

Reflections on the 2018 General Gathering and My Spiritual Journey

It felt so wonderful to be at the June 2018 Gathering! I felt so much at home while there. Everyone I visited and worshipped with put me at ease and made me feel welcome.

When I woke up on First Day at the Gathering, in the Mary Davis Guest House, I had a sense of peace and joy I have not experienced in many years. Being with you and the others for the Gathering resulted in me feeling “I had found my people—my faith community.”

I appreciate all everyone did to make the 2018 Gathering such a nice time for all of us. It was nice to stay at the Mary Davis Guest House again. The accommodations, meals, times of fellowship, Bible readings, and worship made for such a memorable event.

I do not plan to let so much time pass again without attending events or activities associated with Ohio Yearly Meeting. I first attended OYM’s Gathering of Friends in 2006. I looked forward to attending again in 2008, but was prevented by tragic events for my family.

I grew up in Tuscaloosa, Alabama in a conservative Baptist home where Bible study and church activities were central to all we did. The focus was on Bible study and correct belief and understanding. As I approached my twenties, with the war in Vietnam taking place along with the Environmental Movement, I kept asking the question, “How shall we live?” To me, we experience our faith in terms of how we live out our daily lives.

With my interests and love of history (particularly of the Christian faith), I remember going to the library when I was in my mid-twenties and looking at the books in the religious section. It was there I learned about the “peace churches” and faith traditions that emphasize certain aspects of one’s lifestyle such as “simplicity,” “dress and non-conformity,” etc. It was there that I learned about the Anabaptists of the 1500’s and how the Christian faith tradition developed with George Fox and Friends in the 1600’s.

It was through studying that period of history that I learned about the Mennonites, Amish, and Friends. I was especially excited to know that they were faith groups today that still followed those faith traditions and started attending Mennonite churches and Friends Meetings. Attending faith focused events has been such an important part of my life, both when I was growing up in Alabama as well as through the years I lived in Tennessee, Texas, Pennsylvania and now Kentucky. I feel I have been blessed by those experiences and each one has helped to share in shaping my faith journey.

I came to develop a special appreciation for the Conservative Anabaptist groups such as the Mennonites and Amish and other historic “Peace faith groups” such as Friends (Quakers). I have identified with the Mennonites in several ways regarding lifestyle and with Friends regarding how to approach one’s faith and seeking direction in life today. Some would say for many years, my lifestyle was rooted in the Mennonite faith tradition and my theology or approach to Bible study and experiencing the spiritual dimension of life was rooted in Friends. The Friends meetings I visited or attended were in many ways very far removed from their historical roots of the 1600’s.

As I was seeking to learn more about Quakers (Friends), it was the book *The Quakers in America* by Thomas D. Hamm, published by Columbia University Press in 2003 that introduced me to OYM.. I resonated with the introduction by the author, Thomas Hamm, in the first chapter that included such texts as:

“Plain” is a word that resonated with many meanings for Quakers, but the Stillwater Meeting-house near Barnesville, Ohio embodies most of them.

“Deliberate” is the method here, an intense desire to act, not according to human wisdom but instead in the confident expectation that God, through the Holy Spirit, will be present to guide Friends.

Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) is aptly named. It represents the strand of American Quakerism that has been most resistant to change and has clung most tenaciously to the old ways. Friends of other bodies journey to Barnesville, Ohio to experience its unique atmosphere, aware that it retains something that virtually all other Friends have given up.

At least a few of its members see it as the last truly Quaker body left in the world, since the overwhelming majority of American Friends have chosen very different directions.

As a faith group in the world today, Conservative Friends—especially represented by OYM, may be small by global or world standards, but for those of us that visit, like me, we find it very special.

I am one that truly identifies with the author regarding the words “Plain,” unique atmosphere, and as being the last truly Quaker body left in the world. What I experience with OYM and especially the OYM Gatherings is truly unique and so different from all the other faith oriented experiences that have been such an important part of my life. Being there was truly a wonderful experience! It is so rare in life I can walk into a group setting and experience a sense of being welcomed and appreciated for being there as I feel in the Meetinghouse at Barnesville. The people and the pres

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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.ohioyearlymeeting.org

Meeting	Location	Contact Person	Contact Information
Friends Gathering in Jesus Christ	Evanston, Illinois (near		
Goshen Meeting	Scone, Scotland	Paul Thompson	UK # 01738 620688; Bookseeker @blueyonder.co.uk
Lubbock Friends of Christ	Grace Presbyterian Church Building, Lub-	Sara Scribner	sarabscribner@aol.com meeting is at 4820 W. 19th Street, Lubbock, Texas 79407
Midlands Quakers	Stonebroom, Derbyshire,	Allistair Lomax	UK # 01773-875962 ripleychristianquakers@hotmail.co.uk
Richmond Christ-centered Unprogrammed Friends' Mid-	Richmond, Indiana	John Jeremiah Edminster	835 NW B Street, Richmond IN 47374; meets Third Day (Tuesday) evenings 6:15—7:15 PM; contact john.edminster@gmail.com / text (917)
Tahlequah Worship Group (Allowed Meeting under care of Hominy Monthly Meeting)	Tahlequah, Oklahoma	David Nagle	Fifth Day (Thursday), 7:30 PM 536 Summit Avenue Tahlequah OK 74464 Contact David Nagle at (918) 885-2714
Uxbridge Worship Group	Corner of Routes 98 and 146A, Uxbridge MA (Address for GPS only—no mail to this address: 479 Quaker	Constance Bair-Thompson	First Days, 9:00 AM (from first Sunday in April through October, we meet in the Uxbridge Friends Meetinghouse at above address; the rest of the year, we meet in private home—call 774-481-1212 for meeting location) Website: www.uxbridgefriends.org Please check website for when we are holding meeting for worship as we may not meet every week.
Whittier Worship Group	Whittier, California	Kim Palmer	kimpalmer11@yahoo.com

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

Our Business Meetings

Among the signs of a healthy democracy are the public debates in town halls, state legislatures, and Congress. Those debates are argued in a point, counter-point style. This is good and proper, but we must remember that this *not* what *our* business meetings are about. We are trying to discern God's will, not the will of the majority. Our challenge is to maintain the same spiritual center in our business that prospers in our silent worship.

Point-by-point debate is a contest with winners and losers. It creates an environment of attacks and defenses. Friends discernment process is different. During our process, we must be careful not to speak to any issue in a way that can feel like an attack. Likewise, if we feel attacked, we should do everything we can to lay aside those feelings and give other Friends the benefit of the doubt as to their intentions. It is important to recognize that people speaking defensively rarely realize they are doing so. We should also recognize this tendency in ourselves.

Like the messages in our silent worship, messages in business are expected to be shared openings from God. They should not be responses to what someone else has said. Remembering this, and remembering that we should only speak once to an issue, can help restrain us until we are certain that we must speak and help us be concise when we do.

When we stand to speak in silent worship, we would never stare directly at a single individual. Spirit-led messages are expected to be shared with the entire gathering. So too, should be our speaking in business. We should stand, speak clearly to the body, and not address one person. If we find ourselves in an exchange with a single individual, whether that exchange includes words or simply body language, it is a sure sign that we are not proceeding as we should. Our Clerk is not an officer charged with keeping order. He or she is our servant tasked with recording our decisions. A gifted Clerk can help us discern God's will through presentations of issues and taking of minutes, but it is not right to rely on the him or her for good order in our meetings. That is the responsibility of the body as a whole.

The Clerk's ultimate responsibility is to document the discernment of the gathering. Unlike parliamentary minutes, our intent is not to take down different opinions or note what was said. The Clerk minutes the *sense of the meeting*. Some Clerks may include phrases like "one Friend said...", but this has not been common among Conservative Friends. Likewise, Conservative Friends do not follow the practice of recording the names of those who have "stepped aside." Yet, in *any* Friends Meeting, one should never assume a right to have one's thoughts included in the minutes.

The sense of a business meeting must reflect Christ's call to us. When the business falls into a de-

bate, a quarrelsome attitude can overshadow the Christian love we have for each other. When this happens, it is clear that we have left the appointed path and we should halt business to settle into silent worship and prayer. If love does not command the floor when the silence is broken, we should not hesitate to return to the silence.

Unfortunately, there can be instances when someone speaks in a contentious spirit. In extreme cases, an interruption may be called for. This must only be done with care, love and our Lord's guiding hand. It is important to understand that the transgressing party will not realize that they are straying. They will believe that they are speaking truth. To help them back onto the path without offence is difficult indeed. For this reason, corrections are most likely to come from an experienced elder sitting on a facing bench. But that does not relieve the rest of us from responding in love when we are called. When answering this call, one should never address the individual directly, or even refer to how that individual erred. Instead, comments should be directed to the body, concerning the state of the body and how the health of the body might be restored. Examples of such messages might be: "We seem to have fallen into contention..." and/or "Perhaps, we should move at this moment into some unifying silent prayer...".

Our approach to dealing with contentious speakers has an important corollary. That is, we must be ready to be corrected ourselves. If one of our messages is interrupted, it is critical that we not take offence. We may still believe that we are speaking rightly, but for the sake of the gathering it is best to sit down and continue to pray on what we believed we were to share. True Victory can be obtained by living through this experience and maintaining our foundation of love.

Guidelines for our approach to business are possible. Such guidelines might be: business meetings cannot become discussions, we must avoid defensive behavior, we should not speak more than once to an issue, we should not respond to a previous comment, we should speak to the body and not to an individual, we must never have an exchange with a single individual either in word or body language, we cannot assume that our personal voice will be recorded in the minutes and we must remember that good harmony is *our* responsibility, not the Clerk's. If we do use guidelines such as these, we must acknowledge that they can only provide a *warning* when we stray. Our true guide is Christ himself and the real measure of our success is when we follow Him.

Charles Thomas, Jr.
Member, Marlborough Monthly Meeting
Susan Smith
Clerk, Rockingham Monthly Meeting

Christ is the Way of Transformation

For me and my spiritual path, following Christ is a Way, a way of transformation, a way to navigate this world, and a way to live in a simple, spirit-filled, and a loving and open state of being. Notice, I did not say rosy, easy, safe or calm. To follow where Christ leads is to trust and to allow one's self to be vulnerable. Following Christ is not a guarantee that you will not be hurt or be placed in danger. Look at some of the places Godly men and women were led. Joan of Arc burned at the stake, Mary Dyer hanged, early Christians and Quakers persecuted, killed and thrown in dungeons, Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinated. Of course, we all know what the princes of this world did to Jesus. The Kingdom of God that Jesus preached was in direct contrast to the kingdom of the world.

He taught peace and love and repentance from wickedness, and was killed most brutally because he shook up the domination system. The rulers and the elite feared that a public that loved one another and God would not need them. In the Kingdom of God that Jesus taught about, there was true justice and equality, the very opposite of the fear-based obedience that Roman governors and high priests used to control the people.

I do not think that I am doing anything even remotely close to that, but I am still not on a path that is smooth, safe or easy by any means. I have come to understand, in my 44 years of experiences, that I have learned more from living through tragedy, my own mistakes, and facing fear than I learned when everything is going smoothly. No one wants to face what they fear, it's downright scary! The originator of psychotherapy, Sigmund Freud, stated that we as human beings seek to maximize our own pleasure and diminish our own pain, but we can see from the previous examples that to be on the spiritual path is to follow your leadings no matter where they take you.

I have to be steadfast in fearful situations. I began college at the age of 41. I was always terrified of public speaking, and now I would have to give speeches and presentations for almost every class. I would pray to God, "please let me be calm and not so afraid, let everything go well with my speech." I would have a sleepless night before the day I was to speak in class. I would stand and walk shaking, perspiring and nervous to the podium and get through my speech. Afterward I felt like I had climbed a mountain! I felt victory over the fear. In time, my fears have lessened and I am much better at speaking to groups; sometimes I even look forward to it. That is how the way of Christ works. If you pray for calmness and less fear in a situation, like my presentations in class, God gives you the opportunity to face that fear and realize that you can get through it.

Pray for patience, God gives the opportunity

for you to be patient with a person, situation or need. One of my biggest lessons has been to wait on the path for what comes next. I was and in some ways still am impatient. I like quick answers and neat solutions, life is mostly not like that at all. I learn to do what I can and that is all I can do. Sometimes the answer is waiting, and that is fine and what Quakers do. We wait on the Lord to show the way. The Way has its difficulties and obstacles to overcome. The roadblocks, detours and waiting for the way to become clear does make us stronger. We learn to be more flexible, and we learn to listen more closely to the inward Christ that George Fox said has come to teach His people Himself.

- John Richards

Member, Middletown Friends Meeting
Langhorne PA

To Representative Meeting

I felt like I failed to give the message the Lord had called me to share with all of you [on Fourth Month 20] and that I needed to ask God to forgive me for my short coming.

The Lord in His infinite mercy awoke me at 3:00 AM First Day morning and brought that message to me again instructing me again to bring that message to the representative body, so I will not fail Him again.

The message starts with Matthew 11: 28-30, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Jesus also said, "Take my yoke upon you daily and follow me." He didn't say if you feel like it, He said for us to do it.

Taking on the work the Lord has for each of us can be a daunting task if we fail to keep our focus on Him. "...Looking to the rock from whence we are hewn... the rock on which we stand, Christ Jesus." Isaiah 50:1. Much joy can be felt as we keep our focus on Christ, the light that shines within us.

How would we feel if the Lord were to say unto us, I will not cumber thee with this task, I will give it to another to handle? Would we not then cry out unto the Lord and say, "I can do that Lord, only in thy strength and guiding hand to lead me."?

Dear Friends, let us pray the anointing power of God will lift us up and guide us with all diligence to follow that good and acceptable will He has for every member of OYM, the Representative body and those who will be working on this committee.

Pray without ceasing,

Burton Doudna

Clerk, Chestnut Ridge Monthly Meeting

Christian Friends Conference - Western Region Palo Alto (California) Friends Meetinghouse

The quarterly meeting of the Christian Friends Conference - Western Region was held on Saturday December 8, 2018 at Palo Alto Friends Meetinghouse, with ten Friends present. Introductions were made and greetings from absent members were passed on. The CFC statement of purpose was read, our schedule for the day was presented, and finally Invitation to Worship, written by Max Hansen, was read.

Friends then gathered for about two hours of waiting worship, begun with a period of Bible reading. Vocal ministry included a reading from Matthew 5:6 and following from The Message; Proverbs 4; Ecclesiasticus 40 and 51; Jeremiah 31:33, 'I shall set my law within them, writing it on their hearts'; Romans 11:26; and Hebrews 7-8; also a message about the True knowledge of God, who is intimate with us; God answers the desire of the human heart.

Following fellowship over lunch, we had a general discussion. One Friend is hoping to have a Sunday evening gathering once a month, using alternate queries and handwork projects. If anyone is interested, please contact Bruce Folsom, who will put you

in touch with the coordinator. Other Friends have attended the newly formed San Mateo worship group, held Sunday mornings. One Friend is a regular participant in Palo Alto Monthly Meeting mid-week worship; others are regular attenders at San Francisco Monthly Meeting mid-week worship. Another Friend reported on a young British woman who has created a Quaker video series that already has a huge viewership; and on Micah Bales, soon to be co-pastor of Berkeley Friends Church, who has put out a video series, "Quaker Faith and Podcast." This Friend requests prayers as she discerns whether to consider traveling among College Park Quarter, similar to her recent trip to Central Coast.

We discussed the date of our next gathering. Bruce will request our preferred date from Berkeley Friends Church, and inform our email list.

We concluded with a final period of waiting worship for about an hour.

On behalf of Christian Friends Conference
Western Region,
Bruce Folsom

"No One Needs Thee More Than I"

Dearest Jesus, all thy creatures are more worthy of thy
grace
Than the vile and wretched sinner who now kneels be-
fore thy face,
Yet one claim I have upon thee, which Thou never wilt
deny;
In the bounds of thy creation no one needs thee more
than I!

Other souls have been more faithful, and have served
thee better far,
Many spotless hearts more fitting for thy gracious pres-
ence are,
Many lips devout a greeting far more fervent can sup-
ply,
But, Dear Master, well thou knowest; no one needs
thee more than I!

Many loving hands have carried richer offerings to thy
shrine,
Many generous hearts have loved thee with a purer
love than mine;
These thy chosen ones approach thee, as the doves to
coverts fly,
I am utterly unworthy, but no one needs thee more than
I!

Sins unnumbered, unatoned for, have made havoc in
my soul,

And against me stands, as witness, the recording angels
roll;
All untilled have been my vineyard, and its soil is hard
and dry,
O my God! my only refuge, no one needs thee more
than I!

For without thee I am helpless, fast in sin's strong fet-
ters caught,
Blinded by my evil passions, swayed by impulses un-
taught,
I could do no good unaided, it were worse than vain to
try,
Come thyself to me sweet Jesus, no one needs thee
more than I!

Thou didst leave the Father's bosom to claim and save
the lost,
Thou didst take upon thee freely our redemption's aw-
ful cost;
Thou, thyself, has called me to thee, Thou wilt hearken
to my cry,
In the bounds of all creation, no one needs thee more
than I!

Edith C. Doudna
11th mo/ 9th/1952

*submitted by Burton Doudna,
Clerk of Chestnut Ridge Monthly Meeting*

A Choice

The God of heaven and earth, the great King of kings has spoken and called the people, all people of all nations, to bow at the feet of Jesus. There is no other name given whereby we can be saved. That Jesus who died on the cross at Jerusalem and rose on the third day offers each of us life, abundant life now and forever.

Tell me why anyone would reject such a great offer. I personally have tried this offer for over 50 years and I tell you life gets richer as the days come and go. Let me plead with you to surrender all, ask forgiveness for your sins and start up that path that leads to the gates of heaven. Do not for one moment look back. Travel that highway where you are safe: that highway where the angels are watching by day and by night, that highway where there is love forever and we are never alone.

O the joy, the healing power, the song of victory, the peace and the beauty. Over and over my cup of blessings runs over. Come let us talk about the roads. Let's take a serious look at the roads and where they end.

We are all traveling toward our eternal home. O come let's look at the maps and charts. Let's put all on the table and ask, "What is best? Am I choosing the good? Am I on the road that leads to the end of all pain, all sorrow, all loneliness?"

It is true there is a road that leads to the pits of

hell where those who go down that road to the end will be in torment for the countless ages of eternity. Come and take the road that leads up to the gates of heaven, there to be forever at rest, there to have no more pain, no sorrow, just the perfect life forever.

Remember life here on earth can suddenly end. We can suddenly be at the end of the road. O how awful for those who find themselves on the wrong road and find themselves falling into the flames of hell.

You may say, "I will not be scared into doing good. A good God will not put any into hell if there is such a place." If you are burning an old building and I want to go in and get something out but you tell me not to go in, if I go ahead and go in and fail to get out would you feel you were to blame since you warned me not to go in? If I said I will not be scared into not going and go on in would I be using good sense?

To me you are very foolish if you go down the highway that leads to death when life can be so great and so rich that leads to heaven. In fact I firmly believe we can have heaven on earth. Of course we all have storms to pass through but even in the storms there can be peace and joy.

Come one and all. Let's walk together up that road that ends with a crown of life. Come let's make this a better world as we wait to pass over into the promised land.

Are you coming? Do you need help to get started? Have you fallen in a ditch and need help getting out? I want to help, but be sure to remember you can call for help from Jesus. The Holy Spirit can teach you and guide you and there are angels working day and night.

"In the presence of the Lord is fullness of joy." Come one and all, come and see the beauty of God's kingdom.

- the late Richard Hall
originally published as a printed tract
submitted by Burton Doudna
Clerk of Chestnut Ridge Monthly Meeting

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ence of the Spirit there is truly a blessing to experience in one's life.

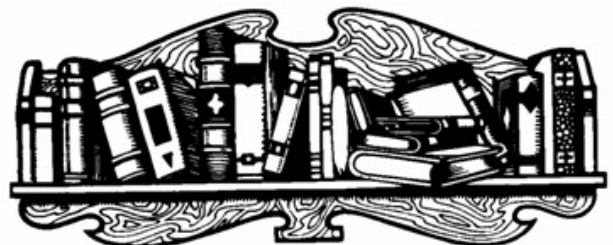
I felt like in many ways attending the Gathering of Friends was like a reunion or homecoming for me.

The activities and events I have attended in past years as well as the 2018 Gathering have been a blessing in my life. I look forward to the 2020 Gathering of Conservative Friends, but also want to stay connected and participate in OYM activities in the meantime.

I want to know I have a faith community where I truly feel at home, can support and be a part of by attending events and educational activities that are hosted at different times of the year.

I feel as a person of Faith, I want to be known as a Friend, and to feel part of the Community of Friends represented by OYM.

- George Partridge
Affiliate Member, Crossroads Monthly Meeting



Eliminating ALL Wars

Our sixth query asks, “Do we live in the life and power which takes away the occasion of all wars?” Before we can answer, we duly consider what the true causes of all wars are. Guns, bombs, missiles do not cause wars. “What causes wars, and what causes fightings among you? Is it not your passions that are at war in your members?” (*Jas 4:1 RSV*)

If the causes, or occasion, of all wars are in our own hearts, what is that life and power which takes them away? Is it not the life and power of Christ? Christ Himself, the Seed, the Light, the Word of God? And how is it possible for that Seed to find the rich and clean soil it needs to grow? Christ lives and grows within us to the extent we give up to Him, on our daily crosses, our selfish desires, our wills, our worldly passion, our own lives. It is only in that new life, that life of Christ within us, that we can respond to criticism with humility, that we return good for evil, that we love our enemies no matter what.

This is truly a great cause that we Friends have championed for almost 400 years – not the cause of “peace” as the world gives peace, but the cause of Christ, the prince of peace. We assure ourselves that, if everyone were to become subject to the Kingdom in this way, there would finally be an end to all wars. But what are all wars?

In my dictionary, the first definition of “war” is, “The state or fact of exerting violence or force against another.” All wars encompass much more than one nation sending its armies against another. Isn’t any evil act against anyone part of all wars? Isn’t there ultimately only one war, of which all others are just a skirmish? That one war is the war in which we Friends are called to JOIN, and to FIGHT valiantly and vigorously. It is the Lamb’s war – “These [the minions of Satan] shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful.” (*Rev 17:145*)

The Lamb’s war, as Jesus said to Pilate, is not fought with outward weapons because it is not fought outwardly at all. The war between good and evil is fought in our hearts, to win our loyalty. Will we love and obey Christ or Satan? If we love and obey Christ, He will remove from our hearts the occasion of -all wars. Imagine what a truly peaceful world it would be if we Friends could turn every human being to Christ, to love and obey Him!

Remember the old saw, “What would happen if they gave a war and nobody came?” What would happen to drug addiction or alcohol abuse if the joy of knowing Christ would take away the occasion of seeking joy from anything else? What would happen

to lung cancer if all people, not just Friends, believed their bodies to be the temples of God, removing the occasion of smoking? What would happen to sexually transmitted diseases and abortions if devotion to purity, out of love for Christ, would take away the occasion of extra-marital and irresponsible sex?

If we of Ohio Yearly Meeting try, though political action, to eliminate military conflict, we will not be a dot in the history of the 21st century. If we of Ohio Yearly Meeting rally to the Lamb’s war over Satan and sin, a spiritual war, if we live in the life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars, we will become the effective instruments of Him through whom “all things are possible.” Will we do it? Are we called, and chosen, and faithful?

Conrad Lindes
Member of Salem Monthly Meeting

Mt. Pleasant Annual Historic Tour

The Historical Society of Mt. Pleasant, Ohio will offer its Annual Historic Tour Eighth Month 03 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Eighth Month 04 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The Annual Historic Tour will include at least six historic buildings in town and the Hicksite Meeting house in Emerson. The exhibit will have papers and letters regarding the Yearly Meeting House from 1814—1823, with explanations.

The Annual Historic Tour will cost \$15.00 per person. This will be the weekend before Ohio Yearly Meeting. Some Friends might like to go to Mt. Pleasant as a side trip before OYM.

- Loisanne Rockwell
Member of Stillwater Monthly Meeting

Quaker Worship

Deep within there is a place
Beyond the reach of time and space,
Where worries pale and demons flee
Confronted by Eternity.

And some one there who calls my name
Tells me like Him to be the same,
The body’s death is not a loss
When soul finds life upon the cross.

There is no need for spoken word
Where Christ’s own voice within is heard.
No choir’s hymn, no organ’s chord
But soundless anthems from the Lord

As received by Conrad Lindes 2019
Member, Salem Monthly Meeting

The Conservative Friend #55

c/o Phil Helms

2485 Bogie Lake Road

White Lake MI 48386

Return Service Requested

Christian Friends Conference—Western Region **Berkley Friends Church, Berkeley, California** **March 23, 2019**

The quarterly meeting of the Christian Friends Conference - Western Region was held on Saturday March 23, 2019 at Berkeley Friends Church, with about 11 Friends present, both from unprogrammed Meetings and from Friends Churches. There were five Friends here for the first time. We introduced ourselves, and heard greetings from some absent Friends.

We then gathered for about two hours of worship, beginning with a period of Bible reading. We heard a passage from 1 Corinthians 6; Jesus asking, who do people say I am? And who do you say I am? (Matthew 16, Mark 8, Luke 9); James 2:1-13, mercy triumphs over judgement; and Psalm 51, for the Lenten season. We later heard a message about a leading as simple as giving socks to those with cold feet.

During fellowship over lunch we had an opportunity to visit with the new co-pastors of Berkeley Friends Church, Micah Bales and Faith Kelley, and their two young sons, George and Francis.

We then chose the preferred date for our next gathering in Palo Alto: June 15, 2019; and dispersed for the day.

On behalf of
Christian Friends Conference,
Western Region,
Bruce Folsom

