

---

---

# THE CONSERVATIVE FRIEND

---

Number 38

*A Publication of Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends*

Eleventh Month 2009

---

## Report on Ohio Yearly Meeting 2009

Dear Children of Light,

Following Northwest Yearly Meeting, Faith and I flew back to Ohio. She soon returned to the William Penn House, in Washington, DC, while I made my way to the sessions of Ohio Yearly Meeting, in Barnesville. I was pleased to return to Barnesville after being away for the past year. I feel a special peace and tenderness to the Lord when I am among Friends in Barnesville, and I was grateful for the sense of homecoming I felt at Stillwater meetinghouse after what had been in some ways an emotionally and spiritually difficult summer. I arrived fairly early, so I had about a day to settle in before the business began. I had a good time shucking corn, cutting up fruits and vegetables, and catching up with friends.

I had experienced Conservative Friends' business the previous summer, when I visited Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and also sat in on a small bit of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). Having had that experience, business at Ohio Yearly Meeting was familiar. I was again impressed by the Conservative tradition of having the clerk both preside and record. I found it particularly good practice the way in which Conservative Friends prepare their minutes during meeting for business, presenting the wording of each minute for approval at the time it is being discussed. This way, there is no need to go back and review minutes and approve them at a later time. Each minute is composed and approved then and there. Friends worked together to guide the body's discernment and come to Spirit-led decisions; and most of the time it seemed like there were many clerks, not just the one at the clerk's table.

Business at OYM is slow, sometimes breathtakingly so. There are long stretches of silence between items of business, allowing the clerk time to compose a minute to be approved then and there by the body. One thing that particularly struck me about the business I

observed at OYM was the way in which the clerk would wait and ask questions of the body to ensure that there was indeed clarity of God's will for Friends. Even when Friends were in easy agreement, the clerk would wait and encourage Friends to seek clarity from Christ. I believe this is valuable. It was recently pointed out at a clerking workshop at Northwest Yearly Meeting that the times when we are in most danger of making a mistake is when all are in agreement from the beginning. I respect the way in which OYM takes the time to sit with questions that they think they know the answers to, leaving room for God to work and overturn their assumptions.

A great amount of the business this year had to do with queries. OYM takes a great deal of time answering queries: First on a Monthly Meeting level; then synthesizing these answers at their Quarterly Meetings.

Finally, at the Yearly Meeting, the Quarterly Meeting responses to the queries are read and synthesized into a single response for the Yearly Meeting as a whole. This year, in addition to answering the queries as a body, the Yearly Meeting also undertook to revise one query which speaks to oaths and gambling/speculation. The query had read in a way that admonished Friends not to sign statements "under penalty of perjury," nor to "affirm." Some Friends pointed out that signing a statement "under penalty of perjury" or "affirming" a legal statement is not equivalent to swearing an oath. Instead, signing or affirming such statements is a statement of agreement to be held legally liable for falsehood. Friends accepted this correction and amended the eighth query accordingly.

Seeing how much time and energy OYM Friends devote to them, I came to appreciate what the queries have to offer us as Friends. Friends at OYM discussed why the queries were important to them, and their reasons included the importance of the queries in: establishing

*(Continued on Page three)*

**Scheduled Meetings for Worship**  
(For worship at OYM monthly meetings see [www.ohioyearlymeeting.org](http://www.ohioyearlymeeting.org))

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact Person</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>Meeting Schedule</b>
Athens Christian Friends	Athens, Greece	Themistoklis Papaioannou	papathem@gmail.com; P.O. Box 21121, Athens 11410, Greece	Weekly First Days, 5:00 PM
Caprock Friends Christian Fellowship	33 <sup>rd</sup> & Elgin Lubbock, Texas	Michael Hatfield	www.texasfriends.org michael@texasfriends.org	Weekly First Days, 6:00 PM
Chattahoochee Friends Worship Group	Norcross, Georgia (Atlanta suburb)	Scott King	770-315-9478; a_lang@bellsouth.net	Weekly First Days, 10:00 AM
Denver Conservative Friends Worship Group	Denver, Colorado	Isabel Penraeth	303-200-0626; a@quakerjane.com	Monthly Fourth 4 <sup>th</sup> Days
Friends Gathering in Jesus Christ	Evanston, Illinois (near Chicago)	Mike Conover	773-252-3773; MBConover@aol.com	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> Seventh Days AM; 3 <sup>rd</sup> Day Evening
Friends in Christ	Harrisville, Michigan	Kimberly Anne Makela	plainquakers@gmail.com www.plainquakers.org	Twice a month/1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> First Days, 10:00 AM
Goshen Meeting	Scone, Scotland	Paul Thompson	UK # 01738 620688; Bookseeker @blueyonder.co.uk	Twice a month/1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> First Days
Greenwich Friends	London, England	Simon Watson	Simonw@quaker.org.uk	Weekly / First Days
North Main Friends Worship Group	Greenville, South Carolina	Don Shabkie	dshabkie@gmail.com	Weekly First Days, 2:00 PM
Richland/Ashland Friends	Loudonville, Ohio	Scott Savage	419-368-9419 (leave message)	Monthly / 2 <sup>nd</sup> First Day
Ripley Christian Quakers	Ripley, Derbyshire, UK	Mike Wakefield	UK # 01773-541424 Rcquakers@lomaxes.me.uk	Weekly First Days, 10:30 AM
Salisbury Friends Worship Group	Salisbury, Maryland	Kye Parsons	410-749-8221 kyeparsons@hotmail.com	Weekly First Days, 1:30 PM
	Little Falls, New York	Geoff Gilmore	315-823-0616 Geoff@gsgilmore.com	Monthly 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fifth Day

### Financial Contributions Appreciated

*The Conservative Friend* is financed through contributions from readers, with help from OYM. Small donations for TCF, as well as larger ones, are gratefully accepted. Please make checks (postal orders for donations outside US) to "The Conservative Friend"

and send them to Elvina Krekler (address on Page seven). The value of a subscription is \$10/year. Any excess over \$10 that a person contributes for a given year's subscription is probably tax deductible, because TCF is a publication of Ohio Yearly Meeting.

---

## Report on Ohio Yearly Meeting 2009

*(continued from Page one)*

and maintaining Christian identity and spiritual understanding as a corporate body; teaching us how to live as Christians and helping us be accountable; and encouraging Meetings to have a corporate relationship with Christ and to be established as a Christian body. They also spoke of how the queries were useful for individuals: challenging us to greater faithfulness; calling us to accountability to one another and to Christ; and providing a sense of connection between (affiliate) members who live at a distance and correspond with their Monthly Meeting, giving their individual responses to the queries.

Overall, I was very impressed by Ohio Yearly Meeting. I am comforted to see a Friends body that is unreservedly Christian and clearly committed to the Friends tradition, including waiting (unprogrammed) worship. I think that Friends in Ohio often feel compelled to over-state their Christianity as they seek to distinguish themselves from other bodies of Friends that disregard the centrality of Christ Jesus. While there is sometimes a certain rigidity in their stance, there is also undeniable truth in it. This truth attracts me to Ohio Friends. I appreciate their unwillingness to water down their theology or their practice.

And I'm not the only one who is attracted. Ohio Yearly Meeting, after more than a century of decline, is growing once again. It is growing numerically, spiritually and in terms of morale. This year, Friends celebrated as they welcomed Crossroads Friends Meeting into full Monthly Meeting status. This was the second Monthly Meeting to be added to OYM in two years. The last time that two Meetings were added to OYM in such a short period of time was in 1866.

This growth is due in large part to a **new wave of evangelism undertaken by OYM Friends** in the past years. Friends are laboring to encourage new

Conservative worship groups across their region, throughout the United States, and even in other countries. If the Lord wills it, we can expect to see continued growth among Friends in the tradition of Ohio Yearly Meeting - Meetings that bear witness to the Quaker understanding of the gospel of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

During this period of new growth and vitality, there seem to be two primary tendencies or streams in the body of Ohio Yearly Meeting: The first is those who are of an Evangelical bent, but who appreciate waiting (unprogrammed) worship. It is important to them to be clear on the fundamental doctrines of Christian faith, as well as practicing a listening spirituality. The other significant group is those who are attracted to the hyper-traditionalism that OYM allows room for. Of those in attendance at OYM this year, I would guess that roughly half were in some form of plain dress - that is, they wore clothes that visibly marked them as separate from "the world." This ranged from those whose dress was remarkably simple to those who wore Quaker attire that would probably be suited for historical reenactment of eighteenth century Friends. Many men wore suspenders, broad-brimmed hats, buttoned-up shirts, non-descript slacks, and black shoes. Many women wore bonnets or other head coverings, as well as a simple dress and simple black shoes. Many Friends, both plain-dressed and not, used plain speech. I enjoyed the plain language, and used it myself often. It serves as a form of intimate address among spiritual brothers and sisters.

Micah Bales

Micah Bales is a member of Heartland Monthly Meeting of Great Plains Yearly Meeting. His report is part of his blog post, Valiant for the Truth, Micah's Ministry Newsletter #10 - Ohio Yearly Meeting (<http://valiantforthetruth.blogspot.com/2009/08/micahs-ministry-newsletter-10-ohio.html>)

## A Child's Recollections of Ohio Yearly Meeting

In so many ways Ohio Yearly Meeting, held at Stillwater Meeting House, near Barnesville, Ohio, was different when I was a child in the 40's and early 50's than it is now. Yearly Meeting started on the weekend and went through the middle of the week. Many more people attended then, and the building was quite full.

On First Day there were two Meetings for Worship. After the morning Meeting we would have dinner in the gym at Olney, (I think with no advance registration!). I remember having lima beans and beet relish (with horseradish in it!) as well as other good things to eat. Sometimes after dinner our family would take a walk around Campus, and we would walk to the Girls' Woods. A tall rope swing hung from one of the big trees there and our father would push us kids on it, which we really enjoyed! Then we would go to the afternoon Meeting.

There was only one business session a day during the week, but it could last well into the afternoon sometimes, without a lunch break. There was no Junior Yearly Meeting then so it was a long time for children (and adults) to sit through. There was no Nominating Committee to bring forth names of people to serve on the various committees so these were all appointed from the floor of the Meeting. This and other business took a long time.

In those days the Men's and Women's business meetings were held separately with the partitions closed. Each meeting had its own Clerk. When there was business on one side or the other that needed to be answered, confirmed or approved, two messengers from that side would carry the business, on paper, to the other side, and perhaps wait to carry back the answer.

Meetings for Worship were held with the partitions open, with the men on the north side of the building, and the women on the south side. Within a few years approval was given for the meetings to be held jointly. Now families could sit together. Before long business meetings were

held together, too, with two Clerks: a man and a woman.

I enjoyed hearing some of the reports in the business meetings, especially the Boarding School Report. It would give the number of gallons (or other units) of fruits, vegetables, and meats that had been preserved from the School's gardens and fields for their use that year. The Membership Report was interesting if it contained the name of someone I recognized, like a new baby!!

As I grew older, I became interested in the Ministers and others who spoke, and what they had to say. Some I especially remember were Bertha McGrew, Charles Morlan, Chester Doudna, Sheldon Smith, Harvey Newlin, Edmund Goerke, Zalo and Lydia Miles, Gilbert Thomas, and others. For the most part I cannot remember what each one said, but at the time I was impressed with many of the messages. However, I do remember that Chester Doudna was concerned about the children and young people. At times he would quote Hebrews 3:7-8 ". . . Today if you will hear his voice, harden not your hearts . . . "

Several times I heard Sheldon Smith speak from Mathew 7:13-14 "Enter into the narrow gate for wide is the way that leads to destruction, and many there be which go in there. But straight is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there are who find it."

Ministers would sometimes speak of personal experiences in which God had protected and cared for them, and their gratitude for His care. These were precious times of learning, and listening to the Spirit, which shaped our young lives and helped to prepare us for life in the years to come.

Elvina Krekler

Elvina Krekler is a member of Short Creek Monthly Meeting of Ohio Yearly Meeting.

---

### A Sharing from a Christian Friend

For me and for my spiritual path, following Christ is a Way. It is a way of transformation, a way to navigate this world, and a way to live in a simple, spirit-filled, and in a loving and open state of being. Notice, I did not say rosy, easy, safe or calm. To follow where Christ leads is to trust and to allow one's self to be vulnerable. Following Christ is not a guarantee that you will not be hurt or be placed in danger. Look at some of the places Godly men and women were led. Joan of Arc burned at the stake, Mary Dyer hanged, early Christians persecuted, killed and thrown in dungeons, Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated. Of course, we all know what the princes of this world did to Jesus. The Kingdom of God that Jesus preached was in direct contrast to the kingdom of the world.

He taught peace and love and repentance from wickedness, and was killed most brutally because he shook up the domination system. The rulers and elite feared that a public that loved one another and God would not need them. In the Kingdom of God that Jesus taught about, there was true justice and equality, the very opposite of the fear based obedience that Roman governors and high priests used to control the people.

I do not think that I am doing anything even remotely close to that, but I am still not on a path that is smooth, safe or easy by any means. I have come to understand, in my 44 years of experiences, that I have learned more from living through tragedy, my own mistakes and facing fear than when everything is going smoothly. No one wants to face what they fear, it's downright scary! The originator of psychotherapy, Sigmund Freud, stated that we as human beings seek to maximize our own pleasure and diminish our own pain, but we can see from the previous examples that to be on the spiritual path is to follow your leadings no matter where they take you.

I have to be steadfast in fearful situations. I began college at the age of forty-one. I was always terrified of public speaking, and now I would have to give speeches and presentations for almost every class. I would pray to God, "please let me be calm and not so afraid, let everything go well with my speech." I would have a sleepless night before the day I was to speak in class. I would stand and walk shaking, perspiring and nervous to the podium and get through my speech. Afterward I felt like I had climbed a mountain! I felt victory over the fear. In time, my fears have lessened and I am much better at speaking to groups. Sometimes I even look forward to it. That is how the way of Christ works. If you pray for calmness and less fear in a situation, like my presentations in class, God gives you the opportunity to face that fear and realize that you can get through it.

Pray for patience. God gives the opportunity for you to be patient with a person, situation or need. One of my biggest lessons has been to wait on the path for what comes next. I was and in some ways still am impatient. I like quick answers and neat solutions, but life is mostly not like that at all. I have learned to do what I can and that is all I can do. Sometimes the answer is waiting, and that is fine and is what Quakers do. We wait on the Lord to show the way. The Way has its difficulties and obstacles to overcome. The roadblocks, detours and waiting for the way to become clear do make us stronger. We learn to be more flexible, and we learn to listen more closely to that inward Christ, the One that guy named George Fox said has come to teach His people Himself.

John Richards

John Richards is a Christian Friend, and member of Middletown Friends Meeting, Langhorne, Pennsylvania.

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. John 15:18,KJV

---

**RECOMMENDED READING LIST FOR INQUIRERS**
**Introductory Material**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author or Source</b>
Welcome to Our Meeting	Ohio Yearly Meeting publication
Glimpses of Friends Views	Phebe Hall
Friends Understanding of the Word of God	John Smith
The Gospel Imperative	Grant Kaufman
So That You Come Behind in No Gift	Ohio Yearly Meeting publication
Christ and the Scriptures	Max Reich
Congregational Silence	Max Reich
Holy Spirit	Max Reich
What It Means to Wait in Worship	Terry Wallace
A Brief Account Concerning Silent Meetings	Isaac Penington

**Devotional**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author or Source</b>
Mind the Heavenly Treasure, A Day Book	Gary Bowell
Fox and the Book of Revelation	Arthur Berk
Fox and the Bible	Arthur Berk
The Light Within and Selected Writings	Isaac Penington
No Cross, No Crown	William Penn
To Friends in the Ministry	George Fox

**Journals and Biography**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author or Source</b>
The Works of George Fox	George Fox, 8 volumes
A History of the Rise, Increase and Progress of the Christian People Called Quakers	Willem Sewel
An Autobiography of the Life and Religious Experiences of James Henderson	James Henderson
The Life and Adventures of a Quaker Among the Indians	Thomas C. Battey
The Works of Isaac Penington	Isaac Penington, 4 Volumes
A Sincere and Constant Love	Margaret Fell Fox, editor Terry Wallace
Growing Up Plain	Wilmer Cooper
Strength in Weakness, Writings by Eighteenth Century Quaker Women	Edited by Gil Skidmore

**Historical**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author or Source</b>
A Short History of Conservative Friends	John Brady
A History of the Rise, Increase and Progress of the People Called Quakers	Willem Sewel (many editions)

**Explanatory**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author or Source</b>
Apology for the True Christian Divinity	Robert Barclay (many editions)
Right Authority and Qualification for Religious Labor	"Meeting for Sufferings" - Philadelphia
A Description of the Qualifications Necessary to a Gospel Minister	Samuel Bownas
The Book of Discipline of Ohio Yearly Meeting	
True Christian Baptism and Communion	Joseph Phipps
The Flesh and Blood of Christ in Mystery and in the Outward	Isaac Penington
Letters to a Friend	John Wilbur
The Testimony to the Truth of God as held by the People Called Quakers	William Penn
Primitive Christianity Revived in the Faith and Practice of the People Called Quakers	William Penn
The Key	William Penn
True Spiritual Liberty	William Penn
Catechism and Confession of Faith	Robert Barclay
Friends and Alcohol, Recovering a Forgotten Testimony	Robert Levering (Pendle Hill Pamphlet 313)
A Question of Authority	Nancy Goodwin
Prayer	Virginia Schurman
In the Will of God, Stand	Kenneth Morse
Counsel to the Christian Traveller: also Meditations and Experiences	William Shewen

No further business appearing to claim our attention, we bring this yearly meeting to a close and prepare to serve our Saviour during the coming year. We have attempted to evaluate our faithfulness during the past year in the hopes that we might be better able to model the Christian lifestyle and be a beautiful reflection of Christ Jesus. We seek to minimize our own individual egos and not confuse our ideas with God's will. We evaluated ourselves through the Queries and discussed ways in which we can fine-tune the Queries to focus on how God is challenging us today. Our committees reported on their work since our last session, and we honor the contributions of all members keeping this body of Christ alive and strong. We welcomed a new monthly meeting into our family and were blessed with the largest attendance at our annual sessions in several years. Evening speakers shared how to spread divine peace into a world engulfed in conflict and disorder, ways in which the Lord works with us in times of illness or death, and how to understand the way in which Christ Jesus brings us into a state of atonement. Friends discussed the importance of spiritual gifts, prayed together, shared meals together, and helped hurting Friends to see a deeper love that we cannot fully comprehend this side of Heaven.

The Lord has instructed us how to walk more humbly as individuals so we can become better examples of His empowering love. As we become His new creation, submitting our lives and bodies into His hands, we experience Christ in us, our hope of glory who fulfills God's

ancient promise. We were reminded that Christ existed before our opinions about who He is and

that He wants to help thee face thy trials and do the heavy lifting in the adventure of this life. We yearn to allow our vocabulary and lives to better express our beliefs, to seek the discernment that sometimes leads us to keep quiet, and to get above superficialities to that knowledge that comes from above rather than from the cranium.

As we are tapped to witness to Him, let us share what we know experientially. Jesus holds out His hand to each individual, no matter how much darkness is in any person. Non-Christians need to know that we are subject to the same evil temptations and need the anointing from the Holy One to overcome evil. We invite everyone that thirsteth to come to the waters without price, not concentrating on physical things that do not satisfy spiritual hungering but rather lay hands on those invisible things of God, not seen by others, that bring about a lasting repentance and renewed life. Let the rest of the world know what we have heard. We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord: and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the Light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. His invitation is open to thee today.

We now conclude, purposing to meet again on Eighth Month 10, 2010, unless the Lord directs otherwise.

*The Conservative Friend* is published four times a year under the care of the Wider Fellowship of Conservative Friends Committee of Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends, Barnesville, Ohio 43713. For more information about OYM, visit [www.ohioyearlymeeting.org](http://www.ohioyearlymeeting.org)

Editor – Raye Hodgson, 9 Newsom Rd, Oxford, CT 06478 email: [amigaamada@mac.com](mailto:amigaamada@mac.com)  
 Treasurer – Elvina Krekler, 1187 State Hwy 250, Adena, OH 43901  
 WFCF Committee Convener – Nancy Hawkins, 5190 Kirk Rd, Columbiana, OH 44408

The editor welcomes articles for publication, those written recently as well as excerpts from earlier Friends' writings. Subscriptions are funded through readers' contributions and an appropriation from OYM.

*The Conservative Friend* #38  
c/o Raye Hodgson  
9 Newsom Road  
Oxford, Connecticut 06478

Return Service Requested

## Meeting for Worship, part 5

Gardeners,

Meeting to exchange the received wisdom,  
Quietly gathering the good seed,  
Storing it away against that due season  
When it may best be sown;

Sowing in the ground prepared by prayer,  
Noting the depth and tilth required,  
Watching with awe for the first tender shoots,  
The reward of our faithful sowing;

Guarding the precious new growth,  
As best we may, from all harm;  
Watching, waiting, watering,  
Rejoicing in the quiet steady burgeoning;

Carefully pruning the ranker growth  
Allowing for increase of fruitfulness;  
Rejoicing in the bounty of the Lord  
Who alone gives the increase;

Praising the Head-Gardener for this gift of new life,  
For His grace in allowing us to serve Him thus,  
Co-workers with Him in His continuing creation,  
Humble labourers in His vineyard.

Ralph Hill

Ralph is an affiliate member of Rockingham Meeting (Ohio YM). Ralph and his wife Daphne live in Bexhill, England, along the English Channel coast.

Ed. Note: This is one part of a poem presenting meeting for worship in different ways.