

# Community Companion

TwelfthMonth  
Vol 24, Issue 12

Monthly newsletter of Community Friends Meeting

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## Queries for December 2018:

*Where have I experienced the Divine Mystery in my life?  
How do we keep the Divine Spirit at the center of the life of our meeting?*

## December Calendar

December 2	Carry-in potluck – Invite your friends & neighbors!
December 9	Business meeting
December 11	FCNL Lobby group meets Tuesday at 6:30 PM at Meetinghouse
December 16	Second Hour: Holiday Program
December 23	Second Hour: Carol sing
December 30	Second Hour: Spiritual Journey of Susan Gerke

### Youth Services Secretary Visit

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Youth Services Secretary, Kaia Jackson, joined us on November 18th for a carry in meal. At the Second Hour program that followed, Kaia opened with a go around introduction question asking: “Who, living or dead, would you like to have dinner with?” Community Friends dug into the question, and there was an interesting variety of folks mentioned. Do try that question out with others! More information was shared about “*the Quake that Rocked the Midwest*” and other upcoming plans. Kaia later emailed: "I was thrilled to share time with many of you at our Community Friends Gathering last Sunday!" We appreciate Kaia's visit and the work of OVYM Youth Services.



### Thanks to Elyce Benke

Thanks to Elyce Benke for her service producing this newsletter for over a year and a half. It was really a work of art and heart from her photos to quotes and special features. We hold Elyce in the Light as she travels to Tuscon and look forward to seeing her when she's in town.

The interim editors are following Elyce’s excellent example. At least, we’re trying to! ;-)

“I know now, as I look back across the years, that nothing has carried me up into the life of God, or done more to open out the infinite meaning of love, than the fact that love can span this break of separation, can pass beyond the visible and hold right on across the chasm. The mystic union has not broken and knows no end.” Rufus Jones, *The Infinite Trail* (on the death of his son Lowell at age 11)

## **Meeting for Worship *with Attention to Business*** **Eleventh Month 11, 2018**

- 1. Opening worship:** The clerk, M.A.C., read the following during opening worship: *“Yet we can hope (and Quaker history seems to bear this out) that the same Power which allows us to suffer increased sensitivity to social evil also empowers us to reach out more creatively to touch the right spot or to pull the right handle to begin healing in lives and situations around us and to start a process of social change. Fortunately, the same Power which makes us more sensitive to evil and pain also makes us more open to an increasing awareness of beauty and spiritual resources which can enable us to be faithful followers of the Way of which Jesus spoke.”* From William Taber, *Four Doors to Meeting for Worship*, Pendle Hill Pamphlet 306, 1992 page 27.
- 2. Treasurer’s Report:** L.F., treasurer, reported that October income was almost exactly equal to expenses. We have 5% of budgeted expenses on hand out of our goal of 6%. An ad has been placed in *Friends Journal* at a cost of \$105. Several charitable contributions still need to be paid before the end of the calendar year. Overall, we have received about 75% of anticipated income at 83% of the calendar year. Meetinghouse expenses are higher than anticipated, while committee expenses are lower than anticipated. The report was accepted with gratitude.
- 3. Draft Budget for 2019:** L.F. presented a draft of the 2019 budget. The budget for Meetinghouse expenses is being raised by \$1,200 to cover increases in gas & electric, phone & internet, and insurance expenses. Some committees may be able to reduce their budgets based on current spending. Friends were encouraged to provide receipts for donated items so these expenses can be counted as in-kind donations. It was also noted that best accounting practices for bookkeeping would require that in-kind donations should be included in the budget both as income and as an expense. After some discussion, it was suggested that a line item be added to the budget for in-kind contributions. The treasurer will add this line item. There was discussion about the meeting’s contribution to Quaker Heights, despite the fact that the organization is no longer a ministry of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. There was unity that we should continue to support Quaker Heights at the level of \$250 a year. The meeting’s contributions to other charitable organizations were reviewed and a few changes were made. The 2019 budget will be brought back to the meeting for approval next month.
- 4. Newsletter committee:** A.B. reported that he is willing to step up to help edit the newsletter, but he will need assistance. E.B. will be out of town indefinitely and is no longer able to take this responsibility. Friends are asked to send newsletter items to A.B., copied to D.J. and M.A.C.
- 5. Nominating committee:** No report. The clerk will speak with Nominating Committee about strengthening the Newsletter committee.
- 6. Adult Religious Education:** S.G. sent a report that the committee met on November 5. Second hours are for the most part planned through March. Committees and individuals requesting a second hour should contact the committee as soon as possible. The committee sponsored David Fankhauser on November 10, along with Friends from Eastern Hills and Cincinnati Friends Meetings. David spoke on civil disobedience and being a freedom rider in the early 1960s. Thank you to P.B. for spearheading this offering. The report was accepted.

- 7. Religious Development:** L.C. reported that the committee reviewed plans for child care and teachers for First Day School. H.B. and L.F. will be teaching until Christmas, and they will work on plans for a Christmas program. The teens are being asked if they would like to participate in either a skit or a talent show. J.R. has cleaned and dusted in the basement. It was noted that the ping pong table is in the way when small children are playing downstairs, so we are working with the caretakers to see if it can be moved. D.F. shared that the OVYM youth will be gathering here on November 18 with the Youth Secretary. They may do a service project or visit the Freedom Center. The report was accepted.
- 8. Outreach Committee:** J.S. reported that the committee is exploring doing a joint ad with the other Quaker meetings in the Martin Luther King Day program again.
- 9. Ministry and Counsel:** L.C. reported that the committee met on October 28. Plans were made for clearness committees for a member with a personal concern, and for an attender who has requested membership. The committee reflected on the success of the fall renewal, including the sharing of our personal histories with the meeting and the evening coffee house. Meal expenses for the renewal were more than covered by donations. The committee reviewed the meeting directory and identified inactive members to be contacted. A draft of a policy on sexual harassment was reviewed, discussed, and edited. The committee has invited Friends with specific expertise or concerns to share their input on this policy. The draft policy was shared at Business Meeting today for discussion only; it is not yet in final form and needs additional seasoning. There was good discussion and Friends were encouraged to share additional ideas with Ministry and Counsel. The report was accepted.
- 10. Peace and Social Concerns:** D.R. reported that he is beginning to have conversations with homeless people to learn more about their lives. The report was accepted.
- 11. MARCC Delegates Council:** F.H. reported that the MARCC Annual meeting is this Tuesday to discuss and select priorities for the year. Eastern Hills and Cincinnati Friends Meeting will also be represented.
- 12. Tender Mercies:** D.F. reported that the meals are going very well, including a very successful Thanksgiving dinner this past week. The report was accepted.
- 13. FCNL Lobby Group:** M.A.C. reported that the lobby group has been lobbying about immigration and increasingly coordinating with representatives in Washington DC. FCNL lobby training in Washington DC is coming up November 28. Report accepted.
- 14. Caretakers Liaison Committee:** F.H. reported that the committee met with the Caretakers. Everything is going well.
- 15. OVYM:** D.F. reported that meetings are asked to consider whether there should be a joint Quarterly Meeting in 2019 rather than waiting until 2020, since we didn't have Joint Quarterly meeting this year. Executive Committee is also seeking ways to increase participation in Quarterly Meetings.
- 16. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes were approved.
- 17. Closing Worship**