



Growing in Grace, Living in the World

Clerk's Message By Peggy Daub, Clerk

Oh! blessed and happy are all they that are come into this sweet being of universal love, which would have all to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth. This is the image and nature of the blessed God, that holds forth His tender hand, and everlasting love, unto all people, nations, languages, kindreds and tongues.....

Margaret Fell, Letter to Friends in Ireland, 1661

We may seem at times to take God for granted. But we know the beyond in our midst; we rely on grace, on God's free, sustaining, creative and lively action as we rely on the air we breathe and the ground we walk on.

London Yearly Meeting, 1986

"Growing in Grace: LEYM Celebrates 50 Years" has just been announced as the theme of our annual sessions 2013 by the yearly meeting's Program Committee, and has been much on my mind and heart.

The opportunity to celebrate our longevity and growth as a yearly meeting is a great cause for celebration. We were an association of monthly meetings for decades before we used the term "yearly meeting," beginning in 1963, and it was several more years before we joined the Friends General Conference as a yearly meeting. Choosing to celebrate the passage of 50 years



since 1963 gives us a reason to consider where we have been and where we are going. We can celebrate ourselves and those who came before us who worked to build and strengthen both the yearly meeting and Quakerism in general in our region. We are lucky enough to have a few people among us who have been involved in our monthly meetings and perhaps the yearly meeting for most of the span of our history. Many others can count their involvement in decades. This is a good time to capture the reminiscences of those individuals, which is exactly the task that our LEYM Program Committee is inviting

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each of our monthly meetings to take up in the next few months. As you will read elsewhere in this bulletin, each local meeting is invited to collect interviews and share them with yearly meeting at our annual sessions in July.

The idea of growing in grace **as a group** is also well worth considering. As David Finke wrote (1996), "We are the Religious Society of Friends, not a random assortment of individual Quakers." Just as the quotations at the beginning of this column speak of how the grace of God is available to all, they also reflect the truth that God is available to all of us **together** as seek how we are led to conduct our business. We have a fundamental trust in continuing revelation – a belief that receiving Grace, or understanding more of what Spirit is about, happens time and time again, and can deepen us and broaden us.

Sometimes this state of being open to receiving grace, or carrying on day-to-day life while also trying to stay in touch with what grace we might receive or what Spirit might reveal to us, is referred to as

"being in the world but not of it." American Quakers in the 19th century carried this out quite literally by living apart from their neighbors – moving as communities to the frontiers of the U.S., and sending their children to Quaker schools. Our challenge today is to manage the openness to Spirit without the segregation.

In a recent meeting for worship the following message came to me: accept grace with joy. One might think we wouldn't need to consider whether or not to accept grace, and that feeling joyful about it would be the only possible reaction. But I see some challenges in accepting grace or spirit into our everyday lives. If in accepting grace we know there is an unseen Life that transcends what we experience with our senses, we are likely to be called to change our way of life. Living in the world but not of it, we may see the world differently, evaluate the worth of worldly experiences and goods differently, and see the people around us differently. Rather than seeing only a hostile, fear-inducing environment,

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CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS:

DUE MARCH 1ST

Do you have a Friendly interest you would like to share and discuss with others in a two hour slot? If so, please consider presenting your topic as a workshop at the annual sessions of Yearly Meeting, July 25-28 at Bluffton University. There will be more opportunities for workshop presentations this year than in the past and the Program Committee will accept proposals from either LEYM committees or individuals. Proposals relating to the theme "Growing in Grace" are particularly welcomed. Please send a brief description of the workshop you would like to present to the Program Committee in care of Valerie Vogel (vkeepintouch@aol.com) by March 1st.

we recognize the love and beauty around us as well. Rather than appreciating the comfort and convenience of worldly goods, we might think about how those goods can separate us from the Holy. Rather than distinguishing between nationalities, races, and religions, we feel our kinship with all people and all creation.

May we meet the challenge of accepting with joy what Grace may bring us as individuals and as a group. May we enjoy this year of celebration together and learn from our past how to live in the Grace of God into our future

Peggy Daub, Presiding Clerk

**Growing in Grace:
LEYM Celebrates 50 Years. July 25-28, 2013
Program Committee**

“Growing in Grace: LEYM Celebrates 50 Years” has been chosen as the theme of the 50th annual sessions of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, to take place July 25-28, 2013, at Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio. Several changes will be made in the usual program to mark this event. Instead of one plenary speaker, we will enjoy presentations from a panel of people who have been active in the yearly meeting and can reflect with us on where Grace has taken us in those fifty years. Other opportunities for reminiscing and sharing stories, as well as for new areas of spiritual enrichment, will be built into the schedule. Details will be announced in the Spring Bulletin, along with registration material.

Lake Erie Yearly meeting was first named a yearly meeting in 1963. Life in 1963 may seem a lifetime away, or a blink of the eye away. It was the year President Kennedy was assassinated and Martin Luther King Jr. gave his “I have a dream” speech at a March on Washington “for jobs and freedom”. Betty Friedan published *The Feminine Mystique* and the

Beatles put out their first album. The Second Vatican Council was hard at work and the first James Bond film appeared. Four little girls were killed in a racially motivated bombing of a church in Birmingham and ZIP codes were introduced. The Soviet Union and the U.S. signed a nuclear test ban treaty and Harvey Ball invented the smiley face symbol. A group of British Quakers published *Toward a Quaker View of Sex*, which is still remembered because it focused on concepts of caring, commitment, and non-exploitation, questioning prevailing understandings of chastity and sexual orientation.

We know that many people among us have interesting stories to tell about Quaker happenings in Quaker circles during these fifty years, and encourage each monthly meeting or worship group to play a role in capturing and sharing these stories through interviews or sharing memorabilia and photos. (See the article below for details and suggestions on how to do this.)

As an experiment this year, there will be extra time in the schedule for celebration and spiritual growth. We will schedule more time both to share stories of our past and to study current topics of interest. There will be a bit less time devoted to the business of the yearly meeting, and more devoted to Meetings for Worship, workshops, and opportunities to share old memories and make new ones in fellowship. We are also issuing an invitation for people to submit additional proposals for workshops, with a deadline of March 1st. (See separate notice.)

We invite you and your meeting to get involved – both before and during our annual sessions in July -- with great expectations for enjoying many reminiscences and opportunities for spiritual growth when we meet in Bluffton.

Mind and watch to that which quickens and enlivens the soul towards God, and watch against that which flats and deadens it; for they are both near.

—Isaac Pennington, ca. 1671

Growing In Grace: LEYM Celebrates 50 Years: Sharing Your Memories

50 years is a milestone! Let's take a look at our accomplishments, remember old F(f)riends, tell our stories to those too young to remember, and make a lasting record of our history!

We are asking each Monthly Meeting of LEYM to contribute and share its stories at the 2013 Yearly Meeting. The Program Committee needs your help and memories to develop a history of individual meetings and their history with the Yearly Meeting through:

- Photos
- Memorabilia
- Written anecdotes
- Oral histories

Once collected, these memories/stories will be featured in various ways at Yearly Meeting/Annual Sessions 2013.

Logistics

1 or 2 volunteers from each Monthly Meeting will:

- Compile photos and memorabilia from members (must be marked with owner's name and Meeting on back so it can be returned)
- Interview members wishing to participate – sample questions below
- If so inclined, videotape members to be posted on You Tube

All photos, memorabilia, written anecdotes, audio files and videos must be completed by **May 15, 2013**. Items may be sent by email and snail mail to: Kate Enger, psychdrkate@gmail.com; 740-591-7255.

The Committee is also looking for a YouTube-savvy individual who could help us post the videos online. Anyone interested should contact Jo Steigerwald at jsmadge@yahoo.com.

**Deadline for Spring Bulletin Submittals:
April 14**

Sample Interview Questions

1. Your name and the year you joined your MM.
2. Tell about the first time attending Yearly Meeting/Annual Sessions.
3. Was your MM always a member of LEYM or did it start with another YM?
4. Share some special memories of F(f)riends you made at YM.
5. What is your favorite part of attending YM?
6. Tell me about a theme, clerk, or speaker that stands out in your memory.
7. What YM Committees have you served on?
8. How would you describe YM to someone who has never been?
9. What do you think the next 50 years will bring to YM?
10. Anything else?

This is an ambitious project, but one which we think will open our minds and hearts to the richness of the past 50 years. It could be a wonderful way to spend the winter months, meeting with members of your meeting who know history as only those who have been there can tell it. If you have any questions, please contact Clemence Ravacon-Mershon at 814-587-3479 or andre14@earthlink.net.

**Plan to attend!
Representative
Meeting
April 6, 2013
at Pittsburgh Friends Meeting**

Fall Youth Retreat 2012:
Fun, Farm, & Focus
Peter Crowley

Fourteen youth and their families and friends came together on the first weekend of October (5-7) to explore our Quaker connections and engage our youth in community service activities. Most families arrived Friday evening for an evening meal and social gathering to meet old and new friends. We took some time to discuss how our youth could participate in the upcoming LEYM anniversary celebration this coming year.

Saturday turned out to be a beautiful fall day. We worked with the staff person at Templed Hills in the morning on outdoor challenge exercises to focus some of the youthful energy on cooperative skills. After lunch we travelled by car caravan together to Phillip and Joyce Balderston's Farm to help with the harvest and farm chores. Our adventurous youth climbed apple trees to pick the remaining fruit, fed the spoiled ones to the livestock, harvested potatoes, horseradish roots, and corn to take to local food pantries, and each child chose a pumpkin to take home for decoration. The older youth rebuilt a pasture gate to keep the livestock from escaping. We then hiked through the woods where we set up a tepee and fed the catfish in the Balderston's pond. Each of these activities spurred lots of questions from the youth as they explored their own relationship to the sights and sounds they encountered. Phil was calm and appreciative of their interest and explained his ideas of stewardship to them in understandable terms. Our apple munching and explorations whetted our appetite for more substantial provisions which were waiting in the Balderston's Farm house laid out for our consumption while we warmed up by the crackling fire.

We arrived back "home" at Templed Hills ready to settle for the evening with a bonfire and s'mores to cap off our long and adventurous day. The older youth worked with the five younger children (under ten years) to include them in many of the activities including T shirt silk screening and outdoor game ac-

tivities. Special thanks to Clemence Mershon who shared her garden produce and expertise to feed everyone and the Crowley Family for making the arrangements and providing silk screened T shirts to all the participants. Many of the youth were able to participate through financial assistance generously provided by Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and Athens Monthly Meeting. We all look forward to meeting again this summer at Yearly Meeting and next Fall Youth Retreat.

**FGC Welcomes Brent Bill
to Coordinate New Meetings
Project**

Dear LEYM,

FGC is pleased to announce the recent appointment of J. Brent Bill as coordinator of the New Meetings Project scheduled to begin this fall. Brent is a well-known seasoned Friend who is an author, photographer, congregational consultant, retreat leader, and recorded Friends minister. He is author of more than 20 books.

Brent will be coordinating FGC's new project of intentionally nurturing new Quaker worship groups and meetings where there is a need or opportunity, and helping them to get rooted and grounded in the practices of Friends.

After his appointment, Brent wrote, "I am grateful to FGC for inviting me to this important work. The New Meetings Project is something I deeply care about and am excited about helping facilitate." Brent and his wife Nancy live on Ploughshares Farm outside of Indianapolis. Brent will be traveling and coordinating the project from his home.

The project and the methods and tools it employs will evolve over time as we learn what works for differing groups in various settings.

The New Meetings Project and the continuation of Quaker Quest are both being made possible by a generous \$400,000 grant from the Thomas H. and Mary Williams Shoemaker Fund.

Check out the new project at www.fgcquaker.org/services/new-meetings-project in the next several weeks to see how the project is progressing or e-mail newmeetings@fgcquaker.org to see how you can become involved.

With appreciation,
Barry Crossno
General Secretary
Friends General Conference



You are invited to the very first FGC Gathering in Colorado, June 30-July 6, 2013, at the lovely (and level) campus of the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO. Local Friends suggest adding a scenic vacation to your Gathering experience. (Specific recommendations will be added to the Gathering website in a month or two.) I recommend vacations after the Gathering instead of before, to give your body a chance to adjust to the 4600 ft. elevation of Greeley before venturing into the higher Rockies.

Financial Aid Is Available

The Gathering uses both scholarships and work grants to try to meet registrants' needs for financial assistance. Maximum scholarships are 50% of basic fees (with a few exceptions for extraordinary circumstances). Fees will be published online by mid December. Work grants are fee credits provided to Friends who fill certain essential roles during the Gathering. Except for Friends working with the children's program (Junior Gathering) and the High School program, work grants are generally not available to first-time attenders.

Apply for scholarships and work grants when you register for the Gathering! The earlier you register, the more likely it is that your financial need will be met. Registration opens Wednesday, April 3.

Look for a mid-December Gathering email to learn if modest travel grants are also available for some registrants.

Colorado Is Easier to Get to Than You Might Think! (and Cheaper)

Amtrak will provide a 10% discount to and from the Gathering. Travel to Denver, and then take the FGC train shuttle to Greeley. The shuttle will serve trains arriving June 29 and 30, and departing July 6. Shuttle prices will be announced by March 15.

Carpool with Friends. When you register for the Gathering, you can add your name to a carpool list, and then look for a carpool buddy from your state.

The Denver airport is quite reasonable. Be sure to check both Southwest and Frontier Airlines websites—their flights may not appear in your standard travel search (e.g., Kayak or Bing). Shuttles between Greeley and the airport will be provided by a standard shuttle services (approximate cost, \$35/person).

Gathering Website Is Evolving

We appreciate your patience as we gradually add more information about the 2013 Gathering to our website. We have a small staff – if you can't find answers to specific questions now, we prefer that you look again during the coming months (rather than emailing us now).

Please plan on coming —and bring a friend, too!

In service,

Traci Hjelt Sullivan
Conference Coordinator

Representative Meeting

April 6, 2013

at Pittsburgh Friends Meeting

Information and Registration

The 2013 LEYM Representative Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 6, at Pittsburgh Friends Meeting, 4836 Ellsworth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213. The Meeting House is located on a residential street in the Oakland/Shadyside section of Pittsburgh, close to the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University campuses. Driving directions will be provided on registration (PennDOT can be capricious in its dates of road work) and directions can be provided for those using other modes of transportation: bus, plane, train.

A **light breakfast and simple lunch** will be offered for a contribution of \$10 per person. (more if you can, less if you can't).

Child care can be provided for those who request it by March 5 (see the registration form for details).

Schedule for Saturday April 6:

Registration and simple breakfast.....	8:30 AM
Meeting for Worship.....	9:00
Greetings and Announcements.....	9:45
Committee Meetings.....	10:00
Lunch.....	12:15 PM
Meeting for Business.....	1:15
Adjournment by.....	4:30

Friends are invited to stay for worship with Pittsburgh Friends on Sunday at 9:00 or 10:30 A.M.

A meeting of the **Executive Committee** (Yearly Meeting officers and committee clerks) will be held on **Friday evening, April 5**, at the Pittsburgh Friends Meeting starting at 7:00. Supper will be provided for the Executive Committee members and traveling companions at 6:00; suggested offering \$5.

ADVANCE REGISTR ATION

(To be received by **Tuesday, March 5, 2013**)

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Meeting or Worship Group _____

Number of Persons for **Saturday lunch** _____

Number of persons for **Friday supper** _____

Vegetarians _____ Omnivores _____

Please arrange **childcare** for the following

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Overnight Accommodations

___ I(we) will make our own arrangements _____

___ I(we) need information about area hotels/motels _____

___ I(we) need hospitality with Friends on:

Friday night, April 5 (#people) _____

Saturday night, April 6 (#people) _____

Please email or post this information to:

Dolores Avner

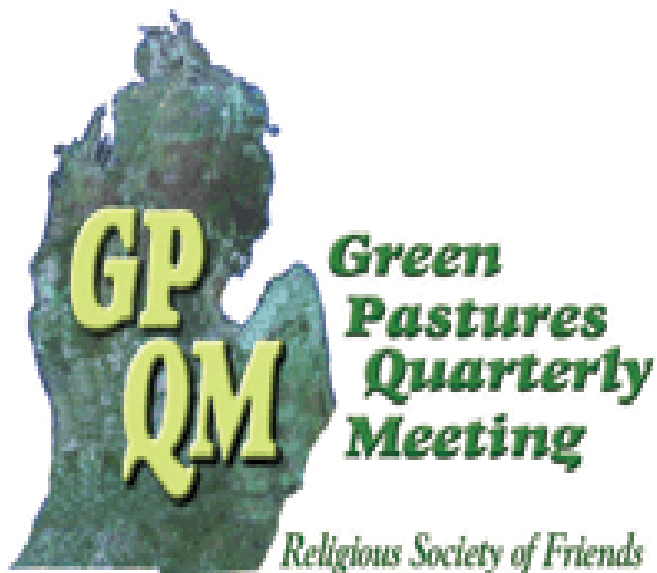
1332 Cordova Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15206

davavne@AOL.com

412.361.8304

Registration Fee: \$10 (or as able), which includes Saturday breakfast and lunch. Payment can be made on the day of the event. Make checks payable to "Pittsburgh Friends Meeting"



2013 Mid-Winter Gathering

Friday, March 15 @ 6 PM
and
Saturday, March 16 9AM—3PM
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting
1420 Hill St
Ann Arbor, MI 48104 (734) 761-7435
www.annarborfriends.org

Registration

Deadline for Lunch order and Childcare MARCH 1st

Please use one sheet per family or individual at-
tender and return to
Scot Miller, 491 126th Ave., Shelbyville, MI
49344.

Your check can be made out to
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting.
r.scot.miller@gmail.com
269-792-9183

Name(s) _____

Home Meeting _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

- ___ I/we request _____ number of suppers
March 15
- ___ I/we request _____ number of lunches
March 16 (\$7.00 each suggested donation)
- ___ I/we will need accommodations for Friday,
March 15 _____ and or Saturday,
March 16 _____ for _____ adult(s)
and _____ child(ren)
- ___ I/we will need child care

2013 Mid-Winter Quarterly Meeting
March 15-16
Ann Arbor, MI

Friday, March 15 7PM

Chuck Fager

Mystics, Psychics, Skeptics & Critics

Chuck Fager is an activist, author, editor, publisher and member of the Religious Society of Friends. He is known for his work in the civil rights movement and the peace movement. He authored *Selma 1965: The March That Changed the South*.

Fager served as Director of Quaker House in Fayetteville, North Carolina, a peace project next door to Fort Bragg, a major US Army base from 2002 to 2012. He is currently a member of Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

Saturday, March 16 1:30

Chuck Fager and Paul Buckley

Question and Response

*Diversity and Unity Among
Contemporary Liberal Friends.*

**For Hospitality, Lunch and Childcare
Register by March 1st**

**Program Coordinator
Scot Miller
269-792-9183**

Friends Meeting House
1420 Hill St, Ann Arbor, MI
(734) 761-7435 · annarborfriends.org

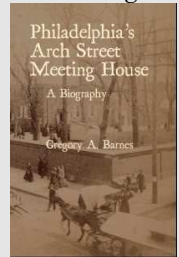
New From Quaker Books of FGC

from Graham Garner

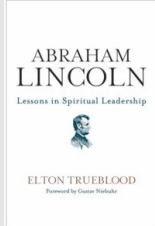
Dear LEYM,

We have quite a few new books this month! Here are some of the most interesting.

Our own QuakerBridge Media has published a very full and interesting history of the Arch Street meeting house where much of Philadelphia's Quaker history unfolded, including the historic 1827 Hick-site-Orthodox separation. Greg Barnes's [*Philadelphia's Arch Street Meeting House: A Biography*](#) is a valuable addition to American Quaker history.



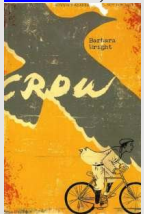
If like me you saw the film "Lincoln" and were impressed by the acting and some of the speeches, then the reissue of Elton Trueblood's [*Abraham Lincoln: Lessons in Spiritual Leadership*](#) may be of interest. In this timely re-release, the well known Quaker philosopher looks at how Lincoln's leadership skills were rooted in his religious beliefs.



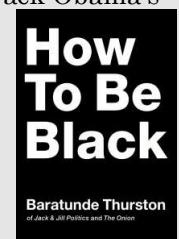
[*Ministry with Persons with Mental Illness and Their Families*](#) is a new resource with a long title that may be helpful for many meetings. This interdisciplinary collaboration of psychiatrists and pastoral theologians contains a collection of articles, some of which are more appropriate to Friends meetings than others, but overall it has the potential to be very helpful to all concerned with these issues.



[*Crow*](#) is, I believe, the first children's book from Quaker Barbara Wright (though we have sold her adult novel [*Plain Language*](#) for many years). Appropriate for ages 10 and up, *Crow* has won plaudits at the Busboys and Poets Bookstore as a tale of events leading up to the [*Wilmington insurrection in 1898*](#), when white rebels overthrew the elected city government, a turning point in North Carolina politics.



Baratunde Thurston, web editor for *The Onion*, is famous for his headline after Barack Obama's election: "Black man gets worst job in America." Those who have heard him on NPR have been delighted by his humorous account of his move from a very poor neighborhood to Sidwell Friends School in Washington. His book [*How To Be Black*](#), newly released in paperback, is most amusing and a real education in diversity issues.



I would also point out a couple of hot deals in newly remaindered books. [*Anne Frank*](#) is a carefully researched graphic biography by bestselling authors Sid Jacobson and Ernie Colon, with drawings based on the actual sites where Anne's family lived. For culture vultures we have Benjamin Britten's pacifist-themed opera [*Owen Wingrave*](#), based on the story by Henry James, available on DVD. And the book/CD set [*Echoes from Calvary*](#) contains music (Haydn's "Seven Last Words of Christ") and meditations by Martin Luther King and others.



A Letter From Friends School of Detroit

December 13, 2012

Dear Friends,

You may be wondering about the health and viability of Friends School in Detroit. It is true that our budget has been tight and we have had difficulty making payroll on time this semester. But in many ways, the school has had an excellent year. Right now, we are en-gaged in an intensive strategic planning process inclusive of board, staff, faculty and parents to develop a new business model that will make the school more sustainable in the years to come.



OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- * In Fall, 2012 we opened with 104 students, a 28% increase over last year.
- * This year, the Board brought in \$90,000 in foundation grants from Kresge, the Community Foundation, and the Matilda Wilson Fund.
- * Parents sponsored a successful Walkathon that nearly met our goal of \$35,000.
- * By Fall, 2012, FSD's outstanding debts had been reduced by \$173,000.
- * The Board is assembling a Leadership Advisory Council of prominent members of the Detroit Development and philanthropic communities.

Strategic Planning Meeting in the Art Room

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR FRIENDS:

PLEASE SEND YOUR USUAL DONATION to FSD's ANNUAL FUND. FSD's annual fund donations have been alarmingly slow this fall. FSD CANNOT MOVE FORWARD WITH-OUT YOUR ANNUAL FUND DONATIONS. Please urge your friends, your colleagues, and your Meetings to help us meet our customary goal of \$250,000 in Annual Fund donations for this school year.

Please write your end-of- the-year donation check to Friends School in Detroit, 1100 St. Aubin St., Detroit, MI 48207 with "Annual Fund" in the memo line. For more great pictures and our latest news, visit our NEW website at www.friendsschool.org

Sincerely, the Board of Friends School in Detroit

Helen Fox and Rochelle Lento, Co-Clerks; Mark Thames, Julie Poll, Phil Stoffregen, Jane Fran Morgan, Alicia Harris-Turner, and Mary Takahashi

Love All The Children!

Lucy Duncan
American's Friends Service Committee

Friends,

You may have seen this at [the action in Faith blog](#), but to insure that all have seen it, I'm sending it as an e-mail letter.

In the Liberian version of the Christmas story, "[Every Man Heart Lay Down](#)," retold by author Lorenz Graham, God is frustrated.

He says, "The people no hear My Word, The people no walk my way, Nev mind. I going break the world and lose the people, I going make the day dark and the night I going make hot... And I going make a new country and make a new people." God's son, "his one small boy," hears his father and grieves for the people. He begs his father, "Don't break the world what you done make. Don't lose the people what you done care for. I beg you make it I go, I talk with people, Bye-m-by they savvy the way." God's son holds his father's foot and God's "heart be soft again."

God tells his son, "Men will hate you and they will flog you and bye-m-bye they will kill you and I no going put my hand there."

God's "one small boy" says, "I agree!"

I woke up in the middle of the night weeping, remembering this retelling of the Christmas story and thinking of the children at Sandy Hook Elementary School and all of the children for whom I grieve this year.

I grieve for Emilie Alice Parker who died at Sandy Hook, whose gentle father said, "I was so blessed to be her dad." He expressed sympathy for Adam Lanza's family, "I can't imagine how hard this experience must be for you." I was moved by the story of the teacher who hid her students in the bathroom and broke protocol to tell each of them she loved them.

I grieve for the children—whose names I may

never know—affected by the bombings in Gaza just before Thanksgiving. There was one image of a boy about my son's age, holding his toddler brother, whose head was bandaged. They had just lost both of their parents and the expression on the older boy's face was heartrending.

I grieve for Trayvon Martin, the 17-year-old who was shot in the gated community at Twin Lakes in Sanford, Fla., by George Zimmerman in February. Trayvon joined the thousands of African-American boys that are victims of gun violence each year. In Philadelphia alone there have already been 322 homicides this year.

I grieve for the children of a woman in Burundi that Dr. Alexia, the director of the Friends Women's Association clinic, told me about. The woman was in her home when Hutus came and killed her children. Because it wasn't safe to leave her house, she stayed inside with her murdered children for a week.

I grieve for all the children lost to or affected by violence or war in Newtown, Aurora, Oak Creek, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, Syria, west Philadelphia, east Oakland, Chicago, Kenya, and so many places around the world.

I grieve for the 178 children who have been killed in drone strikes in Pakistan and Yemen, whose deaths are often not covered in the news. I grieve for the drone pilot Brandon Bryant who operated the drones from New Mexico and "who had to quit because he could no longer cope with the huge amount of civilian deaths he was witnessing and helping to cause," according to *Guardian* journalist Glenn Greenwald.

Grief for these children compels me, like so many mothers, to go home and hug my son. I remember bringing Simon home after he was born, how amazingly vulnerable he was and how big and noisy the world seemed.

A love broke open in me that day, a big love that was for me the closest to what I imagine God's love might be like. That love has called me to transformation, to work to overcome my habits of anger and hurt and to understand that loving him isn't enough, that I am called to love other people's chil-

dren and try, often haltingly, to do what that love requires of me.

A friend recently posted a video with excerpts from the diary of Paul Le Jeune, a 17th century Jesuit missionary from France who struggled to make the Montagnais-Naskapi people of Canada “understand the sanctity of obeying masters, suppressing women, and beating children,” according to Maria Kvilhaug.

Le Jeune was puzzled by the lack of hierarchy among the Montagnais-Naskapi, who “only obey their chief through good will towards him, therefore they never kill each other to acquire these honors,” he observed. “Also, as they are contented with a mere living, not one of them gives himself to the devil to acquire wealth.” One member of the tribe said to Le Jeune, “Thou hast no sense. You French people love only your own children, but we love all the children of the tribe.”

In his diary, he recounts an incident when a teacher takes a child outside to be beaten at the Jesuit school. The Montagnais-Naskapi adults object, and one lays himself over the child and offers himself to be beaten instead: “Strike me if thou wilt, but thou shalt not strike him.”

This story illustrates that violence has to be taught, and that there is another way to live.

Disarming our hearts:

When will we stop creating hell and begin to love one another in the way God’s child does? When will we decide that it’s no longer okay for any of God’s children to be flogged or murdered? I, too, get frustrated at our seeming inability to learn, but I believe that we are redeemable and can learn God’s way.

We can’t recover what’s been lost, we can’t change what’s happened, but we can begin to heal and renounce a way of life that catches so many children in the crossfire.

Certainly gun control and care for mental illness are very important, but the problem is deeper than this.

It is true disarmament and healing that is re-

quired of us. If we don’t staunch our grief too soon or get frustrated and write off our ability to change, maybe we can begin to heal.

It is time to soften and disarm our hearts and build on the way we care for one another in such a time of crisis to create a culture of peace.

We must lay down the guns, open our hearts, and remember that safety doesn’t come from heightened security, but from grace and from being willing to say “I love you” (even when it’s against protocol) to those in our homes, in our schools, in our neighborhoods, across town, and on the other side of the world.

My prayer is that peace and justice might flourish in the new year.

In peace,

Lucy Duncan,
Friends Liaison



Right Relationship!

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY QUAKER JOHN WOOLMAN called for living in "right relationship" as he witnessed to his generation against the evils of slavery, oppression, and materialism—which he warned were causing injury to future generations. We discern a similar dynamic of greed and thoughtlessness in today's global environmental crisis.

In speaking to non-Quakers, Friends may choose the more secular term *sustainable living* as conveying roughly the same idea as "right relationship." Indeed, many of the world's social and ecological problems stem from practices that are manifestly unsustainable—misuse of nonrenewable resources, treatment of soil, air, and water as commodities to be sold to the highest bidder, the general disregard for the needs and rights of future generations. We are all complicit and therefore accountable for damage being done in our name.

But "living in right relationship" goes a step further in suggesting why so many humans today seem unwilling and unable to change their ways, even when they are aware of the size and effects of their ecological footprints, in terms of housing, transportation, diet, and family size. For example, a man who makes a comfortable living once commented to a co-worker that he and his wife decided to have a third, and then a fourth, child not only because they enjoyed raising children but because they could afford them. The co-worker resisted the temptation to ask, "Yes, but can the planet afford them?" (The same point could be raised about someone's "personal" decision to buy a grander house, a larger car, or costly foods at whatever level their income can sustain.)

The assumption that humans have a "right" to as much of a common resource as we can use, is what Wendell Berry called "a kind of moral sim-

plicity," based on our ability to ignore the claims of others and of posterity...



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Winter 2012 Bulletin

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