

In this issue: Giving thanks

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Dear Friend,

In the United States, November is the month when we celebrate Thanksgiving. At FGC, we are thankful for the Yearly and Monthly Meetings that collaborate with us to strengthen Quaker faith and practice in the United States and Canada, and individual Friends who inspire us by living the Quaker way every day, and our dedicated volunteers and staff. In this issue of *Vital Friends*, we're sharing important news about our organization and its future, as well as a link to our new Grow Our Meetings Toolkit and ideas that can help your meeting challenge racism.

In the Light,
Barry Crossno

In this issue:

- News from Central Committee
- Grow Our Meetings is now online!
- Friends of FGC: Alaska Friends Conference
- Receive Updates for Gathering 2016!
- November Reading List
- Program Spotlight: Ministry on Racism



Image credit: FGC Central Committee



News from Central Committee

In late October, FGC's governing body gathered for its annual **Central Committee** meeting in Maryland. Over the course of three days, representatives from Monthly and Yearly Meetings discerned the future of programs at FGC and issues important to the Quaker way.

[Click here to read more.](#)



Image credit: Larry Jalowiec



Grow Our Meetings is now online!

After overwhelmingly positive feedback from Friends, FGC is pleased to offer the **Grow Our Meetings Toolkit** on our website. Based on our successful GOM workshops, the new online Toolkit offers guidance and tools for Friends who want to deepen their own spiritual life, welcome new life into their meetings, consider what it's like to be new in a meeting, and organize outreach initiatives.

[Click here to view the GOM Toolkit.](#)



Image credit: Joanne Clapp Fullagar



Friends of FGC: Alaska Friends Conference

Each month, we're highlighting a Quaker meeting, organization, or individual Friends that work with FGC to nurture faith and Quaker practice. We're pleased to feature our affiliated Yearly Meeting **Alaska Friends Conference** for the month of November.

[Click here to learn more about AFC.](#)



Image credit: Alaska Friends Conference

Receive Updates for Gathering 2016!

Get updates about **Gathering 2016: be humble, Be Faithful, BE BOLD** delivered straight to your inbox. Friends can also sign up to receive the upcoming Gathering Advance Program booklet.

[Click here to receive FGC16 updates.](#)



Image credit: Joanne Clapp Fullagar

November Reading List

This November, discover books about gratitude and the often untold stories of Native Americans and their history in North America with this reading list from QuakerBooks.

[Click here to view the November Reading List.](#)



Image credit: Marta Rusek

Program Spotlight: Ministry on Racism

A Friend at FGC once said “In order to know God, we have to know all the faces of God.” This sentiment has become one of the rallying cries of FGC’s **Ministry on Racism** program, which works with individual Friends and Quaker meetings to examine the roots of white supremacy in order to facilitate a more diverse and egalitarian Religious Society of Friends.



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