




Eastern Hills Meetinghouse

OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING NEWSLETTER

A publication of the Religious Society of Friends

Volume 30, no.1

Quaker Quill 

February 2005

Strengthening Worship, Strengthening Community ...

... is a workshop for clerks and Ministry and Counsel members sponsored by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Advancement and Nurture Committee. Mark your calendars for March 19th, 10am-3pm at Earlham School of Religion. The facilitators will be Patricia Thomas and Brent Bill. Brent will use the morning session to present ideas on spiritual gifts and how these enrich worship. A brown bag lunch will follow. In the afternoon, Patricia will share how identifying and nurturing spiritual gifts strengthens community. A letter will be mailed out shortly with further details. An enriching time for all!

Plan now to attend Yearly Meeting sessions

When: July 27 - 31, 2005
Where: Wilmington College

*"Beyond Tolerance:
Seeking Common Spiritual Ground"*

Plenary Speakers:

- Michael Birkel, Earlham School of Religion and OVYM
- Cecile Nyiramana, Rwanda Yearly Meeting

Living Witness:

Bill and Janette Shetter

Workshops (tentative):

- Ecumenical Work - Patricia Thomas
- Conflict Transformation - Margaret Lechtner
- Project Trust in the Wilmington Schools - Jim Boland
- Peace and Social Concerns - untitled - Larry Garah
- Spirit-led Clerking or Eldering - Cindi Goslee
- Quakers Beyond the Schism - ?
- Breathing Together - on music - Susan Stark

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: Barbie Hill, 6921 Stonington Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45230; (513)232-5348 (bhill@one.net)

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Steve Angell, Oxford
Murray Cox, White Rose
Ruth Kutter, Whitewater
Dale Blanchard, Yellow Springs

Paul Buckingham, Fort Wayne WG
Owensboro WG



UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 19 Strengthening Worship,
Strengthening Community.
10:00 - 3:00. Earlham.
- April 14-17 FWCC Section of the Americas
Annual Meeting, "Called to Go
Forth With Joy." Tempe, AZ
- June 16-19 Friends Association for Higher
Education conference.
Haverford College, Haverford,
PA
- July 27-31 OVYM annual sessions.
Wilmington College,
Wilmington, OH

Quaker Archives Collection

Materials being sent to the archivist at Wilmington College should be sent to:
Wilmington College Special Collections Department
Pyle Center Box 1227
251 Ludovic St.
Wilmington, OH 45177

Because of the elimination of the archivist position the collection is only open by appointment. If you wish an appointment or have questions as to records that are still being accepted, contact David Gansz, Library Director (937)382-6661, ext. 346 or e-mail david_gansz@wilmington.edu. OVYM will be sending out a letter in late February reminding monthly meetings as to the types of records to be submitted to the archives.

Reminder

Please send copies of your Monthly Meeting Histories to
Krystin Schmidt
P.O. Box 1333, Richmond, IN 47374.

The Monthly Meeting Histories that have already been collected are:
Community, Green Plain, Hopewell,
Whitewater, and Yellow Springs.

Clerk's Page

— David Garman, Ass't Clerk

I sit down to write on a day that finally has sun and a blue sky. I'm grateful for these weather gifts and the gift of a restful afternoon. I jotted down some notes to prepare for this writing that were fueled by my looking at a list of email that I had saved related to things Quaker in my life. To my amazement, I soon had noted more than twenty different committees, tasks to do, and requests related to Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meeting business. Suddenly a restful afternoon turned to thoughts of what I have to get done and sunny skies were forgotten.

While all of the above activity is going on in my home computer, I am aware that there is a computer in my office with a similar list of possible tasks. The thought occurred to me that I am not special. Some mean taskmaster somewhere has not singled me out to have all this stuff to do. Everyone reading these words has a similar list and is most likely on at least one committee --more likely is on more than three.

Everyone that I know is busy. It often feels like there is not enough time for everything on our plates. However in a strange way there is. As I thought about the above and was beginning to feel a bit put upon, I realized that I was in the midst of a quiet Saturday morning indulging in my second cup of coffee. It was ten o'clock and I was still in my slippers! Then it dawned on me that I could honestly say that I was not feeling rushed, busy, or harried. What was going on?

The very lists that seemed so daunting also contained the clues to an answer to my question. A list is simply a tool; it is a picture of several different options as to how I might spend some time today. It became clearer as I pondered my list, that I did not have to do something related to all of these things today. Of course I had something to do but not everything.

It seems to me as I reflect upon the above lists, they shift from feeling like burdens to looking more and more like opportunities. Instead of trying to figure out which of these burdens to cast off, I am released to discern which of the many opportunities before me to address today. Our world needs the fruits of our labors as there are so many needs out there. I wish for each of us wisdom as we choose which need to address today.



Appointees to World Gathering of Young Friends 2005

— Virginia Wood, Clerk

The Yearly Meeting is pleased to announce that Rachel Dean and Krystin Schmidt have accepted our invitation to represent Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting at the gathering of young adult Friends to be held in Lancaster, England, August 16th-24th, 2005. The theme for the gathering will be "Let us then see what Love will do -- I am the vine and you are the branches. Now, what fruit shall we bear?" It is hoped that the event will be a significant experience for those who attend with the potential to contribute powerfully to the life and leadership of the Religious Society of Friends.

Perhaps you have met Rachel and Krystin. Rachel is a member of Oxford MM. During the past year Rachel has volunteered to work with our teen program by accompanying our youth on their work project to West Virginia and as a staff person during Yearly Meeting sessions. Krystin is a member of Clear Creek MM and serves the Yearly Meeting clerk and committees as our clerical support person. Both are pursuing degrees in religious studies. We hope that their experience will help them discern further how they might work among Friends.

The Yearly Meeting is collecting funds to assist them and others from around the world. We invite Friends to be a part of this historic event that will bring together Young Friends from around the world. Contributions from monthly meetings or from individuals should be sent to J P Lund, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Treasurer, 6523 Iris Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45213. Make checks out to OVYM. Please designate in the memo line that the check is for the organization World Gathering of Young Friends ("for WGYF") or ("for OVYM Rep to WGYF"). If you wish to divide a single contribution for the two different purposes, please send a short note with the check to indicate how you wish your contribution to be distributed.

Dear Friends,

As part of the preparation for the World Gathering of Young Friends 2005 to be held at Lancaster University next August we are asking YFs from around the world to think about the questions below and send in their thoughts, whether on all of them or just one of them. All responses will be useful. These can be addressed by individuals, or YF groups may wish to work on them together.

1. What is important to you as a Young Friend?
2. What makes you consider yourself to be a Quaker?
3. What do you find challenging about your form of worship?
4. What is the biggest misconception you have encountered about Quakers and who you are as a Friend? (e.g., being mistaken for Amish, Mormons, Shakers, etc.)
5. What do you feel that you share with the experience of early Friends?
6. How do you feel that your form of worship has changed from the experiences of early Friends?
7. We are planning to post extracts on the website www.wgyf.org and use some in study material which will be translated and sent around the world, both for YFs to use as part of their personal preparation for coming to WGYF but also for any individuals or Meetings wishing to share in the spiritual journey of WGYF.

Please send any contributions to info@wgyf.org or post to WGYF, 1 Cluny Terrace, Edinburgh, EH10 4SW Scotland. If you could include your name, age and where you are from, that would help us enormously.

In loving friendship,
 Anna Dunford
 WGYF Europe Based Administrator on behalf of the Preparation Materials Committee -- the World Gathering of Young Friends: 16-24 August 2005, Lancaster, Britain www.wgyf.org

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Listening

— Ron Haldeman, Clerk, OVYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Our ears are on the ground listening for hoof beats of an approaching messenger. Our eyes are to the horizon watching for the smoke signals of an important concern. I sometimes long for the days when most wrote with a quill -- a time when the pace of events was quite a bit slower, a time when the Shakers sent a pair of elders from Massachusetts to Kentucky by foot, and they made many converts over the year of their journey to open a new community, a time when the printed word was anticipated.

Our thoughts are now filled with concerns from around the world. Daily we become aware of the problems that our country has brought to Iraq where

the daily casualties are often measured in the hundreds. Our prayers go out to the Sudan where the daily death toll is measured in the thousands. Our concerns go out to the Palestinian/Israeli conflict where those in the graves or hospital maybe those with whom we may have communicated.

We know in the long run that in addition to the immediate carnage in the world we must be concerned with making our world sustainable. We must do something about global warming, water shortages, the world's hunger, our nation's health care crisis, and our streets' homeless.

During the yearly meeting sessions some of our concerns centered on two issues: the need to teach our youth and new attendees about conscientious objection and our opposition to conscription and our concerns for the equality of all persons, which we expressed in the following minute:

"Friends affirm that there is that of God in each person regardless of race, creed, national origin, or sexual orientation. Further, Friends consider marriage primarily a spiritual relationship. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting opposes attempts to add discriminatory 'Defense of Marriage' laws, including amendments to federal and state constitutions. Such laws would preempt public dialogue. We affirm that discriminatory laws and amendments are contrary to our understanding of the Spirit of God's love."

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting is listening not only to the cries in the world but to the Friends we represent. We want to know what you feel must be done. We are listening.

Facing a new year with hopes for a better world ... We ended last year with the Asian tsunami and began this year with realization that we are faced with a multiple year relief effort. An English F/friend, Judy Kirby, writes "...for Quakers who find God within people, there is probably the only true certainty to come from this appalling event -- as witnessed in the extraordinary humanitarian relief operation now rolling out on the shores of the Indian ocean." A recent letter by Gill Grimshaw to *The Friend*, includes this idea, "If each town, city, village in unaffected countries 'adopted' a town, city or village that has been affected we could help on many more levels including visiting to help build up the local economy and infrastructure again."

The Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee has been working since yearly meeting on many concerns including an information campaign on conscientious objection, registration, and the possibility of a reinstatement of the draft. At joint Quarterly Meeting the committee initiated its lending library.

The Committee works on many concerns, but our chief concern is to listen to F/friends. We want to know what Monthly and Quarterly Meeting feel must be done to produce the better world we all want. We are listening.

Teen Activities

– *Jim Coppock, Teen Committee Clerk*

Folks have gathered three times since Yearly Meeting. A dedicated core continues to push us to organize more gatherings, traveling hours to be together. We continue to struggle with connecting with the teens who are active in their other lives and isolated within their monthly meetings.

Ten teens came for Joint Quarter at Happy Hollow. J.T.'s program included "Paper Tiger," a video, and a book, *Support the Truth*, about U.S. military enlistment techniques, front line stories of recent military operations and the entanglements facing men and women in the system. A few teens were seen kicking up their heels at the contradance in the outdoor pavilion. The business meeting focused on resolving interpersonal issues from Yearly Meeting.

The traditional overnight at Fall Creek was held on November 5-7. Saturday was spent in Help Increase the Peace (HIPP) training. Many thanks to Diann Herzog for hosting the nine teens.

Thirty-three teens from Lake Erie, Northern, Illinois and Ohio Valley Yearly Meetings gathered for the third annual "Quake that Rocked the Midwest" at Evanston Friends Meeting. David and Virginia Wood, Anna Henry, Katie Stone, Jeremy, Nathan and Jim Coppock attended from Ohio Valley. Evalyn Parry from Toronto Canada led them through soul-searching drama and trust-building exercises, a fishbowl. She also performed witty original songs.

The Service Trip for June has not been finalized but the likely candidates are helping to open up Camp Woodbrooke in Wisconsin, Olney/ Ravens Rock or return to the Appalachian South Folklife Center. Stay tuned for more!

Friends General Conference Central Committee

– *David Wood, OVYM representative*

At the October FGC Central Committee Meeting there was a minute which spoke the mind of all in a kind of spiritual unity which I had not seen before. The Central Committee approved a minute written by the Executive Committee to LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer) Friends as follows:

Our experience has been that spiritual gifts are not distributed with regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. Our experience has been that our Gatherings and Central Committee work have been immeasurably enhanced over the years by the full participation and spirit-guided leadership of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer Friends. We will never go back to silencing those voices or suppressing those gifts. Our experience confirms that we are all equal before God, as God made us, and we feel blessed to be engaged in the work of FGC together.

We felt ourselves gathered and joyful as we, the Central Committee, approved this minute, which is being sent as an epistle to FGC affiliated monthly and yearly meetings. A Friend who took the podium for the next business item asked "Do I look different? I feel taller." The Central Committee would have liked to make this minute a public statement representing the views of FGC. The Central Committee, however, does not have this authority. Only monthly and yearly meetings can do this.

Speaking of American Friends Service Committee

– *Deborah Jordan, OVYM representative*

This past November, there were six Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends who met together at the annual AFSC meeting in Philadelphia to discuss how to continue to communicate the work of this large organization to our own Yearly Meeting. Many are familiar with AFSC's relief efforts during war and disasters for the past 87 years. In fact, they have been actively seeking funds for the Tsunami relief effort and currently have raised more than two million dollars, funds that have been concentrated in Indonesia through its partner agency, the Society for Health, Education, Environment and Peace (SHEEP). So even though AFSC's Emergency Material Assistance Program will be laid down in its current

form of sending used clothing and equipment to other countries in need, humanitarian assistance in the form of emergency relief kits and donations continues.

The six OVYM Friends, Tom Bennett, Jack Davis, Colin Ehri-Schoder, Monteze Snyder, Marcy Wenzler, and myself, decided that one way we could further communication was to connect more with our regional AFSC efforts. There was also an interest in furthering AFSC's efforts to educate the public about the Iraq War and youth about conscientious objection. One way some of us had already accomplished a link with our regional office (Great Lakes) and antiwar efforts was by volunteering with the Eyes Wide Open exhibit, created out of the Chicago office, when it came to Indianapolis, Dayton, or Cincinnati. Those of us involved found it very moving. This exhibit, which includes a display of combat boots for every American soldier who dies in Iraq and shoes to represent Iraqi civilians killed, has been touring the country since January 2004. The week of the inauguration in Washington, the exhibit was at the National Cathedral. Just as our annual

gathering in Philadelphia featured a public program with Chris Hedges, war correspondent at the New York Times, who laid bare both the barbarity and compulsion of war, so does the traveling exhibit "open people's eyes."

There is always too much to say about AFSC to do it justice. I'll close with three items of interest to Friends in particular. There is a new publication called *Putting Dignity and Rights at the Heart of the Global Economy: a Quaker Perspective*, a reminder of how AFSC thinks globally. Second, AFSC joined the American Civil Liberties Union and a host of nationwide religious, environmental and civil rights organizations in requesting FBI "Freedom of Information" requests to ascertain whether the FBI is targeting groups with no connections to terrorism for surveillance. Finally, this complex organization now has a Board Committee called the Simplicity Committee, which has been bringing the Quaker testimony of simplicity and integrity to bear. Interested in more information? Contact any of us (see above) or check out afsc.org

QUARTERLY MEETING NEWS

Whitewater Quarter

Whitewater Quarter was held on Saturday, Jan 15th at Hopewell meeting with about 25 people present. We had a wonderful sharing in our business meeting with each monthly meeting outlining its current activities. One of the highlights was to hear from Fall Creek with an open house of 40 people from the community, a Quaker 101 class beginning and a second worship at 1 p.m. once a month following the tradition of the Conservative Friends.

Our other meetings all shared various activities, including retreats, various small group worship and learning times. James and Julia Dunn are unable to come to Quarterly meeting at the present time, so they are in our thoughts and prayers. There was a discussion of how to connect with Friends in the Fort Wayne area with an effort to explore this more. There was generally a sense of renewed energy among several of our meetings including Hopewell who served as our host.

The afternoon was a presentation by Adriana Cabrera from Columbia, who is currently an ESR student. She

challenged us to consider that, when Friends talk of Peace, we consider what that can look like and not just immediately look at the war around us and how to get rid of it. She shared the experience of being in her country with violence all around and yet a small country school was alive with music from the children. She stressed the value of being citizens of the world, and not just be identified with our own geographic area.

Miami Quarter

Miami Quarter will meet February 20th, hosted by Yellow Springs Meeting. Meetings are encouraged to name a representative and to send the name along with any matters of business being brought to the Quarter to Clerk, Ben Griffith (Ben347@aol.com).

Discussion of the proposed change from assessment to covenant-based method is expected to take place during the business sessions. The Clerk would also like written responses on this issue from each meeting, asap.

MONTHLY MEETING NEWS

Bloomington Meeting

– Terry Reynolds, correspondent

Bloomington Friends worshiped together faithfully each First Day, with the exception of one week, when snow prevented our gathering together. It was the first time most of us can ever remember the cancellation of meeting for worship.

This fall, some of us gained a deeper understanding of Quakerism by attending an adult discussion series focused on classic Quaker writings. The text used was *Quaker Spirituality: Selected Writings*, edited by Douglas Steere. Building on this series, a new discussion group on Quaker spirituality begins this month. Its focus will be on Caroline Stephen's *Quaker Strongholds*.

Along with the Bloomington Center for Sustainable Living and Bloomingfoods (the local food co-op), we sponsored an eight week discussion group on voluntary simplicity. The course used was created by the Northwest Earth Institute in Portland, OR.

After one meeting for worship, some of us gathered to hear a report given by two Bloomington Friends on their recent trip to Philadelphia for the AFSC Corporation meeting. We also learned more about the function and plans of FWCC when we were visited by Joseph Andugu, that organization's new Associate Secretary.

We came together in traditional Bloomington Friendly ways: 1) Our annual retreat was sparsely attended, but was appreciated by those who were there. The theme was sharing our spiritual practices and gifts. 2) No one counted, but it seems a record number of Friends attended our annual Christmas party. The food was wonderful, and the entertainment (a play put on by First Day School students, toddlers through teens) was both touching and amusing. 3) Our Friendly Bible study group and the women's worship sharing group continued to meet. 4) Approximately fifty Friends and attenders became better acquainted by attending Dinners for 8 this fall.

Food was also the focus of a simple meal held before the January meeting for business. Donations

from the event were sent to Right Sharing of World Resources.

Joyfully welcomed into membership were Lee Jones, Betsy Caufield, Steve Jones, and Morris Cornell-Morgan.

Campus Meeting

– Jim and Millie Ramsey, correspondents

Campus Friends continue to observe a busy agenda while maintaining an attendance of 14-20 each first day.

In September the Nominations Committee of Ron Rembert, Roger Schroeder and Terry Miller presented the following nominations for 2004-2005: Clerk, Terry Miller; Asst. Clerk, Ron Rembert; Treasurer, Dale Hayes; Recording Clerk, Patricia Thomas; Asst. Recording Clerk, Lenna Mae Gara.

The meeting is continuing its Spiritual Journey gathering held an evening each month at members' homes. The January gathering was at the home of Patricia Thomas and Doug Woodmansce, and the Query for the month was "Those who have turned the world upside down have come here. Are we among them?"

Members of Ron Rembert's college class, "Introduction to Quakers" attended first day meeting in November.

Terry Miller and Phil Holmes served dinner at the Clinton County Youth Center on December 14.

Paul Buckley met with Campus Friends at our Fellowship Breakfast on January 9. He discussed the proposed new assessment process now under consideration by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

The meeting was sad to learn of the death of Ron Rembert's father over Christmas. Our sympathy to Ron and his family.

The construction of the Quaker Heritage Center and Meeting Room on campus is now under roof. It should be completed by early summer.

A copy of the first edition of the "Bishop's Bible," 1568, is on display at the Watson Library on campus. The Bible, a gift from Canby Jones, is an English translation authorized by the Church of England. It was bequeathed to Canby from his mother, who obtained it from her brother, who acquired it in England around 1925.

Also on display just outside the Quaker Room of the library is a special tribute to Canby Jones, Prof. Emeritus of Religious Studies. The display includes his publications and honors.

Clear Creek Meeting

- Cecile Holvik, correspondent

On January 2nd members of Clear Creek Meeting held a simple birthday celebration to commemorate its 55th year. Those present lifted lighted candles and spoke of significant events in the previous year, then offered wishes for the year 2005. Not surprisingly, the desire for peace was prominent.

With joy the Meeting has welcomed five new members who are already taking up some extra responsibilities.

Anna Margaret Halsted, a high school senior, reported on her experience as a member of the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage to England, Scotland and the Netherlands last July and August. Not only did she enjoy traveling to locations of early Friends Meetings, but she appreciated the opportunities for spiritual-searching which arose.

At least three young "graduate" members of the Meeting have found work which builds on their Quaker backgrounds. Mariah Miller is an intern at Pendle Hill; Katy Nicholson is involved with environmental activism in Philadelphia and Caitlin Rogers, also in that city, works with a publishing company.

The Meeting as a whole continues to hold worship sharing hours which examine how we respond to the Queries.

Community Meeting

Eugenia Mills, correspondent

Community Friends have been active in efforts to strengthen peace among our own Meeting community and the larger community in which we live. Community Friends participated in the American Friends Service Committee's exhibit, "Eyes Wide Open," when it was at Xavier University this fall. This display is of empty boots, and on each pair is a tag with the name of a soldier who was killed in the occupation of Iraq. People have found this a very moving exhibit.

In September we held our Annual Meeting Retreat at Quaker Knoll with Eileen Bagus of our meeting serving as facilitator. This year 27 adults and several children attended the retreat. Ministry and Council has sponsored this annual retreat, now in its fourth year. Attendees have reported the retreats to be very meaningful, and they noted that spending several days together has allowed them to really get acquainted with each other. This they saw as vital to the meeting being a community.

The Meeting was blessed by a visit from Deborah Fisch, Clerk of FGC traveling Ministers Committee and her traveling companion/elder, Ellen Emily. Deborah and Ellen spent an evening and morning with us. They were open to discussing concerns of the meeting, and Deborah Fisch shared with us on Quaker process and healing from conflicts and hurts.

In late October, Community Friends joined with Cincinnati Friends Meeting and Eastern Hills Friends Meeting in sponsoring the Friends Peace Lecture that was held at Cincinnati Friends Meetinghouse. Gene Stoltzfus, a Mennonite friend, talked with us about Christian Peacemaker Teams. The Peacemaker teams have been involved in Haiti, Colombia, Palestine, Iraq, and Puerto Rico. Gene Stoltzfus also participated in the Westheimer Peace Symposium being held at Wilmington College.

Our young people engaged in projects to raise money for Play-set equipment for use in the meetinghouse yard, and now have it purchased and it will be ready for use this spring. For Christmas the young folks put on a wonderful Christmas play that was written for them by two members of the Meeting.

Dayton Meeting

– *David Wood, correspondent*

Dayton Friends have experienced both trials and joys. A mix of adults and youth presented a Christmas play, "Gifts of Saint Nicholas" which Christine Snyder had written 15 years ago for a previous group of young people. We are pleased that one of these young people, Anna Henry, will be attending "The Quake That Rocked the Midwest" in Chicago.

We had a most successful retreat at Quaker Hill in October, our first overnight retreat in many years. We all appreciated the leadership of Steven Angell as our resource leader. A visit by the Advancement and Nurture Committee has stirred interest in offering local draft counseling.

During October Barbara Robinson was hospitalized with a brain aneurysm, which required a total of four operations. With the aid of the doctors, friends, and a lot of prayer she is making an amazing recovery and managed to get to meeting for the Christmas play. Long-time attender Ruth Kutter has experienced a decline in general health and vitality and is now at Quaker Heights Nursing Home.

Eastern Hills Meeting

– *Darlene Palmer, correspondent*

The newest addition to the Meeting family arrived on November 5, 2004. Ashley Grace Staples was born at 6:30 p.m. at Christ Hospital. Her parents are Eric and Cassandra Staples and her big brother is James. She made her debut at Meeting on January 2, 2005 and was promptly removed from her dad's arms. Everyone wanted to get to know her!

On November 14 the Second Sunday Second Hour discussion was led by Rachael Dean, who is a theology student at Xavier University. Rachael was joined by two of her classmates who led the discussion around Quaker structure and worship practices. The students were taking a Comparative Religions course where they studied how different groups approach God. Rachael has been attending Meeting since this fall along with her husband, Jason, and toddler, Toby.

On December 19 we had our third annual Christmas party/talent show. In addition to a delicious potluck

lunch, there were visual displays of items created by Meeting women, followed by a wide-ranging talent show. Our Meeting is blessed by a variety of creative and very talented individuals of all ages.

Fall Creek Meeting

Diann Herzog, correspondent

Fall Creek Meeting is in a period of rising energy and increased activity. We were encouraged by the presence of OVYM teens during the annual Teen Retreat at Fall Creek. They brought much-needed light and energy to our old, too-still-too-long meetinghouse. We were inspired to undertake a thorough top to bottom cleaning, (no small task) and it looked so nice when we were finished that we decided to host an open house. Having an open house when you have only four or five regular attenders of meeting for worship is an act of faith. We seriously wondered if anyone would come, but to our delight, we had at least forty visitors! The open house coincided with a leading to offer an additional meeting for worship in the Conservative Friends tradition. There are a number of folks in our area who have Conservative ties or leanings who are not presently served by any meeting. And there are people who belong to other churches or programmed Friends meetings who would like to experience unprogrammed worship but don't want to be absent from their own churches. We have held this additional meeting for worship twice and had attendance ranging from 10 - 20 people, including four visitors from Ohio Yearly Meeting. We will continue to meet at 1:00 on the first First Day of each month as long as it feels Spirit-led.

In December we held a (what the world calls Christmas) party to kick off our outreach to local homeschool families. We have formed an intentionally small group of six families with a total of sixteen children, which will meet once a week for mid-week meeting. We intend to offer educational and spiritual support through fellowship opportunities, organized activities, home visits and field trips. We joked that we might soon need a bus and then realized that that isn't such an outlandish idea! We are also taking under consideration the idea of forming a one room co-operative school.

We have started the Quakerism 101 curriculum, meeting on the second First Day of each month at 1:00. There are eleven participants, with only four of those being from Fall Creek Meeting. The others responded to ads placed in local newspapers. We are

inviting Friends who may feel led to come and contribute their experience and knowledge to our sessions. Please contact Diann Herzog for the schedule.

We recently formed an Earthcare Committee, with Vernon Cherrett as clerk. We will be hosting Whitewater Quarterly Meeting on April 16th and plan to have a program that reflects our concern and commitment.

With mixed feelings of love, sadness and understanding we heard the request of Jack Davis to be released from membership with Fall Creek Meeting. "Through the mercy of the Lord, through the wonder of the universe, which loves us all and gives new life, may you be blessed and be made new." From "A Prayer for Healing" by Marianne Williamson. See you around Jack.

Lexington Meeting

- Gail Koehler, correspondent

Some highlights of our fall and early winter activities include:

- a lively All Kentucky Gathering at Aldersgate Camp in September exploring through worship and discussion the topic and new FGC book *Lives That Speak: Stories of Twentieth-Century Quakers*. The gathering was enriched by the presence of Beth Parrish, editor of *Lives...*, who joined us and provided her perspective on the process and work that produced the book.
- two special programs on different kinds of healing, open to the public, sponsored by our busy committees (Outreach; and Ministry and Worship): in October, "Healing Meditations and Music for Body, Spirit and Mind," presented by a Lexington doctor, Mickey (Chang-Qing) Xun, MD, and composer John Hartman; and an afternoon session of worship sharing for "Healing and Encouragement" November 21.
- well-attended First Hour discussions that include: our ongoing "Quaker Experience" series; a look at prisons and the British pioneering Friend Elizabeth Fry; a continuing study of Thomas R. Kelly's book *A Testament of Devotion*.
- celebration over the sale of our Bryan Ave. property and our ability to retire bridge loans provided by F/friends when we purchased our current building.

- a simple meal potluck assisted by our youth that provided us with sobering figures of just how much and how little people in different parts of the world have to eat.
- review of OVYM texts on the new section of "Faith and Practice," on the environment and on proposed changes to annual assessment and Yearly Meeting budgeting process.
- a holiday Celebration of Light led by Ben Griffiths that combined the talents of our adult Quaker Quoir and our youngest F/friends and our annual potluck and small gift exchange.
- the Quaker Quoir's caroling evening to several homes which enriched not only the receivers but the singers, too.
- the joyful acceptance into membership of Dorothee Skeehan and Dinah Blue and the exciting work of other Clearness Committees for membership who may be bringing additional recommendations forward in the near future.

North Meadow Circle

- Ron Haldeman, correspondent

We continue to try and find space for our weddings. We have held two since yearly meeting and our walls are just too close to hold the crowds. Both weddings have been held in or near Eagle Creek Park. We have taken Tamara Tracy and Mary Byrne and then Stephanie Daly and Andrew Banks under the care of the Meeting. We hope our care can continue for many, many years.

North Meadow, through the persistent effort of David Pilbrow, was the host for the Eyes Wide Open Exhibit on the weekend of 9/11. A picture of the then 1007 pair of boots on the Indianapolis Circle appeared in a two page spread in the national magazine *People*.

We have a very busy fall and winter. We have even seen changes in the Meetinghouse. As you enter you will note a large "Friends Meetinghouse" sign under the front porch roof. Then please don't walk through the new glass storm doors. We have also repaired or replaced all the storm windows. We have moved the library from the first floor polar to a new second floor conference room.

We have been blessed by a continuing stream of visitors, some of whom have entered the classification of attenders, on their way to membership in the society. Our Meetings for Worship, our continuing

education, and social events have all been blessed with the presence of the spirit.

Oxford Meeting

– *Camilla Flintermann, correspondent*

We continue the practice of eating lunch "out" together 2 Sundays a month, and have found this a great way to build fellowship and get to know each other better. In addition, those who feel so moved have been singing once a month after meeting. In January we chose our Clerks and other leaders for 2005 as follows:

Presiding Clerk: Stephen Angell
Recording Clerk: Cecilia Shore
Treasurer: Mary Duerksen
Librarian: Nani Ball
Ministry & Counsel Clerks: Bill Wines, Andy Garrison
Peace & Social Concerns: Bill Wines (clerk), Helen Sheumaker, Mary & Roland Duerksen
Correspondent: Camilla Flintermann
Hospitality: Barbara Diehl with Nani Ball assisting

Outreach: Andy Garrison, Helen Sheumaker
Newsletter Editor: Camilla Flintermann
Environmental Concerns: Sandra Ward-Angell, Nani Ball

Some of us gather for a half-hour of worship at 6 p.m. Wednesdays, in the chapel of the Holy Trinity Episcopal church. Since we worship on Sundays at the Hillel Foundation, we feel truly "ecumenical."

Two second hour discussions are planned. On 1/23 our Methodist friend Alice Laatsch will tell of her recent service trip to Nicaragua, and on 2/6 we will hear from Paul Buckley about the proposed changes in OVYM's assessment policy.

It has been good to welcome several new attenders in 2004, and Helen Sheumaker often brings little daughter Rita to meeting, so we can enjoy a child's presence again.

In worship, we express our deep concerns for the suffering of so many, especially in the Middle East and now in Asia as a result of the disastrous tsunami. It is good to know that AFSC is on the scene, carrying out our tradition of help to those in great need.

NEWS FROM OUTSIDE OVYM

Friends World Committee for Consultation

World Office, London: At its 2004 Triennial meeting in Auckland, Aotearoa/New Zealand, Representatives of the Friends World Committee for Consultation named two new senior staff members: Nancy Irving of North Pacific Yearly Meeting to be General Secretary and Joseph Andugu of Central Yearly Meeting [Kenya] to be Associate Secretary. Nancy began her work in March 2004 and Joseph in July 2004.

Elizabeth Duke of Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting completed seven years' work in the London office with her retirement at the end of June 2004.

At the Triennial, new officers of worldwide FWCC were approved: Duduzile Mtshazo of Central and South Africa Yearly Meeting to be Clerk; David Blamires of Britain Yearly Meeting to be Assistant Clerk, and Gillian Smith of Britain Yearly Meeting to be Treasurer. Having completed their service are David Purnell of Australia Yearly Meeting as Clerk and Frances Hill of Britain Yearly Meeting as Treasurer. The new officers began their terms in July 2004.

In other developments within the FWCC World Office, the office has moved its location to 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2AX. Its telephone has changed to: + 44-20-7663-1199 and for fax, - 44-20-7663-1189. The email address remains the same: world@fwcc.quaker.org.

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Friends World Committee for Consultation



FWCC has also adopted a new logo, shown here, and has a new website: www.fwccworld.org, which reflects the changing face of FWCC.

Section of the Americas: Susan Lee Barton, FWCC field staff for the Midwest Region (including OVYM), is available for visitation, speaking, workshops, and as a resource person to help you locate Friends and other resources to fit your meeting needs. She is currently setting up her 2005 travel schedule and will be happy to send you a list of possible topics or you can come up with your own. Whether you would like to hear about Friends in other parts of our region, section, or world, or you are dealing with differences within your own meeting, call on FWCC!

Contact Susan Lee Barton at susanleeb@fwccamericas.org, 765-939-1449, P.O. Box 2471, Richmond, IN 47375.