



Stout Meeting House
Earlham College

Delve Deeply, Walk Lightly, Dwell in Harmony

2008 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Sessions July 30-Aug. 2nd

What you are offered are five days of spiritual refreshment, intellectual stimulation, and an opportunity to make new (F)friendships and renew old ones as Friends of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's monthly meetings gather at Earlham College to participate in activities designed to support and sustain the spiritual lives of yearly meeting Quakers.

As a member of your monthly meeting, you are also a member of the yearly meeting where members and attenders are warmly invited to participate in the 2008 yearly meeting sessions.

Friends from Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky gather for two to five days, depending upon employment and other commitments, with attendance swelling as Friends arrive for Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday morning sessions. Program offerings include two evening plenary sessions with a major address on both Thursday and Friday evening. Four or five different workshops, offered every afternoon, address an array of Quakerly issues and concerns, provide much food for thought and discussion.

Shared meals with other attendees provide informal opportunity to share ideas, experiences, and extended discussion beyond the workshops and business sessions.

The Yearly Meeting bookstore offers opportunity to examine books for sale by and about Quakers

and Quakerism not commonly found in a single location; included are those authored and/or chosen by plenary speakers.

Any Friend with a special interest is encouraged to schedule a special interest group session that may be held any evening following an evening's major activity. Schedule your event upon arrival.

For youth and teenagers, separate recreational opportunities abound for canoeing, bicycle trips, and swimming interspersed with content loaded interactive programming to encourage young people to think, listen to and exchange ideas with peers and adult leaders about their lives and religious faith. Baby sitting, preschool and elementary age offerings are also included.

During the week each age group helps prepare several acts for the Saturday evening talent show, enjoyed by Friends young and old.

Opportunities abound for worship sharing, viewing exhibits, group singing, and alternate worship. Meeting for worship with a concern for business is at the heart of morning activity alternating with afternoon workshop sessions.

Registration materials are attached. Aid is available from your monthly meeting and youth may attend free. For more information: (812)

822-7172 or morganjj@gmail.com. (Earlham College has yearly meeting information and asks not to be contacted, please.)

2008 Yearly Meeting Program Sessions and Speakers

Plenary Session Thursday, July 31st.

Jens Braun: If we keep going where we're headed, we'll get there: a Quaker experience with changing course. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. *Romans 2:12 RSV*.

Jens writes: "Raised in Ecuador, I first came into contact with Quakers while attending Earlham College. After college I took on a teaching position at the Ramallah Friends Schools, followed by work at the AFSC legal aid office for Palestinians in Jerusalem. I obtained a graduate degree in International Relations and then worked in the relief and development field in the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. There came a point where I felt that the US needed development work as much or more than many of the places I had lived, not in the material sense as often was the case overseas, but in the social and spiritual sense. I have spent the last decade in the start-up of an alternative education based Friends School, the establishment of a Quaker intentional community, and in Alternatives to Violence work."

Recommended background readings: *Goatwalking: A Guide to Wildland Living* by Jim Corbett, *Sanctuary for All Life* by Jim Corbett, *Seeing Nature: Deliberate Encounters with the Visible World* by Paul Krafel, and *The Upward Spiral--DVD* by Paul Krafel

Plenary Session Friday, August 1st.

Doug Gwynn. *Stand Still in the Light:: the Inner Horizon of Hope.* Among the early Seekers who became the first Friends, some were conservative, others were progressive. George Fox's counsel to "stand still in the light" both confirmed and overturned the expectations of both groups. What can we as Friends today learn from the example of early Friends? What does "conservative" or "progressive" mean when we gather and grow in the light?

Doug Gwynn has served as pastoral minister at First Friends Meeting in Richmond the past four years. He has also been a teacher at Pendle Hill and Quaker Studies Tutor at Woodbrooke. He has researched and written extensively on early Friends. His books include *Apocalypse of the Word* (1987); *The Covenant Crucified* (1995); and *Seekers Found* (2000). He is also a song-writer. His songs are recorded by The Brothers Doug. Their double CD, *Chronicles of Babylon*, is available through the FGC Bookstore. His wife, Caroline Jones, is an instructor in Buddhist meditation.

Workshop Wednesday 7/30 1 pm – 2:30

Cynthia Sibrel. Introduction to being a FAP (Friendly Adult Presence). This program is for adults wishing to volunteer to work with children in OYVM program, and includes information from a spiritual and legal perspective. Lecture (DVD) 30%, discussion 70%, handouts.

Workshops Thursday 7/31 1:45-3:15

Rachel Dean. Could you already be a Convergent Friend? Convergent Friends is a discussion that has been taking place on in meetings, living rooms and blogs around the country. Come and find out more about bringing the power of primitive Quakerism into the 21st century. Lecture and Discussion.

Mt. Gilead Retreat Directors. An Invitation to Personal Silent Retreat. Our theme is centering, grounding, and we are mindful of Quaker Testimonies. Lecture (film) 40%, Discussion 60%. Appropriate for youth, limited to 30. Recommended reading: Frances Taber: Come Aside and Rest Awhile, Pendle Hill Pamphlet #335 on contemplation and personal retreat.

Cathy Barney, A Community of Knowing: The Personal Practice and Corporate Accountability of Spiritual Nurture. This session will introduce the structure of a spiritual-nurture group and personal spiritual practices as well as the opportunity to experience both. Cathy Barney is a member of Cincinnati Friends Meeting, has facilitated a variety of spiritual-nurture groups over the last 7 years, completed Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's School of the Spirit in 2006, facilitated spiritual-nurture retreats and extended-worship sessions (under the care of Miami Center Quarterly Meeting, and will co-facilitate a workshop on "Courage for the Dark Nights and Deserts" at this year's FCG Gathering. Lecture 10%, Discussion 10%, Worship 40%, Activities 40%. Suitable for youth. Limited to 15-20.

Background reading: Carol Conti-Enti, *Improvisation and Spiritual Disciplines: Continuing the Divine-Human Duet*, Pendle Hill Pamphlet #288.

Richard J. Foster and James Bryan Smith, *Devotional Classics: Selected Readings for Individuals and Groups*. John Punshon, *Encounter with Silence*. Jack Kornfield, *After the Ecstasy, the Laundry*. William Tabor, *Four Doors to Meeting for Worship*, Pendle Hill Pamphlet #306. Gerald May/Addiction and Grace. *The Awakened Heart*. Jean-Pierre De Caussade, *The Sacrament of the Present Moment*. Brother Lawrence, *The Practice of the Presence of God*.

Cindi Goslee. Clerking as Opportunity. Friends have historically used the word opportunity to describe a time in which 2 or more gather to experience presence of the Divine. In this workshop, we will explore the Opportunity of Quaker business practices; how the clerk may assist the body to listen together; the importance of preparation of and support for the clerk; and some practical tools to help the meeting delve deeply in the holy process of Meeting for Worship for Business. Cindi has been a convinced Friend for 23 years. She has been blest with opportunity to clerk in various capacities at Monthly and Yearly Meeting. The workshop will be appropriate for young people and adults.

Workshops Friday 8/1.

Jane Stowe. Searching for Peace Between Israel and Palestine. This workshop delves into the crisis between the Israel and Palestine based on eye witness interviews with diverse people from both sides of the conflict by a Quaker who is a Middle East expert, Earlham's former president Landrum Bolling. We will watch Landrum's 2006 half-hour film "Searching for Peace in the Middle East" followed by introductions and a panel discussion facilitated by Jane Stowe, Clear Creek MM and OVYM member who traveled to Israel and the West Bank for two weeks in 2006. Other panel members are still to be determined. Through gaining knowledge and listening to other viewpoints we hope to walk as lightly as possible and create more harmony on this issue among attendees. Discussion _45 min._ Worship _15 min._ Activities __ Other _30 min__(DVD). Appropriate for youth. Limited to 40-50. Recommended reading: Phyllis Bennis's pamphlet *Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict* (2002). Also AFSC's

When the Rain Returns: Toward Justice & Reconciliation in Palestine and Israel (2004) and Jimmy Carter's book *Palestine Peace Not Apartheid* (2006).

Diann Herzog. Praying in Color: Drawing a new path to God. This is a way of using pens, markers, colored pencils, crayons, etc to draw as you focus on prayer. The drawings are done in silence and contemplation with prayer being the end result, not the drawing. It can be intercessory (for others) prayer, prayer for ourselves, the world, our Earth, family, God. There are visual aids that can be used as a sort of gentle guide, or prompt. The author describes the process as "spiritual brainstorming". There is no advance preparation, in fact, this workshop is specifically for those who consider themselves artistically challenged.

Diann Herzog has been a Friend and member of Fall Creek Meeting and OVYM for eight years and an associate member of Stillwater Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting, Conservative, for four years. She has attended many workshops and retreats centered on spiritual growth, especially around the topic of ministry. Discussion 20% Worship 100% Activities 80%. Appropriate for youth. No size limit. Recommended reading: Sybil MacBeth. Praying in Color; Drawing a New Path to God.

Richard Mitchell and Betsy Neale. Quakers and the Historical Jesus. This workshop is an introduction to the contemporary and controversial scholarship about the historical Jesus. The workshop leaders are universalist Friends who believe that this Jesus can inspire both Christocentric and universalist Friends. We will explore the implications for Quakerism. Early Friends sought to recreate the peaceable kingdom of the early decades of the Jesus movement. The historical Jesus as portrayed by this contemporary scholarship calls us to radical egalitarianism, simplicity, and profound love. Richard and Betsy are members of Lexington Friends Meeting and consider themselves universalist Friends. For 8 years they have led week-long workshops on this topic at FGC Gathering. They are self-taught in the scholarship, having read many of the scholars, both those who are part of the Jesus Seminar and those who take a different view of the historical Jesus. Both Richard and Betsy are academically trained but not in religion, Bible, or theology. Lecture 65%, Discussion 35%. Appropriate for mature teens. No size limit. Recommended Readings: Borg, Marcus J., Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time, 1994. Crossan, John Dominic, Jesus - A Revolutionary Biography, 1994. Funk, Robert and the Jesus Seminar, The Gospel of Jesus According to the Jesus Seminar. Funk, Robert, Roy W. Hoover, and the Jesus Seminar, The Five Gospels - What Did Jesus Really Say? The Search for the Authentic Words of Jesus, 1993, HarperCollins, Introduction Pp. 1-38. It would also be useful if some attendees bring a bible. We are also interested in seeing any books attendees have found useful.

Jens Braun. Meet with our Thursday Plenary Speaker.. See the description above for background and recommended readings.

Opportunities for Worship

In addition to the scheduled worship, Stout Meeting House is open 24x7 for personal worship. The Runyon desk can also provide access to the Japanese Garden for worship. And meetings for worship are held every evening at Ichthys House, 215 College, from 9:30-10:00 p.m.

Youth Program

This year we have a workshop on Wednesday afternoon for those adults interested in working with youth. There are also a number of planned sessions throughout yearly meeting where adults have a chance to meet with youth. These include the Thursday noon Middle Youth meetings with mentors, the MY and Teen canoe trips which welcome adults, and the Saturday afternoon Simply Speaking sessions on questions of concern to the Teens and Middle Youth. Please try to participate in these.

Directions

Registration is at Runyon Center in the center of the Earlham campus. From Route 40 take College Avenue South to SW G Street, turn right and the parking lot at that point is convenient both to Runyon and to the Mill Dormitory. On the map below, R=Runyon, M=Mills, LB=Landrum Bolling, and S=Stout. During sessions there will be a golf cart to help those in need to travel between buildings.

