

Wilmington Friend
Cincinnati Friends Meeting
June 2017
By Judy Leasure

In everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven ... a time to weep and a time to laugh a time to mourn and a time to dance

These words from Ecclesiastes embraced us during this season of spring that has given us both time to weep and mourn and time to laugh, dance and celebrate. We have grown stronger and increased our sense of community that has come from both the mourning and the celebration.

We continue our communal grieving for our beloved Maurice Peck (husband of Mary Peck) and Pat Gaston. Pat so loved the 'Quaker Way' and was a dear friend to Judy Froehlich and others. We also remember Lee Jones. Although an infrequent attender, she loved our Meeting. She was the sister of Ray and Roger Scroggins.

During this time of pomp and circumstance, we share communal congratulations to our graduates: beginning with our kindergarten graduate, Millie Leasure, who wore her first ever cap and gown at ceremonies at Learning Tree. Millie is the daughter to Adam and Ginny Leasure and the granddaughter of Paul and Judy Leasure. Alex Myers was among more than 500 graduates of the 2017 class of Beavercreek High School. Alex is the son of Ryan and Michelle Myers and the grandson of Paul and Judy Leasure. Rya Lally graduated with her Master of Social Work with a specialization in aging from Case Western Reserve University. The daughter of Kristin Lally, she has started her new job with Hospice of Western Reserve in Cleveland.

We dance with joy in welcoming Mike Ramos and his wife Judy Born as our newest CFM members, along with Glenn Williams. Mike and Judy are the ballroom dancers of our Meeting.

We celebrate with and congratulate Eric Hatch on having one of his photographs named First Place winner in the Landscape category at the Middletown Arts Center annual photo competition.

We kept our commitment to service by concluding our clothing collection for Matthew 25 Ministries, under the care of our Peace & Social Concerns Committee.

We kept our commitment to our environment by welcoming our new bees from Georgia and with prayers that they will flourish under our care and concern. We also completed a hard day of work on our grounds the first weekend of June. We also opened our Meetinghouse on June

15 to hear a presentation from biologist and award-winning author Sara Lewis as she spoke from her book, *Silent Sparks*. Following her presentation we joined Sara and the Arc of Appalachia to go out on the grounds to watch the fireflies. June is the time that fireflies light up the skies in unmowed fields and forest edges across the eastern United States, including our area. In these ways and more, we sought to answer one of the queries brought to us by Brent Bill: What are the spiritual implications of the way I treat the Earth?

With the tenacity, hard work and persistence of Sabrina Darnowsky our new website is up and running in a more user-friendly environment. There is even a section for Ask a Quaker and our pastor Jim Newby has already responded to some questions. Nan Hatch and Judy Leasure also contributed to the updated website.

What do John Dillinger, Betsy Ross, Richard Nixon and Daisy Douglas Barr have in common? Answer one is that they were all Quakers. Answer two, according to Quaker author Brent Bill, is that they were 'bad' Quakers. Most of us know about John Dillinger. Betsy Ross was considered a 'bad' Quaker because she was a fighting Quaker. We know about Richard Nixon as well. Daisy was a Quaker pastor in Indiana who also was the head recruiter of KKK women. These are just some of the examples Brent shared as he spent a Saturday with us in April, sharing his message of "Life Lessons from a Bad Quaker." While sharing these more extreme examples of 'bad Quakers or Quakers who have done some bad things', Brent's message was overall lighthearted and reflective for more than 20 of us who enjoyed his humor and insights, as we enjoyed the message he shared with us during meeting for worship on Sunday.

As we meet in our classes conducted by our pastor and members/attenders, as we sit together in worship, we are reminded often of other queries Brent shared with us from his book that reflect who we are as a Solidarity congregation and in faithful followers of our testimonies: Am I careful to speak the truth as I know it? What does it mean for me to be peaceful person? We gather together in the silence in expectation that we will hear God speak within us and to us as we dance and celebrate as we grieve and mourn ... to everything there is a purpose.