

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
Chelsea
Holland
Manitou
Rio Grande
Rock Road

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

Held at Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio

Sixth Month 13-16, 1996

To Friends everywhere:

During the past year, the monthly meetings of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting have considered a query as to what it is about Quakerism that empowers transformation. Our consideration of the fruits of transformation were stimulated and deepened by William Kreidler's plenary talk, "Cultivating the Fruits of the Spirit." His questions, "What is a miracle?" and "How does God want us to use our time?" led to deep sharing in small-group sessions.

Periods of free time, interspersed with programmed events and lively intergenerational activities, encouraged informal interactions that contributed to an unhurried, family-like atmosphere in which we came to know new friends and old friends better.

Meetings for worship flowed into considerations of business. Issues brought before us reflected seasoning by the committee process so that decisions were made readily. One such issue came from an ad hoc committee set up at the last yearly meeting to consider the spiritual in our physical lives, with an emphasis on sexuality, health and death. We accepted the following query for consideration during the coming year: "How does a meeting help its adults, adolescents and children to recognize what is sacred of their physical, intellectual and social selves?"

As the featured Quaker organization this year, Friends World Committee for Consultation was well represented by Asia Bennett, who helped us to recognize the inclusiveness of Quakerism and our part in it. Tina Bell engaged us in an informative discussion about the Quaker presence at the United Nations.

We trust that this epistle serves to share the joy of this, our annual gathering, and we pray for God's grace to be with you all.

On behalf of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting,

Damon Hickey, Clerk

Pre-School Epistle

Theo Dixon, Meaghan Diffenderfer, Erin Tinkerhess and Jessie Dalrymple played and enjoyed the friendship (Friendship) of older members Joyce Callahan, Russ Bimber, and Joyce Balderston.

We planted flowers for our service project, then we read *Miss Rumphius*, with pictures and story by Barbara Cooney.

Strawberries were picked and enjoyed; swimming was a favorite. Our walk over the wooden bridge is now a tradition. Some years, there is no water except for a trickle; this year, there was a real stream with ducks. Everyone got wet making paper, but we now have our very own paper. Gretchen Dixon shared stories with wonderful origami themes. We transformed paper into flutes.

We had wonderful food and friendship which will last until next year.

Participants in the LEYM Pre-School Program

Elementary School Epistle

Dear Quakers,

This year at Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, the elementary kids liked lots of things but hated the mosquitoes. We liked making new friends, hanging out and eating at our own kid's table.

We want to thank all the grownups who played with us: NancyLynn for papermaking, Gretchen for making "star books" and pinwheels, John for playing frisbee, Helen for singing, Meg for the "George Fox rap," and Ellen for dancing.

We liked Carrie's games like "The Big Wind Blows" and the "Irish Monster" game.

We planted flowers for our service project, and in the afternoons we went swimming. We also made a huge group mural.

We had good discussions about George Fox, the truth, and silent worship. We hope that next year will be just as much fun!

From the Elementary School Group: Deanna Boyd, Robin Greenwood, Jacob Hoskins, David Hoskins, Laura Zielinski, Micah Sommer, Martin Tinkerhess, Erin Diffenderfer, Zachary Long, Emily Long, and Theo Garrett

Middle School Epistle

Most of our activities this weekend had to do with transformations. When we first came here, we didn't know each other. Then we played a game to get to know each other better. Then we made "GORP" (good old raisins and peanuts), which started out as separate foods and turned into a delicious snack. Helen Horn started singing solo, then everybody joined in. Gretchen Dixon taught us how to make "starbooks," which started out as flat, square pieces of paper and then became a lovely star. NancyLynn Sharpless taught us how to make new paper from old. We went swimming at Twin Lakes hot and sweaty, and we came back cool and refreshed. On a nature hike, we went out as clean hikers and came back dirty and mosquito-bitten. On our service project, we washed cars for the residents at the Mennonite Memorial Home who own cars.

The cars arrived dirty and drove away clean, inside and out. One resident gave us \$5.00, which we would like to donate to the Athens Friends Meeting.

In Peace,

Nicole Thompson, Julie Campbell, Katharine Brutz, Kevin Roose, Bekah Sommer, Alex Dixon, Michael Zielinski, Miller Tinkerhess, and Donna Hawkins

High School Epistle

This weekend, the high school group helped the community by mulching trees near a bike path. We made the area look nicer, and we felt proud to help out. We watched a video about Robert Coles, a child psychiatrist, who described lessons of life through stories. On Saturday, we attended the plenary session, and afterwards we discussed our reactions to Bill's announcement of AIDS. Thinking about our own lives, we thought about the balance between spontaneity and structure. We also talked about family decisions regarding death with dignity. We thought that this weekend was a valuable and educational experience.

Participants in the LEYM High School Program

From the Recording Clerk

Our new Presiding Clerk, who will serve until the close of our Yearly Meeting sessions in June 1998, is:

John Howell
7745 Clark's Chapel Lane
Athens, OH 45701
USA

Please update your address list(s) to reflect this change. Thank you.