

Wilmington Friend  
Cincinnati Friends Meeting  
August 2016

Caring in many forms has been at the foundation of life in our community during this summer at Cincinnati Friends. Caring for our building and grounds has required many hours of hard work for our Trustees. Under their care, our Meetinghouse now has new energy-efficient LED lighting that allows us to be eco-conscious while enjoying better lighting without the humming from the old fluorescent lights. Trustees have also overseen some electrical updating that has resulted in the installation of new motion sensors on lights in our bathrooms and closets. Under the guidance of our Trustees, we continue to research ways that we can reduce our carbon footprint in such areas as solar and geo-thermal options.

Not only have our Trustees devoted their energies to the Meetinghouse, they have been just as diligent in their care for our grounds. We are blessed to be surrounded by the bounty of nature that includes many, many trees. Trustees have been caring for the trees, including cutting down some that have died. In doing so, they have made sure to keep some of the dead trees that are away from the building so that they may continue to serve as a haven for woodpeckers. We were reminded of how near we are to nature and how intertwined we are with it during one worship service this summer when a deer came out of the woods and stopped just outside one of our windows and looked in, joining us in a communal moment that truly filled our spirits with awe.

We continue our care in support of our spiritual nurturing and community-building with each other. Our Young Friends hosted a picnic at our Meetinghouse in May as part of their series of worship sharing messages with us. There was another time for community in August with a picnic at the Hadley Farm. Thirteen of us traveled to Wilmington for the closing session of Wilmington Yearly Meeting in support of the recording of Donne Hayden as a Quaker minister. Donne retired from seven years of service as our minister. We were honored to recommend her for recording and so lifted up to be with her as she was recorded and shared the message at the closing session.

It was true joy for us to come together on a Saturday morning in August for a planning meeting for discernment about our classes and spiritual nurture groups for the Fall and Winter. Jim Newby will lead a class on his book Sacred Chaos later in the winter, with a class this Fall on How Our Christian Testament Came to Be. There will also be a Fall Quakerism 101 class. All of our classes and groups and led to build caring and community. They are open to anyone who wants to attend them from within our Meeting, other congregations and the community. One of the true joys of our planning meeting was to see Jim in a different role – as cook! He prepared a well-received brunch of pancakes, eggs and more before the planning meeting began.

Care for the community around us and our world was held in the Light and in action in many ways over the past few months. Linda Daigle represented CFM with a presentation at the 2016 community-wide Interfaith Pride Worship Service. Our film documentary, Quakers: That of God in Everyone continues to teach and touch lives. We were pleased to hear that our film received the Silver Crown Award (2nd place) from International Christian Visual Media, in the category of films that cost more than \$50,000 to produce. Donne Hayden wrote the film. Wilmington Yearly Meeting supported the film with a generous and much needed grant.

Care for the wider community was a centerpiece of our summer, inspiring and motivating us to look (and act) beyond our own concerns and needs. Our Peace & Social Concerns Committee has presented a series of presentations following worship in keeping with our commitment to our environment and our concerns related to climate change. Among the presentations were two led by Eric Hatch – one reviewing Al Gore's TED talk on climate change and another on Green Cars. He is scheduled to make another presentation in September, which is open to all. We approved a Minute of appreciation for Jim Crocker-Lakness for his thoughtful and spirit-led clerking of Ministry and Counsel and welcomed Sabrina Darnowsky as our new Clerk. Elizabeth Newby has been welcomed as the new clerk for Peace & Social Concerns.

For many, the most inspiring and spirit-led example of caring for the wider world came to us this summer through the ministry of one of our Young Friends, Christian Page. Christian and his grandfather set out on a summer journey to bike across the United States and in so doing to raise awareness of and funds in support of research for Multiple Sclerosis. Christian's grandmother has MS and it is her strength and perseverance that inspired him to take on a journey few of us can even imagine undertaking. He and his grandfather have returned home safely, without an injury between them. Christian will be sharing the story of his summer ministry and the once in a lifetime bonding experience with his grandfather with our Meeting with presentations and a story he will write for our newsletter. One young man has lifted us all up and shown us by example what it truly and fully means to care!



Christian is pictured at a stop in Berea, Kentucky with Linda Daigle, one of our caring Young Friends leaders, along with Jeff Arnold and Nan Hatch.