




Eastern Hills Meetinghouse

OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING NEWSLETTER

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Volume 30, no.2

Quaker Quill 

June 2005

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting 185th Session July 27-31, 2005

Beyond Tolerance: Seeking Spiritual Common Ground

The Sessions open on Wednesday, July 27th, with registration at 12 noon in the Kelly Religious Center. The business session begins at 2:30 p.m., along with activities for the teens, the middle youth and the children, and is followed by a getting-acquainted session and our opening worship on Wednesday evening. The five days of yearly meeting feature multiple opportunities for worship, including our opening worship session on Wednesday, worship sharing on the Yearly Meeting theme of "Telling Our Stories of Faith" each day, early morning worship each day, and our closing worship on Sunday morning. There are interesting plenary sessions and workshops (see page 3), Quaker interest groups, and time for relaxing with Friends.

We will continue our tradition of listening to an older Friend with the "Living Witness" time on Saturday afternoon; this year the speakers are Bill and Janette Shetter of Bloomington.

The Wilmington area is of great historic interest to Friends, and we've included a guide to interesting sites on page 4.

The Children's program is led again by Hannah Branson, with the able assistance of Catie Reynolds of Bloomington and Lupe Witt, who worked with us last year. The field trips will include going to the Cowan Lake beach to swim. We hope to go to Fort Ancient and a nature center. We will do a service project at a nearby nursing home.

Look for Registration Form Inside

The Middle Youth program will include a day-long canoe trip, meeting with the Plenary speakers, and the Middle Youth committee is planning some additional activities. The teens will also be doing their traditional canoe trip, the popular Simply Speaking session where they have a chance to discuss things with adults. They will have a chance to meet with the Plenary Speakers, and they have opportunities to participate in some of the adult activities. JT (James Taylor), Teen Secretary, is also working on some surprises.

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OVYM officers for 2004-2005:

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Rex Sprouse, Recording Clerk
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Paul Buckley, Ass't Treasurer

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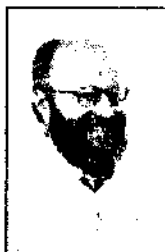
UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 12-19 OVYM Teen Work Camp at Olney Friend School, Barnesville, OH
- June 16-19 Friends Association for Higher Education conference. Haverford College, Haverford, PA
- July 2-9 FGC Gathering. Blacksburg, VA
<http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/>
- July 10 - Friends Music Camp. Olney Friends School, Barnesville, OH
Aug 7
- July 27-31 OVYM annual sessions. Wilmington College, Wilmington, OH
- August 16-24 World Gathering of Young Friends. Lancaster, England

The OVYM Planning Committee is seeking someone to take over the responsibilities of registrar for Yearly Meeting. We have been greatly blessed by the gifts and talents of our current and former registrars and the time has come to train the next person to take on this very important work. Please help us in this search. If you know of someone who might be inclined to this kind of work, or you feel a developing leading in this area, please contact either Diann Herzog or David Wood.

Plenary Sessions

Thursday



Michael Birkel, a member of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting (OVYM), teaches in the Religion Department at Earlham College. His teaching interests are Quakerism, history of spirituality in the Abrahamic faiths, interfaith

dialogue, monasticism, Hebrew Scriptures. He has written on Quaker spirituality and John Woolman; his current theme is early Friends and meditative reading of Scripture. His most recent books are *A Near Sympathy - Timeless Quaker Wisdom of John Woolman* and *Silence and Witness: The Quaker Tradition*. He is well-known to Ohio Valley friends for his workshops on Biblical texts, and will be bringing us one again this year.

Friday

Cecile Nyiramana works in the Women's Department and as the Secretary for Rwanda Yearly Meeting. Drawing from her own personal experiences during and after the genocide, she initiated a ground-breaking women's dialogue group for the Rwanda Friends Peace House.

With a careful and persistent commitment to reconciliation, she succeeded in bringing together widows from the genocide with the wives of men who have been imprisoned for perpetrating acts of genocide. This dialogue group built trust and cohesion over time, and now the model is being replicated in three provinces in Rwanda.

With Cecile's facilitation, one of these groups has initiated a prison visitation program where widows work with prisoners' wives to help prepare and bring food to the prisoners who killed their husbands. Cecile has two children and lives in Kigali, Rwanda.

Workshops

Jim Boland. ProjectTRUST. This is a program designed to break down the barriers between clique groups in school communities by bringing opinion leaders together in family groups during a two and one half day retreat where they study team building, problem solving and the effects of put downs. Participants will be introduced to the program and will have the opportunity to engage in one of the activities.

Patricia Thomas. Now we see in a mirror, darkly (I Corinthians 13:12). How do we listen and how do we speak as participants in a search for spiritual common ground? We will explore the challenges and delights of putting our own experienced truths into words and to the receiving of another's understanding.

Margaret Lechner. Conflict Transformation: Embrace the Tiger. Drawing on insights from mediation, AVP, and martial arts, we will engage the question, "How can embracing conflict produce transformation?"

Peace and Social Concerns: How do we speak powerful truth? Centering on more than one Friends Testimony the workshop will have several leaders but will largely be held in a worship sharing manner. A worksheet of quotations will be prepared in advanced for the workshop but distributed to all.

Michael Birkel. Reading Scripture with Margaret Fell. Our Plenary speaker, Michael will also lead one of his popular, informative and thought-provoking discussions of the Bible.

Friday

Margaret Lechner. Conflict Transformation: Love Thy Enemy. Knowing that loving our enemies can transform conflict, we will explore way in which to forgive and love those who have done wrong.

Steve Angell. Beyond the Quaker Schisms: Common Ground in Quaker Beliefs. Use group role playing to become members of meetings of different branches of American Friends. The group will be divided in thirds. I will then give them instructions. They will have time to confer to discuss their approach to this meeting. Then we will re-convene and look for ways to establish common ground between us.

Cindi Goslee. Clerking. This workshop will explore the spiritual ground of Friend's business practices and the spiritual opportunity and practice of clerking.

Susan Stark. Breathing Together.

Queries for Worship Sharing (draft)

What do you find hard to tolerate? How do you come to terms with positions or practices that are hard for you to tolerate? Have you found alternatives to opposing those things you find it hard to tolerate? Are there some things that must be opposed?

What is your experience of confronting difficult differences among or within groups of which you are a part? How were "sides" taken, and how did you find yourself drawn to a side? Did people become adversaries? Was there a search for common ground? How did the parties act to avoid conflict?

Have you ever experienced conflict as a positive and creative opportunity, either as an individual or as a group? What lessons did you learn from your experience with conflict? What helps make conflict a positive opportunity rather than a divisive threat?

Quaker Heritage Sites Near Wilmington

These suggestions for a car tour on the way to or from Yearly Meeting come from Friend David Wood. All are near highway 73 between Wilmington and Waynesville. They are listed in order driving west from Wilmington.

1. Historic Springfield Meetinghouse. Just east of Interstate 71, turn south on 380. Where it jogs left, then right you will see the Springfield Meeting House and Cemetery. Meeting of the Harveys who met with Lincoln, but that's a long story.

2. First Free School for Blacks in Ohio. Continuing on 73 just before reaching Harveysburg, turn right on Harveysburg road, then immediately left on Old 73. Just before it starts downhill jog right onto North Street. You will see the white brick school house on your right. There is a brass plaque on a boulder stating its founding by Elizabeth Harvey.

3. Pioneer Village. A short distance further west on 73 you will see the first of the signs directing you to the "Pioneer Village". Composed mostly of log houses revealed when land was cleared for Caesar Creek Lake, it includes Caesar Creek Friends Meetinghouse, which was moved there before its surrounding neighborhood was covered with water.

4. Waynesville and Miami Meetinghouse. Waynesville is a village of antique dealers, but if you go up the hill from the center of town you will see the Miami "White Brick" and "Red Brick" meetinghouses, as well as the old Friends Boarding Home and the recently expanded Quaker Heights Care Community. The White Brick Meetinghouse, built in 1811, is the oldest meetinghouse in continued use west of the Allegheny Mountains. It was the parent or grandparent of most of the meetings in Ohio and Indiana. The Red Brick was built after the separation for the Orthodox meeting.

Clerk's Page

– Virginia Wood, Presiding Clerk

Beth Parrish of Louisville Monthly Meeting while representing Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting on the Religious Education Committee of FGC played an important part in the creation of a very special gift to all of us. It is a little book titled *The Quaker Way*. It is in front of me as I begin to think of how to encourage each and every one of you to enter into the work of our Yearly Meeting and in particular to join us at Yearly Meeting Sessions July 27-31 to be held at Wilmington College, Ohio.

Very cryptically the book explains, "George Fox was a practical man as well as a religious one. He saw the dangers which the Society would face after he died. With no creed, no paid minister and no regular service, it could have become a series of separate meetings and died out. It needed an organization of some kind to hold it together. So George Fox with the help of other early Friends, especially Margaret Fell, began to develop one. Much of the original structure, tested by time and leadings from God, still exists today." About Yearly Meetings the text goes on to say "In North America these are regional, bringing together and helping to nurture many different monthly meetings."

These statements, about how meetings (monthly, quarterly, and yearly) provide not only a time tested structure, but also a way to test our leadings from God, speak personally to me. Although my experience within the Yearly Meeting only stretches over thirty years, not hundreds, the Yearly Meeting has indeed been a body that has nurtured me. It is the people, hearing of their experiences with God, how they are living out their leadings shared with me in conversation, worship sharing, and formal workshops that have me seeking additional opportunities to be with Friends. For me that first yearly meeting session was only ten miles away at Miami Meetinghouse. Now our needs require the facilities of a college campus. Very meaningful to me is that I do not need to wait an entire year to worship with Friends outside my monthly meeting, for other opportunities are provided through retreat days and visitations sponsored by Advancement and Nurture Committee.

I have to admit that it was only by agreeing to serve on a yearly meeting committee that I came to understand how we are all served and nurtured by each other through our yearly meeting. For although our yearly meeting has not grown greatly in numbers, I have seen individual leadings that have arisen out of

service seed increased opportunities and resources. My first committee was the planning committee for Junior Yearly Meeting. It would not have come into being if individuals sitting on what was called the Advancement Committee had not been led to suggest that they alone could not adequately provide for planning the program, housing, caretakers and youth workers at Yearly Meeting sessions. What was one committee has over the years become five committees...three that serve our youth and two that serve all of us.

Our practice advises us to test our leadings with that of the group. Friends within Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting are doing so through committees and business sessions at Quarterly and Yearly Meeting. Their vision and commitment nurtures us all. The Yearly Meeting will gather for its 185th Annual Session in July. Thank you, Beth and the many others who have labored over the years on behalf of us all. I am very grateful.

Progress Report -- Discipline Revision Committee

Phyllis Martin and Rex Sprouse, DRC co-clerks

The Discipline Revision Committee has met five times since the 2004 Yearly Meeting. Members have felt encouraged and supported by the greater involvement of monthly meeting in the discipline revision process than previously. We sense that the threshing session and the discussion of the process of revision at the last Yearly Meeting kindled a greater urgency as to the importance of the work and a fuller spirit of engagement. This has empowered the work during 2004-2005. Eleven meetings have responded to the materials sent to them by the DRC during the year.

The DRC has now prepared a Fourth Draft of the section on the environment and a Second Draft of the Introduction. These will appear in the 2005 Reports in Advance and be the subject of threshing sessions at the Yearly Meeting. A draft of the Table of Contents of the new Faith and Practice will also be included in the committee's report.

The committee would like to enlarge representation of monthly meetings on the DRC either as Nominated or Invited members. Please send names of those interested to the Nominating committee or the DRC co-clerks.

martinp@indiana.edu / rsprouse@indiana.edu

Shape Note Singing at Yearly Meeting

This year we'll be continuing our tradition of the past two years and getting together during the 'Interest Groups' time in the evening to sing from 'The Sacred Harp'.

This year we'll just be meeting once, on Friday evening July 29. Watch for the announcement of place and exact time on the bulletin board by the registration desk.

Remember, everyone who likes to sing is cordially invited to join us. No experience is necessary. We'll have some books to borrow. For any further info, contact me at shetter@indiana.edu.

Peace and Social Concerns

The OVYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee has been very active, mostly thinking, planning, and hoping. We have been thinking health care, the world's inequities, and campaigning for a sustainable earth. We have been planning for a future workcamp for adults, a workshop and interest groups at yearly meeting, and ways to communicate to (F)friends. We are hoping for a world where every life is worth living, healthy and prospering.

We are an OVYM Committee and we want to know your concerns. Every few months we send a letter with information to monthly meeting P&SCC chairs, and Monthly Meeting Clerks. If you would be interested in being added to this list let us know. On the opening day of the yearly meeting session each year our committee holds an open committee meeting during the group interest period in the evening. Come and express your concerns. Or express them any time. We are listening.

Seeking your feedback

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting adopted a minute on "Defense of Marriage" amendments at the 2004 session. Minute 33 reads:
"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. OVYM 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."

OVYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee is following up with this and other concerns from last year's Yearly Meeting. We would like to know your Meeting's perspective on same gender relationships/marriage.

1. Has your Meeting discussed same gender relationships and marriage? What is your Meeting's response?
2. Have there been any same gender marriages under the care of your Meeting?
3. Does your Meeting have a minute on same gender relationships/marriage? If so, please send that.
4. Other comments?

In peace,
Jack Davis, Ron Haldeman, Frank Huss, Deborah Jordan, Richard Mitchell
Peace and Social Concerns Committee of OVYM

OVYM Teen Service Trip

From June 12 through June 19, the teens will be at Olney Friends School in Barnesville, OH. The theme for the week is *Intentional Community*. This will be an opportunity for the teens to help Olney Friends School with projects - painting a house and clearing undergrowth on a dam. A side trip is planned to Raven Rocks, a Quaker community of ten people on a 1500-acre property. Their mission includes preserving property from mining, and one project is passive solar home construction. The teens will also attend Meeting for Worship with Stillwater Friends Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative).



"Our dedication in finding the common ties refers mainly to those of the 3 Abrahamic religions --Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, not in an effort to combine the best of the three, or to defeat one another, but in order to promote tolerance and understanding that comes from dialogue and listening. It is our belief that ignorance creates fear, fear creates mistrust, and mistrust creates the walls that separate. The Qur'an says, "Surely, your community is one community and I am your Lord. So worship me." (21:92) Even though the paths to God in these religions may be different, those who believe in one God are all believers. This precisely is the common ground that we all share."

Atlas Interfaith Foundation

"The Interspiritual Age promises to melt away the old barriers and, with them, the old antagonisms. This is one reason why it should be nurtured and encouraged. Interspirituality opens the way to friendship among members of differing faiths. Friendship creates bonds of community between the religions through their members, and community represents a shift from the old competitive, antagonistic model to a new paradigm of relationship that seeks to meet on common ground."

Wayne Teasdale, *Mysticism as the Crossing of Ultimate Boundaries: A Theological Reflection*

"As a community we seek to scan our minds and hearts in each moment, noticing and letting go of judgments about others. We seek to love others, whether or not those others are like us in religion, culture or class. We seek to be like Jesus who always sought spiritual common ground with "outsiders." As we listen together in silence and then go out to engage in dialogue with other faiths, we find that they often share our perceptions about ultimate truth and wisdom ... we find that many Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, Native Americans, Sufis and others believe, like us, that the qualities of ultimate reality include love, compassion, mercy, beauty and healing ... we do seek a ground of common understanding and vision with people of different faiths. We seek peace and understanding both within ourselves and with others."

Vision of the Empty Bell

Beyond Tolerance: Seeking Spiritual Common Ground

"There is a need for spirituality in the environmentalist movement ... Spirituality gives people the strength to sustain their action throughout their lives ... The advantage of having a sacred aspect

to environmental debate will be a (hopefully) unifying effect on the political left. Often a group will be so focused on their specific point of interest it will be argued to the detriment of all others ... Perhaps a way to get around this separation is a spiritual common ground where each group recognises the right of the other to exist. To have a spiritual understanding

of the morality underlying a cause will help it to be reconciled with other causes which share that morality. For example a common ground of "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (underlying Muslim, Judeo-Christian and Buddhist philosophy) is equally applicable to refugee incarceration, habitat destruction and compulsory overtime in the workplace. We, as environmentalists, should try to integrate environmental action with social action and vice versa."

Steven Jeffrey, *Spirituality and Environment*

"... life as a whole is formed of countless unnoted selfless acts springing from the innate spirituality of each human being and from an intuitive recognition of our spiritual common ground with others. The priceless inner contribution of those worldwide who maintain human values ... has built a reservoir of spiritual force which is flooding the world for good ... Humanity is one organism, a union or collective being, and what each part thinks and does has an effect, to greater or lesser degree, on every other. The more people who act or think in a particular way, the stronger that trend is made for all; the more forcefully and one-pointedly something is done, the stronger effect it has on the whole. In our own consciousness, in our interaction with others, in national and international relations, seeing ourselves as part of the whole, with responsibilities as well as rights, with a contribution to make as well as benefits to receive, is paramount."

Sarah Belle Dougherty,
Embodying the Future

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
July 27-31, 2005 at Wilmington College
Registration

Name(s) _____
 e-mail _____ Telephone _____
 Monthly Meeting _____

Please list all attenders

Please list ages of underage attenders

Full Name	Jr	M.Y.	Teen	Workshops	
	0-11	11-14	14-18	Th	Fri

Special Needs: How many in your party are vegetarian? ____

Other needs _____

Lodging: All children, middle youth and teens must have a parent or sponsor staying in their dorm. The only air conditioned rooms available are in the Village Apartments, for adults only, which cost \$11 more per night and sleep only one person per room. Indicate your choice of dorms below:

- Denver (Teens) Marble (Middle Youth)
 Friends Village Apartments (A.C., Single rooms only)
 I will share a room with someone not on this form. Roommate name _____
 Teens will share room with family Teens will room with same gender teen

Keys: Each resident will be charged \$5 toward a key fund. Wilmington charges \$75 for lost room keys; \$325 to \$525 for lost outside keys. You are responsible for the first \$75 of a lost key charge; the loss of a key will cost OVYM as much as an additional \$450.

Workshops: Choose and enter numbers in table from the following choices

- | Thursday | Friday |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Ecumenical Work | 5. Speaking Powerful Truth |
| 2. Bible Workshop | 6. Nuts & Bolts-Clerking |
| 3. Conflict Transformation | 7. Breathing Together |
| 4. Project Trust | 8. Conflict Transformation |
| | 9. Beyond Quaker Schisms |

Bring your own linens and towels. The college will rent linens/towels for \$10 per person if requested with registration.. Bring Fans if you are staying in a dorm.

Late Registration: A late registration fee of \$10 per person will be charged for registrations received after July 13 (Mail by July 9)

Arrival (circle): W, Th, Fri, Sat Morning, Afternoon, Evening

RESERVATIONS

Meals

Full Time Adult: Number of Adults ___ x \$88.20 = _____
Full Time Children (0-18) Number of Children _____

Part Time Attenders: Indicate which meals you will eat at Wilmington. Enter the number of meals for the entire party in each space, adults (who pay) and children separately, i.e. 2A/2C.

Breakfasts	Th	Fri	Sat	Sun	Adult Meals x \$3.70 =	
Lunches	Th	Fri	Sat	Sun	Adult Meals x \$7.35 =	
Dinners	Wed	Th	Fri	Sat	Adult Meals x \$11.00 =	
Total Meals =						

Rooms

Full Time Adult: Number of Adults ___ x (\$113 if Village, \$69 if dorm) = _____
Full Time Children: Number of Children _____

Part Time Attenders: Indicate as above how many will stay in dorms which nights.
 Wed ___ Th ___ Fri ___ Sat ___ Total Adult Beds ___ x (\$27 or \$16) = _____
 Resident adults add \$5 per adult for key fund _____
Total Rooms = _____

Charges Summary

Meals Total _____
 Rooms Total _____
 Registration Fee: Number of Adults x \$10 (\$20 if sent after July 9) _____
Total (checks payable to OVYM) _____

Your registration is not complete until we receive this total or a \$50 deposit

Mail by July 9 to David Wood-OVYM, 1813 Shady Lane, Beavercreek, OH 45432
 There will be no telephone or e-mail registration

Volunteering: Mark the activities you are willing to assist with during yearly meeting. Your name will be forwarded to the coordinators of these activities. They will ask you to designate a time when you check in.

___ Youth Programs- Teens	___ Middle Youth	___ Children ___ Babies
___ Driving for field trips	___ Teen field trip	___ Middle Youth field trip
___ Bookstore ___ Registration	___ Assisting a person with physical limitations	

Families: The Yearly Meeting encourages families to participate in the sessions by paying all costs for children 18 years of age or younger. However, be sure to register all persons who will be attending, including children and babies for whom there is no charge to you.

Middle Youth Program participants are those aged 11, 12, 13 or 14 on July 27, 2005. 11 year olds may choose either the Children's Program or the Middle Youth Program. 14 year olds may choose either the Middle Youth Program or the Teen Program.

Teen Program participants are those aged 14 on July 27, 2005, through those who graduated from high school in 2005. 14 year olds may choose either the Middle Youth group OR the Teen group.

Parents Please Note: All teens and middle youth must be housed with their parent(s) or a designated sponsor. **If the teen's parents will not be staying in the dorm with them (for example there is a middle youth sibling), another person who is staying in that dorm must be designated as the teen's dorm sponsor. Parents and sponsors must agree to the following responsibilities:**

1. Attend the parent/sponsor orientation meeting at 9:15 Wednesday evening
2. Parents/sponsors are responsible for teens after 11:00 PM except Saturday
3. Make sure the 11:00 PM quiet time is honored, and that youth stay in the dorm after this time
4. Teen parents/sponsors are responsible for monitoring the teens on your hall one night during yearly meeting after lights are out, to make sure they are quiet and in their own rooms. (parents/sponsors will each take one night)

All Middle Youth and Teens must have a permission slip on file to participate in these programs. Please be sure to send the attached forms to the registrar with the rest of your reservation. Be sure to send a separate form for each participant.

TEEN & MIDDLE YOUTH REGISTRATION

Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

When will you arrive? _____ How long can you stay? _____

Parent or Sponsor: _____
(Each Middle Youth or Teen must have a parent or sponsor staying in the same dorm)

Parent/ Guardian Consent and Medical Release: I give my consent for _____ to participate in the Teen or Middle Youth program at the OVYM sessions held at Wilmington College in Wilmington, Ohio, July 28-Aug 1 2004. I hereby release the OVYM and its staff and volunteers from any liability for any injury or illness my son/daughter may experience during the Yearly Meeting. I authorize the staff or volunteers of OVYM, or the above-named sponsor, to consent to any emergency care that may be needed in my absence, following recommendations of qualified health care providers. In the event that my son/daughter needs special medications and is unable to administer them, I give permission for an adult to administer the medications I will be responsible for any medical treatment.

Parent/guardian signature _____ Date _____ Print Name _____

MONTHLY MEETING NEWS

Bloomington Meeting

- Terry Reynolds, correspondent

Worship and our personal worship practices have led us to serve others in varying ways. We continue to work at the Community Kitchen one day a month. Some Friends visit local jail inmates on a weekly basis, while others stay in contact with inmates on death row. Two Friends recently participated in the Monroe County Crop Walk, raising money to fight hunger and aid refugees. Our meeting agreed to supply funding and workers for Habitat for Humanity's upcoming women's build.

Visits have been important to us in the past few months. On two occasions, Bloomington Friends have worshipped with programmed Friends at nearby meetings belonging to Western Yearly Meeting. A March forum and a discussion with Erjen Khamaganova, a scholar of environmental public policy and an activist in Siberian shamanist movements, gave us an opportunity to learn about the link between environmental preservation and spiritual consciousness. We look forward to an upcoming visit from Paul Buckley, who will lead us in a discussion on the OVYM assessment process. We also look forward to a visit from Cindi Goslee and Roland Kreager. Cindi will lead a clerking workshop, and she and Roland will present us with information on Right Sharing of World Resources.

The young and the young-at-heart gathered for our first "Decorating Day." The result was fresh paint on the walls of First Day School classrooms and a general sprucing up of the meetinghouse.

Discussions of Caroline Stephen's book *Quaker Strongholds* (1895), held from January to March, were well attended and left us wondering about our current core Quaker values. What beliefs do all Bloomington Friends hold in common? We stand ready to learn from and about each other.

Clear Creek Meeting

- Cecile Holvik, correspondent

Growing out of a well attended full-day retreat in March which concentrated on how we could better relate to one another were several new activities.

Among them was the establishment of a mid-week meeting for worship. This will be held Tuesday evenings at Friends Fellowship Community in order to include members of that residence as well as Clear Creek members.

A Women's Spirituality group plans to meet monthly to share experiences of God's presence. It will be held in different homes.

A Book Club is being formed which will meet the first Sunday of each month, again in Friends Fellowship Community. The works chosen include "San Manuel Bueno", "Godric" and "My Grandfather's Blessing".

A fourth suggestion which was put into motion was to provide an inter-generational activity. The first of these was a spirited trash pick-up on College Avenue and along the alley beside it.

Regarding news of individual attenders, the meeting was glad to learn of Paul Lacey's successful recovery from open heart surgery. Ruth Sims, however, remains in Pinehurst Village at this writing, following mini-strokes. We pray she will soon be home.

Community Meeting

- Eugenia Mills, correspondent

Community Friends Meeting has been engaged in several interesting activities since the beginning of 2005. At our February carry-in, our young people sponsored a Biblical Meal. The money raised at this meal (\$85.00) was given to Right Sharing of World Resources.

During the winter, the Meeting added a sound system that picks up voices and plays it over FM radio

waves. Persons with difficulty hearing may use a small receiver with earphones thus enabling them to hear whoever is speaking during meeting for worship. Several members have found this system most helpful. Our Meeting has engaged in several discussions on how best to enlarge our meeting space. Despite these many discussions with numerous options considered, we have not come to a clear consensus on just how to increase our space. Our discussions will continue.

Several members of the Meeting have put together a large piece of playground equipment. This play-set allows young people to exercise their muscles while enjoying play time together.

Community Friends Meetinghouse grounds are always lovely this time of year. With the large woods on the back side of the Meetinghouse, and all of the bulbs our caretakers have planted, the grounds are a blaze of color. We are reminded of the familiar hymn that goes, "This is God's glorious world, and to my listening ears, all nature sings, and round me rings, the music of the spheres."

Dayton Meeting

- David Wood, correspondent

Barbara Robinson continues her remarkable recovery from a brain aneurism. Ruth Kutter has returned home from Quaker Heights, and is in the process of transferring her membership to Dayton. In March, the Dayton Men's Group prepared a waffle breakfast for everyone at our meeting room. Our second hour discussions have been led by Sam Johnson, on the Friends Peace Testimony. We invited Stan Zarowin to discuss with us the implications of the new system being proposed to replace yearly meeting assessments. Through our Peace and Social Concerns Committee we are beginning work on two projects: Peace/Draft counseling, and involvement in an Interfaith Build with Habitat for Humanity. Anna Henry enjoyed "The Quake That Rocked the Midwest", and is planning to participate in the teen work camp in June.

Eastern Hills Meeting

- Franchot Ballinger, correspondent

Eastern Hills Meeting has had more than one occasion for celebration since our last report. Our newest attender is Charlotte Phillipa Dean, born February 11, 2005. Charlotte attends with her parents Jason and Rachel and her three year old brother Toby. Our new Presiding Clerk Tom Hill and his wife Barbarie became grandparents: Caroline Findlay Hill was born on April 10 to Duncan and Allison Hill of Charlottesville, Virginia.

Two Meeting couples celebrated milestone anniversaries. On February 8, Cecil and Elva Rockwell celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. Ruth and Russell Palmer were married 60 years ago on April 7. On April 9, family and f(F)riends gathered to celebrate their anniversary.

A significant change in our Meetinghouse gathering room was the completion of our minor remodeling project - a new counter, cupboards and sink - making the room more user friendly.

On Easter Sunday, Lynn and Dick Day continued their tradition of hosting a potluck lunch and celebration at their home.

In March, we held two Second Hours rather than only one. On March 13, Giles Becket led a second hour discussion on Judaism. On March 20, Steve Angell and Lisa Cayard visited Eastern Hills to dialogue with the Meeting about revision of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice. In April Canby Jones and Tom Applegate of Ohio Valley Advancement and Nurture visited us for a Second Hour.

Rachel Dean is one of two Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends chosen to attend the August World Gathering of Young Friends at Lancaster University, UK. Eastern Hills has planned a dinner and auction to help Rachel raise money for her trip. Friends from Oxford Meeting, where Rachel and Jason currently hold membership, will also attend the dinner to be held at the home of Lyn and Dick Day. Part of the evening's fun includes a "Shared Talents Silent Auction" of craft items made by and services offered by Meeting attenders and members. Our goal is to raise \$1000 for Rachel. Rachel is doing her part by selling books, CDs, and videos on Amazon.com.

Fall Creek Meeting

- Diann Herzog, correspondent

The focus at Fall Creek Meeting continues to be the restoration of the Meeting House. Thanks to the generosity of individual Friends and various Monthly Meetings, we have been gifted with \$6,000 and we just learned that the Friends Meeting House Fund is giving us \$2,500 to add to the fund. We have an estimate of \$4,000 for the electrical work and \$15,000 for the other long list of repairs, so we still have a shortage of funds to complete the work. However, we have enough money on hand to make a good start. Doing the work in phases will probably take most of the summer. Our deep gratitude and thanks goes out to all who have contributed, both in spiritual and financial support.

Lexington Meeting

Gail Koehler, correspondent

Some events and activities worth noting these last months include:

- an intergenerational potluck and juggling event facilitated by Frank Bryan
- a special evening "Conscience and War: Enlistment, Registration and Conscientious Objection Information Session" open to the public (Ben Griffith and Richard Mitchell, presenters)
- a joyful welcome to a new member of the Religious Society of Friends
- two potluck discussions and working sessions on Living Wills with special guests: the director of education and a lawyer from the Hospice of the Bluegrass
- several of us carpooled to the "Deepening Worship" sessions at ESR and were blessed by the program and fellowship
- Friend Judy Burris was involved in a serious car accident—we are humbly grateful that she has recuperated so quickly and well
- the sharing of her efforts to build a sustainable urban homestead by Judy Moffett
- our annual spring retreat at Pine Mountain (including an examination of service, led by Verdie Craig, who introduced many of us to the work of Myles Horton and Paulo Freire)
- a Passover Seder led by Geoff Young
- an Earth day program in preparation of worship, by Ben Griffith and the choir, including instrumentalists, participation by the children (and

- one dove), and a presentation of Chic Togami's award-winning speech on saving the rain forest
- a surprise May day dance by the Lexington Morris dancers
- a brief cello concerto given by Roberta Guthrie on the occasion of Burton Roger's 96th birthday

Oxford Meeting

- Camilla Flintermann, correspondent

We celebrated our annual "Spring Fling" at the new home of the Duerksens, and some of us joined the potluck/auction in Cincinnati to help fund Rachel Dean's trip as an OVYM representative to the Young Adult Friends gathering in England.

We continue our concern for the local Family Resource Center, a one-stop service center for low-income folks in our school district, helping in various ways, since we can no longer take their excess clothing to the AFSC material aid room at Quaker Hill.

We've enjoyed welcoming a number of visitors, and sending a traveling minute with our frequent attendee Serrin Anderson as she attends East Africa YM.

Yellow Springs Meeting

- from the YS Meeting newsletter

- Beginning in March, the 10 a.m. discussion group on Sundays will be making use of the FGC booklet, Friendly Bible Study, by Joanne and Larry Spears.
- The February library work bee went well. Thanks to Joan Brucker (and Bucky) and Ellen Dueil for great straightening progress. A second, rescheduled cataloging bee will follow the rise of meeting, March 13.
- Why Senji Yamaguchi, A Survivor of Nagasaki, Should Win the Nobel Peace Prize - Irwin Abrams Note: This essay by Irwin Abrams appeared on the Internet a few weeks ago in History News Network, which has also posted some of Irwin's pieces on the Nobel Peace Prize. The complete document can be found at <http://hnn.us/articles/10148.html>
- Yellow Springs Friends approve the following Minute: Yellow Springs Friends support the intent of the Yellow Springs Human Relations Commission and Solidarity Ohio's Resolution to the Village Council of Yellow Springs on Ohio

State Issue 1. We ask the Village Council to continue to provide services as usual to all citizens, including all domestic partnerships, regardless of restrictions included in Ohio State Issue 1.

- Katharine (Kay) Maxwell Hollister of Yellow Springs died peacefully at home on Wednesday, April 13, two days before her 91st birthday. A longtime resident of Yellow Springs, Kay first came to town in the 1930s to study at Antioch College. After graduation she went on to get her MA in education from Northwestern University and taught elementary school, in Winnetka, Ill. and the Antioch School, in Yellow Springs. While teaching in Winnetka, she was visited by fellow Antioch alumnus Barrett Hollister. They fell in love and married in December 1941. Kay was a devoted mother who focused on raising her four

children. An active member of the Yellow Springs Friends Meeting since the early 1940s, she had a passion for religious education. She served on a national Quaker religious education committee for over 40 years, contributing to Sunday school curriculum development and teacher training. Though Yellow Springs was always home, twice she and Barry moved their brood for two-year Quaker service stints, once to Geneva, Switzerland, and once to Philadelphia. Continuing her mother's activism in the women's right-to-vote movement, Kay was a member of the local League of Women Voters for 60 years, serving three times as chapter president. When she and Barry moved to New York City she spent nine years as the hostess of Quaker House while Barry directed the Quaker United Nations Office in New York City.

QUARTERLY MEETING NEWS

Miami Quarter

Miami Quarter met on May 15 in Wilmington, OH hosted by Campus Friends Meeting. Attendees joined in the regular Meeting for Worship and then enjoyed the fellowship of a potluck lunch together. The afternoon program consisted of the consideration of the State of Society Report from each of the monthly meetings.

The Meeting for Business considered Whitewater Quarter's minute approving a change in the Yearly Meeting budgeting process to a covenant system. Dayton Monthly Meeting presented a minute on the subject. In part the minute indicated that Dayton Meeting does not approve moving forward with changes to the current budgeting process being proposed by Whitewater Quarter. The minute called for further consideration of underlying issues such as awareness, communication, language, and changes to current systems that would improve the understanding of YM finances and of the responsibilities of a monthly meeting to the wider Quaker body of which it is a part. Miami Quarter could not join in Whitewater QM's proposal at this time and suggested a further committee to study the Dayton MM points and implementation.

Whitewater Quarter

Whitewater Quarter met on April 16 in Pendleton, IN hosted by Fall Creek Friends Meeting. Friends began the day with Meeting for Business and then enjoyed the fellowship of a potluck lunch together. The afternoon program focused on a presentation on Earthcare by Bill Cahalan of Community Friends Meeting in Cincinnati.

The Meeting for Business reaffirmed its earlier decision to lay down Whitewater Monthly Meeting by request of the remaining members. Memberships will be transferred to other monthly meetings..



NEWS FROM OUTSIDE OVYM

Earlham School of Religion

Earlham School of Religion offers two week intensive graduate courses August 1-12 on campus in Richmond, IN. Available for credit or audit.

Deadlines: admission 7/4, registration 7/18.

August offerings are: Intro to Spiritual Formation, Writing as Ministry, Pauline Psychagogy: Spiritual Formation & Pastoral Care in Early Christian Communities, Perspectives in Christian Education, Quaker Spirituality, Constructive Theology. Find course summary information at

http://esr.earlham.edu/esr_access/oncampus.html To register or for more information contact (800)432-1377 or apply at esr.earlham.edu.

Friends Represented at Vatican Ceremony

One of the purposes of the Friends World Committee for Consultation is to represent the world body of the Religious Society of Friends to ecumenical and interfaith bodies. For instance, FWCC is active on behalf of all Friends at the World Council of Churches and at the Christian World Communions. As part of that work on behalf of Friends, the FWCC World Office sent a letter of condolences to the Vatican upon the death of John Paul II and a letter of congratulations to the Vatican upon the election of Benedict XVI to Pope.

On very short notice, the FWCC World Office received an invitation to attend as a guest of the Vatican the Inauguration of Benedict XVI. General Secretary Nancy Irving attended the outdoor service on the steps of St Peter's Basilica on 24 April. The representatives of the Christian communions were honored to be seated in a group right by the altar next to the Archbishops. Seated on the second row between the Secretary General of the Anglican World Communion and the Pentecostal ecumenical representative, she was the only woman official representative.

In the lengthy service, the new Pope issued a call for continuing dialog among Christians in the world. The service incorporated many different languages. Each delegate was received at the airport at the

Ceremoniale di Stato as a dignitary. Alone in a taxi, Nancy was given a police motorcycle escort from the airport to the hotel! The Vatican wouldn't let her waive this type of grand entrance! For her, it was quite an inter-cultural experience.



FWCC General Secretary Nancy Irving standing behind Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury (Anglican) and a Lutheran representative from Romania.

World Gathering of Young Friends

The WGYF is only a few months away 16-24 August, 2005 in Lancaster, England. Its mission is to "... bring together Friends aged 18-35 from around the world to build community within the next generation of Quaker leaders. We will study and learn from our heritage, share our present day expressions of faith, and discern how Christ our present teacher is guiding us to facilitate understanding within our Quaker family. By sharing experiences of living Quaker testimony from our varied cultures, we seek to ask humbly for guidance and to open ourselves to the possibility of transformation."

The theme of the gathering is taken from John 15, "I am the vine, you are the branches ... now what fruit shall we bear?" The WGYF vision statement asks questions such as "What is our witness now? What is our life's work? How will we be led?"

Susan Lee Barton, Midwest Field Staff,
FWCC liaison to the
North America-based WGYF Committee

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**2005 FGC
Gathering of Friends**



*Weaving
a Blessed Tapestry*

**July 2-9
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg,
VA**

Weave the blessed tapestry with love,
with faith,
with hope.
Weave the blessed tapestry with prayer,
with trust,
with truth.
Weave the blessed tapestry with discipline.
Weave the blessed tapestry corporately.
Weave the blessed tapestry in solitude.
Weave the blessed tapestry with sincerity,
with simplicity,
with wonder,
with joy, gratitude, reverence and strength.
Weave the blessed tapestry with sensitivity, with
gentleness, in sadness, darkness
or despair.
Weave the blessed tapestry without judgment.
Weave the blessed tapestry in expectant waiting.
Together, let us weave our lives and our traditions;
our ministries and our gifts; our
entire beings as children of God into a blessed
tapestry of worship and renewal.