

2011 Sessions Epistles

191st Session at Richmond Indiana

Yearly Meeting Epistle

Greetings to Friends Everywhere,

As Friends gathered for the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's 191st Annual Sessions, the weather was bright and sunny, the 27th day of 7th month, in the year of our Lord 2011. The temperature was about 90 degrees, and Friends had been warned to "bring a sweater: Earlham College kept its buildings cool." In reality, though, the climate within the Landrum Bolling Center was very comfortable.

To get Friends warmed up for the Yearly Meeting, in the morning the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Teens had invited adults to join them in a service project. The work for Habitat for Humanity was strenuous, including the hanging of drywall. Once back at Earlham, a get-acquainted activity hosted by the Teens took place in Stout Meetinghouse.

This year is known as the Year of the Bible, as many of the world's Christians celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the King James translation of the Bible. And this year, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting chose Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord Ask of Us?" as its theme.

Our two plenary speakers, Noah Baker Merrill and Margery Post-Abbott spoke to the full text of this scripture:

"He has showed thee, O mortal, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." They both worked together to galvanize Friends with stories of their separate faith journeys, challenging each of us to live out our own faith with passion and integrity. Both speakers were gracious and generous with their time, offering workshops, visiting the youth, and communing with us during the entire Yearly Meeting.

The Yearly Meeting theme was also prayerfully addressed by queries prepared for worship-sharing each morning of the gathering. Among these queries were: What do you understand by "ministry?" What is the relationship between prayer and doing justice? How have your inward leadings inspired your outward actions of service?

One of the first orders of business was the report by Peace and Social Concerns, which followed up on last year's minute regarding the Gaza occupation. The committee made available a DVD, Life in Occupied Palestine, and a list of questions on Israeli/Palestinian relations to all monthly Meetings.

On the second day of the Yearly Meeting, 7th month 28, the President of Earlham College, David Dawson, welcomed Friends to this lovely campus. He also lifted up the names of two Earlham College students who had lost their lives in a car accident the day before.

During the report from Quaker Heights Care Community, Friends were deeply concerned to learn that the state of Ohio cuts to Medicaid payments have hit hard and painfully close to home, costing the care facility's budget over \$ 200,000.

The next item of business on the agenda was the laying down of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's Property Corporation, giving rise to a suggestion to contribute the Corporation's approximately \$ 1,400 as a one-time gift to Quaker Heights. Friends approved this measure.

A friendly greeting in the form of a letter was sent to Friends United Meeting, as the Triennial was gathering in our geographical region at Wilmington, Ohio concurrently with these Annual Sessions.

The concern for same-sex marriages brought by North Meadow Circle of Friends some twenty years ago was considered anew at this time. Brought forward by Whitewater Quarter, this minute was well received and approved by the Yearly Meeting.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends have been led by the Light of the Living Christ to understand that God's love extends with equality to all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. The understanding that Christ has given us as Quakers today leads us to three conclusions: We affirm the full humanity of Lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender persons. We are committed to their equal status within the Religious Society of Friends and the wider world. We celebrate their covenant relationships, including marriages under the care of our constituent meetings, as just as sacred, just as valid, and the cause for just as much joy as those of any other persons.

On 7th Month 29, the business sessions started with the formal recognition by the Yearly Meeting of Earth Care as a full committee. Earth Care had been a subcommittee of Peace and Social Concerns for more than six years. Its emphasis this year will be food, Ecological design, and water, which often is hard to get a firm hand on.



Clerk's Note

Dear Friends of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting,

Greetings from your new Assistant Clerk! I am writing from San Francisco, where I am attending (along with 10,000 other people) the American Academy of Religion. There is much that might be of interest to OVYM members here. A few nights ago, we had a fruitful meeting of the Quaker Theological Discussion Group, which has been meeting more than 50 years. I participated in a review of OVYM member Paul Buckley's recent editions of (1) the Journal and (2) the Letters of Elias Hicks. I found these two books tremendous reads, and I recommend them highly to you. Paul was there to respond to my review and that by California Friend Jim LeShana.

Elias Hicks was a Friend very sensitive to the leadings of the Spirit. Paul did a fine job as editor, restoring numerous passages that had been stricken by the original editorial committee. One, for example, expressed his sorrowful reflections on the slaughter of a young, beautiful cow, raising some queries as to whether Friends might not better be vegetarians. Not all of his reflections struck me as ones that the Spirit would lead me to embrace. For example, he deployed a stunning array of arguments against Friends engaging in hymnsinging, or, indeed, any kind of music. His arguments, I should say, did not strike me as convincing. I would hope that OVYM would keep its music camp!

Much of the discussion of Friend Hicks centered on his theological perspectives. Paul, Jim, and I concurred that he had a view of the importance of Jesus that could be called "Adoptionist." An Adoptionist believes that Jesus was wholly human when he was born, but that his ministry as recorded in the gospels had both divine and human aspects. According to Adoptionists like Hicks, the

baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist was that which led to Jesus' transition to this new heightened spiritual life. Paul had a wonderful explanation of how Hicks came to this perspective from his reading of the Bible. Hicks deeply loved the Bible, and he said that he had always preferred it to any other book, but he also objected to other Friends who had undue reverence for the literal text.

There were (and, as of this writing, will be) other fine opportunities to learn about Quakers at this conference. The QTDG session also included a similarly positive review of Joshua Brown's new edition of 19th century Richmond, Indiana, Friend Allen Jay's journal. Jay was a dedicated opponent of the philosophy of separating that afflicted Friends during his lifetime (and he would undoubtedly have counseled against the separation that our sister yearly meeting, Indiana YM, is currently contemplating). We had a deep and searching discussion of Quaker theism and non-theism, with papers presented by British Friend David Boulton and Canadian Friend Jeff Dudiak, with responses from Patrick Nugent and Shannon Craigo-Snell.

I, of course, would be delighted to have a chance for us to share in the exciting discussions that are taking place in the Quaker world! Perhaps workshops or interest groups along these lines at our yearly meeting sessions would be well received. But, most of all, I pray that you experience the blessings of divine love. May we all take deep root in and feel the close embrace of God's Spirit of peace, unity and love.

In friendship,
Steve Angell

Epistles

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Subsequently, the Yearly Meeting was led to consider merging the Religious Education and Advancement and Nurture committees. The two committees will meet to discuss this possibility.

On Seventh Month, 30, reports from Quaker Earth Care Witness, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Teen and Middle Youth Committees were passionate, and challenged Friends to join in the work that needs to be done.

Other opportunities for attenders of the Yearly Meeting included a Memorial Meeting, Simply Speaking, and Living Witnesses.

A summary of the results of a visioning survey recently conducted by Advancement and Nurture were presented. The visioning project is ongoing, and full results of the survey may be found at the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting website: <http://ovym.quaker.org/>.

The evening ended with laughter and fun, as the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Variety Show once again graced the stage of Wilkerson Theater.

First Day, 7th month 31, brings an end to these annual sessions. The final item of business on the agenda will be the meeting of committees, hopefully to plan next year's activities. Many other actions and events took place during this time, but, as John wrote in the closing of his gospel, "If everyone of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." (John 21:25)

Faithfully submitted,
Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Officers

Paul Kriese, Presiding Clerk
Stephen Angell, Assistant Presiding Clerk
Deb Kociszewski, Recording Clerk
Wilson Palmer, Treasurer
Stephen Angell,



Comments for the Quaker Quill are appreciated. Find me and tell what you think.

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Children's Epistle

Greetings to Friends everywhere,

Thirteen children ages three to ten met at the 191st annual sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana from July 27 to July 31, 2011, to consider theme of "What Does the Lord Ask of Us: Our Everyday Ministry of Love and Service." We learned that service is being ourselves and knowing our gifts. We saw that others felt joy when we were joyful at the nursing home as we sang and shared gifts. We also learned that

service is listening to each other deeply and helping those in need.

We practiced listening to stories of Quaker testimonies, being true to our gifts, and used music to express being present to each other. We used our hands to create crafts for sale, knowing the money would be used to help those in need. We felt like a closer community from activities like swimming and singing and performing in the talent show. Our hope is that we all find our own best ways to give love to others in the coming year.

The Children's Program
Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

Middle Youth Epistle

Dear Friends,

During the 191st gathering of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting friends, seven Middle youth from five monthly meetings attended from seventh month 27 through 31, 2011.

We attempted to assist in an intergenerational building of a Habitat for Humanity house, but were unsuccessful due to age restrictions.

We continued our ever-important tradition of speaking with members of our monthly meetings about worship and spirituality, otherwise known as Worship Mentors. Some experienced a much deeper experience than ever before.

We were honored to receive several guests who led us in discussions. We were visited by both Plenary speakers. First, Noah Merrill helped us to begin to untie the human knot through an activity. Next

Marge Abbott helped us to understand how we were viewed by ourselves, others, and God or Spirit.

We were also visited by Kirsten Bohl of Olney Friends School who helped us to learn about the school and watersheds. Lastly, Erin Polley talked about ACLU and the one trillion dollars wasted in Middle East involvement.

We engaged in multiple outdoor activities ranging from canoeing to a hiking and biking trip. These activities helped us to strengthen bonds of friendship and community.

Lastly, we would like to take this time to thank the Middle Youth Planning Committee, staff and each other for having a successful weekend.

The Middle Youth Program
Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

Teen Epistle

Greetings Friends,

This year the OVYM teen groups experienced strong guided inward motivation. We followed our calling towards a more meaningful service in our trip to Oklahoma, attended by twenty-two teens. This high level of participation continued when seventeen teens came together to create our community this year at our yearly meeting sessions. The teens built an intentional community with a nurture/nutritional committee overseeing and holding our group in the Light. We had intention to hold intergenerational activities and pursued an intergenerational work project. With support from the yearly meeting the work project happened on the first day of annual sessions. The teens were disappointed that Habitat for Humanity only allows friends over the age of fourteen in Indiana to participate in Habitat for Humanity, as well as the inconvenience of timing for many friends which led to low attendance. The teens returned to the tradition of the canoe trip, inviting Young Adult Friends to join and had an overall ambrosial time.

We would like to share with friends a song that we created for the

variety show to the tune of "My Favorite Things" from the movie The Sound of Music.

My Quaker Beliefs
(To the melody of My Favorite Things)
By: Rachel and Hanae

Forming committees to solve all our issues,
Worship and Nurture providing the tissues,
Hugging some trees and then smelling their leaves,
These are a few of my Quaker Beliefs,
Going to Whole Foods for organic eatings,
Finding your light with the help of God's Leadings,
We're so nice to everyone even the thieves,
These are a few of my Quaker Beliefs,
Business meetings, last for hours, and it makes me mad!
But I simply remember my Quaker beliefs,
And then I don't feel, so bad!

The OVYM teens extend warm greetings to friends around to the world reading this epistle. We wish you all a year of growth and joy.

The Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Teens

Young Adult Friends Epistle

July 31, 2011

Greetings to All Friends everywhere,

We the Young Adult Friends of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting met with our elders and younger at this 191st session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. There were eleven of us in attendance, including three first time attenders, and one of this session's plenary speakers, the F/friendly Noah Baker Merrill. As in previous years, our numbers were split between those who ministered to younger generations and

those who participated in wider Yearly Meeting activities. All of us found our time here enriching, a nourishing break from the worries and travails of mundane life. Due to our small size and scattered schedules, Young Adult Friend specific programming remains elusive. We find support in spiritual conversations with our elders. Recently graduated Young Adult Friends continue to feel a strong connection to the teen group.

We feel this is a time of discernment for us. Those of us at sessions have been inspired to search out and uncover Young Adult Friends across our Yearly Meeting. Some of us plan to visit other monthly

meetings in pairs to meet with Young Adult Friends there and discern their condition. We will also weigh the matter of establishing a formal Yearly Meeting-level Young Adult Friend Committee. Thus far we have been reluctant to engage in committees at the yearly meeting level. Benefits to establishing a committee include eldership support, budgeted funds, and input from nominated members from the wider yearly meeting body.

Many of us feel a notion towards visiting Friends in other yearly meetings. Look for us! And if you're ever in the area, feel free to stop by!

Yours in the Light,
Young Adult Friends of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

News & Announcements

AFSC Corporation Meeting Report by Peter S. Fosl, Louisville MM

The Corporation Committee of the American Friends Service Committee met over the weekend of this past March 4-6 and engaged two major issues. Concerns about the size and structure of the AFSC Board of Directors, after occupying the Corporation for more than two years, finally reached a settled conclusion. Questions about the character of Corporation Committee itself, however, were not resolved, and the gathering moved to let them season another year.

While many in the AFSC leadership had concluded that its approximately 45-member Board of Directors was too large, a substantial number of Friends on the Corporation committee worried that a smaller board could not adequately represent the whole of the American Quaker community. The motion that finally passed the Corporation addressed this concern by restructuring the board in the following ways: The new AFSC Board of Directors will comprise just 25, including 22 at-large and 3 ex officio members. At least one at-large board member will be a clerk or co-clerk of a regional executive committee, and at least one other at-large member must be a clerk or co-clerk of the International Program Executive Committee. Except for the treasurer, current ex officio members were re-designated at-large members in the new system.

The Corporation Committee over the preceding year had also been engaged with concerns about the size, purpose, and even the very existence of the Corporation itself. In light of the substantial erosion of the AFSC's financial condition and mindful of the near paralysis of the Corporation Committee had faced in recent years when confronted by issues of governance, Friends explored the idea of reducing the size of the Corporation Committee or eliminating it altogether, as well as changing its purpose so that the Corporation is not bogged down by the sort of tangles that have recently occluded its work.

As if exemplifying that very problem, however, the Corporation Committee reached no settled decision on this issue. Many Friends, nevertheless, seem to have been tending in the direction of retaining the Corporation Committee (or something like it), reducing its size, and re-focusing its purpose on communication between the AFSC and yearly as well as monthly meetings.

It will be a surprise to few Friends that many of the concerns facing the Corporation have been colored by the background financial crises the AFSC has faced. The AFSC had across the FY2008 and FY2009 fiscal years weathered the most turbulent

financial period in the organizations's history. The AFSC lost over 20% of its assets in each of those preceding two years. Now, however, the organization seems to have returned to relative stability. The volatility of world equities markets and financial institutions recently, on the other hand, present ongoing grounds for apprehension.

The Liabilities and Net Assets of the AFSC in FY2010 amounted to \$139,355,000, suffering a relatively slight \$200,000 loss across the year. By comparison, the AFSC lost no less than \$36 million dollars in FY2009; and it suffered a withering \$45 million loss in FY2008. The losses of FY2008 were caused, of course, by declines in its investments in the equities markets; the FY2009 declines, however, were caused by spending considerably more than was received. That, thankfully, is no longer the case.

Among the principal factors improving the financial condition of the Corporation during FY2010 has been a reduction in expenses in the amount of \$11 million over the year. Sadly, this reduction was accomplished by cutting \$7 million alone from salaries of those the AFSC continues to employ, as well as cutting over 100 jobs entirely. (See the AFSC's web site for a listing of the programs it has retained.)

Most of the AFSC's expenditures are for peace work. In composition, one half of AFSC expenditures are devoted to its programs in the United States, while approximately one third is distributed internationally. The remaining expenditures are drawn to cover fundraising and administrative costs.

Pension liabilities remain a major concern for the AFSC's financial team. For 25 years, the organization's pension was actually overfunded by strong gains in equities values. For past two years, however, with the decline in equities markets, pension obligations have been significantly underfunded, and approximately 22.6 million is owed to the pension fund at present.

Most of AFSCs support comes from individual contributions. Unsurprisingly, individual contributions have fallen over the past three years. They have, however, substantially stabilized over the course of the past year, increasing slightly by about \$200,000 in FY 2010. Bequests have remained stable in number, but the average value of bequests has fallen.

All in all, the AFSC has taken a beating. It finds itself in a reduced but still potent condition, and its Corporation Committee looks forward to continuing its work in self-reflection, self-criticism, and counsel.

Discipline Revision Committee

At the 2011 OVYM sessions, the Discipline Revision Committee presented the 4th draft of Part I of the section on Close Relationships. Several minor revisions arose out of the threshing sessions, and with these modifications Friends found unity to accept this document for a year of seasoning prior to being brought before the 2012 OVYM sessions for consideration for approval. Below is the 5th draft of Part I of the section on Close Relationships. It is being published in both the Quill and the 2011 Minute Book. We encourage Friends to review it prior to next summer's annual sessions.

Rex Sprouse and Betsy Neale, co-clerks, Discipline Revision Committee
Close Relationships (Part I)
The Book of Faith and Practice of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
5th Draft
Seventh Month 30, 2011
See these Quakers, how they love one another.
(Edward Hicks, 1851)

Part I

Introduction

The fundamental faith of the Religious Society of Friends should be visible in our daily lives. Faithful Friends seek to practice Divine love in close relationships with our community of family, friends, and the children under our care. As we experience God's love, we grow in love for God and our fellow human beings. We are called upon to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, and forgiveness in our lives with one another (Colossians 3:12-13). Both individuals and monthly meetings have a responsibility to support and nurture spiritually edifying close relationships built on this foundation.

Friendship

Deep friendships strengthen us spiritually. They encourage, stretch, challenge, and sustain us. In friendship we respect one another, protect one another's reputation, and honor confidentiality. Good friends minister to one another by listening with an open heart and mind and speaking truth with love. Through our experience of friendships across genders, sexualities, classes, generations, faith traditions, and races, and ethnicities we move toward establishing the Kingdom of God on earth.

Since the earliest days of our Religious Society, Quakers have been encouraged to know one another in those things that are eternal. Spiritually uplifting friendships require faithfulness to the leadings of the Spirit, not necessarily agreement on every point of faith and practice.

Sexuality

Sexuality is a gift from God, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

It is a powerful force that can transform life in ways both positive and negative. Deep respect for that of God in each person requires that our relationships be free of exploitation and abuse as well as subtle manipulation. Mutual love and respect, honesty, and commitment are essential ingredients of a rightly ordered relationship.

Deep respect for that of God in each person requires that our relationships be free of exploitation and abuse as well as subtle manipulation. Sexuality is a powerful force that can transform life in ways both positive and negative. Because Abuse of sexuality can have serious, long-term, emotional, and physical, and spiritual consequences. Sexuality education for both children and adults should use the best scientific information available. Furthermore, because Sexuality can be one of the ways we participate in the love of God,; therefore, a true understanding of sexuality must also include the spiritual dimension.

Marriage and other steadfast commitments

Our meetings are enlivened and challenged by marriages and other steadfast commitments. Such commitments build spiritual bonds that make themselves felt not only in the home and in the meeting but also in the world. As relationships develop, the partners ideally find richness in sharing on all levels of being: physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual.

Some committed partners request marriage under the care of the meeting. [An affirmation of marriage equality for same-sex couples is to be found on pp. xx in this volume in the context of the subsection on the Testimony of Equality.] Following a discernment process, marriage is solemnized in a Meeting for Worship, the partners promising with Divine assistance to be faithful to each other. We believe that God alone can rightly join partners in marriage, and neither a religious nor a secular official is required to accomplish this. When a Quaker Meeting takes a marriage under its care, it does not marry people, it merely witnesses the marriage and God alone can rightly join partners in marriage, and no priest or other official is essential for its accomplishment. A meeting taking a marriage under its care nevertheless makes a serious commitment to support and strengthen that marriage. [The recommendations for the wedding procedure are to be found on pp. xx in this volume.]

It is the conviction of Friends that marriage is a covenant for life. A lifelong commitment can sustain a marriage through very trying times, forging a deeper and more spiritually mature relationship. Implicit in the marriage promise is the realization that problems and disagreements conflicts will arise and that both partners are committed to making sincere efforts with Divine guidance to resolve them. This is not an easy task but a high calling toward which we should strive.

Part II

(tentative) topics to be addressed in Part II

Supporting marriages and other steadfast commitments|
Sharing a home

Part III

Nurturing children(tentative) topics to be addressed in Part III
Extended family relationships
Ending close relationships
Aging
Death
Bereavement

Earthcare Committee

Mission Statement

We of the Earthcare Committee are deeply troubled by the growing world-wide crisis in our human relationship with the Earth. We unite with the vision of our yearly meeting sustainability minute and our book of discipline in seeking harmony with Creation, and the flourishing of all living beings, as a central religious challenge of this century. This challenge is inseparable from the challenges to right sharing and social justice. Our goals include educating ourselves and the rest of the yearly meeting, especially as ecological disharmony manifests itself in our ways of life here in the central Ohio River watershed, our home landscape. We want to seek right relationship with Creation in the ways we function in our buildings and grounds, including energy use, transportation, food services, and waste management. This involves embodying right relationship for its own sake as well as for inspiring others to do likewise.

Teen Group

The OVYM Teen Group had an incredible summer, with experiences that are difficult to give justice in a brief summary. The Annual Sessions are always a highlight, and the Teen Epistle (shared elsewhere in the Quill) from our time together on Earlham's campus encapsulates the group's experience there.

The other highlight of the summer was the annual service trip. This year, we went to Hominy, Okla., and the Osage Nation Reservation, where we stayed at Hominy Friends Church and undertook home repair work at two nearby homes, including the church parsonage. We also enjoyed a variety of cultural and cross-cultural opportunities, while deepening our spiritual awareness along with our bonds of F/friendship. We worshipped, ate, and played with the Hominy Friends Church community, most of whom live on the Osage Reservation; and we attended the Nation's annual sacred dances as well as an inter-tribal Pow Wow. We also spent a day in Tulsa, where we visited the Gilcrease Museum, went sight-seeing, shopped and ate out.

The traveling group was comprised of 22 teens and five adults, including Youth Secretary Carol Simmons, paid staff Dan and Nathan Coppock, and volunteers Gloria Bruner and Carol's father, Ralph Simmons. We began our journey on Friday, June 24, and

Where are we going: OVYM Visioning Survey Results

OVYM just completed its 191st Annual Sessions. Where are we going in the next decade of the 21st Century? Is our Light still shining as brightly? How can our Yearly Meeting better serve the needs of the Monthly Meetings? Two hundred sixty nine Friends from most of our constituent Monthly Meetings responded to the recent survey organized by Ben Griffith and Advancement and Nurture. Over half of the respondents have been part of another Yearly Meeting so bring that experience as well.

A wide range of questions were asked about the Yearly and Monthly Meeting experience. For example, one question was what is the most important service of our Yearly Meeting? Friends thought that the Yearly Meeting fostering spiritual growth, person-

Three areas of general focus toward which we have been led include cultivating local food economies, conserving our water, and fostering ecological design. Working for government legal and policy change is also part of our work. We remain open to other leadings as the Spirit moves us.

Membership: We would like a minimum of seven members. Members are appointed by the yearly meeting through nominating committee.

Current members and terms:

Bill Cahalan (clerk) – 1 year

Jamie Fota – 1 year

Marci Ankrom – 2 years

David Duvall – 2 years

Jeanette Shetter – 3 years

Ria Collee – 3 years

returned on Sunday, July 3 (with a small band continuing on to FGC Gathering). In our travels, we were hosted the first night at North Meadow Circle of Friends in Indianapolis. We stopped the next night about three-fourths of the way to Oklahoma and stayed at Willard Methodist Church in Willard, Mo., an arrangement organized by Donna Young of Sunrise Friends Meeting in nearby Springfield, Mo. On the way home, after a week in northeastern Oklahoma, we stayed overnight at St. Louis Friends Meeting. Teen Committee Clerk Nikki Coffey Tousley was the point person and organizer of all of our accommodations, and we are grateful not only for her work, but also for all of the people, along with their Meetings and church groups, who provided welcome and hospitality to our sojourning troupe.

We are also grateful for the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, through which we are able to have such significant experiences. OVYM's financial support makes the service trip possible, and its physical and spiritual support make the trip doable.

For next year's service trip, we are planning to go to Washington, D.C., and participate in a workcamp through the William Penn House.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Simmons (937) 232-4250

ally and communally, with the second most important service being having a strong youth program virtually tied with developing a social network between our regional Monthly Meetings. The survey is now serving as a way to consider our current condition and our future hopes together.

Advancement and Nurture wants to help Meetings review and reflect on these results to see where they might lead us. Several meetings have had or are planning programs at their adult education sessions. There are also plans for the winter program of both Quarterly Meetings to focus on the survey results. Executive Committee has asked a working group to use these results to discern further about our current committee structure and charges. In the meantime, Friends are also invited to review the results on our OVYM website.

If you are interested in hosting a program on the survey results at your Monthly Meeting, please contact Advancement and Nurture if you need some help.

For Advancement and Nurture: David Garman, Andy Garrison, Deborah Jordan, Terry Reynolds with co-opted Friend Ben Griffith

Richard Payson Eastman

Richard Payson Eastman died October 5, 2011 at Friends Care Community. He was 91. The second of four children, Richard was born August 5, 1920 in Springfield OH, the son of Robert and Ethel Eastman. Richard was strongly influenced by his father who originally came to Dayton to work for Arthur Morgan as a structural engineer on the conservancy district dams and later taught at Antioch College under Morgan. Robert ended his career in 1970 after serving 20 years as Clark County Engineer. Similarly Richard completed his working life by serving 24 years as Greene County Engineer.

An excellent student, Richard was on the honor role throughout junior and senior high school and participated with Boy Scout Troop 15. After graduating from Springfield HS, he attended Antioch College. His first coop job was with the Chicago Daily News at \$15.00/week. In 1942 he was drafted into Civilian Public Service as a conscientious objector and sent to the Mancos, Colorado CPS camp to work on an earth fill irrigation dam. He was later transferred to Germfask, Michigan and then to the Philadelphia Jaundice Unit, he contribution to the research was his failure to contract the disease.

At Antioch, Richard met Wilberta (Billie) Raecher. They married July 8, 1945 in a Quaker wedding held in the Methodist Church in Billie's tiny home town of Wesley, NY. The couple lived in Philadelphia until Richard completed Civilian Public Service in June 1946. Although many people only knew Richard's career as an engineer, his work life was highly varied starting as Midwest Field Secretary for Friends General Conference (Quakers) for four years. He then worked one year with Arthur Morgan at Community Service, Inc. When that ended the Eastmans bought the Yellow Springs Bakery from Al Anderson in 1951 and made whole wheat bread and rolls. When the bakery didn't provide enough income for a family that had grown to five, Richard bought a union card and became a laborer. As a union laborer, and later a carpenter, he worked for several construction companies on projects including the Springfield airport and I-75.

In 1956 Richard started at International Harvester Co. as a plant equipment designer. Company educational benefits allowed Richard to complete his Antioch College engineering degree in 1958, twenty years after starting, his wife and four children in attendance. He continued working at International until 1967 when he was hired by Antioch College to teach Civil Engineering. What started as a one-year interim position became five, including one year as Acting Dean

of Students in 1969-1970 at the height of the Vietnam War and turbulent times at Antioch. Following his time at Antioch, Richard worked one year as Acting Executive Secretary for the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Dayton. In 1973 he was appointed Deputy Greene County Engineer, and then Greene County Engineer in January 1974 to fill the remaining term of his predecessor. Richard Eastman was subsequently reelected to that position until he retired in December 1996 at age 76. While County Engineer he was passionate about preserving covered bridges and played a major role in creating the Little Miami Bike Trail. He was known in engineering circles for creative resolution of conflicts between disputing parties.

One reason for Richard's varied career was the Eastmans' value for community. Early in their marriage they had made a commitment to living in one place, even if Richard would have to change jobs or even careers. Richard and Billie were part of founding the Vale, an intentional community, located just outside Yellow Springs where they have lived since 1955. Throughout his life, Richard has been active in the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) serving in many capacities over the years. He served six years on the Board of Friends Care Community, during which time the Assisting Living and Independent Living units were built. On a different note, Richard and Billie were active folk dancers and kept the Community Folk Dance alive for many years. He and Billie also facilitated a long-running Course in Miracles study group until the week before his death.

Richard loved his family deeply. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Billie; by four children: John (and Terri) Eastman of Yellow Springs, Rachel Newmann (and Bill) of Olympia, WA, David (and Jean) Eastman of Cincinnati, and Roy (and Heidi) Eastman of Yellow Springs, by ten grandchildren and their spouses, and thirteen great grandchildren. He was known for some pithy sayings. When his first great grandchild was born, he said, "I don't think being a great grandfather will be much different than being a grandfather.....but, what get's me is the thought of being the father of a grandfather."

A memorial service will be held in Yellow Springs at the First Presbyterian Church Saturday, October 22, 2011 at 1:30 PM. Memorial gifts may be sent to Antioch College, c/o the Advancement Office, One Morgan Place, Yellow Springs, OH 45387 or the American Friends Service Committee, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

Our dear Friend David Wood,

Dayton Monthly Meeting, who along with Virginia, is now the resident couple of Honolulu Monthly Meeting, is having surgery on Tuesday Sept. 13, 7:30am their time. He has liposarcoma around ribcage and his recovery will be based on how extensive the surgery needs to be.

Quarterly Meeting News

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

Bloomington Friends Meeting, Bloomington, IN
Tenth Month 16, 2011

1. Opening worship. Friends gathered at the appointed time in a period of centering worship.

2. Welcome and role call of meeting representatives/reporters. The Clerk welcomed Friends and called the roll of monthly meeting representatives/reporters. The following Friends identified themselves as representatives/reporters:

Bloomington	Marcia Ankrom
Clear Creek	no reporter
Fall Creek	Rex Sprouse
Fort Wayne	Terre Holada
Hopewell	no reporter
Lafayette	Michele Tomarelli
North Meadow	no reporter
White Rose	Vaughn Peebles
Presiding Clerk	Rex Sprouse

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends had the privilege of exchanging special greetings with visiting Friend Antoine Samvura, Clerk of Rwanda Yearly Meeting.

3. Clerk's Table. The Clerk summarized for Friends some of the functions of quarterly meetings within the structure of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and reviewed the work of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting during 2010-2011.

The functions of the quarterly meetings include: (1) seasoning concerns arising in monthly meetings; (2) shepherding new meetings into OVYM; (3) receiving State of the Meeting reports at the spring session; (4) offering spiritual support to

troubled monthly meetings; (5) considering appeals regarding termination of membership in monthly meetings; (6) gathering for spiritual nurture and fellowship; and (7) acting as a regional body of Friends.

In 2010-2011, Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends seasoned and united in a Minute on Sexuality and Gender Identity Equality. This minute was brought forward at the session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting in the summer, and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends adopted this minute.

The Clerk reminded Friends that all were invited to the afternoon session devoted to the dancing, peace, and visitation ministry of the Friendly Folk Dancers. It was clarified that the next session of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting was scheduled for First Day, First Month 15, 2011 at Clear Creek Friends Meeting (Stout Meetinghouse). The Clerk of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting has requested that the afternoon of that session be devoted to a discussion of the online survey of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends conducted during 2010-2011. The Clerk will investigate the possibility that resource persons from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting might help to facilitate programs for children or youth in conjunction with that Quarterly Meeting session.

4. Reappointment of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting officers. Friends approved continuing service of Rex Sprouse as Clerk and David Duvall as Treasurer through Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting sessions in summer 2012.

5. Closing worship. Friends concluded the business meeting with a brief period of closing worship.

Monthly Meeting News

Community Monthly Meeting

On November 12 Community Friends Meeting will be hosting a Quaker Quest team from the Friends General Conference for an all way Quaker Quest Workshop. This will be the first step in the meeting's discernment of the role of an initiative like Quaker Quest in our meeting and in our efforts towards more effective outreach to the Cincinnati community.

Rachel Logan Wood is now a student at Olney Friends School in Barnesville Ohio

The meeting is concerned about two measures approved by the Ohio Legislature, and is seeking support from all Ohio Friends. Issue 2 shall be on the ballot to repeal Senate Bill 5, which stripped collective bargaining rights from state workers, including teachers, police, and firefighters. This law violates Friends testimonies on Equality and Integrity.

Dayton Monthly Meeting

Reed Smith, one of the founding members of our meeting, died on June 14. His wife Marjorie died in 2006 and both had been an integral part of our meeting. They both also had a strong commitment to the cause of peace. They had retired to State College, Pennsylvania about ten years ago. A graveside ceremony is being held at Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum in Dayton on Saturday, October 1 at 2:15 p.m. Please hold Reed's

Miami Monthly Meeting

Annual Fort Ancient Worship and Picnic

Miami's Annual Worship at Fort Ancient was held on July 17th in the historic Warren County Native American site. Meeting for Worship began at 10:30 with carry-in picnic luncheon following. Folks from other neighboring Monthly Meetings joined us in this great time of worship, food and fellowship.

Ruth Palmer's Passing

We were all saddened to hear of Ruth Palmer's passing. She and Russell have been attending Miami Monthly Meeting as they have been able since they moved into Quaker Heights Care

Yellow Springs Monthly Meeting

Numerous milestones have blessed our Meeting this summer. Three of our young people, Hollister and Porter Fitch and Uta Brewington finished High School and are moving on to higher education. Bruce Heckman completed his master's degree at the Earlham School of Religion and is working as a chaplain. Mary Hyde graduated from college and has begun a master's program at Xavier. Four of our young people participated in Friends Music Camp.

Jessica Eastman and Mike Farrell were married under the care of the Meeting on the slopes of Mt. Hood.

Two attenders, Melissa Daniels and David Yingling have indicated their intent to join the Meeting.

The other issue concerns Ohio House Bill 194, which threatens the voting rights of poor and minority citizens. We are urging all Ohioans to sign a petition to put this issue also on the ballot in November. This is the minute passed by the Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. "We of Community Friends Meeting, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting ask that FCNL advocate for Campaign Finance Reform as way opens, starting now, through November. Please begin now, as fair elections

are the keystone of representative government."

First Day School opened 9/11 with 10 children in attendance, and the First Day School for teens opens on 9/18. The theme for this year's curriculum is Quaker Testimonies.

family in the light.

The mother of Katherine Clark died in August. Please hold her and the Henry family in the light also.

Dayton Friends will be hosting Miami Quarterly Meeting on October 16 at Mack Memorial Brethren Church in Dayton.

Community. We continue to hold Russell, Wilson, and Alice in the Light during this time of grief.

Back to School

Autumn's arrival signals that our young people are going back to school. Miami continues to assist those in our meeting who are attending institutions of higher learning, with both financial assistance and prayerful support for their success in their educational pursuits.

Peace,
Lonny

We accomplished a lot this year, including a major insulation of Rockford Chapel. At the end of the fiscal year, however, we find that in following the Spirit we have spent more money than we took in!

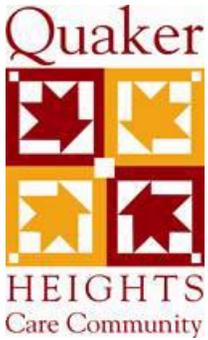
The Meeting has scheduled a one day retreat on September 24. Diann Herzog of Fall Creek Meeting will lead a workshop on spiritual gifts.

Friends and friends continue to witness for peace in Yellow Springs each Saturday noon.

In the Light
Carl Hyde

News from the Broadacre

Quaker Heights: Excellent Survey and Finding Cuts



The Ohio Department of Health conducted an annual survey of the skilled nursing facility in August. The results were excellent and reflected on-going efforts to provide high quality long term care. Quaker Heights has established a reputation as one of the premier care facilities in the three country region of Warren, Clinton, and Green. "We are very proud of the staff efforts to put the residents in the center of every decision. We think the survey outcomes reflect this dedication,"

said Wendy Waters-Connell, Executive Director for the community.

At the same time, Quaker Heights is being challenged by the state and federal reductions in funding. By October 1, 2011, the organization may experience a nearly 17% reduction in revenues. Cuts in state Medicaid and federal Medicare programs will result in reductions in staff, alternative contracted services, and conservative purchasing for goods and supplies. Waters-Connell said, "The board and management are doing everything possible

Quaker Heritage Center

We just received news that the Quaker Heritage Center has been approved as a host site for "Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War," a special traveling exhibit from the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities!

The exhibit will be open January 9 through February 17, 2012...so mark your calendars and watch for announcements of special events and programming!

A response to our epistles from S. Africa

Dear Deborah

It was with interest and a sense of encouragement that I finished reading the report you had sent out world-wide. It was so kind of you to do this. It's the first time I've felt a sense of connection with American Quakers. And I loved the youth's invitation to look them up. Most of all, I was touched by you all re-visiting the question of same-sex relationships and the simple, clear and loving statement that was made. ...

I hope to bring some of the report to the attention of our meeting - including the song!

to ensure direct care staff are not laid off; but difficult decisions for ancillary and management staffing are on the immediate horizon."

The organization is committed to its mission to provide care to the aged and chronically ill. Quaker values about equality, community, peace, and integrity will be held in the light as the discernment of cost reduction measures are balanced with the long term fiscal strength.

In Peace,
Wendy Waters-Connell

Wendy L. Waters-Connell, RN, MS, LNHA
Executive Director
Quaker Heights Care Community
514 High Street
Waynesville, Ohio 45068
513.897.6050
wwatersc@quakerheights.org
www.quakerheights.org

Thanks for your continued support!

Ruth M. Brindle Dobyns
Curator, Quaker Heritage Center
Chair, Heritage Advisory Council
Region 8 Representative, Ohio Local History Alliance
Newsletter Editor, Friends Association of Higher Education
Coordinator, Issues & Artists/Westheimer Peace Symposium
Wilmington College - 1870 Quaker Way - Pyle Center 1182 -
Wilmington, OH 45177
937) 382-6661 x 719 - office
(937) 536-9279 - cell

Susan Groves
Cape
SOUTHAFRICA

2011 OVYM NOMINATIONS

OFFICERS

Presiding Clerk: Paul Kriese
Assistant Clerk: Stephen Angel
Recording Clerk: Deborah Kociszewski
Treasurer: Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer:

2010 SESSIONS

Epistolary Committee: Ron Haldeman, Mildred Mahoney
Summary of Epistles received: Bill and Jeanette Shetter (2010),
Mildred Mahoney (for 2011)

Reporter to Friends Journal: Ron Haldeman
Memorial Meeting: Janette Shetter, Roy Joe Stuckey

ADVANCEMENT AND NURTURE (12)

2012: Deborah Jordan (1M), Terry Reynolds (1W)

2013: Andy Garrison (1M)

2014: David Garman (2W)*, Jack Davis (2W)*

YEARLY MTG PLANNING (ex-officio, Clerks of Teen & Junior Yearly Mtg. Comm.) (9)

2012: Phyllis Martin (1W), Byron Branson (1M), Jamie Fota (1M)

2013: Dinah Duvall (PM), Nathan Coppock (1M), Dale Hayes (1M)

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM (6)

2012: Gloria Bruner (2W), Susan Hyde (4M)

2013: Hannah Branson (5M)

MIDDLE YOUTH (9 - Maybe 6)

2012: Barbara Robinson (2M), Jason Dean (1M)

2013: Martha Viehmann (1M), Bill Shetter (1W)

TEEN ACTIVITIES (9) + 6 teens

2012: Cynthia Sibrel (1M), Peter Hardy (1M), Dale Blanchard (1M)

2013: Wilhelmina Branson (4M), Nick Rhein (1M),
David Funck (1M)

2014: James Taylor (2W)

PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE (9)

2012: Jane Stowe (2W), Robert Vetter (1W), Ron Haldeman (4W)

2013: Frank Huss (3M), Jean Crocker-Lekness (1M),
Richard Mitchell (3M)

AUDITING COMMITTEE (2 year overlapping terms)

2012: Donita Barnes (1W)

2013: Veronica Frost (2M)

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

(ex-officio, Treasurer, Assist. Treas., [— who is Clerk of B&F] (3+)

2012:

2013: Denny Troth (1W), Paul Buckley (1W)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE (9)

2012: Diann Herzog (4W)

2013: Elaine Troth (1W)

DISCIPLINE REVISION COMMITTEE (9)

2012: Rex Sprouse (3W), Barbara Robinson (1M),
Mary Garman (1W)

2013: Betsy Neale (3W), Lisa Cayard (3M),
Christine Snyder (1M)

2014: Wilson Palmer (1), Paul Buckley (2W), Byron Branson (4M)

FRIENDS MUSIC CAMP BOARD

(ALL reps named by FMC) ** (6)

2012: Victoria Burke (1M), Ellen Duell (2M)

2013: Caroline Stanley (Olney Rep), Anne Whitaker (1M)

2014: Paul Wagner (3M), Gail Miller (1W)

BRADDOCK TRUSTEE

+Named by Braddock family (3) Year to Year

2011: 2012: 2013:

QUAKER QUILL EDITOR

Dan Cartmell

RECORDS COORDINATOR

Susan Hyde & Christine Snyder

STATISTICIAN

Frank Huss

PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR

Eric Cleven

YM WEBSITE

Lonny Burger

YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES (6)

2011: Vaughn Peebles (2W), Beth Stafford (2M)

2013: David Hyde (1M), Evalyn Kellum (1W)

2015: David Duvall (2W)

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (4)

2012: Peter Fosl (1M)

2013: Leslie Lyszak (1W)

2014: Jana Schroeder (2M)

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (up to 4)

2014: JP Lund (2M), Racheal Ernst (1M)

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (3)

2013: Shannon Isaacs (Co-op), Rex Sprouse (2M)

2014: Eric Wolff (2M), Richard House (2M)

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (4)

2012: Jane Stowe (1W): James Russell (1M)

2013: Ken Bordwell (2M), Frank Huss (Co-op),
Ron Haldeman (1W)

The following are one year YM appointments to the named
organization

FLGBTQC: Carrie Shaver

WILLIAM PENN HOUSE COMMITTEE: Jane Stowe

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS:

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS:

M = Miami Quarter; W = Whitewater Quarter; 1 or 2 = 1st or
2nd 3-year term; P = Partial term; * = convener or clerk;
TM = Teen Member. (#) next to the Committee's name equals
the number of committee members for that committee.

“V _____” equals a un-filled position (or vacancy) to be
filled later by E.C. and NOM COM action.

2011 OVYM Non. Com. Advance Report

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
11774 South Springboro Road
Brookston, IN 47923

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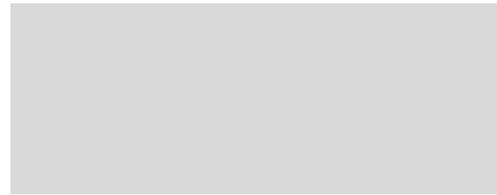
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OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



Quaker Quill



OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING NEWSLETTER

A publication of the Religious
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Quaker Quill



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