetings who undertake to do peace-making work around the globe as well as in their own communities. Currently the organization is heavily involved in support of peace and reconciliation efforts in Africa through the African Great Lakes Initiative.

Clear Creek Meeting

—*Mary Garman, correspondent*

The fall season at Clear Creek Meeting included the usual gatherings and meetings; they took on deeper significance this year in the light of the aftermath of the attacks of September 11, and the beginning of the

bombings in Afghanistan. A number of us held a Peace Vigil on Christmas Eve in downtown Richmond. We were encouraged by the many motorists who responded with gestures of support. Clear Creek Friends are joining with others in Richmond to plan future public witnesses for peace.

During Christmas we enjoyed a number of special activities: one Sunday we learned how to make simple Christmas crafts; the children wrote and produced a pageant, and once again made the script available as a fund-raiser, this time for the school at Ramallah; we serenaded our neighbors with Christmas carols on Christmas Eve, and gathered for worship on Christmas morning. Early January brought our annual Meeting Birthday Party: a chance to eat and laugh together and share memories.

Students from Earlham College, the Earlham School of Religion, and Bethany Seminary continue to add their lively presence and hopeful energy to our Meeting life. In addition, we welcome visitors almost every Sunday: families of students, Friends who come to Richmond for conferences or meetings, and others who are seeking spiritual nurture and find their way to Stout Meetinghouse. These sojourners and guests bring special blessings to us, as they deepen our worship, bring us greetings from far-away Friends, and help us shape our ministry in new ways.

We begin this new year feeling a combination of grief over world events, and new determination to join with others in countering the rush toward war and more suffering. We continue to seek ways to respond to world events, and are grateful for the leadership offered by Friends' bodies such as the AFSC, the FCNL, and FWCC. We send our love to Friends throughout the Yearly Meeting.

Dayton Meeting

– David Wood, correspondent

In November Dayton Friends and Englewood Church (Indiana Yearly Meeting) planned and carried out a retreat together. This retreat, at the Hadley Farm, featured a program on meditation techniques and the opportunity to learn some Tai Chi. Other joint activities with Englewood include unprogrammed worship at their church and continued service to a homeless shelter.

Christine Snyder wrote another fine Christmas play, in which young and not-so-young members "Quakerized" Dickens. Scrooge was a Friend who slept through meetings for worship.

The young people spearheaded a "possessions calendar" project in which members taxed themselves for their abundance. Proceeds went to AFSC projects for the poor in other countries, and a local homeless shelter.

Our response to the terrorist attacks of September 11 has included an advertisement in a local newspaper featuring our peace testimony, and the involvement of several members in local vigils.

Eastern Hills Meeting

– Diana Becket, correspondent

The meeting wanted to celebrate Christmas in a different way this year and decided to focus on the members of the meeting and their many talents. The meeting house walls were covered with fine embroidery, tapestry, and pictures in a variety of styles and different media. After a potluck Christmas lunch, members of the meeting played their own music, accompanied by the piano and guitar. Other younger members played classical pieces, one of which a young man had performed at the Carnegie Music Hall in New York. Other members of all ages read their own poetry and short stories.

Meetings for discussion have been held for members and for the wider community in Anderson Township. The meeting house is the center for discussion and events promoted by Greater Anderson Promotes Peace, which is an organization that was established to address issues of anti-Semitism and racial prejudice in the area. In December, a Neighbor to Neighbor discussion group was hosted at the meeting house. These meetings, promoted by the city newspaper, address the issues of racial unrest in our community. Discussion has also focused on Quaker issues, and the most recent of these concerned oral ministry within the meeting. After reading a selection of carefully selected articles on this subject, members discussed the significance and importance of both silent and spoken worship during meeting times.

The meeting's women's group attended a production of *Vagina Dialogues* together and continued the evening with dinner at a nearby restaurant. Discussion between members centered on the value of the dialogues as an expression of women's sexuality. The recitation also articulated issues concerning child abuse and suppression of women's rights throughout the world.

Fall Creek Meeting

— *Maude Ward, correspondent*

Much has happened to Fall Creek Meeting since the last issue of the Quill. We have a new roof which was installed December 2001.

A group of young friends from Yellow Springs, Ohio held their annual retreat at Fall Creek in November. After the retreat Maude Ward was asked to tell about the Meeting House when she was a child.

October 28th Fall Creek hosted a birthday celebration for my 98th birthday. Over 125 people attended coming from as far away as Wisconsin, Illinois, five different Meeting Houses around Indiana and hosts of friends from Pendleton and Anderson, including Historic Fall Creek Pendleton Settlement, Inc., of Pendleton, Saturday Club of Anderson, Daughters of the American Colonists of Indiana, Fall Creek Monthly Meeting members and many of my family. It was a memorable and enjoyable day for me.

Deb Garretson has joined our meeting and several new attenders. Members are taking turns teaching First Day School.

We are indeed grateful for the physical support of family and others. Fall Creek will host the Traveling Ministries from the 25-27th of this month.

Several members of our meeting hold positions in the Quarterly and Yearly Meetings.

The Meeting is still studying the Book of Discipline led by Clerk, Carl Pierce.

The date for our open house has been set for May 4, 2002.

The Meeting House is open to the Community for gatherings.

Hopewell Meeting

— *Candace Rodman, correspondent*

Happy New Year from the Friends at Hopewell MM! We all hope that next year will be better than last year, though we all worry about our country, as many others do, but with a difference. How can we affirm the value of peace when so many are dedicated to revenging the death and destruction in our country by exacting that same awesome price in other countries? How can

practitioners of two religions supposedly devoted to peace do this to one another? We find it hard to understand that, even though we love our country, we are once again being called unpatriotic when we raise our voices to question. So in this we must hold each other in the Light constantly.

Also on a sad note for 2001, we must report the loss of Don Scott, the husband of our clerk, Susan Scott, and faithful trustee of Hopewell Meeting. It is hard to know what to say about this sad departure, since Don's disease, depression, is not recognized widely in our society, the medical community or the insurance industry as valid and worthy of full medical attention and support. We must pray and work for the equal treatment of mental illness in our country and in our faulty health care system. At Hopewell we will not soon forget all of Don Scott's hard work on our behalf. His Memorial Service was held at the meetinghouse and was well-attended. The funeral was held in his hometown of Pershing. He is survived by two grown children, Matt and Sally Scott, and his wife, Susan.

On a happier note, several Hopewellians put their heads together recently and talked about having a Teen Peace Retreat so that our teens could talk about their feelings and about ways to try to increase the peace. We feel that in our meetinghouse we have a valuable commodity which should be utilized. Anyone wishing to help plan or give input should call or email Susan Scott, clerk.

Lexington Meeting

— *Betsy Neale, correspondent*

The events of September 11 have shaken Lexington Friends, as they have all Americans. We have been active in leadership and participation in a number of activities in response to the attacks and the subsequent war in Afghanistan, including a peace demonstration before the bombing started and a weekly peace vigil since. We also collected a truckload of blankets for AFSC's Afghanistan relief work.

During the fall we hosted two Quaker gatherings, the All Kentucky Friends Gathering and Miami Quarterly Meeting. At the Kentucky Friends Gathering, we enjoyed activities and discussions on the topic, Friends and the Arts. A number of Friends shared their artistic talents, to everyone's enjoyment.

In November, we were saddened to lose a beloved member of our meeting, Lloyd Ann Grey. Lloyd Ann's health had been failing for several years. We held a

memorial meeting for her, and over 200 people attended! This attendance and the thoughts expressed during the meeting were a moving tribute to her loving spirit.

We continue to seek ways to involve more Friends in sharing with our children, in First Day School and at other gatherings. In December we continued our tradition of creating and stuffing 30 Christmas stockings for local children from low income families. Just before Christmas, over 50 Friends attended our annual party. At the party and at the next First Day, our children delighted us with a couple of theatrical presentations. In early January we celebrated the first anniversary of our worshipping in our new meetinghouse.

Miami Meeting

-- Tom Nowel, correspondent

The September 11 tragedy shocked and stunned members of Miami Monthly Meeting. While mourning for those who lost so many in New York and Washington, D. C., the Meeting also felt a deep concern over the expected military response. The Meeting spent three adult First Day School sessions expressing individual feelings and the need for a corporate response. The Meeting's official response was developed in a brainstorming/worship sharing process and was then approved during Meeting for Business. The response was published in the local newspaper and distributed throughout the faith-based community. Our response is as follows:

We mourn for those who lost family members in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Those who are responsible for these ultimate acts of violence must be brought to justice. The wholesale bombing of innocent people and military invasion do not contribute to the search for justice. We urge our government leaders to resist temptations of revenge and retaliation.

The Divine tests us now and asks that we seek alternatives to further violence, death and destruction. There is a time tested Quaker saying, "...to see what love can do." While a police action to bring the guilty to justice is appropriate, humanitarian relief, education, healing and feeding the hungry may produce more just results. The New Testament reminds us that violence begets violence.

Bombs and money cannot ultimately resolve the intricacies of terrorism and violence. Seeking justice, as we must, might we appeal to those in the Middle East and the Third World with a more equitable use of world resources? This is a time of opportunity to

focus on the inter-connectedness of all people, all children of God, the Creator. The greatest challenge in times like these is to go beyond preaching about Christ and instead to be Christ-like. To wage peace, rather than war, is a formidable undertaking which demands tolerance, patience and the willingness to endure persecution. We question our own ability to see through the pain as we seek justice for the acts of violence perpetrated against our country, but we know that a difference will be made if we base our actions on Jesus' command to love our enemies.

We pray for those who have been lost and especially the family members who have been touched with the pain of unthinkable violence. We ask our neighbors, brother and sister faith communities, and civic leaders to consider a justice without the use of military might.

No more victims.

This statement was developed during a series of discussions by the Adult First Day School of Waynesville Friends Meeting and was then minuted on October 21, 2001 as an official response of Miami Monthly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends.

The Meeting sponsored a number of prayer vigils in Waynesville as a witness to peace. Karen Campbell has arranged for speakers from the Islamic Center of Cincinnati to visit with Friends at the Meeting House. The Meeting assisted in the sponsoring of a speaker from the Islamic Center at the Waynesville Public Library.

Christmas at the Meeting was very family-centered. We caroled at Quaker Heights Nursing Home, and, following Meeting for Worship, family members played musical instruments and joined in the singing of Christmas carols.

Miami Monthly Meeting wishes all Friends a year filled with peace in the world, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts.

Oxford Meeting

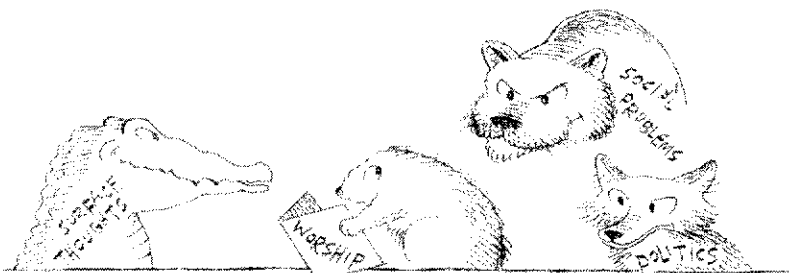
-- Camilla Flintermann, correspondent

Oxford Friends are delighted with the response from our community to the AFSC's Blankets for Afghanistan project---107 blankets, quilts, and sleeping bags were donated, as well as nearly \$1,000. in cash. Cynthia Durgan and Andy Garrison staffed a table for several weeks in the Miami U. student center, offering information about the project, as well as brochures introducing our Meeting .

At the January Meeting for business we approved these persons to serve in 2002: Presiding Clerk, Nani Ball; Recording Clerk, Cecilia Shore; Treasurer, Mary Duerksen; Ministry & Oversight, the clerks and treasurer, as well as Sandra Ward Angell and Camilla Flintermann. Other responsibilities were approved as follows: Librarian, Roland Duerksen; Hospitality, Lolita Holmes; Outreach, Andy Garrison; Peace and Social Concerns, the Duerksens, Barbara Diehl, and Cynthia Durgan; Publicity, Barbara Diehl; Newsletters and correspondent, Camilla Flintermann.

We have scheduled two Sunday Second Hour discussions to consider the Sustainability Minute from Community Friends, along with the relevant section from FCNL materials, to be facilitated by Sandra Ward Angell and Mary Duerksen.

We have been invited to present a panel discussion on pacifism at the local Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Jan.27. Panel members will be Roland Duerksen, Steve Angell, Linda Sheppard, and Camilla Flintermann.



NEWS FROM OUTSIDE OVYM

Waynesville Area Heritage and Cultural Center

WAHCC at the Friends Home, Inc. introduces The Coffee House Series of presentations on topical issues:

* Thursday, February 21st, 2002. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Speaker from the Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati on Afghanistan.

* Wednesday, March 13th, 2002. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Dr. Mathew Gordon of Miami University will speak on "The Conflict over Palestine: A Brief History"

For more information, contact Karen Campbell 513-897-1607, campbeka@oplin.lib.oh.us

Friends Center of Ohio YM

A Retreat and Conference Center for the Exploration of Christian Unprogrammed Quakerism and its Meaning Today

Listening to the Holy Spirit led by Katharine and Ken Jacobsen, March 8-10, 2002. Cost: \$120

This workshop will draw on the Bible, Friends' writings, and especially on "the scriptures of our own experiences." It will seek to encourage participants to explore the listening process in three dimensions: the vertical, listening to the Spirit within, the horizontal, listening to the spirit through others, and the temporal, listening to the Spirit in events and circumstances.

Intentional Living and Mindful Dying led by Connie McPeak and Martha Grundy, April 5-7, 2002.

During the weekend the group will consider many of the questions faced by the family of a dying person both before and after death, including palliative care, the actual physical process of dying, and the Quaker concern for simplicity in funerals and burials.

Understanding Robert Barclay led by John Smith with the presence of Dean Freiday, editor of *Barclay's Apology in Modern English*, if his health permits. April 26-28, 2002.

For a brochure containing more information about these programs and a registration form, contact Bill Taber, 61357 Sandy Ridge Road, Barnesville, OH 43713, 740-425-1248.

Friends World Committee For Consultation, Section of the Americas

FWCC now has a Midwest regional field secretary, Susan Lee Barton of Clear Creek Meeting. She will be working with the section's Midwest and Lower Great Lakes Regions including 10 yearly meetings, and she is eager to come to your meeting to share news about the wider Religious Society of Friends. West Richmond Friends Meeting in Richmond, Indiana has provided office space for the Midwest office (see open house announcement below). Contact Susan Lee at 765-939-1449, susanleeb@fwcc.quaker.org, P.O. Box 2471, Richmond, Indiana 47375.

Philadelphia Friends will be hosting the 2002 Section of the Americas annual meeting March 14-17. All Friends are invited to attend, but advance registration is needed for hotel and meals. Contact Susan Lee or the section office or go to our web page at <http://fwcc.quaker.org/americas/index.html> for more information.

Friends World Committee for Consultation's Midwest Office Open House

Sunday, 3 March, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

***Come see our new home with displays,
maps, resources, quizzes, games,
and refreshments***

***609 West Main Street
Richmond, Indiana
765-939-1449***

susanleeb@fwcc.quaker.org

AFSC's Collection of Blankets for Afghan Refugees

The Great Lakes Regional Emergency Material Assistance Program (EMAP) based in Richmond collected approximately 1100 blankets in the recent drive to aid Afghan refugees, 50+ sent with the regular clothing shipment on 11/01/01, 960 sent 12/28/01, and 75-100 that have come in since then. Donations have included many handmade blankets and quilts as well as newly-purchased blankets, plus 69 hand-knit caps. One group sent 3 dozen handmade baby quilts. Several OVYM meetings participated both with collections and volunteer time packing and loading blankets. The Richmond Young Friends and an area boy scout troop did the final truck loading on the 28th. Blankets were shipped through Iran (with the Mennonite Central Committee), Pakistan (with the Lutheran World Relief), and Northeast Afghanistan (with ACTED, a French agency). The blanket drive ended in 2001. Blankets are always needed for various locations, but AFSC does not promise future donations will go specifically to Afghanistan.

In addition to the creativity and love poured into many of the donations, people were creative in how they organized and collected donations. Several meetings brought more than one loaded van or pick-up truck as donations kept coming. A Bloomington meeting contact resulted in a Montessori school in Wankesha, Wisconsin raising over \$750 for the blanket fund. Children used a "spelling bee, egg money, blanket drive," and other fund-raising, and included letters & photos to be sent with the blankets. Some women in Chicago organized the "Chicago Moms" group and collected 7 boxes of blankets for moms in Afghanistan. One family in Modoc, Indiana collected blankets as a family project. The sister of a Louisville Friend did a blanket drive at her workplace and loaded a pick-up truck. The Discovery School in Richmond had a school drive. The three Richmond Friends' meetings had a joint peace vigil, circled around their collection of blankets and money for Afghanistan. Blankets sent through the Richmond EMAP center came from all 6 states in the Great Lakes Region plus some from Idaho, Iowa, and Texas.

Many people had fled Afghanistan prior to war due to drought/lack of food, loss of jobs, destruction of homes, and fear of conscription. Hundreds of thousands more fled their homes after the war began. Freezing and hunger have been major concerns this winter. Thank you to all of you who helped keep so many people warm.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
6921 Stonington Road
Cincinnati, OH 45230

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CINCINNATI, OHIO
PERMIT NO. 5889

FWCC Job Opening

Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas seeks a Friend for appointment as Executive Secretary beginning Summer 2002. The Section of the Americas administers a portion of FWCC's world-wide work of developing communication and cooperation among Friends of varying backgrounds and traditions. The Section's Executive Secretary employs and supervises staff in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. office and elsewhere in the Americas to assist Friends in their worship and work together.

The position requires close coordination with FWCC offices and Sections around the world and considerable travel. Spanish-language skills desirable. Applicants should have deep experience of the life of their own yearly meetings or groups and an active awareness of Quaker faith and practice among other groups.

Deadline for applications April 30, 2002.

Job description and application form available from: FWCC Section of the Americas, 1506 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102, Phone (215) 241-7250, Fax (215) 241-7285. americas@fwcc.quaker.org