



Tending the garden . . .

Belonging and Sharing Clerk's Message, by Sally Weaver Sommer

Belonging, identity, sharing gifts, being with each other for the long haul. These are the words and phrases that stick in my mind after a recent membership clearness committee. They represent what membership in a Quaker meeting is all about.

Our meetings are places where we belong. We feel at home in our meetings. We are accepted. We can speak from our hearts and our minds. We can share our deepest yearnings. We can do all this knowing that we won't be ignored or sent away.

Being a member of a Quaker meeting gives us a sense of identity. It helps us articulate our faith; it helps us make a statement about who we are to ourselves and others. It gives shape to our understanding of ourselves.

Meetings are places where all members offer their gifts to the meeting for service to each other and to the world. These gifts are given and received in a spirit of love. Sometimes they are used in strange and wonderful ways. Other times they are used in mundane ways. Sometimes the gifts of others challenge us in ways that make us feel uncomfortable. But always these gifts are used for God's purposes.

When we are members of a meeting we are with people for the long haul. We're with each other during the spirit filled times and during the dry times. Together we celebrate births, our youth leaving home, marriages, and death. We are all together no matter our age, our gender, or our race.

Quaker meetings are filled

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Our Faith Community

By Don Nagler, Assistant Clerk

Darkened early mornings and late afternoons remind us of the oncoming winter solstice. We tend to treasure especially now the artificial light we bring to our daily lives in candles and seasonal decoration. Within LEYM, our faith community, I can see over the past several years

evidence of the enhancement of the unseasonal Light of the Spirit among us in small but significant ways that should have lasting effects. It has been seen in the development of spiritual formation groups and discipline, the ministry

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Clerk's Message: Belonging and Sharing

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with strange and wonderful people who are trying to live out God's will in a world where so much seems to be going wrong. We know that the only way we can do this is in community. We come together to worship, to conduct business, to play, to eat, to learn, to be nourished. When we become a member of a meeting we

make a commitment to discern in community God's will for our lives and for the life of the meeting. At the same time, the meeting gives us a sense of belonging and identity as we offer our gifts to a broken world both within the meeting and beyond.

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and literature from within and from outside of the yearly meeting that has drawn us closer to our Centers, the new life that continues to be formed within FGC which has among other things now developed the visiting ministries program, and the impact of workshops on our meetings and individuals, as in Arthur Larrabee's "clerking" workshop for Pittsburgh Meeting and the workshops at the Olney Center and the Michigan Friends Center. The Bellville retreat and the life that Kri Anderson has brought to LEYM youth are notable as well.

As mentioned before, the labor which Janet Smith

and Marty Grundy gave to the creation of our Policies and Procedures Document and the Publications Committee, Susan Jeffers, and Eric Starbuck's efforts in the achievements of the Annual Reports process, the LEYM Directory, and the Website have been of GREAT IMPORTANCE to us. Thomas Taylor and the Ministry and Oversight Committee's gathering in a document of the Query practice among Meetings and the exploration and development of the committees expanded role among us have been significant.

I wonder now if we should consider initiation of efforts to develop a common Faith and Practice? If so, how would we begin and with what energy diverted from so many other highly prioritized areas of our lives? I understand that Northern Yearly Meeting, which is about the same age as LEYM and with similar membership characteristics, is finding that its initial efforts at formation of a Faith and Practice are comfortably fruitful at a slow pace. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting created a revision of its small Faith and Practice document in 1978, three years after it changed its name from Indiana Yearly Meeting (FGC) to its present name, although its substantial Hicksite roots went deep into the early eighteen hundreds.

My inclination at this point is for us to work instead on enhancing aspects of our common life; as in our interaction and efforts to increase numbers of participants at our annual gathering as well as throughout the year in committee meetings and other yearly meeting events, the creation of more intervisitation and regional gatherings that bring us vitality and fellowship and further intergenerational experiences linking us to each other and deepening our life in the Spirit.

My perusal of Meeting newsletters and e-mails has shown what prodigious efforts have been made by them and individuals in opposing violence and hatred. Friends have proceeded with faithfulness and vigor to work in whatever ways they can toward a more just

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Officers

Presiding Clerk:

Sally Weaver Sommer
118 S. Spring St.
Bluffton, OH 45817
(419) 358-0950
sommerjs@bluffton.edu

Assistant Clerk:

Don Nagler
1360 Tomah Dr.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
(517) 772-2421
dfn@journey.com

Recording Clerk:

Marty Grundy
2602 Exeter Road
Cleveland Hts, OH 44118
(216) 932-2144
kwg@po.CWRU.edu

Treasurer:

Connie Bimber
156 Kendal Dr.
Oberlin, OH 44074-1907
(440) 774-6175
randcbim@juno.com

Editor:

Eric Starbuck
2312 Mission St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
(412) 398-1195
ericstarbuck@att.net

Labels:

Susan Jeffers

Publications Committee:

Leonora Cayard
Rosemary Coffey, clerk
Joseph Mills
Eric Starbuck

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

c/o Office Manager
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting
1420 Hill Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Spiritual Friends Begin 2nd Year of Mutual Support, Seek Newcomers

Helen Horn

Printed in Among Friends, Athens Friends Meeting,
October 2002

The Spiritual Friends program of Athens Friends Meeting offers an attender an opportunity to pair up with another compatible seeker in the Meeting to give and get regular confidential support for inner growth and deeper connection with the Inner Light. Eighteen people experimented with this commitment last year and twelve plan to continue. Most pairs get together bi-weekly, sometimes by phone, preferably face to face. Meeting attenders interested in exploring such an experience are encouraged to contact Helen Horn at 740-698-8625 for an introductory reading and help in connecting with other interested people.

A check-in with last year's partners yielded some interesting information. The majority focused in their sessions together on personal challenges to their values and trust in the Spirit, relationship conflicts, and discerning leadings about next steps. A number mentioned how helpful it is to have someone to whom you are accountable. They had reported back on efforts to be more aware of the Inner Light, to live more fully in the Now, to be more loving, to stay in balance, etc. Some discussed books together such as Tolle's *The Power of Now*, Fardelmann's *Nudged by the Spirit*, Borg's *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* or the Dalai Lhama's *The Good Heart*. Two almost always walked together as they communed. Two explored favorite spots on each other's land and shared music tapes. Two went on retreat together twice. Two took a trip east to visit families with chances to commune in the car both ways. Two began as spiritual friends and ended up organizing a community project together.

Our Faith Community

society, here and abroad. Regular peace vigils, in all kinds of weather, have been carried out from the northern climes to the icy southern reaches of our yearly meeting. Many kinds of efforts continue to be made, most often in conjunction with those of other faiths or none, who are in sympathy with these goals. We attempt to live who we are, or more directly, who the Spirit draws us to be.

Together, are we not becoming more of a community of faith, little-by-little? We are now committing more money to new efforts with FGC, which seem unusually propitious and also are building within LEYM

One partner said, "Using a spiritual framework and aspirations...actually articulating them with another, was new to me." Her partner reported, "It made the spirituality more in the world, a working religion." Another reflected that articulating to her friend what was happening to her inwardly "helped me be clearer about my growth and more present in Meeting for Worship." Her partner reported, "The reciprocity of giving and taking is very meaningful... In a conflict over personalities, we faced it squarely and went on... Without it there's a hole." One observed, "We are open to the deep stuff. We don't dance around it... I can take whatever is on my heart to her."

Another said, "We talked about how we felt God was part of our life. We often took some silent time together. We asked for prayers in between." A seasoned spiritual friend reported, "Meaningful...is the almost magical way that we, as listeners, often come up with just the right leading, question or suggestion--because we have been paying attention. The continuity in between, the way we both ponder and sometimes write after a session...the common spiritual base..."

This program is an offshoot of a yearly meeting-wide Spiritual Formation Program under the care of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's Ministry and Oversight Committee. It is not meant to serve as therapy for those with deep-seated negative patterns. Ministry and Counsel Committee members are available to consult with about getting help on such challenges. Fall and spring gather-ins will be scheduled at the Meeting House to bring together spiritual friends for mutual inspiration.

more activities potential for our youth.

The website can help us to grow together and can help identify Friends to others who are outside our community. I feel that we should put up on the site a statement which gives new personal contacts a clear description of who we are NOW. (In giving a first impression, I think we should avoid historical reference. We need to demonstrate at this time and place behaviors of freedom and loving power similar to that given to us by the same immanent Spirit which led our religious ancestors, but whose historic expression does not

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Friends Committee on National Legislation Annual Meeting, November 7-10, 2002

By Lila Cornell

In 1942, the France Yearly Meeting Epistle began with a prayer to God, "We do not ask you to keep us safe, but to keep us loyal." This was the beginning of an inspiring talk by Joe Volk, the executive secretary. He continued, for our government to work well, the President, the Senators, and the House members should take us from where we are to where we want to go.

In other words, they should be leaders and guide a program, perhaps even be statesmen.

Joe continued, the Christian ground I stand on is not human, but spiritual ground. Early Quakers proposed acts of religious toleration and that of God in every person means one person, one vote. The Friends claimed business ethics that were radical at the time. However, a community of faith is needed to make these things happen. When we are in tune with the divine force everything goes better and in our work with the government we must resist evil and injustice. FCNL must continue to set up goals now if we are to achieve them in the future. In coalition, such as the groups FCNL works with, we have the power to change this government. In doing this, we need to make people think; doubt is a way to minister to the human spirit.

The panel discussion, *Telling Our Stories*, included Bob Alpern, field secretary from Northern California, and David Potorti, September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, and others. In California, FCNL is helping to empower people by making witness personal to their members of Congress, organizing balanced groups of coalitions. They meet with members of Congress 3-4 times a year, talking about arms control and disarmament and also the pressing urgency of

meeting human needs.

Potorti tells us this is no time to be shy, we must be as bold as the hijackers, as the Bush Administration. People in the group have walked from the Pentagon to the World Trade Center. Members have also gone to Afghanistan and met with those who have lost family members in the US bombing. They are meeting with Japanese peace groups. He feels that most of the country is with us, but not the news media.

In the Fireside Chat between Robert Schultz and executive secretary emeritus Ed Snyder, we were reminded that Ed has given 47 years of leadership. He told us that we are all surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who are with us as we work for peace. In the US we have a framework for political democracy however, there is also a dictatorship of dollars. Ed feels we are facing the deepest crisis in 50 years with disarmament, arms agreements and preemptive war, simplified good/evil. The Bush Administration is using the strategy of fear, fear, fear. We need spiritual resources for a long haul, and he suggested interpersonal relations as the best way to make peace.

Bruce Birchard of Friends General Conference spoke as a voice for peace after 9/11/01. He reminded us that there is potential for evil and violence in all of us. The myth of redemptive violence does not convey the truth. He continued, the Peace Testimony is an outward expression of inward conviction, the inner and collective experience of the divine.

We heard several references to the late Paul Wellstone of Minnesota. One of his favorite quotations was "Be the change that you seek."

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define our own.)

It might read something like the following:
"Quakers come together in silent worship knowing that the Spirit is present among us and in us, and can be experienced today to give meaning, hope and power to our lives. With all our hearts, we affirm that God is expressed in every human being. We are placed in unity with each other by this experience and by our commitment to the Quaker way of living it brings to us. We welcome to our fellowship and worship all persons

of whatever sexual orientation, race, religion or gender who seek after truth and who are in sympathy with this way of living. ---

Moreover, our experience directs us into the world to sever the bonds of hatred and division and to work toward the end of universal love and blessing in society and in creation."

In anticipation of our Representative Meeting, I would like to make another point. As Meetings have

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Traveling Ministries Program

Faithfully submitted,
Connie McPeak Green and Merry Stanford

Twenty-eight Friends from 12 yearly meetings met at Bethany Hills Camp near Nashville, Tennessee, the weekend of November 15-17, 2002, under the auspices of the Traveling Ministries Program of Friends General Conference. We met to explore how Yearly Meetings might help their Monthly Meetings to receive and nurture ministry that arises in their midst. The consultation afforded an opportunity to share resources and experiences so as to learn from each other.

The Panel on Friday evening consisted of Marty Grundy of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, speaking on discernment, Lloyd Lee Wilson of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative), speaking on accountability, and Jean-Marie Barch of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, speaking on Elders/Traveling Companions. Marty pointed out that the Holy Spirit is active among us. Individuals are turning to their meetings for support as they find their lives reshaped by the Spirit. Often our meetings find it difficult to know how to help. The use of clearness committees for discernment and guidance of the workings of the spirit is an essential and needed part of this process. We need to come together to listen to God to be better able to accept the gifts brought to us by God through other people. According to Paul all have some gift of discernment, but not all have the same portion or measure. Gifts may atrophy if we don't use them. Leadings come from a variety of places and motives and most often are a mixture. Discernment helps us feel out what is from God and what is not. Marty said we need to bring to clearness committees humility, listening, deep desire and hunger for God, desire for the right use of gifts, an openness to Love.

Lloyd Lee Wilson spoke of accountability meaning "to watch and be watched over for good that each may be grounded in Christ."

If we are sincere, we will welcome being watched over for good, and will watch over others for good, rather than for personal opinion. He spoke of three levels of accountability, all of which are based on discernment of God's will:

1. Individual accountability to another individual.
2. Accountability as a steward of God's gifts to the Monthly Meeting, and

3. Accountability of those who will minister outside the Monthly Meeting, to the Monthly Meeting.

Being accountable to one another can be uncomfortable. But it is only by wrestling with each other that we, like Jacob who wrestled with the angel, are able to break through our limited human perspectives and begin to open to the greater perspective that is of the Spirit.

We need to embrace the living tradition and love the community, live transparent lives and remain teachable, humble learners in the school of the spirit.

Jean-Marie spoke of the role of the elder as that of a midwife of the ministry. The elder's job is to support the minister in being faithful to the ministry. This may include helping the minister to not become distracted by the ministry but to keep awareness of those for who the ministry is intended. When people are being used in ministry they may lose track of creature comforts, the need for a break, for instance, and the elder can stay aware of the more corporeal needs of the minister and those receiving the ministry. The elder holds the process of ministry, the minister and the meeting in prayer. "The elder may act as the lightning rod to keep the message tightly grounded." The elder and the person with a ministry need to maintain close concordance. Effective eldering requires the ability to be on intimate terms with the minister. Naming the gift of eldering, that ability to see what's required to allow those present to be faithful, implies the commitment to receive the gift of eldering.

The remainder of the weekend was a time of worship and holding up the possibilities and obstacles to supporting the working of God through us in our meetings. Questions explored, which might be looked at closely by our Yearly Meeting, were: How do we acknowledge and support gifts given to us by God for the faith community? Who owns the gift and whom is it for? Who are our Elders, those with developed gifts of discernment and love? Whose lives reflect the working of the spirit? How do we provide the opportunities to know people well enough to see this? How might we better support the emerging gifts of our young people? What fears prevent us from accepting the gifts given to individuals among us and how might we overcome these fears?

We would welcome further exploration of these queries at the Yearly Meeting sessions.

Christian Peacemaker Teams in Palestine: A Letter to National Public Radio

James Satterwhite
Bluffton Worship Group, Broadmead Meeting
Dear NPR News,

On Tuesday, Sept. 17, *Morning Edition* carried an interesting report on the Peruvian converts to Judaism who have settled in the settlement of Karmeit Zzur in the West Bank. (You may not be aware that a story on the same topic was featured in the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* this summer.) I would like to comment on some aspects of this story that are in need of correction, as I have spent the last 5 summers working with the Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) in Hebron and in the village of Beit Ummar, right next to Karmeit Zzur.

FIRST -- In the interview with Linda Gradstein, the following statements were made:

"Mordechai's group is the third to emigrate to Israel from Peru, and all of them went to live in Jewish settlements. Rabbi David Mamo, who arranged the conversions in Peru, says one of the conditions was that the new Jews come to live in Israel.

Rabbi DAVID MAMO: (Foreign language spoken)

GRADSTEIN: 'The commandment to live in the land of Israel is equal to all of the other commandments combined,' he said, 'but where in Israel is unimportant. It could be Tel Aviv, Haifa or Hebron.' ...

Sara Weinreb (ph), the Peruvians' absorption coordinator, says the settlers welcomed the Peruvians the way they would welcome any new immigrant who wanted to make aliyah, the Hebrew term for 'moving to Israel.' "

What is not mentioned or commented on is that Karmeit Zzur is not in Israel, but in the West Bank, which has the status of "Occupied Territories." What is precisely at the root of the conflict is that the settlement movement is trying to de-facto annex these territories to Israel, in contravention of international law. NPR should point this information out to its listeners in order for the context to be understood.

SECOND --

In the interview mention was made of the fact that "a month after the Peruvians arrived, Palestinian gunmen infiltrated Karmeit Zzur and murdered a young

Israeli couple." This event was a tragic part of the cycle of violence in the region. What was not reported, however, was the context for that violence. The settlement of Karmeit Zzur has been steadily expanding its boundaries, confiscating and expropriating land from the farmers in the surrounding villages of Beit Ummar and Halhoul, as is illustrated in the following report from CPT, dated August 19 of this year. (I was one of the CPTers involved in the July 9 accompaniment mentioned below.)

BEIT UMMAR URGENT ACTION: Allow Palestinian farmers to get to their land.

In June 2002 Israeli settlers from the nearby settlement of Karmeit Zzur unilaterally expanded their borders and built a road, destroying dozens of fruit trees and preventing the Beit Ummar farmers who own the land from reaching it. On July 9, members of Christian Peacemaker Teams accompanied Palestinian farmers hoping to harvest their plums; they were blocked by armed Israeli settlers and soldiers.

In the next month the grapes in this same area will be ready for harvest.

At stake are about 1500 tons of grapes during the next two months. Also at stake are Palestinian rights to go to their land -- in this one case, about 125 acres. At a time when curfew and closure are already choking the economy, preventing the harvest and marketing of produce puts more families closer to starvation.

The situation in the village of Beit Ummar is replicated throughout the West Bank and Gaza.

These are examples of how NPR needs to have more critical reflection in its reporting, so as to give a more complete picture of the situation in Israel/Palestine.

Sincerely,

James Satterwhite

If we could read the secret histories of our enemies, we should find in each man's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility.

--Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Wilmington College Peace Symposium – 2002

submitted by Marge Nelson
From *Among Friends*, Athens Friends Meeting,
November 2002

The twelfth annual Westheimer Peace Symposium at Wilmington College had as its theme: *Stolen Childhood - Restoring Hope*. Four speakers presented compelling accounts of this worldwide problem.

Lori Henninger is Quaker Representative to the U.N. and director of Quaker House, a facility of QUNO in New York. She reported on her research into the experiences of girl-child soldiers in four places: Angola, Sri Lanka, Latin America, and the Philippines. This report was to be formally released later in New York so we got a preview. Girls are abducted or run away to join armed forces in areas of conflict, often in their early teens or younger. Frequently they give a history of neglect or abuse at home. Often they are forbidden to speak of home, family, or anything about their past. They become completely cut off from their roots. Sometimes they have been involved directly in killing. The challenge of re-integrating them into society is enormous. If they return to their home villages, often they are viewed with suspicion and hostility - especially if they arrive, for example, with a sewing machine, some vocational training and a little money: seen as a 'reward' for their violent past in contrast to villagers who have not received any such benefits. "To re-integrate them successfully, we have to think about the whole village," Lori said. Talking with her afterward, I found that she had just returned from visiting the Great Lakes Initiative Program we have been supporting in Rwanda and Burundi and is very impressed with the work they are doing, especially the Alternatives to Violence program.

Jean Robert Cadet was born in Haiti. He does not know his real birthday or exactly how old he is. His mother died when he was about 4 and he was given to a well-to-do family in Port au Prince as a *restavec*: a domestic child slave. I quote from an article he wrote for a UNICEF magazine: "*Restavecs*, once acquired, are reduced to a sub-human underclass and robbed of their humanity. They receive no compensation for their labor, and their right to express their needs and emotions is denied, while their spiritual needs are ignored. As a *restavec* I suffered from separation trauma because there were no substitutes for the biological family I left behind. ... *Restavecs* set tables for meals in which they cannot partake, fetch water they cannot use for their own needs, are denied medical care when [ill], are forbidden to speak until spoken to and stay outside when adults are inside. ... At night when the adults

installed themselves in the living room, I would go behind the house to watch '*I Love Lucy*' through the window screen, standing on cement blocks in the dark while mosquitoes feasted on my exposed arms and legs. I had to be constantly within reach of the grown-ups' voices in case they wanted to be served cold beverages from the refrigerator within their reach. I remained out of sight until everyone was in bed, arranged my bedding under the kitchen table and awoke before anyone got out of bed." I have ordered his book, *Restavec: From Haitian Slave Child to Middle Class American* and will make it available to interested Friends.

Eileen Cooper Reed is the director of Children's Defense Fund Ohio. She reminded us with skillful use of CDF statistics that here at home in the US and in Ohio we also have children who are being robbed of a safe and nurturing childhood, sometimes even of their lives. She spoke of substandard education, lack of access to health care, and numerous other problems. However, one statement she made I found so arresting that I missed the next several paragraphs of her talk. "In the United States, a child is shot and killed on average every few minutes. Every three days we kill the equivalent of one classroom of children." [Athens City School system has 2961 children enrolled this year. This statistic represents the equivalent of killing all of these children in one year with more than a week left over for 'holidays.']

Many of these children are minority children and almost all of them are poor. Our evening speaker, Carl Upchurch, is one of the lucky few from his south Philadelphia ghetto neighborhood who is neither dead nor still in prison. He dropped out of school at 9. From that time until age 31 his education was on the streets or in prison. While serving a 4-year sentence in Western [Penn] State Penitentiary for a \$490 robbery, "By now I was determined to find a new way to live or die trying. Western gave me a chance of working or going to school. ... College classes were not what I expected... ... most of the teachers expected us to sit in class, take notes, and spit the information back on a test. ... a few teachers used a better process. One of my favorite teachers was Martha Connamacher, who taught chemistry and physics... ." That made me sit up. I knew Martha and Bob Connamacher in Pittsburgh Friends Meeting. Then Carl said, "I left prison in July and went to Earlham College that fall." I sat up even straighter... South Philly - just blocks from where I did my internship and residency, the Connamachers, and now Earlham! We'd walked the same places but just

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Report to Friends Committee on Unity with Nature on LEYM Activities, October 2002

Blessings for Creation,
Al Connor & Dick Hogan
LEYM Representatives to FCUN

To those gathered at Burlington, VT for FCUN's Annual Meeting, greetings.

LOWER MICHIGAN ACTIVITIES

On Saturday, October 12th, there is a forum at Michigan Friends Center on "Michigan's Water: Supply and Quality," a project initiated by the Ann Arbor Friends Meeting's Environmental and Social Concerns Committee, and sponsored by a number of faith and environmental groups.

The presentations and panelists are:

- Aquifers and Wetlands, by James Clift, Policy Director of the Michigan Environmental Council. He monitors environmental, public health, and related issues at the Michigan State legislature.
- Water Quality and Clean up in the Huron River Watershed, by Elizabeth Riggs, coordinator of the Middle Huron Initiative to reduce water pollution to meet federal Clean Water Standards.
- Managing Storm and Waste Water Disposal, by Janis Bobrin, Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner. The major focus of her office is the impact of storm water sewerage and runoff on the environment and water quality.

ANN ARBOR MEETING

Besides involvement in the forum on Michigan water mentioned above, the Ann Arbor Environmental and Social Concerns Committee is active in sharing leadership as part of a county interfaith network. We have discovered this sharing of leadership on local ecology and environmental concerns accomplishes more than unilateral action.

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

It has been a productive year for ecological and environmental issues in the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. An Earthcare Committee was established this summer by the Yearly Meeting (See LEYM minute in BeFriend-ing Creation). This committee offers the practice of "earthcare" as "care of community, care of the earth, and sharing in the abundance of Creation." Presently, after a summer to handle other matters, Bill Bliss will now begin emailing LEYM Earthcare bulletins. Although the six purposes of this committee listed in the

minute presently exceed the energy available, it is hoped in time that needed energy can be found.

OHIO RIVER BASIN & SOUTHEAST OHIO BIOREGION

Greenfire Ecovillage & Earth Regeneration Center in the Athens area, with the involvement and support of the Athens Friends Meeting and key committed members, FCUN/greenfire ad hoc committee, LEYM Earthcare committee members and others, is continuing to form and advance this regional center and Quaker village community for earthcare and regeneration to re-inhabit the earth, recover the commons and establish a mutually enhancing human/earth relationship.

This past spring and summer, greenfire's education and outreach programs included Quaker earthcare workcamps and a 10-day workshop in September provided to teach natural building techniques. During this time, we began work on "greenfire cottage," an earthen, solar structure situated overlooking the newly built pond and enhanced wetlands which were constructed during July and August. Dozens of friends and neighbors from around the region, as well as workshop participants from coast to coast, pitched in as an inspired team effort.

At greenfire, regenerative community and sustainable systems are substantially emerging. Folks at greenfire are also involved in support and sponsorship of the Athens area annual Sustainability Festival as well as with numerous regional organizations committed to healing the earth community and building local economy.

Wilmington College Peace Symposium

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missed each other. Carl is a riveting and charismatic speaker with a passion to rescue ghetto children from the kind of childhood he had. Someone asked him about racism in America. "Yeah, we have racism in America. Racism is like rain. It gets on everyone. We all get soaked by it. I decided I needed to make myself a good umbrella so I could get on with my life." I have his book, *Convicted in the Womb: One man's Journey from Prisoner to Peacemaker*, and will be happy to lend it out. Bottom line: a dynamite day. I'm really glad I went.

Greenfire - Quaker Villages and Regenerative Communities Re-inhabiting the Earth

Dick Hogan

The earth-healing mission and outreach of greenfire Ecovillage and Earth Regeneration Center, located on 74 acres in southeast Ohio, further unfolded this summer with two exciting, multifunctional projects - the construction of a pond and enhanced wetlands and a ten-day natural building course. Each of these events enhanced the regenerative infrastructure of greenfire while building community near and far.

The long-awaited pond/wetlands project was completed this summer with the help of a multitude of volunteer hours and the participation and support of the Natural Resource Conservation Service/USDA. This water feature conserves and purifies water while magnifying life for non-humans and humans alike.

A south-facing slope overlooking the pond was the setting for our ten-day natural building workshop, which brought together twenty participants from across the continent into a spontaneous family to participate in the construction of "greenfire cottage," an earthen solar structure. Gathering local materials, including clay, soil, sand and straw, folks learned to build/sculpt with an ancient building material called "cob," creating an artful, modern home.

Fall activities will focus on continued work on "greenfire cottage" through weekend earthcare work

camp. Spring and summer of 2003 offerings will include weekend workshops on earthen floors, natural plasters, living roofs, water systems, heating and energy systems, and building a sculptured cob bread oven.

A primary element of greenfire's mission is to provide earth-healing and lifeway learning opportunities while growing a spirit-led village community set in a perpetual sacred land trust. Areas of focus will include food production, natural building, renewable energy, and permaculture, as we advance the "Great Work" of re-inhabiting the earth, rebalancing earth processes, and working toward the recovery of the sacred commons of the blessed earth community.

If you would like to know more about greenfire, receive our newsletter, or participate in workshops or volunteer opportunities, contact us at: greenfire, 2767 State Route 56, New Marshfield, Ohio 45766, (740) 664-4028, email: life@greenfireathome.org. If you would like to support the outreach of greenfire through its educational programming or land acquisition fund, please send your tax-deductible donation to FCUN, 173-B North Prospect St., Burlington, VT 05401-1607, earmarked for greenfire. Your support of, and participation in, our continuing formation, research, and educational outreach are greatly needed and appreciated.

Friends Traveling Directory

Winkie Covintree
Printed in Birmingham Newsletter,
July-August 2002

This past July, my daughter Kate and I made a cross-country drive from Pontiac, Michigan, to Yakima, Washington, and back. Three of the many nights on the road were spent in Quaker homes, thanks to the Directory for Traveling Friends.

What a great way to meet fellow Quakers! The directory is published by Friends General Conference. It lists (in alphabetical order by state and foreign country) those who are willing to host travelers, along with descriptions of the accommodations available, pets in the home, and requirements of guests.

It is customary for the visitor to acquire a "traveling minute" from his or her meeting to carry along as an introduction.

Our Quaker hosts in Missoula, Montana; Bismarck, North Dakota; and St. Paul, Minnesota, encouraged us to find stops along the way we might have otherwise missed.

This encouragement connected us a little more closely to distant communities. Not to mention, all were fun, comfortable, and nourishing to body and spirit.

You can list your home in the traveling directory, too. We've had a few Quakers travel through Detroit and stay with us.

For me, the traveling directory is a great resource and an opportunity for friendship and connection.

American Friends Service Committee

News and Thoughts

from the Michigan Area Office in October 2002

Criminal Justice Program

We are working to support House Bill 6367, legislation introduced into the state legislature last month by Rep. Kenneth Daniels of Detroit that would change the way the prison phone system works. Since a contract between Sprint and the Michigan corrections system went into effect earlier this year, prisoners' families have been having trouble receiving calls from their loved ones in prison. The phone companies have placed blocks on thousands of phone numbers that receive calls from prisons and demanded pre-payment in order to lift the blocks. The rate charged for the collect calls is very high and is a tremendous burden for prisoners' families - many of whom are of limited means. The Daniels bill would stop the blocks and prepayment and allow for a debit system through which prisoners could have accounts and would get billed at the station-to-station rate. The bill now sits in the Corrections Committee. Please contact your state legislators and ask them to urge Corrections Committee chair Jennifer Faunce to hold hearings on this bill and to move it out of committee as quickly as possible.

We are in need of volunteers to help with mailings, filing, and other office tasks. We are also seeking individuals willing to be trained to answer prisoner mail. Because of the amount of training involved handling the mail, we ask this category of volunteers for a minimum commitment of 2 hours per week for two years. We especially need volunteers with a medical background, as the majority of our letters are medical complaints. Please call the office at 734-761-8283 if you are interested in any type of volunteer work with us.

LGBT ISSUES PROGRAM

As Election Day approaches the LGBT issues program is hard at work on the current Ypsilanti charter amendment. The Ypsilanti Campaign for Equality will need all the help they can get up until the election, which is November 5th. Please stand with us for justice and vote no Nov 5th against discrimination. AFSC will also be holding a candlelight vigil on the eve before the election in front of City Hall (1st Huron and Michigan Ave) at 8:45 p.m.

AFSC LGBT issues program also has a new website — check us out at www.afsc-fan.org!

The Canadian Friend

Dear Friends,

PLEASE NOTE NEW CONTACT INFORMATION:

Please change your contact information for *The Canadian Friend*, effective October 1, 2002:

The Canadian Friend
c/o June Etta Chenard
201 Clendenan Avenue
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
M6P 2W9
Telephone: (416) 767-7730
E-mail: cf-editor@quaker.ca

Thank you.

June Etta Chenard,

Editor of *The Canadian Friend*, magazine of Canadian Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Earlham School of Religion

Earlham School of Religion has two week intensive graduate courses which can be taken for credit or audit either in Richmond, IN, or four regional areas: Hartford, CT, Greensboro, NC, Marshalltown, IA, and Pasadena, CA. More information can be found at <esr.earlham.edu>

Course titles are: *Educational Ministries in the Local Meeting or Church, Introduction to Distributive Education & Spiritual Formation, Aspects of Writing as Christian Ministry, Theology and Worship, Group Pastoral Care, Ministry with Children, Joy of Sects, Gospel of Matthew, Emergency Pastoral Care, Ministry Among Unprogrammed Friends, Moral & Faith Development, Pastoral Ministry Among Friends, Writing for Ministry: Faith and Literature, Quaker Beliefs, Technology and Ministry, Christian Reconciliation: Conflict Resolution in Church and World, Exegesis of OT Biblical Narrative.*

To register or for more information, contact Sue Axtell, (800) 432-1377 or axtelsu@earlham.edu.

Sue Axtell

Reflections on Central Committee Meeting of Friends General Conference

October 31-November 3, 2002

Leonora Cayard

For me, participating in the annual meeting of the Central Committee of Friends General Conference is always a deeply spiritual experience. Among so many committed Quakers, young and old, the presence of the Divine is often tangible, both in small groups and in the large plenary assembly. The 2002 meeting of the Central Committee was particularly focused on trying to discern where God is leading us. This involves much praying and listening and opening up to the Spirit.

Some new and exciting approaches have already begun. The new Traveling Ministry program brings seasoned Friends to meetings, particularly isolated or small ones, which express a need for spiritual nourishment and guidance. Programs for youth are developing that provide young people with experiences of community and of spiritual growth, and that include them in the work of the Religious Society of Friends—because “our young people are not only our future, they are the Religious Society of Friends.” There is better communication and an emphasis on relationships in the structure of our organization, and the successful conclusion of the “Nurturing Quakerism Campaign” is making these new approaches possible.

However, it has become clear that God is leading us on two especially important roads to live out our testimonies. For several years already, eliminating racism and white privilege in Friends General Conference has become a powerful imperative. So many of us in a white culture are not aware of how privileged we

are and how our Friends of color are discriminated against even among Quakers. We need to undertake this work to sensitize ourselves to the injustices and to overcome the very real discrimination in our beloved Religious Society. To further this work, the FGC Committee for Ministry on Racism will organize an Anti-Racism Training Session for representatives from all twenty yearly meetings and regional groups in FGC at the Gilmory Diocesan Center in Pittsburgh, January 16-20, 2003. The committee is also offering workshops to all yearly and monthly meetings individually. We hope that FGC meetings will become more welcoming to persons from different backgrounds, and that we all become enriched by greater diversity in our spiritual communities.

The second great imperative God is laying before us is to live up to our Peace Testimony. The current crises of violence and warmongering have already activated many of us to try to influence our government by lobbying, petitions, protests and demonstrations. But there is even a greater challenge laid upon us—many other churches and religious communities are asking us how they can become involved in this struggle for peace. The World Council of Churches has approached the three historical peace churches for education in this work. Local meetings need to learn how to do ecumenical and interfaith work, and the Religious Society of Friends has to step out of the background as a small minority movement into the light of leadership among the world's churches. Together we have to proclaim our God-given commandment to make peace.

(Continued from page 4)

been so active recently and in the past in LINKING WITH OTHERS in testimonies of peace and social justice in so many communities, I would urge LEYM to consider again affiliation with the Ohio Council of Churches. That Council has asked that we send an “observer” in order to initiate a relationship with them. Bill Hummon from Athens Meeting volunteered last year to perform this role for us and would be effective for us in forming a relationship with those of diverse Christian faiths there. He is completing his Masters at the Earlham School of Religion at present. The Ohio Council of Churches is aware of and values our unique practices and points of view to offer this ongoing relationship to us. I hope that beginning this relationship will be thoughtfully considered in March.

International Festival

Printed in NCFM newsletter, December 2002

The NCFM booth at this year's Columbus International Festival was an especially successful one. Many visitors to the booth wrote messages of peace on paper leaves and attached them to our Peace Tree, and it seemed that many people were looking for such a way to express their concerns about war. The booth, stocked with buttons, bumper stickers, and our special “Pacifism is not Passive” T-shirts, raised \$180. There are still T-shirts available, and those who would like them are invited to contact Bradley Clymer, clymer1@osu.edu; all the contributions given in exchange for T-shirts will go to the Accessibility Campaign.

Representative Meeting, March 1, 2003

Sally Weaver Sommer
Presiding Clerk

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting has two gatherings a year: Representative Meeting held the first Saturday of March, and the yearly meeting annual session held the third weekend of June. The work of the yearly meeting is happening throughout the year, but these gatherings are times for us to come together to worship, to meet as committees, to make decisions, and to renew friendships and create new friendships. Representative Meeting is a one-day meeting, smaller and shorter in length than the yearly meeting sessions in June. All committee members and officers of the yearly meeting should plan to attend. Others are very welcome.

This year's representative meeting will be held at Cleveland Friends Meeting house. If you plan to attend, please fill out the registration form found in this newsletter and send it to the designated address by February 22. The agenda for the day will be as follows:

Registration	8:15 AM
Meeting for Worship	9:00 AM
Announcements	9:50 AM
Committee meetings	10:00 AM
Lunch	12:00 AM
Meeting for Business	1:00 PM
Adjournment	4:00 PM

Letter From Music Camp

Mattie Johnson & Winn Johnson
7 August 2002

Dear Young Friends,

We just got back from Friends Music Camp in Barnesville, Ohio. We are 12 and 16 year old sisters and have both been attending camp since we were 10. We're writing to tell you a little about our experiences at camp.

Over the years, we have enjoyed playing in musical groups ranging from jazz improv with the famous Brendan Cooney, who once wore a watermelon on his head during a performance, to madrigal singing and chamber ensembles. One of our favorite groups is the camp orchestra conducted by Wendy Champney. Wendy is an amazing musician who plays viola in a quartet in Switzerland, but she's originally from Yellow Springs, OH. This year a *concerto grosso* by Vivaldi and a Bizet farandole were our favorite orchestra pieces. We had a chamber orchestra this year for selected players.

Camp is the only time we've taken a four hour bus ride that's fun. Where is the whole camp going that is four hours away? To Yellow Springs, where our camp director Peg Champney lives, to put on a benefit concert for Yellow Springs' sister city in Nicaragua. (Yes, Peg is related to Wendy.) This year it was the orchestra's turn to perform and we played two pieces. But that was not all; the famous whole camp chorus closed the concert as it does each year. After a stop for ice cream we're headed home (well sort of).

What do giggles, strike, the thrift store, spray paint, the whole camp, and lots of fun have in common? The FMC musical of course! This year we put on *Once Upon A Mattress*, which is a hilarious takeoff on *The Princess and the Pea*. In case you were wondering what strike and giggles have to do with a musical, we were merely indicating that our musicals are almost always funny. Strike is well ... strike is that time that sounds boring but is actually fun when we take down the set, sweep the floor, erase the marks in the scripts, and generally try to keep Drea (who is our FABULOUS director) from having to do all the cleanup.

Of course we don't just work, work, work. We take breaks to have a pool party, play a huge game of Capture the Flag, and have a costume dance. We also take a night hike to Fairyland. What is that? That is for us to know and you to find out.

Why don't people want to go home at the end of camp? They know they're going to miss all the great friends they've made at camp and of course all the fun times they shared. We hope to see you at camp!

Your friends,

Mattie Johnson & Winn Johnson

P.S. Camp is for people 10-18 who are committed to making music.

Representative Meeting Registration & Directions

Representative Meeting will be at Cleveland Friends Meeting, 10916 Magnolia Dr., Cleveland. The phone there is 216/791-2220. We will provide lunch for a contribution of \$5 per person for those who have registered in advance. Child care WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED FOR THOSE WHO NOTIFY US IN ADVANCE.

Here are instructions to the Meeting House from I-90. There are essentially two ways of approaching the meeting house from I-90 if you come from the south or west--either via Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. or via Carnegie Avenue.

FROM THE EAST:

Take I-90 East to Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Turn left (south) at the bottom of the off ramp, onto MLK. Take Martin Luther King Jr. to the 2nd traffic light (about 2.3 miles) at E. 105th St. Cross E. 105th St, go 3/5 around the circle (noting that at this circle incoming traffic has the right of way over vehicles already in the circle) and up the hill, past the VA Hospital on your left, to the traffic light at E. 108th St (.3 mile). Go left on E. 108th St., one short block to the stop sign at Magnolia Dr. Turn right on Magnolia and look for the Friends Meeting House at 10916 Magnolia. It's the second building on the right. Park on the street or in the University Circle Inc. parking lot diagonally across the street from the Meeting House. There is also a little parking space behind the Meeting House itself. The parking meters on the street do not need to be fed on weekends.

FROM THE WEST:

If coming from the West on I-90 get off at Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., turn right, and follow the same directions as from the West.

FROM THE SOUTH:

Follow I-71 till it merges with I-90. If you are coming north on I-77 follow it till it merges with I-90. Then either follow the instructions above to Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

OR get off I-90 at Carnegie and go east (turn right) to E. 105th Street (there is a traffic light). Turn left on E. 105th to the traffic light at the traffic circle that is sort of on your right. Turn right and go part way around the circle (noting that at this circle incoming traffic has the right of way over vehicles already in the circle) and up the hill, past the VA Hospital on your left, to the traffic light at E. 108th St (.3 mile). Go left on E. 108th St., one short block to the stop sign at Mag-

nolia Dr. Turn right on Magnolia and look for the Friends Meeting House at 10916 Magnolia. It's the second building on the right.

ALTERNATIVELY, look up the address on the web and get a map there.

Registration will be very helpful if you want (1) lunch, (2) child care, or (3) overnight hospitality. If we do not hear from you in regard to any of these services by Feb. 22 we cannot guarantee that you will be able to have them.

You can email to kwg@po.cwru.edu, or leave a phone message at the Meeting House 216/791-2220, or use the mail to CFM, 10916 Magnolia Dr., Cleveland OH 44106. (If you use the mail, remember that commemorative stamps will be given to RSWR to raise money for their good projects.)

See agenda overleaf.

Registration \$5.00
Name _____
email (if available) _____ or phone _____
Please include me for lunch _____; vegetarian _____; omnivore _____
I need child care for the following children:
name _____ : age _____ name _____ : age _____
I need overnight hospitality for this many people on Friday Feb. 28 _____ Saturday Mar. 1 _____
Please mail to: Marty Grundy Cleveland Friends Meeting 10916 Magnolia Dr. Cleveland OH 44106
Or email to: kwg@po.cwru.edu

Pictures from LEYM 2002



Some of the goings-on at the LEYM intergenerational activities.

Photo by Bill Hummon

Mathilda Navias performing on the dulcimer, LEYM talent night.

Photo by Bill Hummon



Donna Hawkins and Joyce Callahan, joint creators of last summer's LEYM Youth Program.

Photo by Bill Hummon



Friendly Web Sites

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

- Akron Friends Meeting..... <http://home.att.net/~ericstarbuck/AFM.html>
- Detroit Friends Meeting <http://hometown.aol.com/detroitmtg/index.htm>
- Friends School in Detroit www.friendschool.org
- Green Pastures QM www.greenpasturesqm.org
- Lake Erie Yearly Meeting..... <http://www.quaker.org/leym/>
- Michigan Friends Center..... <http://comnet.org/local/orgs/mfc/index.html>
- N Columbus Friends Meeting. <http://members.aol.com/quakerohio/ncfm/ncfm.html>
- N Columbus Friends Meeting. <http://www.netwalk.com/~ncfm/text.html>
- Pittsburgh Friends Meeting..... <http://www.quaker.org/pghpamm/>
- Red Cedar Friends Meeting ... <http://redcedar.quaker.org>
- Wooster Friends Meeting..... <http://wooster.quaker.org>

INFO & PUBLISHING

- Frequently Asked Questions .. <http://www.faqs.org/faqs/Quaker-faq/soc.religion.quaker>
- FGC Bookstore <http://quakerbooks.org/>
- Kimo Press, Chuck Fager..... <http://www.kimopress.com/>
- Quaker Information <http://www.quakerinfo.com/>
- Quaker URL & info site <http://www.quaker.org/>
- Quakers and the Arts Historical Sourcebook <http://home.att.net/~quakart/>
- Searchable Web Directory..... <http://Quakerfinder.org>
- Western Friends Directory..... <http://members.aol.com/friendsbul/WestFriendsDirectory.html>

WIDER QUAKER

- Britain Yearly Meeting <http://www.quaker.org.uk/>
- EFI..... <http://www.evangelical-friends.org/>
- Fellowship of Friends of African Descent <http://www.quaker.org/ffad/index.html>
- 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>
- Michigan Friends Center <http://comnet.org/local/orgs/mfc/index.html>
- Ohio Yearly Meeting <http://members.tripod.com/~ohiofriends/>
- Olney Friends School <http://www.olneyfriends.org/>
- Pendle Hill <http://www.pendlehill.org/>
- Quaker Universalist Fellowship <http://www.qis.net/~daruma/QUF/>
- Susan Jeffers' page www.read-the-bible.org
- William Penn House <http://www.quaker.org/penn-house>

SOCIAL ACTION

- American Friends Service Committee <http://www.afsc.org>
- Canadian Friends Service Committee <http://www.web.net/~cfsc>
- Christian Peacemaker Teams <http://www.prairienet.org/cpt/>
- Friends Committee on National Legislation <http://www.fcni.org>
- Friends Committee on Unity with Nature <http://fcun.org>
- Friends for a Non-Violent World..... <http://www.fnvw.org/>
- Friends for Lesbian and Gay Concerns .. <http://www.quaker.org/flgc/>
- Help The Afghan Children <http://www.htaci.com/>
- International Peace Bureau <http://www.ipb.org>
- Peace Tax Fund <http://www.peacetax.com>
- QUONO - Quaker United Nations Organization..... <http://www.quono.org>
- Right Sharing of World Resources..... <http://www.rswr.org>

LEYM Change of Address

Please return to:

Name _____

Susan Jeffers

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Thank you!

Zip _____

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

Email _____

Meeting _____

Calendar

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

- ü 1/17/2003-1/20/2003, THE QUAKE THAT ROCKED THE MIDWEST, 734-439-7688, KRI ANDERSON
- ü 3/1/2003, REPRESENTATIVE MEETING--CLEVELAND,
- ü 3/15/2003, DUE DATE FOR SPRING LEYM BULLETIN, ERICSTARBUCK@ATT.NET
- ü 5/23/2003-5/25/2003, SPIRITUAL FORMATION EAST, BARNESVILLE, 740-425-1248, BILL TABER
- ü 6/19/2003-6/22/2003, LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

GREEN PASTURES QUARTERLY MEETING

- ü 2/8/2003, GREEN PASTURES MID-WINTER QUARTERLY MEETING, RED CEDAR MEETING
- ü 5/17/2003, MEETING, GREEN PASTURES SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING, MICHIGAN FRIENDS CENTER
- ü 8/9/2003, GATHERING, GREEN PASTURES SUMMER GATHERING
- ü 9/20/2003, MEETING, GREEN PASTURES FALL QUARTERLY MEETING, FRIENDS SCHOOL IN DETROIT

FRIENDS CENTER OF OHIO YEARLY MEETING

BILL TABER, 740-425-1248

- ü 2/21/2003-2/23/2003, RETREAT, RESISTANCE AND OBE- DIENCE TO GOD: A WEEKEND WITH DAVID FERRIS, MARTY GRUNDY
- ü 3/28/2003-3/30/2003, RETREAT, SHAPE NOTE SINGING: A WAY TO EXPAND THE HEART TOWARD GOD, THOM & EILEEN METZGER
- ü 4/25/2003-4/27/2003, RETREAT, FRIENDS MEETING FOR BUSINESS, SUSAN SMITH
- ü 5/23/2003-5/25/2003, RETREAT, SPIRITUAL FORMATION EAST, BETSY MEYER

MICHIGAN FRIENDS CENTER

(734) 433-0937

- ü 1/25/2003,10:30 AM-5:30 PM, INTER-MEETING AND IN- TERPERSONAL SHARING ON PEACE VIGILS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES, WINTERFEST WITH A CONCERT BY GEMINI MUSICAL PERFORMANCE, (734) 662-3435
- ü 3/29/2003, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, WORKSHOP, HOW OUR INDIVIDUAL SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS RELATE TO EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN. LED BY DWIGHT WILSON, HEADMASTER, FRIENDS SCHOOL IN DETROIT, QUAKER EDUCATOR, FORMER FGC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
- ü 4/5/2003, WORKSHOP: WHAT DO WE IMAGINE FOR WOMEN FROM THE BIBLE, QUAKER HISTORY, AND THE SPIRIT? MIDRASH EXERCISE, CREATING OUR STORIES. (WOMEN ONLY). LED BY SEBRINA TINGLEY, SOUTH BEND MEETING, EXTRAORDINARY SOCIAL-RELIGIOUS AC- TIVIST
- ü 4/12/2003, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, WORKSHOP: PRIMITIVE CHRISTIANITY REVIVED: WHAT EARLY FRIENDS HAVE TO TEACH US. PAUL BUCKLEY, QUAKER WRITER AND HISTO- RIAN, OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING, CO-CLERK OF FGC GATHERING, 2002
- ü 4/26/2003, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, WORKSHOP: ALTERNA- TIVES TO VIOLENCE -- INTRODUCTION AND EXPERIENTIAL PRACTICE -LED BY GEOFF BRIEGER, BIRMINGHAM MEETING;FACILITATOR, MARGARET KANOST, BIRMING- HAM MEETING
- ü 5/3/2003, WORKSHOP: "LIVING LIGHTLY"; ECO- SIMPLICITY AND ENHANCING CREATION

WIDER QUAKER

- ü 1/17/2003-1/20/2003, FWCC GATHERING ON PEACE, GUILFORD COLLEGE, GREENSBORO, NC
- ü 1/31/2004, FWCC 21ST TRIENNIAL, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Address Service Requested

LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

Eric Starbuck
2312 Mission St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15203-2423
Email: ericstarbuck@att.net

*We may, every one of us, if we will,
hear that Divine Voice in the secret
of our hearts.
Caroline Stephen*

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Winter 2003 Bulle-



Child Care as an Element of Meeting Outreach

Deb Kociszewski
LEYM Advancement and Outreach

Visitors and newcomers to our meetings are often concerned about the availability of childcare during Meeting for Worship. Having a clear plan for child care is an important consideration for meetings as visitors express an interest in attending worship, business and social functions. The LEYM Advancement and Outreach Committee encourages meetings to have a plan for child care in place for all occasions, even if the meeting does not have many children among its members and attenders. Some suggestions to consider:

- Have a clear plan for child care to allow parents and guardians to participate fully in worship and show our meetings to be places of welcome to visitors.
- Assign child care planning and oversight to a committee.
- Plan activities "just in case" and have supplies

available at all times at the meeting site. If the meeting does not have a meeting house, a portable box of supplies will work very well. Great supplies for child care are: paper, crayons, markers, string, white glue, leaves, story books and puzzles. If there is space for physical activity, a playground ball and bean bags can allow for a variety of impromptu games.

- Have a first aid kit available at all times for unexpected accidents.

Please feel free to share ideas with other meetings through the Advancement and Outreach Committee. We enjoy the opportunity to share good ideas throughout LEYM. Your ideas may be just the thing to energize other meetings. Please contact us at debkocis@yahoo.com.