

Community Companion

QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

3960 WINDING WAY, CINCINNATI OH 45229-1950

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Queries for First Month:

What is Quakerism or the Quaker way? What does that mean to me? What marks our meeting as Quaker?

And so, I find it well to come
 For deeper rest to this still room
 For here the habit of the soul
 Feels less the outer world's control:
 The strength of mutual purpose pleads
 More earnestly our common needs:
 And from the silence multiplied
 By these still forms on either side,
 The world that time and sense have known
 Falls off and leaves us God alone.

-- John Greenleaf Whittier



Sanctuary/Solidarity Movement

Cincinnati Friends Meeting is involved in the Sanctuary/Solidarity Movement, which is led by the Cincinnati Sanctuary Congregation Coalition and supported by the AMOS Project. The coalition is made up of more than 20 area congregations of Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions and aims to help undocumented immigrants find sanctuary in Cincinnati.

Although we lack the facilities to provide living space for immigrants in danger of deportation, we are committed to supporting those congregations that do. In addition to offering our love and spiritual support to those affected individuals and families in their time of need, we may also provide monetary aid, food, clothing, health and medical support, and legal and other support as we are able and called to do.

To show that we welcome all people, we have posted a sign in front of our meetinghouse and by our front door: No matter where you are from, we're glad you are our neighbor. This message appears in English, Spanish, and Arabic.



Pepe

Mary Anne Titino Mabela

This month we hosted a Congolese family by providing support and food for a week. They Visited attended our Meeting for Worship and had fellowship with members at our pot luck lunch at the rise of meeting.

The family consists of Pepe Kaziala Mizumu (father), Titino Mabela Mizembo (mother), and Regina A. Kaziala Mabela, 3 year old. They had to leave their 11 year old twin daughters behind in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Pepe is an engineer and she is a nurse. Regina, their incredibly bright and high-energy daughter, is already half way to learning English!

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They came from Congo via Brazil, South America, Central America and Mexico, and they were arrested at the Texas border. They were granted parole status with the help of the International Rescue Committee.



Regina A. Kaziala

Thanks to everyone who encouraged me and offered further assistance--it may yet be needed! Thanks to your donations I have been able to drive them all over, to cook them some nutritious meals, get them a small Christmas tree, pay for lots of phone minutes, and enjoy this indoor playground. Thanks to Hannah and her daughters with babysitting for English as Second Language classes and very special thanks to Mary Anne Curtiss for organizing and heading up efforts.



Pepe

Titino Mabela

The Sun and the Son at Christmas

Long before there was a Rome
A temple-tomb stood above the Boyne
Its entrance facing the rising sun.

The Sun was a god to those Stone Age folk
Who measured their days by sun and stars
For steady crops and tribal prayers.

At the moment of sunrise on December twenty- first
Sunlight beamed through the Newgrange tomb
Miraculously illuminating the corbel arch in its inner
room

Built with huge grey stones cantilevered
To a commanding height, golden now
On the new sun's light promising spring and new life.

A great celebration followed that day and days to come
As the Sun fulfilled its promise to ease the cold
And bring spring to earth, food and fullness.

In the middle of the Celtic Cross that same sun stands
Surrounded by a halo of interlaced design
Telling of transcendent light in the midst of pain and
dying

Throughout the Northern Hemisphere
The winter solstice brings good cheer
As it promises warmth and light.
In mid-December the Japanese take baths
In Hot water and Yuzu Fruit to ward off
Toxins that come with winter

Among the Norse, whole time called yuletide is honored
A time when the whole of nature is brought together
Bonfires burn to celebrate the peace of wholeness

Taking twelve days to recreate a new year,
A new hope, proclaimed on the Twelfth Night
A manifestation, an epiphany of mystery and light.

In ancient Rome the Saturnalia was the feast
That celebrated light in midwinter
With games and feasts and merrymaking.

Slaves were freed from their labor,
Families took time to celebrate with each other
Often spilling out into the streets singing and dancing.

When Christianity was named the State Religion
Saturnalia became the feast of Christ's birth
The Light of the World had chosen to become human

And the celebrations of light and of the Christ joined
The wholeness of joy and hope in the solstice
Mingled with the wholeness of Christ the Light

Celebrations of Christmas have waxed and waned
Puritans forbade it in England and America
Quakers abhorred making one day holier than another

Continued next page

A rebirth happened with Dickens' story of Christmas
As a Feast of love and compassion for family,
And the poor and outcast in towns and cities.

Then it became a venture in commerce with a coca cola
Ad in the Saturday Evening Post a fat and happy Santa
Drinking from a 1920's bottle of coke. A far cry from

St. Nicholas paying the dowries of poor girls
Who would die if they remained unmarried
And alone on the streets or in the fields.

Dickens' story had become a feast of nostalgia
Shown as mere sweetness and light by Norman Rockwell
As the bands played on amidst buying and selling.

Now there are no crowds in the streets and the stores
As buying and selling is done from home as the festival of
light
Has become two months of Black Fridays.

My Christmas wish lies in that simple Celtic cross,
Bringing light and life together, making darkness and light
whole
Realizing the richness of myriad traditions of re-birth,

That celebrate the release of the poor from debt slavery,
And the wealthy from the fear of falling, while realizing
We have a lot to learn from the Sun and the Sun of God.



Tim Leonard 2009

January Meeting Calendar

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

7:57am

[Heal the Earth Meeting](#)**Sunday, January 5, 2020**

10:00am

[Worship](#)

11:30am

[Potluck lunch](#)**Sunday, January 6, 2020**

10:00am

[Worship](#)

11:30am

[Business Meeting](#)**Wednesday, January 12, 2020**

8:30 AM

[Stewardship Meeting](#)**Tuesday, January 14, 2020**

6:30 PM

FCNL

Sunday, January 19, 2020

10:00am

[Worship](#)**Saturday, January 25, 2020****9:00AM – 4:00PM**[MARCC Id Card Registration](#)**Sunday, January 26, 2020**

10:00am

[Worship](#)

Community Friends Meeting Meeting for Business Twelfth Month 8, 2019

Present: Doug, Lisa, Mary Anne , Wilhelmina, Eira, Tim, Lynn, Paul, Jennifer Eric, Don , John

4. **Opening Worship:** The meeting opened with centering worship during which Doug, presiding clerk, read the following: *"There is that near you which will guide you. O, wait for it, and be sure to keep to it..."* Isaac Pennington
5. **Clerk's Report:** Doug noted that for many people, this is a hard, stressful time of year. He asked Friends to take a deep breath and remind ourselves to be spirit led.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Lynn reported that we have good news: Friends have come forward with contributions in the past month! We received more than \$7,000 in contributions in the month of November. There was some question about the \$200 transfer to the Building Reserve Fund. Paul and Lynn will look at this question together to resolve the issue. We have 11% of expenses on hand now, with a goal of 6%. The treasurer's report was accepted with joy and gratitude.
7. **Stewardship Committee:** Rich sent a report that the committee is still working on the 2020 budget and will bring the budget to the January business meeting for approval. The report was accepted.
8. **Community Committee:** (no report)
9. **Report from Cincinnati Sanctuary Coalition:** Mary Anne reported that the Congolese family has until June to obtain asylum status. A pro bono immigration lawyer has said he would take their case. Some translation challenges were resolved through translators from Eastern Hills Meeting, Xavier, Alliance Francaise, and the OLLI program. Mary Anne thanked everyone who has contributed in any way, including Hannah and her daughters who provided child care, and everyone
 1. who has contributed in any way, including Hannah and her daughters who provided child care, and everyone who gave donations and offered assistance. Thanks to generous meeting donations Mary Anne was able to drive them around, cook them some nutritious meals, get them a small Christmas tree, pay for lots of phone minutes, and enjoy the indoor playground at McDonald's. The report was accepted.
 2. **Minute of Appreciation:** The meeting **approved** a minute of appreciation for Mary Anne for all her time and work to support the needs of the Congolese family in the past week.
 3. **Ministry and Counsel:** Lisa reported that the committee met on November 23 for their annual fall retreat at Lisa's home. Committee members spent some time sharing about their spiritual condition and life journeys and considering how they are living into their gifts to heal and transform the world. They also considered the spiritual life of the meeting, and what the committee could do to nurture it. They will be following up on several ideas that came up during this time of reflection, including a Second Hour on Faithfulness Groups, queries at the rise of meeting to stimulate spiritual reflection, holding space for worship at 10:00 on Sundays, and another Second Hour on the Gathered Meeting. During the business portion of the meeting, there were updates about ministry support committees and outreach contacts, and discussion of pastoral care needs. The retreat concluded with a potluck lunch and a fall walk in the woods. After the report, there was some discussion about the importance of protecting our worship time together on Sundays, by gathering promptly at 10:00 in silence. It was noted that worship begins when the first person enters the meeting room and sits in silence. Gathering together in silent worship is the central experience in the spiritual life of the meeting community. Some Friends do find inspiration from singing together before worship, but the singing should end by 10:00. Friends were advised to be sensitive to the different forms of worship that some may prefer,

15. and needs of the differently abled, while maintaining respect for our central experience of gathered waiting worship.
16. **Minutes:** The minutes up to this point were approved.
17. **Adult Religious Education Committee:** Paul reported they have pretty much filled up the Second Hour dates through June. A special event with George Lakey is being planned Saturday May 23, ending with a shared meal. George Lakey is a Quaker author and activist and one of the founders of Quaker Earth Care Witness. Eastern Hills and Cincinnati Friends meeting will be specifically invited to this event. There may be some additional inreach groups starting in January. The report was accepted.
18. **Religious Development Committee:** Lisa reported that the committee did not meet, but they are organizing a Variety Show for the Christmas program on December 15. The clerk asked Friends to take pictures of this event for the newsletter! The report was accepted.
19. **Unity with Nature Committee:** (no report)
20. **Library Committee:** (No report)
21. **Outreach Committee:** (No report) The committee will meet this evening.
22. **House and Grounds Committee:** Eric reported the committee discussed the recent workday. They will be putting in a new refrigerator for the downstairs kitchen and will do plumbing work next year. Some new comfortable chairs were purchased for the meeting room. Friends were asked to try them out and let the committee know if we like them! The report was accepted.
23. **Peace and Social Concerns Committee:** Don shared that the committee will focus on state and local issues and will report later. The report was accepted.
10. **FCNL Lobbying Group:** Mary Anne shared that several people are interested in lobbying, but no one has stepped forward to organize the visits at this time. The report was accepted.
11. **Tender Mercies:** David F reported that the work is going very well, with the themed dinners each month. Many Friends are volunteering to prepare dishes and serve the meals. It is a gift to provide this outreach to the community for 12 years, and the relationships with residents of Tender Mercies are very rewarding. The report was accepted with great appreciation for the leadership of the Funcks in this ministry.
12. **MARCC Delegates Council:** Doug reported a priority planning meeting was held. MARCC's priorities align with our meeting's values. This organization is a powerful force in the metropolitan area. MARCC would like Community Friends Meeting to host an ID event, where residents of Cincinnati can obtain an alternate ID card which is accepted by the police and all local government agencies. Having this ID card helps make interactions with the police and agencies more respectful. Doug asked the Meeting to consider options for a Saturday when we can host such an event. There would be no cost to the meeting. The meeting **approved** allowing MARCC to use the Meetinghouse for this event. The report was accepted.
13. **Miami Quarterly Meeting:** (no report) Eric noted that the next joint quarterly meeting will be held Oct 17-18, 2020 at Happy Hollow Campground.
14. **Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting:** David reported that the next OVYM youth event will be the Quake that Rocked the Midwest over Martin Luther King weekend, hosted by Illinois Yearly Meeting. This is open to youth from any meeting and their friends. Eric Wolff reported from Executive Committee that committees were asked not to name members to their own committees, but to go through the nominating committee process. Budget & Finance is

24. considering including regular attenders in the proportional share, because even though yearly meeting membership is dwindling, attendance at meeting is not dropping. There is \$7,500 in the Yearly Meeting Benevolent Fund that can be requested for traveling in the ministry, etc. Background checks for people who work with children were discussed. The costs may be covered by OVYM if needed. Earth Care Committee is looking at having a tour of the farm at Earlham at the next yearly meeting sessions. The report was accepted.

25. **Friends General Conference** (no report)

26. **Announcements:** Doug would welcome articles and pictures for the December Community Companion. Mary Anne asked that committees please request a budget amount from Stewardship Committee for the 2020 budget, as soon as possible.

27. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes were approved.

28. **Closing Worship:** The meeting closed with silent worship.

Meeting Officers

Presiding Clerk: Doug Burks

Assistant Clerk: Mary Anne Curtiss

Recording Clerk: Lisa Cayard

Assist. Recording Clerk: Deborah Jordan

Treasurer: Lynn Funk

Web Clerk: Eira Tansey

Archivist: John Sniegocki

Directory Editor: David Funck

Statistician: Eugene Marquis

Assistant Statistician: Paul Buckley

Members and Visitors to Community Friends Meeting



Jennifer Chase: A member of our meeting and attending Geneva (Switzerland) Friends currently. She works for UNFPA (United Nations population fund). She is the Global Coordinator for Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Settings. Their main work is with Internally Displaced Persons.

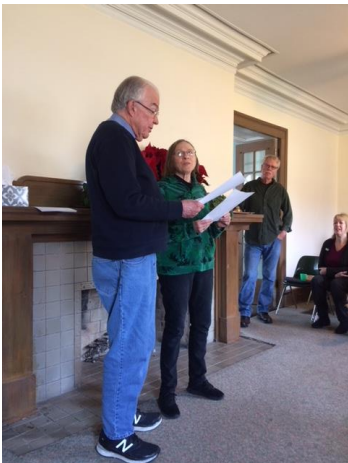


Jorge and Ruth (Ruth is the daughter of two of Community Friends Meeting founders, Rachel and John Hubbard, and the mother of Helen who sometimes is able to attend.) They have started a silent Quaker worship group in Quito Ecuador where they live most of the year.

Submitted by Deborah Jordan

Holiday Carol Singing and Variety Show

December 22, 2019



Our second hour was a joyous occasion that was enjoyed by everyone. We have amazing talent and enthusiasm at our Meeting.



Publication Information

The Community Companion is a monthly publication of Community Friends Meeting of Cincinnati, Ohio. Materials for the publication are due by the Wednesday of the last week of the Month. Materials received after that date will be published in two months if appropriate. Announcements, events, articles about CFM members, committees and concerns of Friends are invited and welcomed. The Community Companion is not possible without your submissions.

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Tim Leonard