

THE CONSERVATIVE FRIEND

Number 47

A Publication of Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends

Third Month 2016

Clerk's Letter

Dear Friends:

From time to time I have drafted a Clerk's letter for *The Conservative Friend* to provide information on what is happening in Ohio Yearly Meeting. I had intended to draft this letter last year. My life has been rather disrupted by the fact that the company where I work is merging into a larger company. I have been working quite a bit of overtime to complete ongoing projects of the old company while taking on new projects in the merged company. This has been a burden on Melissa and has eroded my ability to keep my own projects on schedule.

Last Eighth Month we held the 203rd session of Ohio Yearly Meeting. We made some decisions of note and also made some appointments of note. The printed minutes are not available as I write this, but they may be distributed by the time this issue is published. The following highlights of the 2015 yearly meeting will include the more important decisions and information on committees appointed to work on various items and report back in 2016. The following information is in roughly chronological order.

Budget

Dennis Rockwell gave the Treasurer's report on the first day of Yearly Meeting. The budget approved in 2014 had authorized \$31,225 to be spent. The meetings gave \$22,857, and other donations were roughly \$3,500. Some budgeted amounts were not enough: the insurance was \$600 more than budgeted, and printing was \$1,447 more than budgeted. The result: the yearly meeting had a deficit of \$6,600.

The Audit and Budget Committee, appointed at that session, reported at the end of the yearly meeting. It proposed a budget that totaled \$25,875 – a cut of about \$7,000. Reductions included \$500 from the Friends Center; \$600 in insurance; \$3,000 from the Property Trustees; \$1,000 from the Travel Fund; and \$2,000 from the Walton Home. The total in the budget is slightly above \$50 per member.

Yearly Meeting Property Trustees

The trustees reported that the power company plans to upgrade the power line that runs through the property near the Stillwater Meeting House. This work will result in the loss of some trees near the Meeting House. The trustees and Olney plan to remove the small concrete block gas house near the entrance and rebuild it. The largest item in their report, however, was the need to repoint Stillwater. A local contractor estimated a total cost of \$55,000. The yearly meeting had granted \$10,000 in 2014 and agreed to authorize an additional \$18,000 from the "sale of Olney property" fund. The west and south walls will be completed first; after-

wards, the trustees will seek assistance from members and from the Barnesville community before beginning the other two walls.

Membership Report

Ohio Yearly Meeting had a net loss of one member in the previous year. Ten people joined the yearly meeting, and two transferred in for a total gain of 12. Six members died (including Myrtle Bailey, Paul Livezey, and Jim Creighton), two members transferred out, and five memberships were discontinued, for a total loss of 13. Earl Smith was recognized as an Elder during the previous year.

Peace and Human Relations Committee

The Peace Committee reported on visitation by yearly meeting members to national groups such as Peace Quest, FCNL and FWCC. One member reported that only about 10 percent of Friends provide input to FCNL on their lobbying objectives and that a more representative group of Friends might increase its effectiveness. The committee seeks guidance for what Friends can do as a group regarding ongoing violence of varying forms around us.

Walton Home

The Walton Home reported on the status of its ongoing service and on its plans to construct a new South Wing. The YM congratulated the Walton administration and staff for a "Deficiency Free" report from the Ohio Department of Health survey. A dip in occupancy resulted in a slight operating deficit for the year. The subcommittees were quite active in the year, some of which had been meeting weekly. A total of \$25,000 had been raised in the previous year for the South Wing Expansion Project. A sample room was set up, and Friends were able to tour it before and after the Corporation Committee met. The design of the addition meets the "Net Zero" energy models, and if the project can be completed on the current schedule, it will be the first Net Zero Energy Assisted Living facility in the country. Friends were asked to support the Walton in any way they are able.

Historical Committee

Members of the Historical Committee reported on their management of the items in their care in the Heritage Room. They kept the room open at various times throughout yearly meeting week. Marie Kirk Hawkins donated two quilts, a bedspread, and other items from the Smith family that were on display. The committee had sold 150 copies of the book *Traditional Quaker Christianity*.

(Continued on page five)

Worship Groups

These groups practice waiting worship in the manner of Conservative Friends. It is best to make contact before making plans, as their schedules need to be adjusted to accommodate their regular participants. For worship at OYM monthly meetings see www.ohiょyearlymeeting.org

Meeting	Location	Contact Person	Contact Information
Friends of Jesus Fellowship	Washington, DC	Micah Bales	316-210-6224 micahbales@gmail.com dcmetro.fojf.org
Friends Gathering in Jesus Christ	Evanston, Illinois (near Chicago)	Kevin McMurtrey	kevinmcmurtrey@gmail.com
Friends in Christ	Harrisville, Michigan	Kimberly Anne Makela	plainquakers@gmail.com www.plainquakers.org
Goshen Meeting	Scone, Scotland	Paul Thompson	UK # 01738 620688; Bookseeker @blueyonder.co.uk www.plainquakers.org
Lavenham Worship Group	Suffolk, England	Ben Gosling	ben.gosling1944@btinternet.com 53D High St, Lavenham, Suffolk CO10 9PY
Lubbock Friends Meeting	Grace Presbyterian Church Building, Lubbock, Texas	Sara Scribner	sarabscribner@aol.com meeting is at 4820 W. 19th Street, Lubbock, Texas 79407
One in Christ	15 th St. Meeting House, NYC	Brian Doherty	212-279-6200 brianj.doherty@verizon.net
Midlands Quakers	Stonebroom, Derbyshire, UK	Allistair Lomax	UK # 01773-875962 ripleychristianquakers@hotmail.co.uk weekly online meeting, First Days, 10:30 AM
Uxbridge Worship Group	Corner of Routes 98 and 146A, Uxbridge MA	Connie Bair-Thompson	First Days, 9:00 AM
Whittier Worship Group	Whittier, California	Kim Palmer	kimpalmer11@yahoo.com

Financial Contributions Appreciated

The Conservative Friend is financed through contributions from readers, with help from OYM. Small donations for *TCF*, as well as larger ones, are gratefully accepted. Please make checks (postal orders for donations outside US) to "The Conservative Friend" and send them to Elvina Krekler, 1187 State Hwy 250, Adena, OH 43901. The value of a subscription is \$10/year. Any excess over \$10 that a person contributes for a given year's subscription is probably tax deductible, because *TCF* is a publication of Ohio Yearly Meeting.

The Conservative Friend is published up to four times a year (based on amount of material received) under the care of the Wider Fellowship of Conservative Friends Committee of Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends, Barnesville, Ohio 43713. For more information about OYM, visit www.ohiょyearlymeeting.org

Editor – Raye Hodgson, 9 Newsom Rd, Oxford, CT 06478 amigaraye@gmail.com

Assistant Editor — Phil Helms, 2485 Bogue Lake Road, White Lake MI 48386 philipwhelms@yahoo.com

Treasurer – Elvina Krekler, 1187 State Hwy 250, Adena, OH 43901

WFCF Committee Convener – Nancy Hawkins, 5190 Kirk Rd, Columbiana, OH 44408

The editor welcomes articles for publication, those written recently as well as excerpts from earlier Friends' writings.

“Observe how those Christians love one another!”

A visitor to our Yearly Meeting sessions this year told me how much he admired the unhurried way that our business was carried out. It is gratifying to hear his perception. Nevertheless members who are active in the meetings know it's not as simple as it may appear.

There is somewhat of a tension in three directions during business meetings.

Tension between one's own desire to see business go forward in a timely manner; knowledge that each of us is watchful that certain business be acceptably stated; and always keeping in mind respect toward one another. Wanting to hurry along debates, while trying to discern the thread of Truth in the cacophony of discussion and valuing all that seem called to share their heart, is often wearying. As a gathered group of individuals with varied expectations and experiences we aspire to seek Christ's help as in working for Him, rather than moving under our own reasonings.

In many ways Meeting business is similar to our daily walk in life. As sincere followers of Christ we want to make choices that please Him. This takes careful listening as well as obedience. Seeking help from the true voice within that resonates with certain choices laid before us. When voices are confusing or if an issue stirs up anger, we know it is best to still our thoughts. Sitting with a gathered people who with one accord

seek God's answers is an experience in humility. We may or may not be given clearness at that time, but if we are right minded we will be humbled.

As in all tasks that life opens up before us, observation and practice is necessary. Reading has a part in learning, but participation is key. Such thoughts as "let's get this business over with" or "This is not my desire" must be given over to "whose business is it?" and "whose desire do we seek?" There may be in some a desire to please others; this too must be set aside. Often when business appears to be flowing smoothly a member will break the quiet unity with a contrary note. I have experienced a flood of loving gratitude flow over me toward even the most discordant member in a meeting. Often such a member will be chosen by our Holy Guide to stop us from a wrong decision. We should know that God might use even the least pleasing in man's sight.

So, with this last observation I pray that visitors watch God work among us throughout our Yearly Meeting and note when leaving "My, how those Christians Love one another" as did past generations of Christians.

Nancy Hawkins
Member of Middleton Monthly Meeting

Affiliate Membership

I am extremely grateful to Ohio Yearly Meeting for enabling me to retain my membership in our Yearly Meeting even though I needed to move to a location that does not house a Conservative gathering. I do understand that our Yearly Meeting does establish requirements for affiliated membership that enable us to relate to Ohio Conservatives in Jesus' government.

For me to be an affiliate I need to recognize that Christ is and will continue to be our Lord and Savior. Small wonder that whenever I meet with Conservative Friends, we open ourselves to receiving God's wisdom enabling us as a gathered meeting to obey Jesus. Yes, it is wonderful to understand that my fellow worshipers submit to Jesus' guidance.

This moves me to preach the gospel to Friends who have not yet recognized the inward voice of our Savior but I encourage individuals in my area to meet together to hear the voice of our precious Lord wherever they are.

In addition, I do encourage non-conservatives to visit Ohio Yearly Meeting. In that way, these Friends are able to discern that Jesus is functioning as our everlasting prophet among other offices gathering Friends to receive and obey His loving commands.

I have served on Yearly Meeting committees to work to fulfill God's commands for His people. As a

result I am able to proclaim that we are a people willing and able to function as members of Jesus' church.

It is also important for us affiliates to remain in contact with each other as well as the Conservative Friends meeting that has afforded us the love of our dear Lord. That is how I am able to share the gospel with my Friends who live in areas other than mine.

Thank God for providing the opportunity to serve Him in relationship with others who embrace the Lordship of Jesus.

Arthur Berk
Affiliate member,
Rockingham Monthly Meeting

2016 General Gathering of Conservative Friends Sixth Month 24—26

[Friday, June 24 through Sunday, June 26]

Stillwater Meetinghouse & Olney Friends School,
Barnesville, Ohio

Contact: Nancy Hawkins nanquaker@aol.com
or (330) 429-5686 or Sharon Helms (248) 360-2074
or philandsharon04.01@sbcglobal.net

Christ's Call in Uganda and Tanzania Yearly Meeting

As soon as I retired, I felt Christ's calling to return to East Africa where I had taught in three of the Friends Girls Schools years ago, specifically to encourage women in ministry there. My local support committee, composed of one member each from my monthly, quarterly, and yearly meetings, suggested I start by creating a support committee of Quaker women in Kenya. They were to help discern which areas needed encouragement the most and who would make suitable travel companions. Of the places I felt God nudging me to visit, they sensed that Uganda and Tanzania were the most urgent areas to visit and Eileen Malova from Kakamega YM felt led to accompany me. She'd felt Christ calling her for two years to go to Uganda, but as a busy head of a vocational school, way had not opened for her to go. So we went together. It is amazing how God has led us into a new type of ministry lifting up a team of women pastors from Kenya who feel called to help women in the neighboring countries. Pamela Ngoya from Nairobi YM and Margaret Musalia from Vihiga Yearly Meeting have joined us to minister in Tanzania.

We travel following Christ's teaching to travel simply (Luke 9:1-6), to be living epistles, and be willing to use any local means of transport and accept any local hospitality offered. We have travelled to meetings of Friends often arriving on foot. We listen and learn from them, pray and counsel with them, and through stories and parables teach them to develop their own leadership skills and find ways to "rise up and walk" using their own local resources instead of waiting for others to come, bring money, and start projects for them. Both in Tanzania and in Uganda we have travelled with local leaders to all the meetings in the country - finding new meetings that are very active and growing rapidly, finding old meetings that are barely surviving with very few youth, and one meeting that had ceased functioning after the two male leaders had died.

In Uganda we found women who felt shy about leading due to many years following a tribal custom of kneeling before elders, husbands, visitors and even kneeling while serving food. In Tanzania, we discovered it was girls' circumcision and forced marriage before age 15 followed by giving birth to large families (12 to 22 kids each) that prevent women from finishing elementary education.

I have learned from Kenyan women to teach by speaking in stories or parables, or hands-on demonstrations or using pictures. In Tanzania this year the women understood our lessons on how to plan their own women's conference so well, that they stayed an extra night after we left so they could plan out their conference for Twelfth Month. In Uganda, Eileen taught one of the last lessons. She divided up the women into small groups and had them each come up with a list of

the major issues that Ugandan Friends women face and then a list of possible solutions to these issues. They responded joyfully as normally all teaching is lecturing. When they came back they were able to stand up courageously in front of others, (a first for many), to share their lists. When they realized they could actually begin to solve a number of the issues themselves with no help from outside, they spontaneously danced with joy with thanksgiving to our Lord.

Both Uganda and Tanzania YM's are new ones started years ago by Kenyan Friends, but for the last 20 years, Kenyan leaders have been fighting each other over leadership positions, and forgetting their neighbors. The male leadership in Uganda and Tanzania are working well together, growing in numbers, and eager to learn more. Since the majority of all members are women, they agree that our lifting up the women will lift up all meetings. They have specially requested me to teach them about the unique things Quakers have to offer. They know the basic Christian message, but are eager to learn more about practical ways to live out our faith, by living simply, peacefully, treating all people equally, as good stewards for God.

It is time for Conservative Friends to reach out to such Friends, sharing in the traditional Friends way of ministry - helping teach and share about the unique message that we as Friends of Jesus Christ have to offer. Let us not hide our Light under a bushel and wait for more individual people to happen to discover us rather than reaching out and be willing to invite people to join us here in the United States as well as overseas.

Thanks to those of you who have been holding me in prayer and giving financial support over the last few years. Any Friend who wants to receive my weekly email messages when I am in East Africa, send me thy email address. I can be reached at quakerbonnet@gmail.com I will be returning to East Africa on Twenty-second of Tenth Month, God willing and return in middle of Twelfth Month. Praise God for His love for each of us, and His willingness to use each of us in His service.

Marian Baker
Member and Recorded Minister
New England Yearly Meeting

**Please note change of dates for
Ohio Yearly Meeting 2016
Eighth Month 01—06
[Monday, August 01 through
Saturday, August 06]**

Christian Friends Conference - Western Region Berkeley Friends Church - December 5, 2015

The quarterly meeting of the Christian Friends Conference - Western Region was held on Saturday, December 5, 2015 at Berkeley Friends Church in Berkeley California, with about 10 present from Friends Meetings, Friends Churches, and friends of Friends. After a brief opening worship, we made introductions, and heard from several Friends not able to be with us today. We also heard about the sudden medical difficulties of a Friend known to many of us from his travels, and on our email list. We offer our prayers and good wishes. The CFC statement of purpose was read, our schedule was explained, and we then heard Our Invitation to Worship (a statement from the New Foundation Fellowship).

Friends then gathered for Bible reading in worship, followed by waiting worship on the Lord. Vocal ministry included a reading from Philippians 4; a message about faith which calls us to believe that the One who was crucified is also the One who holds all things together, even in the face of today's world violence; and good news: Jesus Christ is come to teach his people himself - God can perform the miracle of fusion in our hearts - a source of amazing energy.

Following fellowship over lunch, Brian Young presented a video from February 1984, made in the very room we are meeting in today, from a series of talks by Lewis Benson on 'The Relevance of George Fox Today.' This five-part seminar may have been the beginning of the Quaker Heritage Day events at Berke-

ley Friends Church, still an annual event. These talks occurred in the first year of Doug Gwyn's time as Pastor at Berkeley Friends Church, partly due to his friendship with Lewis Benson. The five videos of the talks were lost for many years, and recently unearthed in a modern format, again due to the help of Doug Gwyn.

The themes emphasized by Benson in the talk we heard, were Christ's role as leader, bishop, shepherd and priest; and gospel order as "any church with Christ, there is His government." We were later reminded by Brian that Lewis Benson wanted Fox's writings other than his Journal to be more widely available to Friends, especially his letters. Shortly thereafter T. Canby Jones published a modern edition of Fox's letters, "The Power of the Lord is Over All."

We then held a brief business meeting, considering dates in March 2016 (either the 12th or the 19th) for our next gathering, hopefully at Palo Alto Friends Meeting. It was announced that the next Quaker Heritage Day will be held April 16, 2016 at Berkeley Friends Church.

Friends then gathered for our final worship. Vocal ministry included a message based on 1 Corinthians 13, and the reminder that the Greek word translated as 'faith' can also be translated as 'trust' - if I trust in God, I will have hope.

On behalf of Christian Friends Conference - WR,
Bruce Folsom

Clerk's Letter, *from page one*

Fiduciary Trustees

The Fiduciary Trustees brought some new items to the attention of the yearly meeting. Because the Friends Center was being charged property tax for charging rent in the past, the decision was made that the Friends Center will no longer charge rent. The Fiduciary Trustees were directed to pay earlier tax bills of the Friends Center. The Yearly Meeting agreed to convey the Towe Ranch property to Olney.

An item was raised by the Fiduciary Trustees that the meeting was unable to find unity upon. A committee was appointed to consider the Yearly Meeting's role in managing lands currently under our care. This committee is Richard Simon, Marie Bundy, Robert Rockwell, Melissa Hinshaw, Conrad Lindes, and Jack Smith. The committee was authorized, if it saw fit, to bring a proposal to the Representative Meeting regarding conveying the Taber House and its heritage zone to Olney.

Financing Educational Concerns Committee

The Financing Educational Concerns Committee distributes funds to high school age members of the

yearly meeting who are attending Friends schools, other private schools, or who are home schooled. Two students were granted \$1,500 each, and Olney was granted \$13,711.

Travel Fund Committee

The Travel Fund Committee reported prepared guidelines for funding travel that were approved by the Representative Meeting. It assisted Friends to visit FWCC in Mexico and FCNL/William Penn House meetings, in addition to assistance for people to attend the 2014 yearly meeting.

Olney Taber Farm Report

Don Guindon reported on stewardship of land owned by Ohio Yearly Meeting. The farm is in the process of becoming certified organic, with certification of the chickens in the near future. A vegetable washing room is being fitted into the basement of the powerhouse. The coal storage areas will be turned into root cellars, and a donated cooler has been installed. The washing room will keep hundreds of pounds of dirt out of the kitchen and make it easier for the school to use the vegetables.

(Continued on page six)

Clerk's Letter, *continued from page five*

Easement Committee

At the request of Olney Friends School farm managers, Ohio YM appointed a committee in 2014 to explore agricultural and conservation easement options for the farmland leased by the school from the yearly meeting. After reviewing the state requirements, the committee recommended against an easement that would encumber the land in perpetuity.

Christian Education Camp

The Christian Education Camp Committee reported serving 31 campers during its camp in Sixth Month of 2015. The camp schedule included prayer time, Bible study time, crafts, and "TAG" time (Time Alone with God). The camp counselors were all people who had attended the camp when younger. The adult leaders have been an inspiration for the yearly meeting for many years.

Book and Children's Literature Committee

The Book and Children's Literature Committee met at Olney and gave Quaker materials to seniors, new students, and new staff for the 2014-15 school year. Among material distributed were the book *Mind the Heavenly Treasure* and the pamphlets "Welcome to Our Meeting", "Advices and Queries of Ohio Yearly Meeting", and "Living A-Top of the World." The committee gave one Bible to an eight-year old this year.

Wider Fellowship of Conservative Friends

The Wider Fellowship of Conservative Friends Committee has two main tasks. First, it coordinates the biannual Gathering of Conservative Friends, and the next one is planned for Sixth Month 24-26, 2016. Planning for this Gathering is already in progress. Second, the committee oversees the publication of *The Conservative Friend*. Phil Helms agreed to assist Raye Hodgson in its publication.

Memorial Committee

The Memorial Committee is working on a memorial for Bill Taber. The committee met with Friends at Stillwater and collected reminiscences of Bill's life and contributions. This material is being typed up, and details are being verified and clarified.

Plummer House

The committee managing the Plummer House reported on its ongoing renovation of the house. The committee has coordinated volunteer efforts, including some volunteers who are descendants of the yearly meeting.

Yearly Meeting for Ministry and Oversight

An important development by the YM for M&O was the adoption of a set of "Safety Guidelines for Participation at Ohio Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions." The subcommittee reported that it prayed for guidance and found unity on the proposal. The guide-

lines were approved by M&O, and the Yearly Meeting then approved the document.

Committee to Coordinate and Support Outreach

The Committee to Coordinate and Support Outreach maintains contact with Friends in England and in new meetings in the United States. Two Ohio Friends visited British Friends, who meet quarterly in addition to some local meetings. Three small meetings continue under the care of Ohio Yearly Meeting: Seekers Haven, Highlands, and Huntington. A subcommittee was appointed to investigate ways of improving the yearly meeting website.

Junior Yearly Meeting and Young Friends

Throughout yearly meeting week, the Adult Leaders of Junior Yearly Meeting and Young Friends miss much of the business sessions. Young Friends explored the topic "What Canst Thou Say?" Junior Yearly Meeting discussed interacting with Christ Jesus in worship and the meaning of being on God's team. The Seventh Day evening program was a pleasure for the yearly meeting!

Quarterly Meeting References

Rockingham Quarterly Meeting forwarded two references to the Yearly Meeting.

First, RQM asked the YM to consider amending the Second Administrative Query to make it more applicable to the yearly meeting's current condition or alternatively to drop it. The YM appointed the following committee to review the current query, consult the Monthly Meetings regarding a more appropriate text for the query, report to the Representative Meeting, and bring a proposal to our Yearly Meeting next year: Sarah Parsons, Martha Giffen, Karen Walsh, and Ken Jacobsen. Since YM week, Sarah has asked to be relieved from serving on the committee.

Second, RQM asked the YM to consider changing the Fourth Administrative Query to address needs of electronic storage. The YM asked the Custodians of the Records to consider the relevant issues and report back.

Friends Center

The Friends Center sponsored two workshops in the previous year. The committee had to locate a caterer to provide the food for these events. The committee wanted the yearly meeting to give some additional consideration to a discussion held at yearly meeting in 2014 on the topic of "How is God calling Ohio YM to be a People of God?" Due to the lack of time, the YM directed the committee to send the minutes from the 2014 discussion to the monthly meetings for consideration in preparation for the 2016 yearly meeting.

(Continued on page eight)

Sharing the Gospel

When we are preaching the gospel or mention the everlasting gospel, we must open ourselves to Christ our beloved everlasting Lord who inspires His people to enunciate vocally instructions as well as inspiration from our loving God.

Because Old Testament writers and prophets were inspired to record their messages from the Word, we recognize that we are required to eliminate our weapons of war and open ourselves to the Lord's peace, the armor of God.

Likewise because Jesus' disciples recognized that the Lord ordered them to "turn the other cheek," they recorded the admonition as an essential part of the living gospel.

This same Lord encouraged His Friends to reveal that God has blessed the poor in spirit, the peace makers, those who ministered to the sick, and blessed the pure of heart. And fortunately in obedience to the Lord, Matthew and Luke enunciated these blessings.

But we cannot merely depend on the written words by themselves. To the contrary it is imperative for us to feel and then obey Jesus' ministry. As a result we would be recipients of the true Gospel acknowledging the power and love of the Lord within ourselves.

But the Lord requires us to share this ministry with others who are willing to receive God's precious words. To spread this good News early Quakers became outward instruments of the Lord by becoming meetings in His name.

In that capacity, Friends traveled to many countries organizing groups to wait on the Lord and

Christian Friends Conference Western Region Berkeley Friends Church June 20, 2015

The quarterly meeting of the Christian Friends Conference - Western Region was held on Saturday, June 20, 2015 at Berkeley Friends Church in Berkeley California, with about 10 present from Friends Meetings, Friends Churches, and friends of Friends. Since there were no newcomers present, we had a short introduction, greetings from some absent Friends, and then moved to the worship room. Vocal ministry was a reading from John chapter 16.

Following a period of fellowship over lunch, we had a brief business meeting. An event in San Francisco in October on Aelred of Rievaulx was announced. We hope to meet next in Palo Alto during September. Bruce will work out the details and let Friends know. We then met for our final hour of worship.

On behalf of Christian Friends Conference - WR,

Bruce Folsom

share His values with those able and willing to listen to the inspired ministry of our gracious Lord.

But that ministry is not just for our benefit but for all creation. As a result we must be prepared to share Jesus' wonderful gospel with all our friends. Yes, God continues to love us. Let us therefore spread the good news.

- Arthur Berk
Affiliate Member of
Rockingham Monthly Meeting

Christian Friends Mission

Contact Person: Themistoklis Papaioannou

Postal Address: 1 Kalchandos Street, Kaisariani, Athens 16121, Greece

Website: <http://christianquaker.net/>

Information: A firmly Christian Quaker Mission based in Athens, Greece. We are affiliated with Ohio Yearly Meeting [Conservative].

Christian Education Camp 2016

Christian Education Camp is scheduled to be on Olney's campus June 19-22, 2016. This camp is for children who have finished first grade through eighth grade. We have had a couple of local younger children as day campers which has worked fairly well. They were picked up and transported by parents/relatives. Our theme this year looks like it will be based on Isaiah 40:31 "... they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not get weary; they shall walk and not faint,"

There is money to assist children to come to camp if needs are put before the camp committee members. We greatly welcome all who would like to come. Questions can be addressed by myself or others on the committee.

In Christ's Love,
On behalf of C.E.C.
JoMae Rockwell
(phone 740-425-2466)

c/o Raye Hodgson
9 Newsom Road
Oxford, Connecticut 06478

Return Service Requested

Clerk's Letter, from page six

Yearly Meeting Custodians of the Records

The Custodians of the Records reported on the Olney vault. Friends are asked to consider if someone may have a metal shelving unit or a small table which would improve our use of the vault.

Quarterly Meeting Representatives

The Yearly Meeting Clerk, who has been serving since 2002, had asked in 2014 to be released from service following the 2015 Yearly Meeting. The QM Representatives were not ready to recommend another Friend to serve as Clerk in 2016; they asked the Clerk to serve one additional year (2016), and he agreed. Bob Wilber, the Assistant Clerk who has been serving since 1988, agreed to serve again in 2016.

Final Minute

We have now reached the end of our business this year. Over the course of the week, we have reviewed how the Holy Spirit has worked through our committees to accomplish various objectives such as the planning for the new South Wing of the Walton Home. We have reviewed our spiritual state through answering the Queries. We have welcomed a new Monthly Meeting, Marlborough, among us, even as we mourn that Winona Meeting may soon be laid down. Our speakers have reminded us of how early Friends used biblical terminology, about how Christ Jesus is the foundation of the peace testimony, introduced us to the motions of the Holy Spirit in East Africa, and shared stories about spiritual awakenings. Visitors to the yearly meeting this year have been a blessing, bringing their own spiritual experience to our sharing so we can benefit from their perspectives. Young Friends have been a joy as always, seemingly boundless in energy. The yearly meeting approved a

policy intended to provide a layer of protection for them during their stay here.

As always, we have been blessed by ministry this week. One recurring theme was the need for us to allow the love before us to change us. When the Holy Spirit washes our spirits and minds, it cleanses us of wrong thoughts, wrong deeds, and other things we regret so we can move out of any arrested development. Sometimes we need to be more mindful to give up our own desires in order to follow Christ Jesus. We can experience the massive creative power of the Word of God made flesh, taking us beyond our limitations, to new places. We were reminded that we can share in eternal life now, the deep experience of God the Father and Christ Jesus His Son.

Other valuable advice to our hearts and minds related to our future. Just as the Spirit bears witness, we also shall bear witness to Christ in us, the hope of glory. We show our love for God by manifesting our love for Him, for each other, and for those who cross our paths in life. The Lord can help thee to be a blessing to others.

We now conclude, purposing to meet again on Eighth Month 9, 2016, unless the Lord should direct us otherwise.

Note: Olney inquired in Twelfth Month of 2015 if Ohio YM could be re-scheduled for the first week of Eighth Month 2016 rather than the planned second week. The Clerk of the Yearly Meeting and the Clerk of the Representative Meeting discussed how best to proceed. They contacted the monthly meetings and asked for their input. Nine meetings responded; none had a problem with the shift in timing. One Friend replied privately that she would not be able to attend the second week but could attend the first week of Eighth Month. As a result, the Clerk in consultation with others has moved the **2016 session of Ohio Yearly Meeting to the first full week of Eighth Month.**

Seth Hinshaw
Clerk of Ohio Yearly Meeting
Member, Keystone Monthly Meeting