

# Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

## Religious Society of Friends

### Monthly Meetings:

Akron  
Ann Arbor  
Athens  
Birmingham  
Broadmead  
Cleveland  
Delaware  
Detroit  
Grand Rapids  
Granville  
Kalamazoo  
Kent  
Mid-Ohio Valley  
Monongalia  
North Columbus  
Oberlin  
Pine River  
Pittsburgh  
Red Cedar  
Wooster

### Preparative Meeting:

Indiana

### Worship Groups:

Buckhannon  
Holland  
Manitou  
Rio Grande  
Rock Road  
Slippery Rock

**Lake Erie Yearly Meeting**  
**Held at Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio**  
**Sixth Month 15-18, 1995**

Dear Friends everywhere:

Lake Erie Friends met for our yearly meeting at Bluffton College, June 15-18, 1995, united by the theme "Weaving the Fabric of Faith." In a plenary talk, Helen Horn shared with us the threads, the patterns, and the textures of her own spiritual journey, enriched by family, friends, spiritual partners, and Quaker meetings, and stretched by her own life struggles. The depth of her sharing touched a chord in all of us, allowing us to share more deeply with each other. It reflected the focus of several monthly meetings on the nurturing of our own spiritual journeys.

The theme of weaving found expression in several ways during our time together. Friends felt a very real interweaving of business and worship, perhaps assisted by the focus of a yearly meeting two years ago on the spiritual center of meeting for business. Friends of all ages joyfully added their threads to a large tapestry created during yearly meeting. Special efforts were made to integrate the children into the adult program and to bring adults more extensively into the children's program.

In response to contemporary concerns, we struggled to develop a policy relating to the supervision of children at yearly meeting, in order to attempt to prevent any incidents of child abuse and to deal with any reports thereof.

At representative meeting in March, a yearning was expressed for greater integration of our physical and spiritual lives in matters such as health and sexuality. An *ad hoc* committee has now been established to explore ways in which such integration may be sought. We feel that we are beginning to move forward in an area where much understanding and loving support is needed within our communities.

Penny Ryder of the American Friends Service Committee raised our awareness of current prison concerns. Our yearly meeting was greatly enriched by the presence of several visitors representing Friends' organizations and activities.

We return home with our spirits quickened by our fellowship together.

On behalf of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting,

Damon D. Hickey, Clerk

### **Pre-School Epistle**

1. If you are going to weave fabric you need to have wool.
2. If you are going to weave a fabric of faith you begin with children.
3. It all starts here.

Zachary, David, Theo, Emily, Jessie, Faisal, Meaghan

### **Youth Epistle**

Dear Friends,

LEYM 1995 was fun. Here are a few things that we did. We went swimming. We planted flowers. We made vases from glass bottles and tape and shoe polish. We made bracelets out of yarn. But the most important thing that we made was friends!

Kevin Roose, Erin Diffenderfer, Alex Dixon, Zachary Long, Dylan Parkurst, Natalie Stow, Hannah Fuson, Laura Fuson, Robin Greenwood, Micah Sommer, Jacob Hawkins

### **Middle School Epistle**

We wove our activities through the many groups of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. We began by strawberry picking and jam making with the preschoolers.

Continuing the strand of activities, we ventured to the lake with all of the youth groups. Later that day, we played wiffle ball and watched a movie with the elementary children. Some of us prolonged the fun into the night with the high schoolers.

On Saturday, we had a lot of fun weaving one activity into another. We began our day at the Mennonite Memorial Home cleaning up from their Father's Day breakfast. While we were there, we visited a former Quaker teacher. When we returned, we wove God's eyes and hung them in the Big Weave. After lunch, we returned to the lake for a rambunctious time with the high school group.

We capped off the evening with the intergenerational activity.

Throughout the weekend, we shared meeting for worship within our own group and with all of LEYM.

Lindsey Stow, Julie Mueller, Erik Mueller, Adam Thompson, Laura Herd, Nicole Thompson, Michael Lagrou, Bekah Sommer, Claire Mershon, Donna Hawkins (group leader)

### **High School Epistle**

Dear Friends everywhere,

We are the youth of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. Meeting at Bluffton College Sixth Month 15-18, 1995, we used "I" messages as we learned problem-solving skills for conflict resolution. We learned how different types of praying, such as open-ended prayers, can be used to help living beings. We had fun learning to lead activities for all generations. For some of us, this was a new experience.

Your Friends,

Michael Geiersbach, Sarah and Becky Swank, Jeremy Thompson, and James Lagrou