

September 2009



Lexington Friends Newsletter



Query

How do I respond to one who acts out of a clear leading when I am under the weight of another?

Yardley Friends Meeting

Joys and Concerns

See Back Page for Full Details

Jim McElhone

Andreana Brenner

Isaac Hines-Williams

Elizabeth McLaren and Roscoe Klausing

Janet Kazimir

Sheila Brenner

Kathy Ostrum

Yoshya and Chie Togami

Beth Rosdatter and Raffi Kennedy

Calendar

Sept. 10th Frankfort Worship Group and Peace and Social Concerns Committee meets in Frankfort at 5:30 pm for worship followed by potluck at 6:15 pm and 7 pm committee meeting.

Sept. 16th Fundraising Committee meets at 7 pm at Betsy Neale's homes.

Sept. 18th-20th All Kentucky Friends Gathering meets at Camp Kentahten in Campbellsville, KY.

Sept. 20th Fellowship Sunday will take place as usual. Bring food to share and be prepared to sing happy birthday to the September birthdays!

Sept. 21st Care and Nurture Committee meets at 7 pm at the home of Betsy Neale.

Sept. 23rd Fundraising Committee meets at 7 pm at the home of Betsy Neale

Sept. 25th Potluck and discussion, Beyond the Basics of Child Safety in our Community. Roseanne Fitts-Klarer and Gail Koehler will lead. RSVP if you plan to come and need child care.

Sept. 27th Crop Walk - join the Middle Youth and Teens at 3 pm at the Second Presbyterian Church to walk against hunger.

October 2nd Potluck - Care and Nurture will present a program on personal clearness. Come and role play!

October 4th Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Bring a bag lunch and join in Quaker decision making.

October 16th Social Potluck Topic TBA.

October 16th-18th Professional fundraiser Richard Barnes will be in town to conduct interviews with Friends about our fundraising capacity.

Business Meeting on 10/4/09 will include a discussion of food policy at LFM potlucks. Please bring your thoughts on how the choices of the foods we share affect our community.

Lexington Friends Meeting Website

Richard Mitchell is looking for Friends interested in helping improve our website. The meeting has formed an Ad Hoc Committee on Lexington Meeting's Website, which will consider the meeting's presence on the web. Please contact Richard if you are interested in helping with this project.

Some of the New Books in the LFM Library:

Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship
Baghdad Blog
Paths to Quaker Parenting
Writing Cheerfully on the Web
Speaking of Faith
Come check them out!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sept. 2 Frank Olson
Sept. 5 Ben & Patricia Griffith's Anniversary
Sept. 8 Bill & Dedee Clark Anniversary
Sept. 9 Mark Williams & Danita Hines Anniversary
Sept. 14 Danita Hines
Sept. 15 Michael Brenner
Sept. 17 JoAnne Rainey
Sept. 24 Bobby Rainey
Sept. 27 Douglas Griggs

Business Meeting Minutes and Monthly Income Statement inside.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

September 6, 2009

Attending: Sheila Brenner, Tom Brenner, Judy Burris, Claire Carpenter, Ben Griffith, Peter Hardy, Rob Hayes, Danita Hines, Janet Kazimir, Todd Kelly, Gail Koehler, Richard Mitchell, Betsy Neale, Steve Olszewsky, Lad Simpson, Laurance Simpson, Pat Simpson.

Todd Kelly, Co-clerk, read the query for September:

How do I respond to one who acts out of a clear leading when I am under the weight of another?

Yardley Friends Meeting

Friends responded to the query out of worship.

Some of the responses focused on the issue of types of food served at our potlucks, specifically whether we serve meat products or restrict ourselves to vegetarian and vegan options.

Special Items

Policy for Food at Meeting Activities Friends decided to have a discussion at the next meeting for business about food options at meeting activities. We hope to make a decision and minute it. Friends will be notified about this upcoming discussion so that as many Friends as possible can participate.

Kentucky Council of Churches (KCC) Judy Burris, our representative to the KCC, reported. The KCC is facing severe financial difficulties and may have to reduce its small staff. They are looking for grants and in-kind gifts. Friends decided to include a notice in the newsletter encouraging gifts to KCC. Judy will also talk to KCC to see if they might be interested in using space in our building.

Fundraising Committee Richard Barnes will be coming to Lexington October 16-18 to interview Friends for the feasibility study. The Fundraising Committee will invite Friends from 15 households to participate in an interview to assess our capacity to raise the funds needed for the renovation of the meetinghouse.

The committee is also preparing a document outlining the “case for support” of the renovation project. We would like to include a few photos of Friends – close-ups. If you can take such pictures, please let any member of the committee know (Betsy Neale, Doug Griggs, Lucinda Masterton, Richard Mitchell, Susan Collett, or Steve Stone).

Finally, we are also looking to include a few brief quotes from Friends about what the meeting means to them and/or why they support renovating the meetinghouse. Please speak to or email any member of the committee if you would like to contribute a statement.

Care and Nurture Committee Betsy Neale reported. The committee has corresponded with Rebecca Olson, who now lives in western Massachusetts.

Rebecca joined the meeting along with her parents, Ann and Frank Olson, when she was a child. She has chosen to resign her membership.

Minute 09-33 Friends accept the resignation from membership of Rebecca Olson.

The committee also has a proposal for a potluck topic. We would like to focus on clearness for personal concerns. In order to give Friends a better understanding of this procedure, we propose to have role plays to demonstrate how such clearness groups do (and do not!) operate. See meeting calendar for this date.

Property Management no report

Peace and Social Concerns Judy Burris reported. The committee will meet Thursday, September 10, in Frankfort. It will consider the Kentucky Council of Churches issues.

Religious Education Topics for First Day School: hunger and the Crop Walk in September and worship in October and November. See elsewhere in the newsletter for further information and announcements about Religious Education activities.

Meeting Website A discussion ensued about our website and the inclusion of the newsletter on the web. Some of the information in the newsletter could be used for nefarious purposes if it was available on the web. One Friend urged us to form an ad hoc committee to work on the website.

Minute 09-34 Friends agreed to create an ad hoc committee to consider the meeting's presence on the web. It will be called the Ad Hoc Committee on Lexington Meeting's Website.

Richard Mitchell offered to convene this committee and to recruit its members from people with expertise and concerns about our web presence. Interested Friends are encouraged to speak to Richard.

Outreach Ben reported that the committee is in need of leadership and is not currently functioning.

Ministry and Worship no report

Retreat Committee no report

Finance Committee This committee again raises the issue of using our building fund to apply to the principal on our current mortgage. We have considered this issue at two prior meetings for business. We consulted Richard Barnes about this question, and he said he doesn't have any expertise on this question but thought that doing this would be seen as fiscally responsible by any loan officer. He noted that we might want to hold back some money for future expenses with our architect or others.

The Finance Committee recommends that \$20,000 of the fund be applied to our current mortgage. Because we have a contingency fund, and we expect we could raise needed funds for a sudden, urgent need, we should apply most of the fund to the principal.

Minute 09-35 Lexington Friends will apply \$20,000 from the Building Fund to our current mortgage.

Treasurer Janet Kazimir presented a financial report, which will appear in the newsletter.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting asks us to increase our contribution by two per cent to help make up a deficit. The Finance Committee will consider this request.

Janet noted that each month our income runs behind our budgeted expenses. She suggested that we revise our budget to better reflect our income.

Nominating Committee Claire reported that the committee is working on the slate for 2010. She encourages Friends to think about their gifts of stewardship for the meeting.

Friends Meeting Schedule (See email and newsletter calendar for more details.)

September 16 Fundraising Committee, 7 pm, at the home of Betsy Neale

September 18-20 All Kentucky Friends Gathering at Camp Kentahten.

September 20 Fellowship Sunday

September 21 Care and Nurture Committee, 7 pm, at the home of Betsy Neale

September 23 Fundraising Committee, 7 pm, at the home of Betsy Neale

September 25 Potluck discussion on child safety

October 2 Potluck - Care and Nurture will present a program on personal clearness.

October 16-18 Richard Barnes will be conducting interviews with Friends about our fundraising capacity. 15 Friends will be invited to participate in an interview. Please pencil in some time on your calendar for an interview that weekend. Invitations will be issued soon.

October 16 Social potluck – topic TBA

The meeting closed with a few more moments of silent worship.

Betsy Neale, Recording Clerk

Lexington Friends Monthly Income Statement – August, 2009

General Fund

Income

		YTD Budgeted Income:	\$25,225.60
		YTD Contributions:	\$22,256.40
			(12% below budget)
Cash/Checks	3100.00		
In kind	157.27		
Monthly Rental	<u>360.00</u>	YTD Contributions Bldg Fund, 2009:	\$5,520.00
Total	\$3617.27		

Expenses

Mortgage	(\$870.00)
Telephone	(39.04)
Utilities:	
Gas	50.64
Electric	143.00
Water	<u>36.74</u>
	(230.38)
Child Care	(140.00)
Insurance	(362.50)
Library	(69.00)
In kind	<u>157.27</u>
	(\$1868.19)

Kentucky Council of Churches also needs financial help. See Judy Burris's report elsewhere in the newsletter.

Income – Expenses = \$1,749.08

Fund Balances

General	-233.39
Design	2,835.91
Contingency	7,145.81 (minus memorial services expenses of \$180.19)
Friends Special Needs	1,325.00
Building	20,762.30

As noted above, contributions are 12% below budget. Please consider donating a little extra this month. Remember that automatic bank deductions are available.

Finance Committee Note:

The Finance Committee recommended that a majority of the money in the building fund be applied to our current mortgage. LFM has a contingency fund, as noted above, and the Meeting could probably raise needed funds for a sudden, urgent need if necessary. Business Meeting decided to apply \$20,000. of the fund to the mortgage principal. See July 2009 newsletter for Peter Hardy's assessment of approximate savings to Meeting.

Two Requests from the Fundraising Committee

1. The committee is preparing a document outlining the “case for support” of the renovation project. We would like to include a few photos of Friends – close-ups. If you can take such pictures, please let any member of the committee know (Betsy Neale, Doug Griggs, Lucinda Masterton, Richard Mitchell, Susan Collett, or Steve Stone).
2. We are also looking to include a few brief quotes (1 or 2 sentences) from Friends about what the meeting means to them and/or why they support renovating the meetinghouse. Please speak to or email any member of the committee if you would like to contribute a statement.

Thank you!

Thanks to all of you who sent Light and Love to Bob and I during our year of surgeries and illnesses, respectively. It really made a difference to me knowing that the caring community of friends was supporting me.

Roberta Guthrie

The Manchester Center Sends Thanks

(The following note was sent in appreciation for Friends' Donations to the July focus of the Peace and Concern Committee)

Hello Ms. Burris,
I just wanted to say thanks for your all's donation of games, art supplies, gym equipment and cash for our youth and preschool programs. All of the items will be used and enjoyed by our kids. Please pass this along to all of those who donated items.
Thanks so much.
Marty

Follow the Journey to Kazakhstan

Elizabeth McLaren and Roscoe Klausing will be in Kazakhstan for 9 weeks to meet the child waiting to join their family through adoption. Follow their adventure at www.mclarenklausing.blogspot.com

Religious Education Report

The RE Committee reports that younger Friends will be looking at adapted themes from the older group (see below) as well as Creation stories from different faiths and cultures.

Middle Youth and Teens will be working on Quaker worship/junior meeting as well as continuing religious explorations of other faiths. Members/attenders who have experience in worship in other faith communities are invited to share their knowledge. We hope to talk about Islam in November.

All young Friends will be involved in the planning and rehearsing of the annual holiday play in late November.

The Committee continues to discuss the idea of having Young Friends enter quietly for the last 15 minutes of worship instead of the first 15 so that they would have the experience of a gathered meeting that is deep in worship. Young Friends, parents and other worshippers are encouraged to share their thoughts on how the current plan (15 minutes, no reading) is working.

Middle Youth and Teens will also participate in Crop Walk. Crop Walk will happen on September 27th at 3:00 pm at 2nd Presbyterian Church

Crop Walk is not only about money, but about advocating for change. Motto of walk: "We walk because they walk"

"They" are 854 million people who go to bed hungry every night, people like us, but because of poverty they must walk to accomplish the most basic tasks:

They walk for food.

They walk for water.

They walk for firewood.

They walk to escape violence.

They walk to seek shelter.

They walk to farm their fields.

They walk to find employment.

They walk to go to school.

KENTUCKY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The Annual Assembly of the KCC will take place October 15-16, 2009 at Natural Bridge State Park. Registration materials are available in the blue folder on the front bulletin board. There is a registration fee for attendance during the day (\$65 for both days and \$45 for one day) which includes meals. The ecumenical worship service at 7:00 on Thursday evening is open to the public. Judy has experienced this as a very powerful worship service. At lunch on Thursday, Lucy Arthur-Paratley will be recognized for her winning essay/report on helpful environmental changes. Cynthia Ryan Kelly's exhibit on mountain-top removal will also be part of the Assembly.

KCC works on many issues closely related to Quaker concerns and values. The Council has experienced significant losses in funding and endowment. They are seeking ways to both increase funding and to operate as efficiently as possible. Any ideas for in-kind contributions, space, grants, local media possibilities, etc. can be sent to them via e-mail (kcc@kycouncilofchurches.org) or given to Judy Burris.

Anyone wishing to make contributions can send them to:

Kentucky Council of Churches
1500 Leestown Road, Suite 108
Lexington, KY 40511-2071

Information about the following announcements from KCC is also in the blue folder:

Religion and the Environment Conference on October 8, 2009

Healthy Food-Local Farms Conference on November 6-7, 2009

Judy is happy to receive any questions about KCC at 502-226-5322 or
judyawb@yahoo.com

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### **BUILD-Building a United Interfaith Lexington through Direct Action**

BUILD is in our Listening Process. Member congregations are conducting House Meetings to find out in which major concerns and possible issues BUILD should be involved where people are suffering from injustices. One possible issue has been to push Lexington to pass an ordinance limiting the amount of interest payday loan companies can charge. Currently, the interest rates are over 390%. BREAD (a sister organization in Columbus, Ohio) spearheaded a campaign with other allies to pass state legislation to lower the interest on payday loans to 28%. BUILD would like each congregation to meet and bring the input from its House Meeting to the Community Problems Assembly on **October 26**. Yoshiya will be setting a date for Lexington Friends House Meeting and will have Richard Mitchell send out an email when the date and location is set.

BUILD is still holding city leaders accountable for providing healthcare for people who do not have health insurance and working with city leaders to develop a trust fund for low income housing. BUILD is asking people to attend the City Council Meetings on **Sept. 17** (Thursday), **Oct. 1** (Thursday), and **Oct. 15** (Thursday) at 6:45 pm. BUILD representatives will be there to handout badges so the City Council members will know that there are many voters committed to the push for a funded trust for low income housing here in Lexington.

If you have any questions about BUILD please call Yoshiya Togami at 230-3586.

## Joys and Concerns



Send articles and news  
to Sheila Brenner, editor.  
sbrenner@insightbb.com

**Jim McElhone** continues to stay with his sister while he is recovering from surgery. He would appreciate hearing from us:  
C/o Bonnie Dowler 137 Laclede Ave,  
Lexington, KY 40505

**Andreana Brenner** is having a great time at SCAPA. That is great news.

**Isaac Hines-Williams** will be flying as Wendy's brother, John, in a SCAPA production of *Peter Pan* in November. Watch for more details.

**Elizabeth McLaren** and **Roscoe Klausing** are traveling to Kazakhstan to begin the process of adopting a baby from that country. Hold them in the Light as they travel and embark on this exciting pursuit.

**Janet Kazimir** and **Sheila Brenner** have temporary employment. For this we are thankful.

**Kathy Ostrum** celebrated her 60th birthday in fine style with lots of loving support.

**Yoshia Togami** sends word that he will be out of town during September. He recently drove **Chie** to Williams College which is 850 miles away in Williamstown, MA. She is in orientation until the 9th of September and starts classes on the 10th. They are serious about student retention, so they had a backpack camping trip to build community. The nearest Friends Meeting is in Bennington, VT, which is 19 miles away and her father is hoping she will take the time to bond with a Quaker community too. Yoshia writes, "I feel sad, proud, and hopeful that she will continue on her life's journey. I will miss not having her close to home." Keep father and daughter in the Light.

**Beth Rosdatter's** son, **Raffi Kennedy**, also left for college this month. Raffi is attending Middlebury College in VT. Hold mother and son in the Light.

Lexington Friends Meeting  
649 Price Ave.  
Lexington, KY 40508

