



Tending the garden . . .

Bulletin

How Do We Grow As Friends?

Clerk's Message by Don Nagler, LEYM Clerk, Pine River

It is part of our Quaker Truth that it is in our worship and life together that we most clearly and powerfully sense our relationship to God. We know and feel something fresh and alive, as Robert Barclay experienced when he said, "*For when I came into the silent assemblies of God's people, I felt a secret power among them, which touched my heart.*" The 2001 Yearly Meeting in Bluffton was about how God reaches us as persons as we grow in relationship within our community of faith and practice. Among the fellowship is where we can feel God living in us with assurance and renewal; where we grow deep perceptions of what is real; where we can also appreciate the darkness in ourselves and others, and yet feel and know the power and potential of the Light and Seed within us and the community in God's presence.

As has been pointed out by others, and most recently by Marty Grundy in her plenary in Bluffton, the dynamic community of faith has been our historical inheritance from our spiritual forebears in the 17th century. In their time they felt strongly that they were following the first century Christian community described in the New Testament, as in Acts 2:41-47. The Shakers in this country built such a community. Their saying, "hearts to God and hands to work", and their joyous singing and dancing expressed some of their vitality. However, these communities did not just happen. As Marty pointed out, they were created out of a discipline of spiritual practice and fidelity. Sandra Cronk wrote: "*..it was through their relationships with one another that Friends experienced God's healing and reconciling love, empower-*

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Web Page Expanded

Our web page has grown. Last year's page boasted a calendar and description of LEYM structure, as well as a separate page for each meeting.

This summer, we've expanded to include special upcoming events, a page of reactions to the September

11 terrorism, and documents you can download.

You can load and print out important documents like *Marty Grundy's Plenary Address* (notes on page 4), given at Annual Meeting in

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Clerk's Message

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ment, and guidance. Gospel order grows out of the intertwining of the inward, communal, and social witness aspects of our lives as Quakers."

"Doing our faith", "our practice", may be our most essential Friends' testimony and is also best achieved in a group context. "Let your lives speak", George Fox said. Making our practice a clear reflection of our faith, our outward life consistent with our inner life, behavior with belief, describes Quaker integrity. It was also central to Jesus' message that hypocrisy was an expression of separation from the Holy Spirit. It similarly has to do with the state of mind and spirit which is prophetic in Quakerism, not in the sense of foretelling the future, as it is about seeing and speaking and living what is true, rather than false; real, rather than unreal. Fidelity to what we feel is true is critical, bringing us passionately to good practice. Within our Society's spiritual community we can become whole-hearted in our endeavor to follow the Light that we perceive in each moment, seasoned with compassion for ourselves and others.

How will LEYM meetings and members move toward becoming more of a faith community of Friends as were our spiritual forebears, a "whole people"? The dominant culture encourages us to think of ourselves

as Individual-Friends, not as "a People", let alone a "Religious Society" or as part of "a Kingdom" or "a Realm of God". We need to help one another to become "a Community of Faith and Practice". How do we do this?

First, how do we grow as Friends WITHIN MEETINGS to help each other to focus on God and the spiritual life, as Isaac Pennington said, of "love, and peace, and tenderness...". Our religious life might become the most important thing we do. Our coming together, our worship, our worship-sharing, our meals together, our mutual projects and business, our singing, our searching, our laughing might all be part of that growth. Our meeting discipline and process might be addressed openly and improved upon continuously. Even discussion is able to help us to grow, it seems to me, if done in a caring and considerate way and in the context that the Inner Christ or Spirit is present to listen and inform. The ongoing "spiritual formation" interest throughout LEYM is an evidence of this activity.

Second, we grow in our sharing of a common literature, although as one Friend has written, we are asked to "pray without ceasing, not read without ceasing". Numerous materials can be shared easily among us. For instance, Marty Grundy's 2001-plenary is in this year's Annual Records and can be down-loaded from the LEYM website (thanks to Eric Starbuck), linked to quaker.org. FGC, on its website, has numerous materials that can be down-loaded and duplicated. "*Companions Along the Way—Spiritual Formation Within Quaker Tradition; A Resource for Adult Education*" from PYM, 2000 is a good resource with an excellent bibliography. And there are many others as we know.

Third, we have more and more opportunities to share in regional meetings. The Friends Center at Olney is a wonderful developing source of deepening spiritual life under the leadership of Bill and Fran Taber. Michigan Friends Center is much more limited, but will grow in its role. Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting at its newly begun tradition of meeting on Hiroshima Day in Battle Creek had over 50 Friends in attendance. Athens had a sizeable contingent take part in the FGC gathering at Blacksburg. Red Cedar and other meetings have done this at FGC. The annual intergenerational LEYM retreat at Bellville, Ohio and the Youth retreats are very important, full of energy, fun, and wholehearted sharing.

Fourth, there might be more meaningful and increased communication between meetings and between

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Clerk's Message

meetings and worship-groups. Our meeting newsletters might be shared more widely. They make considerably better reading than most dominant culture news. (I have greatly appreciated those sent to me over the past year and one-half, and think that this would be appreciated by Sally Sommer next year.)

Fifth, there might be more intervisitation within LEYM and beyond. The use of the FGC Traveling Ministries program by Red Cedar this past year and Broadmead in the near future is significant. The intention has been expressed by several to initiate and increase intervisitation between meetings on a regular basis which seems to me to be very important, and something which I intend personally to do.

Sixth, we might move to share a more common practice within the Yearly Meeting. Ultimately, we might benefit from the development of a small Faith and Practice document. LEYM's Ministry and Oversight Committee is gathering information on Monthly Meeting use of Queries. It is my hope that in years to come we might develop a comprehensive set of shared Queries that would draw Meetings into deeper and closer relationship and members of the Yearly Meeting into a more vital sense of community. Queries can cause us to re-examine our lives in the context of the meeting in thoughtful expectant silent listening, letting the Spirit search us and give integrity to our precious inner life and our meeting's life. They can reinforce in us a discipline of openness, so that God can compose our lives.

Seventh, the *Annual Records* booklets can increase our awareness of our shared journey, as do our fall, winter and spring *Bulletins*. The LEYM website has many elements which may enhance our sharing, as well as our outreach. It has a map with the locations of all our meetings, which when pointed to with a mouse give addresses and information on meeting time, etc.. There are also calendars, officers, specific special events, committees, 2001 epistle, a photo album from 2001 gathering, M and O 2002 queries, the Marty Grundy plenary 2001, and music-over. It is managed by Eric for amendments and corrections, in creative facilitative ways. It is a joy to see and hear.

Eighth, The electronic media is likely to be a help to us. It does not do for sharing what face-to-face meeting does, but it is likely to greatly facilitate contacts between meetings, committees, individuals in various capacities within and beyond LEYM. And it is consistent with our inherent frugal qualities.

Ninth, (Finally!!) we might take measures to in-

crease attendance at LEYM's annual gathering for worship, for worship-sharing, for friendship, for fellowship, for worship with attention to business, for singing, for sharing the life of our meetings, for celebration and renewal. There have been many who have suggested that we meet for a longer period of time, and at a time later in June so as to accommodate those who work longer in the school systems in Michigan and Ohio. Meetings might consider setting aside money for support of members who might request it in order to attend. The Yearly Meeting program committee, site committee, and finance committee will be addressing these issues this year.

Peace and Blessing,
Don Nagler, presiding clerk

Web Page Expanded

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June. In case you've misplaced the *Ministry and Oversight Queries* we're supposed to consider by the end of December, print them out from the Downloads page. And email your responses to Tom Taylor, M&O clerk, with a click of your mouse.

There is a photo collage of the stalwarts at Annual Meeting, by Bill Hummon. There are histories of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. (Do you know how we were founded?)

Write to the officers by clicking their email hyperlink. Send an article to the *Bulletin* editor the same way. Anyone wanting something special posted, please contact Eric Starbuck.

Many thanks to Marvin and Adrian Barnes, creators and founders of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's website.

Try the web! We're still feeling our way, but it's exciting to take advantage of the possibilities the net offers. Watch for coming events, like the Representative Meeting in Oberlin. A sign-up will be posted.

Eric Starbuck, Web Master (Akron)

Check it Out!

<http://www.quaker.org/leym/>

Full Calendar ◇ Local Meeting Finder ◇ Document Download
◇ Event Signup ◇ Picture Collage of LEYM 2001

Notes from the Plenary by Marty Grundy

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, June 15, 2001

The Relationship between Individual and Community

Marty spoke out of deep spiritual concentration, reflecting on insights that have come to her over long years of work and prayer. She used striking images to illustrate her insights, such as describing the relationship between individual and community in a Friends Meeting as a seesaw where both sides of the beam need to be kept in balance. The balance point, the fulcrum of this seesaw, is God.

Quaker theology is relational, based on our experience. The relationship with God is inward, intuitive knowing. All human beings can have that relationship with God, and this fact is the basis for our relationship with each other.

The Religious Society of Friends is like a three-legged stool. It is based on:

1. our relationship with God,
2. our relationship with the Meeting community,
3. our witnessing Quaker values and testimonies to the wider world.

All three legs need similar attention; they are equally important. We must listen to Divine guidance in all three "legs" of the relationship. Early Friends knew that they all had been touched by an experience of the Divine. This knowledge strengthened their feeling of community.

Meetings can have different dynamics: centrifugal or bonding. If we are mainly interested in how the Meeting community is meeting our own individual needs, we will be disappointed. If, however, we search how we can strengthen the relationship between Friends and between them and God, the Meeting will grow into a community under God. There is always creative tension between individual and community, just like between the ends of a tightened violin string. Humans are created to be social beings. They need community.

What is the right relationship between Friends? Early Friends spoke about being in a "new covenant" relationship with God, with the living Christ, on which the relationship between individuals was based.

Why do Friends come together in a Meeting? They come to worship in community. A time of "covered" corporate worship is more than the sum of the worship of individuals. The spiritual community in worship

and in fellowship is central in our experience. There are inevitable differences between individuals and the community—we are all human. We gain spiritual growth and understanding from these differences. We can come to know God's power and love through our community.

Each Meeting develops a corporate culture and sets expectations for behavior of its members. If people's feelings are hurt and they drop out, there is no growth possible.

The dominant culture preaches individual self-realization and self-gratification, as in "Look out for #1." The Religious Society of Friends is centered on God, not on one's self.

A group centered on God can discern God's will better than an individual can. Individuals need to be willing to hear the greater discernment of God's will that comes from the group. The life of the Meeting grows as each individual comes closer to God.

Truth is not a static thing to hold, but it is realized in action. The three-legged stool must be constructed by all of us. The instructor is standing by - God. Let us construct this stool of relationships together.

Comments in response to questions:

Corporate discernment is a tool that we have to find God's will for us.

Friends have a problem with authority and with leadership. Obviously, the authority is with God. However, sometimes God gives more clarity to some Friends, who then can become leaders.

What is the role of elders in the Meeting? The word has been misused (as in "eldering"), but we need elders -- older, experienced Friends.

Regarding the question of miracles, stories of healing are reported about most religious leaders. There are over 200 healings mentioned related to George Fox.

Quakers in the 19th century felt a lot of tension, so they cut the violin strings and separated. Now we are trying to understand the other groups a little.

by Leonora Cayard (Pittsburgh)

Download the full text of Marty Grundy's plenary from <http://www.quaker.org/leym/>

LEYM 2001 Minutes Summary

The treasury balance is getting smaller, by design. This year, we spent more than came in. We're raising dues this year to make up for it. However, not everything was as intended.

The biggest unexpected expense was representatives' travel to Friends organizations. \$2575 was budgeted, but \$5430 was spent. Representatives are asked to see if their organizations can pay their costs, and to give an estimate of expenses in 2001-02 to Joe Davis, clerk of Finance Committee. The proposed budget for the coming year is \$19,560.

To meet expenses next year, dues were raised. For meetings counting adults only, they are now \$22 per member. For meetings counting adults and children, \$20 per member.

The State of Ohio killed Jay D. Scott during our first meeting.

Ministry & Oversight queries for this year (Due 12/31/01 to Tom Taylor):

1. How do we encourage members and attenders to serve God through the nurture of our monthly and yearly meeting: to serve, volunteer, and become responsible for the life of the meeting?

2. How do we encourage all F/friends to reach out to, interact with, and take responsibility for the young people in our meeting and their spiritual growth?

3. How do I translate my commitment to the meeting into actual time spent in service under Divine Guidance to the needs of F/friends? Do I need to consider spending more time in service to God in these, my friends?

Publications Committee will publish the LEYM *Annual Records* in the summer, and a *Bulletin* in the fall, winter, and spring. (See calendar for deadlines.) They will also publish a Meeting directory in February, if feasible. This would be based on Susan Jeffers' label records. Please update your meeting's addresses to Susan by December 1.

Several reports were approved for publication, including one on the Death Penalty, another supporting Jim Satterwhite and Olwen Pritchard, and one from FCNL about its initiatives. These were printed in the LEYM Annual Records 2001. Your clerk should have a copy.

Eric Starbuck (Akron)

Download the queries and email responses to Tom Taylor on the web:

<http://www.quaker.org/leym/>

2001 Workshops Individual and Community

Notes from the Workshop
with Connie McPeak and Marty Grundy

What is basic to being a Quaker? A historical approach is always helpful: we can study what moved early Quakers, what went on in the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. What is the Truth that is revealed to us? Is the Truth experienced in our hearts, in our guts, or only in our heads?

A fundamental element of Quaker experience is that the discernment of the community in the presence of God carries over to the discernment of the individual. An individual's leading needs to be submitted to group discernment, perhaps in a clearness committee. This was basic to earlier Quakerism, but today it sometimes gets turned around. There are a variety of options for an individual who disagrees with the sense of the Meeting, but the individual does not have a right to a veto. It is the Meeting community that determines, in the presence of God, whether an individual can stand in the way. When a Meeting is ready to move forward in unity, the clerk can express that the Meeting has that unity, even if not unanimity. Unity is the sense of being in God's presence.

Leonora Cayard (Pittsburgh)

Corporate Decision Making

Workshop II, following up on the keynote address by Marty Grundy, was led by Meg Hummon. All participants received an interactive chart headed "Decision Making," which was divided into four blank columns: Association/Club, Friends Meeting, Family, and Workplace. The rows were labeled type, structure, leader, role of individual, responsibility of individual, rules for decision making, process for decision making, and assumptions.

As participants shared their answers, it became clear that there are lots of different ways of doing things. Even in the case of Friends Meetings, which are often compared to families, the hierarchical structure of parents over children in the latter did not translate easily to the former. Perhaps the main difference is that in Friends Meetings, where officers and committee conveners change over time, it's as though parents

and children were changing their roles and taking turns "being in charge." Moreover, it is expected that God or the Light will assist the group to reach unity, in contrast to the understanding that "parents know best."

The workshop participants also discussed personal experiences with Meeting decision-making, sharing examples of both good and difficult outcomes; analyzed the roles and responsibilities of individuals and the group; and considered the ideals we strove for as a group and as individuals.

Rosemary Coffey (Pittsburgh)

Membership

Clémence Mershon led one of the workshops on Individual Will, Corporate Worship, Corporate Decision-Making. Her viewpoint was from that of etymology -- what do Quaker traditional phrases mean, 300 years ago when they were coined, and now, when we act upon them? Some fascinating insights unfolded.

Clémence researched the area of membership, especially in London Yearly Meeting (which recently became Britain Yearly Meeting). It is the only yearly meeting in the British Isles; all English Quakers are members of BYM. The experience is very different from America, where there are dozens of Yearly Meetings; especially in Ohio, where there are five.

London Yearly Meeting, it turns out, never defined membership formally until 1737. Apparently, from the 1650s to 1730s, membership was not a formality. Also, the procedure for membership was not updated from 1737 until the 1830s, and again not until the 1930s. After that it was revisited in the 1960s, and again in 1994. Times have changed.

Another difference between British and American Quakers is that the American splits in the 1820s-1850s never developed in England. This added to the contrast between concepts of membership.

Clémence chose some words and asked our feeling about them. All words are metaphor, of course, and even close synonyms pack different punches in the emotions associated with them.

Discipline - Disciple - Discernment

Conversion - Convincement

Member - Corporate

Community

We noted the similarity of the first three, and asked if they came from the same roots. Disciple and discipline do, but discernment does not. Emotional re-

actions varied; "discipline" felt negative to some, and useful for building oneself to others. "Disciple" felt like a follower who doesn't think independently to some and like and apostle to others. "Conversion" felt more emotion-driven and "convincement" more intellect-driven.

Toward the end, we were asked to consider "Membership." Some words which came out: participation, responsibility, perpetual forgiveness, commitment, flexibility, time, inclusion, boundaries, exclusion, acceptance, nonacceptance, family, identification with something bigger, part of a whole (which one's the whole?), comfort, and challenge.

We discussed some experiences with unnamed members in local meetings and some challenges.

Clémence noted that the original Quaker Testimonies did not include the Peace Testimony. It developed out of some of the originals. Before Peace came Integrity, Tolerance, Community, Harmony, Equality, and Simplicity (ITCHES). Clémence said that a seminar leader she'd heard had suggested adding Flexibility to that list, as it was needed (FITCHES).

For the original Quakers, social action was not primary. It flowed deep faith.

Eric Starbuck (Akron)

Death and Dying

It's part of the life cycle. It pays to be prepared.

Grand Rapids Meeting has had many Memorial meetings. One woman faced a death in her family. We had several meetings, and helped her deal with her grief, which is a responsibility of the Meeting.

To minimize shock and adjustment, it is best to have a funeral guide ready, and to pre-arrange as much as possible.

A sample form for filing such arrangements so the Meeting knows was provided. It included name, address, date of birth, place of birth, father's name, mother's name, social security number, other pertinent info, body arrangements (cremation, burial, cemetery, markers, etc.); donation to school, organ bank; autopsy, etc), and wishes as to funeral director, if desired.

Statement by Grand Rapids Friends Meeting

We are in general agreement with the following principles:

- That simple funeral procedures are desirable and adequate.
- That memorial services be held at a convenient time and place. (Samples from past services are in library packet.)

- That wishes and desires of the deceased regarding funeral arrangements be carried out if possible and practical.
- That showing of the corpse be omitted. However, if the family desires showing, arrangements should be made with the funeral home of the family's choice.
- That both cremation and burial with or without embalming are acceptable means for the disposition of the body, the method being a personal decision.
- That sympathy may best be expressed by some gift to a fund or cause in which the deceased had an active interest.

The final arrangement plan can be recorded in the Meeting Membership Record Book. We also suggest that you file a copy with your nearest relative, your lawyer, friends, and/or with personal records.

Samples of *A Living Will*, are available in our library packet which gives instructions to family members and medical staff should the individual be incapable of making decisions. This packet also contains information on donation of the body or organs.

We recommend the following book as a reference in preparation for death: *Dealing Creatively with Death - A Manual of Death Education and Simple Burial* by Ernest Morgan. Barclay House. Available from FGC Bookstore.

Betty Ford (Grand Rapids)

Psalm 46

1. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
2. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;
3. Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.
4. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.
5. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.
6. The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.
7. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

Quakers and Racial Justice

Quakers & Racial Justice will be the theme of a Pendle Hill weekend being coordinated by the New York Yearly Meeting Black Concerns Committee, Oct 12-14, 2001.

The weekend will include reports from Friends who attended the UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. The conference will be held in Durban, South Africa, August 31-September 7th. For information about the United Nations conference contact Bahiya Cabral at AFSC bcabral@afsc.org, 215-241-7179 or Nissa Puffer at the Quaker UN office npuffer@AFSC.org, 212-682-2745.

But this will be more than just a reporting weekend. We can all stay home and read reports. We are inviting representatives from Yearly Meeting, Quarterly Meeting, and Monthly Meeting committees that are doing anti-racist work. Individual Friends actively involved, or who wish to become involved, in racial concerns are also encouraged to attend. We hope that by building community among Friends doing anti-racist work we can come up with a plan of action. Of course, as with any Pendle Hill weekend there will be worship, worship sharing and fellowship.

Interested in attending? Want to be on the planning committee for the weekend?

Want to be a contact person for your meeting? If so please reply to:

jeffhitchcock@euroamerican.org or call 908-241-5439. You may also write to: NYYM Black Concerns Committee, 15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10003.

Jeff Hitchcock
Assistant Clerk, NYYM Black Concerns Committee

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8. Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations he hath made in the earth.
 9. He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.
 10. Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.
 11. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

A Rainbow of Christian and Universalist Quakers

Friends Journal readers and authors often are not aware of the variety and proportions of Quaker viewpoints actually held among them regarding Christianity and Universalism. A better awareness of our colorful spectrum of faiths might minimize oversimplifying our differences as a conflict between Christocentric Quakers and Universalist Quakers. A better understanding of our diversity could help us to avoid unintentionally distorting the views of others. Also it may help us to clarify and perhaps modify where we are in the rainbow of Christian and Universalist Quakers.

Between January 1973 and December 2000, *Friends Journal* published 333 articles and letters which reveal, as I understand them, the writers' places in the faith spectrum of Friends. The 139 letters are mainly responses by readers to authors of the 194 articles. Articles are counted for this study only if they are known to be or evidently are by Quakers. The large majority of the authors of the articles are members of Friends Meetings in the United States, and most of these American Friends Meetings are affiliated with Friends General Conference. Probably the large majority of the writers of letters are also American Quakers, and most of them FGC Friends.

All these writings over the 28-year period reflect a spectrum of faiths among Friends encompassing three large groups, namely, Christian, Universalist, and Christian Universalist. Christians mostly are Quakers who are centered on Jesus as Christ. Universalist Quakers vary in what they center on as universal, including God experienced, or that of God in the experiencer, or mystical experience. Christian Universalists include Quakers who are primarily Christians, or primarily Universalists, or evenly Christian and Universalist.

In each of these three large groups there are those who see their faith as normative, that is, the right one for all people, and the faiths of others as inferior. In these cases there are conflicts of views. A total of 20 percent of the *Friends Journal* writers hold normative religious beliefs. This includes 14 percent normative Christians, two percent normative Universalists, and four percent normative Christian Universalists.

One source of conflict between those with different views is the misunderstanding of a faith statement as arguing for a religious dogma or rational philosophy. Such misunderstanding can be caused by expressions which to the reader are unfamiliar or carry negative associations. Different understandings of the terms

Christian, Universalist, and Christian Universalist can also be a source of conflict. These words are being used here in the broadest sense to include all who accept these designations, and like-minded Friends may not use such terms.

In each of the three large faith groups of Friends there are also those whose views are not normative but pluralist. They regard their views as personal and the views of others valid for those who hold them. All together 80 percent of *Friends Journal* authors who write about their faith have such a pluralist approach. This includes 8 percent who are pluralist Christians, 37 percent pluralist Universalists, and 35 percent pluralist Christian Universalists. These pluralist Friends do not see the relationships between Christians, Universalists, and Christian Universalists as mainly one of conflict, but as a relationship of sharing and possible mutual growth in worship, discussion, and action.

Normative and pluralist Quakers in each of the three large groups, Christians, Universalists, and Christian Universalists, make a total of six main faith groups. These six main faith groups of Friends can be compared in size in the following fashion: the largest group is pluralist Universalist and the smallest is normative Universalist; the next to the largest group is pluralist Christian Universalist and the next to the smallest is normative Christian Universalist; and the two mid-sized groups are normative Christians and pluralist Christians.

Over the 28-year period there have been two contrasting trends in changing proportions of faith groups of Quakers writing in the *Friends Journal*. If we compare the first 14 years, 1973-1986, with the second 14 years, 1987-2000, there has been a small increased polarization with a three percent increase of Universalists over the Christians, along with a decrease of one percent Christian Universalists. On the other hand, there has been a four percent increase of pluralists among Christians, Universalists, and Christian Universalists; so along with somewhat greater differences there is a greater acceptance of differences.

I hope this survey of Quaker beliefs will help us not only to clarify where we are in our rainbow of faiths, but also to be more receptive to those who have a different perspective. Perhaps it will help us to read the writings of others and listen to their talk with the openness and respect that we wish them to accord to our views. May we realize that all the words we use in witnessing to our faith are limited and may be misun-

Quaker Youth Pilgrimage 2002

derstood. May we have the courage to express our faith in words in spite of their limitations, thus complementing the expression of our faith in the way we live and act.

For further information:

The author, Wallace Cayard, 180 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp, PA 16066, will be glad to send to interested persons, without charge, any or all of the following items he has also written:

(1) A detailed article, "*A Spectrum of Christian and Universalist Quakers*," which includes a discussion of each of the six main faith groups with an example of a writing in *Friends Journal*. 6 pages.

(2) A chart, "*Overview of Spectrum of Christian and Universalist Quakers*." Distribution of 14 groups by percentages. 1 page.

(3) "*Index of Authors and their Faiths in Friends Journal Writings 1973-2000*." 8 pages.

(4) "*Friends Journal Writings 1973-2000 by Authors' States and Yearly Meetings*." 1 page.

(5) "*Changing Proportions of Faith Groups in Friends Journal Writings 1973-2000*." A comparison of 1973-86 with 1987-2000. 1 page.

by Wallace Cayard (Pittsburgh)

-- Reprinted from Pittsburgh *Friends Meeting Newsletter*, July 2001

Quaker Ancestors

When the Sidney Worship Group was established in 1994 at the Dorothy Love Retirement Community, attenders Margaret Johnson and Dorothy Coppock learned through casual conversations that their ancestors of 250 years ago could have been neighbors or perhaps even part of the same family.

Margaret Johnson traces her Quaker family to Christopher Hussey and Robert Hussey Macy, both of Nantucket Island. Dorothy Coppock's ancestors on the same island had the surname Macy.

In a search for religious freedom, both families were part of the original twelve Friends' families who bought the island from the Indians in the early 1700s.



Friends World Committee for Consultation - Section of the Americas (FWCC) is seeking 14 young friends ages 16 - 18 and 2 adult facilitators for the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage 2002. A Pilgrimage is an opportunity to explore Quaker history, participate in a service project, develop your relationship with God, gain understanding of Quaker process, form a community and lasting friendships, experience different Friends' traditions and forms of worship.

- When: July 12 - August 10, 2002
- Who: Young Friends who will be 16 - 18 at the time of the Pilgrimage. The pilgrimage will include 14 young Friends from the Section of the Americas, and 14 young Friends from the Europe and Middle East Section.
- Where: Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Washington DC (beginning in Baltimore, and tracing some of George Fox's 1671-73 journey in the Americas: Eastern Shore of Virginia, Dismal Swamp, Quaker House in Fayetteville, NC, Friends Disaster Service, Godsboro, NC, Guilford County, NC, Celso, NC, Shenandoah Valley, Sandy Spring, MD, Washington DC, FCNL office
- Cost: For pilgrims, approximately \$1200

Deadline for applications:

- Adult facilitators: December 15, 2001
- Pilgrims: January 15, 2002

For more information, including an application form, contact FWCC, 1506 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19102 Phone: 215-241-7250 Fax: 215-241-7285

E-mail: Americas@fwcc.quaker.org

In 2000 the Sidney Worship Group was enriched by yet another descendant of the Friends on Nantucket Island when Mary and Charles Drayer of Troy, Ohio, joined the group. Among Nantucket ancestors of Charles are the families of Starbuck, Gardner, Folger, Gayer and Coffee.

Marie Cotton (Sidney Worship Group)

Friendly Web Sites

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

Detroit Friends Meeting	http://hometown.aol.com/detroitmtg/index.htm
Akron Friends Meeting	http://home.att.net/~ericstarbuck/AFM.html
Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.....	http://www.quaker.org/leym/
Michigan Friends Center	http://comnet.org/localorgs/mfc/index.html
North Columbus Friends Meeting	http://members.aol.com/quakerohio/ncfm/ncfm.html
Pittsburgh Friends Meeting.....	http://www.quaker.org/pghpamm/

Wider Quaker

Britain Yearly Meeting	http://www.quaker.org.uk/
Canadian Friends Service Committee.....	http://www.web.net/~cfsc
Evangelical Friends International	http://www.evangelical-friends.org/
Fellowship of Reconciliation	http://www.forusa.org
Friends General Conference	http://www.fgcquaker.org/
Friends United Meeting	http://www.fum.org/
Friends World Conference for Consultation	http://www.quaker.org/fwcc/FWCC.html
FWCC Calendar of Events:	http://www.quakerinfo.com/article1002.html
FWCC Africa:	http://www.quakerinfo.com/article1003.html
FWCC Americas:	http://www.quakerinfo.com/article1004.html
FWCC Asia & West Pacific:	http://www.quakerinfo.com/article1005.html
FWCC Europe & Middle East:	http://www.quakerinfo.com/article1006.html
FWCC Conferences & Regional Gatherings:	http://www.quakerinfo.com/article1007.html
Olney Friends School	http://www.olneyfriends.org/
Pendle Hill.....	http://www.pendlehill.org/
Quaker House of Fayetteville, NC.....	http://www.quakerhouse.org/
Quaker Universalist Fellowship.....	http://www.qis.net/~daruma/QUF/
William Penn House	http://www.quaker.org/penn-house
Fellowship of Friends of African Descent	http://www.quaker.org/ffad/index.html
Ohio Yearly Meeting	http://members.tripod.com/~ohiofriends/

Info & Publishing

Quaker URL & info site -- BIG.....	http://www.quaker.org/
Frequently Asked Questions.....	http://www.faqs.org/faqs/Quaker-faq/ soc.religion.quaker
Info on candidates for public office.....	http://www.vote-smart.org
Kimo Press, Chuck Fager.....	http://www.kimopress.com/
Friends General Conference Bookstore.....	http://quakerbooks.org/
Quakers and the Arts Historical Sourcebook.....	http://home.att.net/~quakart/
Quaker Information.....	http://www.quakerinfo.com/

Social Action

American Friends Service Committee.....	http://www.afsc.org
Friends Committee on Legislation of California ...	http://www.webcom.com/~peace/PEACTREE/fcl/fclhome.html
Friends Committee on National Legislation.....	http://www.fcni.org/pub/fcni
Friends for a Non-Violent World.....	http://www.fnvw.org/
Friends for Lesbian and Gay Concerns.....	http://www.quaker.org/flgc/
International Peace Bureau	http://www.ipb.org
Peace Tax Fund.....	http://www.peacetax.com
Peaceworkers	http://webcom.com/peace/PEACTREE/pworkers/homepage.html
Right Sharing of World Resources.....	http://www.rswr.org

EMAILS

Friends World Committee for Consultation, Americas	americas@fwcc.quaker.org
Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College	friends@swarthmore.edu
Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts	fqa@quaker.org

Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Report on Annual Meeting, August 15-19, 2001

Attending the Annual Meeting sessions of Ohio Yearly Meeting brought out both similarities to and differences from Lake Erie YM. It was, of course, for them as for us, a time of renewing old friendships and making new ones, as well as conducting the business of the Meeting. The setting, on the campus of Olney Friends School and in the Meeting Room of Stillwater Meeting House, was peaceful and attractive, and the delicious meals took full advantage of local fresh produce. A special afternoon tea was provided for visitors to get acquainted with local Friends.

All business sessions were preceded by 35-45 minutes of worship. Messages were based mostly on biblical texts and less frequently on early Quaker writings. The older children attended worship and stayed for the introduction of visitors before returning to their own pursuits, culminating in several Bible-based skits on Saturday evening. Many of the messages were in the

form of prayers of thanks or requests for intercession and followed rapidly upon one another. In the business sessions, very little surface dissension came to the fore; in general, Friends expressed appreciation for the work of the committees and for the minuting abilities of the very experienced Clerk (13 years in that post!). A Reading Clerk with a far-reaching voice read aloud most of the documents submitted, including some that were passed out to attenders.

A significant amount of time was spent on matters related to the Walton Home, an assisted living facility under the care of the Yearly Meeting. The Olney School, formerly a major concern of Ohio Yearly Meeting, was barely mentioned. Although the School is now run by a Board of its graduates, OYM has maintained control of endowments earmarked for the School. Instead of letting Olney decide how to spend the income, funds are now used specifically to support Christian education. Other areas of concern were the annual Christian Education Camp, the Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs, the Friends Center of OYM, and electronic evangelism. A considerable amount of time was devoted to reading the responses from the two Quarterly Meetings to the Yearly Meeting Queries, along with summaries by the Clerk.

The evening sessions featured programs on outreach: a talk by Roland Kreager, General Secretary of Right Sharing of World Resources; a report by three OYM members who had traveled to Western Australia to support Avon Valley General Meeting, which had recently broken away from Australia YM because of a desire to emphasize Christ-centered worship; reports from other Friends of their spirit-led travels beyond OYM (including the presentation of a workshop at the FGC Gathering); and a children's presentation.

OYM turns out to be an extremely small Yearly Meeting. While there are officially 531 members (15 fewer than last year), only 164 are Resident at their Monthly Meetings. Many family names reappear (Stanley, Kirk, Stratton, Sidwell, Warrington, etc.) in various membership lists, and it is clear that Meetings are reluctant to purge their rosters of distant members who may even have joined other houses of worship. Names appear to be dropped only by specific request. Two new elders were appointed in the past year, but no new recorded ministers.

OYM Friends were warm and welcoming. I had a number of provocative conversations, including one with the Yearly Meeting Treasurer the gist of which I will share with LEYM's Finance Committee, and very much enjoyed getting to know some of our Conservative cousins. I hope to have the opportunity to return another year for another stimulating week.

by Zig Dermer (Pittsburgh)

Errors and Corrections

Annual Records 2000

- Valerie Groszmann's (Kalamazoo) name was mangled in the Ministry & Oversight Committee report on page 30.
- 2000 Representative Meeting minutes were not included.
- The inner frontispiece should have been the cover.

Winter & Spring 2001 Bulletins

- Workshops offered by Michigan Friends Center were attributed to Ann Arbor Friends Meeting in the Calendar.

Annual Records 2001

- David Perry, a member of Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting, and Chandra Dorsey took each other in marriage on September 23, 2000. The celebration was held at the Youghioghny Country Club in McKeesport, PA.
- Assistant Clerk was listed as Sally Weaver Sommer. Janet Smith was Assistant Clerk during the sessions in June 2001. Sally Weaver Sommer is Assistant Clerk, 2001-2002 and Presiding Clerk, 2003-2005.

Web Page

- First Day School Workshop listed on both 9/15/01 and 10/13/01 for awhile. Correct date is 10/13/01.
- Continuing technical difficulties keep the Photo Album from showing all pictures correctly. Hope to fix the problem soon.

Southern Appalachian Young Friends

Southern Appalachian Young Friends are preparing to begin the 2001-2002 schedule of retreats. We want everyone in SAYMA of high school or junior high school age to know about our plans for this year, especially those who have just turned 12 or are beginning the 7th grade, and those who have recently moved into the SAYMA area.

If you know of Young Friends in your family or in your meeting who might like to be on the SAYF mailing list, please ask them to send name, age, grade, monthly meeting, mailing address, phone number, and email address to:

Therese Hildebrand
SAYF Administrative Assistant
260 Radford Hollow Road
Big Hill KY 40405

or

dlkennedy@kih.net (put SAYF somewhere in the subject line)

Youth are not required to be members or regular attenders of a Quaker meeting in order to attend SAYF events, but we do ask that they have some understanding and experience of Quaker process.

An information packet, including a schedule of retreats and SAYF guidelines, will be sent to new members of the mailing list.

Kathleen Mavournin
Co-Clerk, SAYF Steering Committee

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association mailing list:

sayma@kitenet.net

<http://kitenet.net/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/sayma>

Sink Down to the Seed

Give over thine own willing, give over thine own running, give over thine own desiring to know or be anything and sink down to the seed which God sows in the heart, and let that grow in thee and be in thee and breathe in thee and act in thee; and thou shalt find by sweet experience that the Lord knows that and loves and owns that, and will lead it to the inheritance of Life, which is its portion.

Isaac Pennington, 1661

Stories Requested:

Bob Baldrige (Member Stamford/Greenwich Meeting, Purchase Quarter, NYYM) is in the process of collecting suggested names of members of the Religious Society of Friends who would be willing to share personal stories about themselves and other Friends who they are inspired by. The resulting research will be used for a project entitled: **QUAKERS AROUND THE WORLD: A PERSONAL TESTIMONY**. Bob is currently seeking financial assistance, volunteers, and air mileage donations to continue and expand this project from individual sponsors and Foundations in order to produce a book, educational packets for 1st days schools/ Adult religious education classes, and a documentary film. Anyone interested in contacting Bob can call him at :646-456-4616 or 646-554-46700 or email at bobby@baldrige.to or robertartist@hotmail.com

Address: Bob Baldrige 48-18 Vernon Blvd, L.I.C., NY 11101

Welcoming

Dear Friends,

Local Friends have asked me to share with you a matter that concerns all of us. First let me say that I am a newly Convinced Friend whose request for Membership was officially accepted on July 15, 2001. I attended LEYM for the first time in June 2001 having met with and been accepted by a clearness committee but not yet officially a Quaker.

Nevertheless, I came in June with a mixture of trepidation and excitement knowing only the Broadmead Friends who were attending. We agreed beforehand not to "clump together" and to meet other Friends. I am not a young nor a shy person so here is the concern: I did not feel welcomed. With the exception of two delightful encounters, Friends at LEYM did not make eye contact, initiate conversation, seek me out after I was introduced as a 1st. time attender or include me at meal time when I sat at their tables without a Broadmead Friend alongside. Often it was I who suggested we introduce ourselves around the table and tried to engage others in conversation. Imagine how I felt being asked to serve on a committee by Friends who previously had not spoken to me! Do Friends recruit "warm bodies?"

I am not discouraged. I believe Friends are caring, concerned people who will be appalled at reading this. What will we do to change it?

With Great Affection,
Mary Igoe Meyers (Broadmead)

GPQM Minute 9/15/01

Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

The history of our Quarterly Meeting inspires us to reach out to each other, to strengthen the vitality of our faith community. We are aware of energy in our midst, of God's work being done through programs at Michigan Friends Center, Friends School in Detroit and American Friends Service Committee as well as the responses Friends are taking in their Meetings to the violence of racism and acts of terrorism. We look toward greater connection with these our organizations and their work to nurture and bring Friends' concerns to the world. We commit ourselves to bringing our Monthly Meetings into better understanding of Quarterly Meeting and to contribute to its growth and work. We ask other Friends in our Meetings to join in the discussion and to contribute to Quarterly Meeting program and events. We have thought of specific ways in which our quarterly Meeting can be further strengthened.

Speak to Thy Condition

As I had forsaken all the priests, so I left the separate preachers also, and those called the most-experienced people. For I saw there was none among them all that could speak to my condition. And when all my hopes in them and in all men was gone, so that I had nothing outwardly to help me, nor could tell what to do, then, O then, I heard a voice which said, "There is one, even Christ Jesus, that can speak to thy condition," and, when I heard it, my heart did leap for joy. Then the Lord did let me see why there was none upon the earth that could speak to my condition, namely, that I might give Him all the glory. For all are concluded under sin and shut up in unbelief, as I had been, that Jesus Christ might have the preeminence, who enlightens and gives grace and faith and power. Thus, when God doth work, who shall let it? And this I knew experimentally. My desires after the Lord grew stronger, and zeal in the pure knowledge of God and of Christ alone, without the help of any man, book or writing. For though I read the Scriptures that spake of Christ and of God, yet I knew Him not, but by revelation, as He who hath the key did open, and as the Father of life drew me to His Son by His Spirit. And then the Lord did gently lead me along, and did let me see His love, which was endless and eternal, and surpasseth all the knowledge that men have in the natural state or can get by history or books: and that love did let me see myself as I was without Him. . . .

George Fox, *Journal* (Bicentennial Edition, 1891), Vol. I, p. 11.

What Queries do we use in our Meetings?

Queries for 2001-2002:

In March, I sent you the summary of responses to the queries on membership developed last year by LEYM. We hope they are of value to your Meeting. This year, concerns from several Meetings have led us to write the following set of queries for Friends to consider:

Nurturing our Meeting Community

1. How do we encourage members and attenders to serve God through the nurture of our monthly and yearly meeting: to serve, volunteer and become responsible for the life of the Meeting?
2. How do we encourage all F/friends to reach out to, interact with and take responsibility for young people in our meeting and for their spiritual growth?
3. How do I translate my commitment to the Meeting into actual time spent in service under divine guidance to the needs to F/friends? Do I need to consider spending more time in service to God in these, my friends?

The committee encourages your Meeting to develop a summary or minute that gathers the responses arising in worship sharing into a communal response. Responses which have been received by 31 December, 2001 will be read carefully by the M&O Committee during January 2002. A draft summary will be considered by M&O at Representative Meeting in early March and the final summary sent to Meeting clerks and the LEYM *Bulletin* and/or *Annual Records* for publication in June 2002.

If you have questions or comments about these two invitations to involve your Meeting more fully in the spiritual life of your Yearly Meeting community, please contact me. There is much we can learn from each other.

In Peace and Friendship,
Thomas F. Taylor, clerk (Ann Arbor)
324 Hilldale Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 995 6803
tomnancytaylor@compuserve.com

LEYM M&O: Dolores Avner (Pittsburgh), Miyo Bassett (Ann Arbor), Marie Cotton (Broadmead), LeRoy Curtis (Wooster), Fred Feitler (Kent), Suzanne Howell (Athens), Janet Smith (Broadmead), Ann Sprague (Detroit), Merry Stanford (Red Cedar), David Stillwell (Kent), Richard Taylor (Oberlin).

Download and reply on www.quaker.org/leym/

Petition Approved and Circulated at Annual Meeting

Women are 53% of population and 30 million women share values of caring.

Women For Responsible National Security is an organization of women representing many different groups who have been coming together to insist upon the abolition of nuclear weapons.

We invite all women to sign a Proclamation to this effect. We, the women, sisters of the innocent lives taken in Japan, the Marshall Islands, St. George, Utah, and other places continuing, we can be A Force More Powerful.

A Force More Powerful than the weapon-ears, the bankers, the corporate manufacturers, and the politicians. We can and we must. The danger of accidental or deliberate use of nuclear weapons is greater today than at any time during the Cold War.

I ask that every woman here today take two copies of the Proclamation. One for herself and one to make five more copies to pass out to friends.

Be responsible in gathering them up and mailing them to the address at the bottom. Be sure each Proclamation has the name of your Representative in Congress. They will be forwarded to that Congress person's office.

Thank you.

Carolyn Diem (Ann Arbor)

Proclamation We, the Women ...

We, the women of the United States of America, representing 53% of the population, share an increasing concern about our national priorities and the ongoing development and reliance on nuclear weapons. We proclaim our resolve to end the nuclear shadow that continued to loom over all of our lives.

We unconditionally reject a US foreign and military policy that includes the possible use of nuclear weapons. The consequences of any such use would be devastating. Therefore, and use of nuclear weapons is morally unacceptable.

We declare that the end of the Cold War has offered the most promising opportunity since the advent of nuclear arms in 1945 to free the world from nuclear danger. We instead witness the continuation of nuclear weapons technology and a deepening crisis of the nuclear arms control regime fashioned by both Democratic and Republican administrations. To avert new perils, we call upon the United States to commit unequivocally to the following:

- Take all nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert.
- Reject the proposed Nuclear Missile Defense program and negotiate for the peaceful use of space for all time.
- Ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).
- Cease the design and development of new nuclear weapons, such as the "mini-nuke."
- Negotiate for steps toward the worldwide abolition of all nuclear weapons.
- Develop and implement a failsafe plan to dispose of all nuclear and toxic waste that will not cause harm to any person or habitat.

We, the women, further proclaim that we shall monitor and hold the 107th Congress accountable for significant progress on the above-stated demands by conclusion of its two-year term. Our national budget should instead be re-prioritized to meet basic human needs in health, education, and general welfare, which will provide true national security and will strengthen future generations to come.

Signature _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

Representative in Congress: _____

Signed in support of the Women for Responsible National Security Campaign
c/o Peace Links; 666 11th Street, NW, Suite 202; Washington, D.C. 20001

LEYM Change of Address

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Email _____

Meeting _____

Please return to:

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
216 Myrtle Place
Akron, OH 44303

Thank you!

Note: This one's at the top
so it will have your old ad-
dress on the other side
when you cut it out!

Post Office Box Removed

Apologies to those who tried
to send me mail at PO Box 2624.

The box rental was over in
June, so we paid to renew it.
They removed it anyway. Mail
was sent back.

The address at left is my
home address. It doesn't need
renewal.

Eric Starbuck (Akron)

Calendar

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

- ü **10/13/01** A DAY OF INSPIRATION FOR FIRST DAY TEACHERS-- FIRST DAY SCHOOL FROM TODDLERS TO TEENS, MARLOU CARLSON, MICHIGAN FRIENDS CENTER, (734) 475-1892
- ü **11/3/01** 2001 COLUMBUS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL; NORTH COLUMBUS MEETING HAS A BOOTH
- ü **12/1/01** DUE DATE FOR ADDRESS UPDATE (SEND TO SUSAN JEFFERS, ADDRESS IN FRONT)
- ü **12/1/01** WINTERFEST WILL BE A TIME OF MUSIC AND CELEBRATION, WITH SALES OF ARTS AND CRAFTS FOR GOOD CAUSES, MICHIGAN FRIENDS CENTER
- ü **12/15/01** DUE DATE FOR *WINTER BULLETIN* (FOCUS ON HUMOR)
- ü **12/31/01** PLEASE RETURN M&O QUERY RESPONSES TO TOM TAYLOR, TOMNANCYTAYLOR@COMPUSERVE.COM
- ü **3/2/02** REPRESENTATIVE MEETING IN OBERLIN
- ü **3/15/02** DUE DATE FOR *SPRING BULLETIN*
- ü **5/24/02-5/26/02** SPIRITUAL FORMATION (CLOSING) RETREAT AT FRIENDS CENTER OF OHIO, (740) 425-1248
- ü **6/13/02-6/16/02** LEYM ANNUAL MEETING IN BLUFFTON
- ü **6/16/02** DEADLINE FOR *LEYM ANNUAL RECORDS 2002*

WIDER QUAKERS

- ü **10/12/01-10/14/01** QUAKERS & RACIAL JUSTICE, PENDLE HILL, NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING BLACK CONCERNS COMMITTEE
- ü **12/15/01** APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR QUAKER YOUTH PILGRIMAGE
- ü **7/12/02-8/10/02** FWCC QUAKER YOUTH PILGRIMAGE, TRACING GEORGE FOX'S JOURNEY IN AMERICA, AMERICAS@FWCC.Quaker.org

FRIENDS CENTER OF OHIO YEARLY MEETING

(740) 425-1248

- ü **10/26/01-10/28/01** PRAYING THE PSALMS, BETSY MEYER
- ü **11/30/01-12/2/01** MUSIC AS AN AID TO WORSHIP & MEDITATION, RICHARD WETZEL
- ü **3/8/02-3/10/02** LISTENING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT, KATHARINE & KEN JACOBSEN
- ü **4/5/02-4/7/02** INTENTIONAL LIVING & MINDFUL DYING, CONNIE McPEAK
- ü **4/26/02-4/28/02** UNDERSTANDING ROBERT BARCLAY, JOHN SMITH
- ü **5/24/02-5/26/02** SPIRITUAL FORMATION SPRING RETREAT, MARTY GRUNDY

Check the online calendar! Email contacts with a click!

<http://www.quaker.org/leym/>

Request From The Treasurer

The treasurer requests that monthly meetings please send their contributions as soon as possible. Our biggest expenses come in the summer and early fall. These are: the *Annual Report*, the fall *Bulletin* and travel reimbursements. It causes a cash flow problem if monthly meetings wait until December or January to send in their contributions.

Connie Bimber (Oberlin)

Address Service Re-

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LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

216 Myrtle Place
Akron, OH 44303-2126

Phone: 330/374-0521
Email: ericstarbuck@worldnet.att.net

*Quakers speak not loudly, but strongly.
-Lady Borton*

Fall 2001 Bulletin



Tragedy in America

We hold in our hearts the victims and those who have suffered in attempts to aid them and all the families and others grieving here and around the world because of the treachery of the perpetrators of these acts and those who have supported them. These acts have profaned their religion and humanity.

We unite with the message expressed by Mary Ellen McNish, general secretary of the American Friends Service Committee in support of the victims and those grieving over this tragedy, as well as those Muslims and others likely to become victims of scapegoating because of it.

As she said, however, "We have to break the cycle of violence and retaliation." It is not God's way, which is to comfort the afflicted and work for social justice. We oppose retribution worked on the innocent people in this country and around the world because of their appearance, race, religion, or country of origin. We wish to heal the grieving, the wounded and those in pain.

Don Nagler, presiding clerk of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting