

Wilmington Friend
Cincinnati Friends Meeting
December 2016

We at Cincinnati Friends Meeting have felt the depth and breadth of the season of Thanksgiving. We have worshipped in gratitude for the wisdom that comes with both physical and spiritual age, as well as with the inspiration that comes with youth, harkening to the message from Winnie the Pooh's friend Piglet Piglet, it is said, noticed that even though he had a very small heart, it could hold a rather large amount of gratitude.

We have been surrounded by a rather large amount of gratitude in so many ways. We were grateful for the gift of love as we celebrated the September wedding of Linda Daigle and Susan Doremus. We came together in November to celebrate Ruby Porter's 90th birthday with a cake and with a presentation from Ruby that took us on a journey through so many changes in our history. It was also a time to remember the 99th birthday of Mildred Griswold.

We are grateful for the wisdom of those who have followed their leadings and in doing so, have led us in spiritual nurture classes and groups, including a Quakerism 101 class and a class on How the Christian Testament Came to Be, led by Jim Newby; a study of the Gnostic Gospels led by Jim Crocker-Lakness; ongoing nurturing through our Prayer Shawl group led by Nan Hatch; Every Day Mysticism, led by Cathy Barney and more, including Thursday night Intercessory Prayer Group. More time for spiritual growth and nurturing is planned for early 2017, with a class in Expressive Writing to be led by Michael Ramos; a Creative Listening Group to be facilitated by Mary Ellen Krisher; and The Writings of Richard Rohr to be led by Jeff Arnold. All of these spiritual and study groups are open to members, attenders and any interested guests.

Gratitude continues to abound for the leadings of our Peace & Social Concerns Committee. We have continued our time to reflect on our climate and environment with presentations following worship led by Eric Hatch. We welcomed Rev. Troy Jackson, Executive Director of the AMOS Project in Cincinnati, and, following his time with us, were led to become a congregational member of AMOS. Our outreach with Tender Mercies and Bethany House continues, with Bethany House selected to be our community organization we support during the holiday season. We also continue our support of Permaganic Eco-Garden in Over the Rhine in Cincinnati. CFM attender Luke Ebner is the Executive Director of Permaganic.

Within the midst of gratitude, the seed of hospitality grows. We were pleased to host Miami Center Quarterly Meeting at our Meetinghouse in November. In one of our most unique experiences, we opened up our Meetinghouse (the Fireside Room) and our parking lot to a Hollywood movie crew. They were in our neighborhood filming a movie starring Nicholas Cage and Faye Dunaway, *Inconceivable*. The crew used our parking lot for their cars and for their catering trailer and enjoyed the hospitality of our Fireside Room to relax and enjoy their meals. It was an exciting time to have them with us.

Those who are young and young at heart continue to fill us with gratitude. We were inspired by the successful ministry of 14-year-old Christian Page, one of our Young Friends, as he completed his bike trip around the country with his grandfather, Gary Page. Christian presented a very detailed report during a time of hospitality, which included his gratitude to our Meeting for our support of his trip. He and his grandfather raised more than \$8,000 for MS research. No sooner had he returned from his grueling adventure than he took on another one. He led a serviced project with other Young Friends that included updating and sprucing up around our grounds, including work on our Trail, as well as work on our swing set and play area.

We will end this year on Christmas Eve with our candlelight service, where we will come together as family, friends and community, to take time away from the 'outside' stress and noise so that, in our silence, music and words, our hearts and spirits can be open and filled with a rather large amount of gratitude.