

# The Traveling Friend

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Fall, 2018



## Building Community



### Welcoming 10 to CFM membership

A time of welcoming during worship: pictured are (l-r) Greg Keairns, Judy Keairns, Elaine Williams, Eric Staples, Jim Newby, Kathy Stewart (with her husband Steve Smookler) and Ray Geers. Not pictured are Ashley and Cassandra Staples and Elizabeth Newby.

#### New Members:

Ray Geers  
Greg Keairns  
Judy Keairns  
Kathy Stewart  
Elaine Williams

Those seeking membership within our Meeting must complete the six-week Introduction to *The People Called Quakers* class, meet with a Clearness Committee and be approved during Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

#### Transfer of Membership to CFM

Elizabeth Newby  
James Newby  
Ashley Staples  
Cassandra Staples  
Eric Staples



CFM member Jim Crocker-Lakness shares time with David Fankhauser during David's presentation at Community Friends, which was hosted by Community, Eastern Hills Friends and CFM.

### Freedom Ride: One Quaker's Civil Disobedience

Our three Cincinnati Quaker meetings came together to listen to the powerful story of personal sacrifice and commitment to social justice by those who were known as the Freedom Riders. They were black and white, mostly young, and they came from places like Central State University to places like Mississippi during the early days of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s to give their testimony and their lives if necessary.

These stories are more than history for David Fankhauser. He and another young white man were students at Central State University outside of Dayton when the call came that there was a need for people to come together to 'ride the buses' in the south as a protest against racial inequality. These young idealists from around the country came together in Washington, D. C., where the first Freedom Riders were being organized by the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE.) Their mission was to integrate buses. The first of them got on Greyhound and Trailways buses and headed south. In May, 1961, one of the Greyhound buses was fire-bombed in Alabama. Members of the KKK held the doors shut to try and kill everyone. On May 14, passengers on a Trailways bus were beaten and then arrested. (continued on page 4)

**Pastor's Corner**

... by *Jim Newby*



In 1661 the early Quakers sent a declaration to Charles II. It read in part, “we utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretense whatsoever. And this is our Testimony to the whole world. The Spirit of Christ, by which we are guided, is not changeable, so as once to command us from a thing as evil and again to move unto it, and we do certainly know, and so testify to the world, that the Spirit of Christ which leads us unto all Truth, will never move us to fight and war against any person with outward weapons, neither for the Kingdom of Christ, nor the kingdoms of this world.”

We live in a day of terror and fear, not unlike the time when Friends sent their Declaration to Charles II. Violence is a part of our everyday lives. America has been at war since our inception, with very few respites between conflicts. Today we are in continuous and never ending wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen. At home we live in a gun culture, with all the injuries and deaths that this culture produces. Our first response in so many situations is to use violence, even using tear gas on asylum seekers who are desperate for a home away from the violence they have experienced in their own countries. Being a peacemaker in such a time as this is not an easy occupation.

It is tempting to tell ourselves that the decisions regarding peace among nations and even peace along our own southern border and on the streets where we live is something that we cannot affect. But this should not prevent us from trying ... from trying to love those who are difficult to love and to speak out against injustice, which so often sows the seed of violence.

Working for justice is something that we can all do. And we can pray and hold the victims of war and violence in the Light.

From our beginnings Quakers have sought to be peacemakers, to live in the Light and Love that takes away the occasion for war and violence. Many would call us impractical and naïve. I would suggest that war and violence is not ‘practical.’ In the words of William Penn, “it is time to see what *love* can do.”

In the Book of Isaiah, the Messiah is called the ‘Prince of Peace.’ “Blessed are the peacemakers,” says this Prince of Peace, “for they will be called children of God.”

In this season of peace, a season when we celebrate the birth of the Messiah, let us become the peacemakers we are called to be. As a way to begin, I suggest that we consider the following Queries: What do I believe are the obstacles to peace? How can I help to remove these obstacles?



*Community building through cleaning was the goal of the day when Friends came together on a December Saturday to do a ‘deep’ cleaning of our kitchen and other areas of our Meetinghouse, just in time for our annual Christmas Eve service on December 24 and to start off 2019 with a fresh cleaning all around.*

*Among our volunteers doing the good work of Meeting for Cleaning were: Mike Ramos (front); and (l-r) Judy Born; Joan Effertz, Carole Barnhart; Valerie Shesko and Debbie Miller. Not pictured are Jeff Arnold & Debbie Overmyer*

*Our Trustees thank our volunteers and those who volunteer throughout the year caring for our grounds and our Meetinghouse.*

## Building Community in Cape Hatteras

... by Ray Geers



*"I have called you friends .... and I delegated you to go out and produce fruit. And your fruit will last because my father will provide."*

*-John 15: 15-16*

The last week of September eight people set out from our Meeting on a journey from Ohio to the shores of the Atlantic Ocean 800 miles away for our *Reflections from the Inner Light* Retreat. Four of us came straight from our Cincinnati Friends Meeting, having bathed ourselves in the celebrations surrounding our 'official' welcoming as new members of our Meeting. (*No, I didn't say baptism! Sorry for the confusion.*)

GPS coordinates were set for a night's stay in West Virginia. Following that it was on eastward and to the rain that was forecast for the first few days. The hurricane that hit the East Coast the week before could not scuttle our plans. The participants spirits were buoyant, almost giddy at times, at least in the car I was in, which included two 'seasoned' Friends/friends, Mary Ellen Krisher and Dick Patterson. I was the designated driver, not because I was more sober than my noble friends. No liquid spirits here!

I speak for myself when I say another kind of spirit touched our emotions. I was excited for saltwater and wind and sand. I love those elements! On a deeper level, I was desirous of the *"that for which I knew not,"* for the indescribable. We seemed on a perfect trajectory towards just such an experience. I was the chosen driver, for better or worse. It was logical, in fact, since I am a Quaker 'newbie' and a little younger than my car-mates. Would that I meet all the qualifications of a good driver since they put their trust in me!

Let's just get this out of the way. I get a speeding ticket from a North Carolina Highway Patrolman. It started with me not paying attention to the speed limit. We were perhaps 50 miles from our destination. Water could be seen on both sides of the two lane highway, at least where the sand dunes would bow down a little to let us see past them. National shorelines, toll bridges, super-small towns and fishing boats passed by us left and right.

In my rear-view mirror I could see Jim and Liz Newby's car behind us. We hadn't seen them for hours. Things were finally coming together and I felt the journey's end was near. I could almost smell it! Thank heavens!

After nearly 800 miles of driving, I still wasn't best friends with the cruise control on Mary Ellen's SUV. But I was on automatic pilot ... my brain that is. God knows I was in the wrong. No sense making excuses. How often are our mistakes in life a matter of being on auto-pilot instead of manual control? Impatient to be further along in the journey ... I sure was! Every mistake, every 'missing of the mark' happens in the moment, and every moment is pregnant with multiple choices. I chose to dream of what lay just ahead, of the future, rather than live in that present moment. I was already checking out the Buxton beach and counting the seagulls and not paying enough attention to the speedometer. How rude of that patrolman to wake me up from my pretty dream!

It was then I discovered the forgiveness of friends and the potential for oceans of light and love - despite the most recent storm of personal darkness. I felt as though I was being welcomed a second time, in just a two day span, into the sincere fellowship of Quaker communal life. Not only did Mary Ellen and Dick forgive and support me, the whole crew of Hatteras friends stood by me in my hour of weakness

They uplifted me like a boat on the water. My leaky vessel was quickly brought in for needed repairs. Led by Jim and with support from all, they lent me their encouragement and even their financial support. Talk about making fellowship real and effective!

The rubber met my road that day and I found it a most comfortable and comforting thing. How could I ever take these folks, my partners in what is now dubbed 'The Hatteras Eight,' for granted again? Mary Ellen, Dick, Jim, Elizabeth, Suzanne, Steve and Kathy ... you are my friends. I think of this G.K. Chesterton quote every Thanksgiving and I will now recall it when I think of you. It is a message about receiving that for which one has in no way earned. *"Here ends another day, during which I have had eyes, ears, hands and the great world around me. Tomorrow begins another day. Why am I allowed two?"* Of course, the answer is grace. I will be sharing more about our Retreat time together in upcoming issues of *Traveling Friend*. I hope you stay tuned for the next installment.

*(Freedom Riders - continued from page 1)*

On May 22, CORE called off the Freedom Rides due to the danger. Black colleges stepped in to send volunteers to continue the rides. David Fankhauser, raised a Quaker, left Central State and joined the movement. He made it south and found himself on the floor of a car being driven to the half-burnt house of one of the black leaders, awaiting direction, a white man secreted in a black man's house with another guest, Martin Luther King.

It was not long until he and his group were beaten and arrested and put in jail in Jackson, Mississippi, where they went on a 12 day hunger strike. These troublemakers were then taken to Parchman State Penitentiary deep in the Mississippi Delta, where they were put in maximum security in the Death Row section. David was in Cell #5. Others with him were names that would go down in history as some of the strongest voices in civil rights ... James Farmer, Stokely Carmichael, and the esteemed statesman John Lewis.

In those cells in the summer heat of the Mississippi Delta, they would sing, the young black men teaching the young white men to sing, old songs and songs they wrote while in prison, songs about freedom and equality that spoke to their condition. "The guards really hated our singing," David recalls, "they told us we had to stop singing because our songs were bothering the cooks."

There came the threats ... stop singing .... or else. David tells what follows. "They told us to stop singing and we didn't, so they took our toothbrushes away. They told us to stop singing and we kept singing, and they took our Bibles away. They told us to stop singing and we kept singing and they took our mattresses and sheets away. They told us to stop singing and we just kept on singing, and they took the screens off the windows so the bugs could come in. We were one big bug bite, but we just kept singing. They took the big hoses they used to spray the bugs outside and put them in the windows and sprayed us with DDT. We kept on singing."

It was like that for 42 days inside the prison walls before some outside intervention finally resulted in their release. One of David's happiest memories is riding the train back home to Union Station in Cincinnati, not sure what to expect. What he found was a crowd of supporters who welcomed him home as a hero, carrying him on their shoulders through the Station.

There had been 320 of them, young people they called the Freedom Riders, all of them scared but determined young people who turned a civil rights movement into a national movement, the Quaker David Fankhauser among them.

## Donations in the manner of Friends

... by Sabrina Darnowsky

In 1900, when Friends in Cincinnati decided they wanted to make more people aware of the Meeting, they printed cards inviting them to worship. In addition to providing a brief outline of their religious views, they also emphasized "free seats and no collections." Indeed, it was a distinguishing characteristic of Quakers that we did not 'pass the plate.' When a need arose - whether it was to buy firewood to heat the Meetinghouse, purchase a new burial ground, or collect funds for Civil war refugees - the members of our Meeting would simply solicit 'subscriptions' to the cause. People gave as they were led and able.

It wasn't until 1931 when a confluence of events — the Great Depression, coupled with our first full-time pastor - prompted Cincinnati Friends to begin passing a collection plate during worship. That practice continued until 2010, when we once again took a leap of faith and trusted that our members and attenders would continue to support the Meeting financially without a weekly nudge.

Today, contributions are typically placed in the stationary plates at the back of the worship room, or in the box marked Donations in the outer hallway. Some take advantage of the free service provided by many banks to have their offerings mailed to Cincinnati Friends Meeting automatically on a regular basis. It's easier than remembering to bring cash or a check book!

We are also currently exploring the possibility of accepting payments via PayPal or credit cards on our website, although that would involve having transaction fees deducted from contributions. Be watching for information on new opportunities for making donations. We have a long history of generosity in our Meeting. If it were not for substantial bequests and our commitment to good stewardship, our Meeting would not be able to meet our current expenses! We are blessed by and grateful to those who gave in the past and give today.

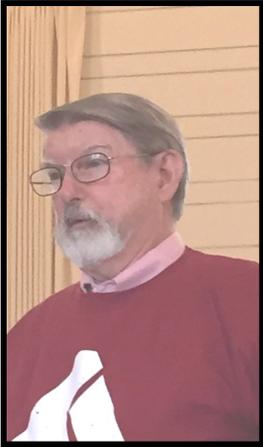
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*Jim Newby, Minister Judy Leasure, Editor*

*Kristin Lally, Design Support & Distribution*



Joe Henry

### First AVP training in Ohio to be hosted at CFM

Members and attenders of Cincinnati Friends are invited to attend Alternatives to Violence Basic training that will be held at our Meetinghouse over the weekend of February 22-24. The Alternatives to Violence Project, which was begun by Quakers, is now an international

organization that trains nonviolence workshop facilitators. Suzanne Johnson, a CFM member, and Joe Henry, a CFM attender, have both completed the Basic training and are AVP Apprentice Facilitators. Joe will work with Lead Facilitators from Indiana for the training to be held at our Meetinghouse. There is a sliding scale of \$10-\$50 to attend the training, which covers meals and administrative costs. Training will be limited to 10--20 participants. It is an 18-hour certificated training. Advanced and Facilitator workshops will be offered at dates and locations to be announced later.

“Conflict is a natural part of life,” shares Joe, “but violence does not have to be. We are living in a very difficult time for peacemakers, in which it seems that the previous statement is being constantly challenged. AVP is one positive response to the current challenges. We invite you to take advantage of this exciting and relevant opportunity.”

AVP is a multi-cultural volunteer organization that is dedicated to reducing interpersonal violence in our society. AVP workshops present conflict management skills that can enable individuals to build successful interactions, gain insights into themselves and find new and positive approaches to their lives.

**Register now by going to the AVP/Indiana website at <https://avpindiana.org/registration>.**

*“I was afraid to talk in front of others, but I learned how to overcome this fear thanks to the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP.) These workshop make us feel better. It is like there is someone helping us and we don't feel alone anymore.” Mercedes Alas, an AVP Facilitator in El Salvador. (from Friends Peace Teams)*



*Young Friends always welcome new members and guests as part of their Quaker hospitality, including welcoming one of their favorite visitors recently, a hedgehog. We don't think their hospitality to the hedgehog included one of their favorite things . . . enjoying hot chocolate together. Thank you to their Leaders, Jeff Arnold, Linda Daigle and Nan Hatch.*

### First Day School and the writings of Barclay

Our First Day School began their studies of some of Robert Barclay's writings in September, with nine themes based loosely on some of his work. Their study will continue through the end of the school year in May.

#### To date they have focused on the first four themes:

- \* We unite in the basic belief that there is that of God in everyone.
- \* Let love be the first motion.
- \* In contrast to the divine seed of goodness and love, there is also what Barclay calls the “inward seed of evil.”
- \* We trust that the Inward Guide is the ultimate teacher.

#### The other themes we will share together include:

- \* In silence, we wait upon God for divine guidance.
- \* We are open to continuing revelation.
- \* Ultimate authority is the Spirit of God.
- \* Peacemaking, simplicity, honesty, integrity, equality, community, individual responsibility and cooperation flow from attention to the Inward Teacher.
- \* We understand that we are called to obedience and to be faithful.

## Building community ... a community building



*CFM member Paul Leasure brings his family Mason jar filled with coins (and currency) as part of CFM's efforts to support the community building fund in Puerto Padre, Cuba. This donation, along with many others, has brought our total donations to \$1,190.56. We're hoping to exceed \$2,000 in total donations from CFM by the time the project ends on May 1.*

It was in the early 1900s when Wilmington Yearly Meeting provided the resources to build a school in Puerto Padre, Cuba with Friends from the local Cuba Meeting. That school was named Wilmington School. Years later the Cuban government would take over the building and now it has given the building back to Puerto Padre Friends, although they are restricted from using it as a school.

The 16 Meetings in Ohio and Tennessee that form Wilmington Yearly Meeting, including our own Meeting, have made a commitment to raise \$12,000 to rebuild and renovate the old school so that it can be used as a community building not only for Friends but for groups throughout Puerto Padre. Meetings have been busy holding yard sales, selling Cuban sandwiches in Wilmington, selling sandwiches at the Clinton County Corn Festival and more, including the Mason jar project.

Our CFM collection is under the care of our Peace and Social Concerns Committee, with the guidance of Barb Napier. Please contact her when you are at Meeting to get your Mason jar. Checks in support of the project are also welcome, made payable to Cincinnati Friends Meeting, *Memo: Puerto Padre.*



*Jeff Arnold and Joan Effertz (center two) made new friends at the Albergue hostel in Castroverde.*

## Our continuing journey on the El Camino

*..... by Joan Effertz*

What a spiritual journey it has been as I have walked the famed El Camino and to have my husband (*Jeff Arnold*) walking by my side on some of the trail, most recently our summer trip this year that started on May 9 and ended on July 2. We also spent some non-Camino time in Barcelona, Spain, Marrakesh, Morocco, on the southeast coast and Sierra Nevada of Spain. Along the way our spirits were nurtured by the many new friends we met.

My first journey on the Camino was in 2014 when I walked the Portuguese Coastal route from Porto, Portugal to Santiago de Compostella, Spain, then to Fisteria, about 250 miles.

In 2017 Jeff and I hiked the Sanabres. This year we started in Oveido in the northern part of Spain, near the Bay of Biscay and walked southwest approximately 205 miles. There were very steep elevations, about 1205 meters above sea level. We walked through the Cantabrian and Picos de Europa mountain ranges. These were the highest that I experienced. One section was named 'the leg wrecker.' That name originated with perigrinos, or pilgrims, over many centuries. It rained much of the time and I was cold. Some days I wore most of my clothes and had to buy more gear. Even with this, and, with one year of travel under Jeff's belt, the overall experience this year went a lot smoother.

Each time I walk the Camino I learn more about myself and meet wonderful people from around the world. My intention was to see the divine and I did! It was like scales would fall from my eyes and a landscape would transform from ordinary to extraordinary. I was struck with awe!

## Coming together in community

The new year will get off to an active and meaningful beginning with activities within our Meeting and our community. Please mark your calendars now and plan on joining us. All activities at our Meetinghouse are open to all at CFM and to the public. Please share our information and invite family and friends to join us.

**January 16** - CFM member Eric Hatch will have his first gallery showing for his *Faces of Addiction* ministry at Christ Church Cathedral Gallery, which is located at 4th and Walnut Street in Cincinnati. For more information about the exhibit, Eric's ministry, and how you can support it, please visit: [facesofaddiction.net](http://facesofaddiction.net).

**January 20** - Our good friend Paul Buckley will join us after worship in the Library to talk about his latest book, *Primitive Quakerism Revised*. Paul is a member of Community Friends. His other books include *The Journey of Elias Hicks*, *Twenty-First Century Penn and The Quaker Bible Reader*.

**February 3** - We will learn more about our wider Quaker community when Emily Provance joins us from Friends United Meeting (FUM) to share about her recent travels to Quaker missions in Tanzania, Kenya, Ramallah and Belize. Emily is a traveling Friend and member of the Friends United Meeting General Board.

Our time with Emily will include a Soup & Sandwich Supper at our Meetinghouse. Supper will begin at 5:00, followed by Emily's program.

Friends United Meeting is a collection of 37 Yearly Meetings (including our *Wilmington Yearly Meeting*) and associations that works through global fellowship to build a beloved community through peace and non-violence efforts, supplying health resources, clean water, leadership development, stewardship and more.

Our Meeting supports FUM with an annual gift as part of our wider Quaker world outreach, including support for missions at the Amari Play Center in Palestine, Ramallah Friends School in Palestine and the Belize School in Belize.

**February 5, 12, 19 and 26** - Our pastor Jim Newby will lead a four-week study on "The Story of the Storytellers, Mark, Matthew, Luke and John." Contact the office for more information.

**February 17** - Sacred Connections Open House at CFM will begin at 2:00. This is a follow-up effort arising from the fellowship from the Festival of Faiths last year at Xavier University where we were an active participant.

Faith communities from throughout our area will be hosting Sacred Connections open houses to provide opportunities for us to worship together, learn more about each other and enjoy fellowship in unique sacred spaces.

**Open houses are open to the public but reservations are required as some faith communities have limited space.**

Dates, more information, including reservations, are available at the following email address: [cincyfestivaloffaiths.org/sacredconnections](mailto:cincyfestivaloffaiths.org/sacredconnections).

**February 22, 23, 24** - CFM members and attenders are invited to participate in an 18-hour certificate Alternatives to Violence basic training, which will be held at our Meetinghouse. There is a registration fee. The training will be limited to no more than 20 participants so register early at <https://avpindiana.org/registration>. Go to page 5 for more information about the Alternatives to Violence Project.

**Information** on these activities, classes, spiritual nurture groups and other happenings at CFM is available on an ongoing basis on the calendar on our website at [www.cincinnati-friends.org](http://www.cincinnati-friends.org) and on our Facebook page.



In addition to Eric Hatch's first gallery showing on January 16, his book that is part of Phase One of his *Faces of Addiction* ministry will also be available in January from the publisher, Braugher Books, or directly from Eric. It will be available at a later date at Amazon.

This 124 page book features photographs of individuals struggling with addiction in an effort to give voice to their lives and to increase awareness about the impact of addiction on individual lives and the impact on our communities. His ministry will continue with Phase Two which will involve direct outreach directed at both prevention and recovery programs.

## Cincinnati Friends Meeting

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



“There must be amidst all the confusion of the hour a tried and undisturbed remnant of persons who will not become purveyors of coercion and violence, who are ready to stand alone, if it is necessary, for the way of peace and love among men.”

-Rufus Jones



**Celebrating Ashley ....** Some very important people in Ashley Staples life came together recently to cheer her during her CCM Fall Youth Ballet concert. Joining her were (l-r) Nan Hatch and Linda Daigle (*Young Friends Leaders*); Eric Hatch, her father Eric Staples; and Jeff Arnold (*Young Friends Leader*.)

We also celebrated with Ashley as she became one of our newest (and youngest) members with her transfer of membership, along with her father and mother.

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*Seeking God daily through simplicity, peace, integrity, community and equality.*