

## **2008 Year-End Committee Reports**

Cincinnati Friends Meeting Committees submitted reports in preparation for CFM's State of Society Report, to be published in the next issue of *The Traveling Friend*. *TF* will share the reports as space allows in this and future issues.

### **Trustees' Report**

**Prepared and submitted by Fred Krisher, Clerk**

#### **2008 Trustees:**

*Barbara Napier*

*Paul Leasure*

*Ruby Porter*

*Fred Krisher, Clerk*

For 2008 the Trustees were involved in the following projects:

- 1) Contracted with lawn service for mowing the meeting grounds and for snow and ice removal during the winter months.
- 2) Contracted with pest control company to treat the Meeting House for ants, insects, mice, and carpenter bees.
- 3) Hired plumber to fix several leaks.
- 4) Contracted with electrician to replace post light in parking lot that was destroyed by a car. Rangers were notified and drivers insurance paid for damages.
- 5) Replaced old windows in Fireside Room and kitchen with "Green Certified" and energy efficient replacement windows.
- 6) Contracted with heating and A/C company to service our furnaces and air conditioners for three more years.
- 7) Hired a new cleaning person to take care of the cleaning in the Meeting House.
- 8) Had a gate installed across the front driveway.
- 9) Repaired roof over Meeting Room after Hurricane Ike.
- 10) Cleaned up debris from trees after Hurricane Ike.
- 11) Worked on cleaning invasive Honeysuckle bushes from our wooded areas.
- 12) Contracted to have parking lot and driveway cracks sealed before winter.
- 13) Worked in attic to make it more orderly so items could be found and removed items that were no longer needed or being used.
- 14) Maintained nature path through woods.

### **Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report**

**Prepared and submitted by Jeff Mays, Clerk**

#### **2008 Peace & Social Concerns Committee:**

*Michele Berteaux*

*Lola Chaney*

*Charlotte Hullinger*

*Jeff Mays, Clerk*

The primary focus of our committee in 2008 was in our efforts to raise funds for the Afghanistan Project. Our efforts in this project have been mixed. We have attempted to find appealing and easy ways for members and attendees to become involved through events such as an Afghan Luncheon & Book Discussion and a silent art auction, as well as through the ongoing Kroger card fundraising campaign.

The project thus far has raised over \$17,000 of the \$34,000 we hope to raise in order to open and provide 6 months operating costs for an orphanage in Kabul, Afghanistan. Two fundraising ventures developed in 2008 are still upcoming; the Persian rug sale and a benefit concert. With the conclusion of this event, the committee will report the total funds raised to Meeting for Business and, if current goal has not been reached, will present our recommendations as to an appropriate course of action.

Though both pleased and humbled by actions we have witnessed in regards to individual participation and donations, this project has, unfortunately, failed to achieve the Meeting wide support we had initially hoped for.

The committee has also continued overseeing our Meeting's ongoing connection to Tender Mercies. Participation in this commitment has also been mixed, with some Tender Mercies trips being well volunteered for, others requiring a few members to provide multiple items to fully complete the meal.

The number of joint trips made to the Freestore/Foodbank with Community Friends Meeting was down from last year as one planned trip was cancelled by the Freestore/Foodbank (due to lack of donations) and another poorly attended.

Looking ahead: with the probable completion of the Afghanistan Project at the end of April, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee will likely be looking for ways to discern activities more in line with what the Meeting as a whole might find some interest

## **Young Friends Committee Report Prepared and submitted by the Committee**

### **2008 Young Friends Committee:**

*Jeff Arnold*

*Michele Berteaux*

*Linda Daigle, clerk/co-leader Donna Kimmel*

*Karay Martin, co-leader Deborah Overmyer*

*Valerle Shesko*

An energetic, enthusiastic group of young Friends has been meeting on a regular basis this past year. Wonderful teens from three area Meetings—Cincinnati Friends, Community Friends and Eastern Hills Friends—have brought a variety of gifts to these gatherings, including interest in

the arts, music, sports, computers, and sports. The Young Friends program has been co-led by Linda Daigle and Karay Martin.

The gatherings on the first Friday of each month for pizza and games have become a rewarding opportunity for fellowship, expending energy (both creative and otherwise), and developing moments of spiritual learning. The group has also been meeting together on first Sundays for worship with a time for follow-up discussion or guest speakers. This past year we have had the opportunity to hear from Alex Slotkin about her summer travels in England with the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage, and, in January 2009, Mary Ellen Krisher, who shared a video and her own experiences of a similar trip. Pauletta Hansel led a writing workshop that produced YF writing published in the last edition of the *Traveling Friend*. A speaker at Community Friends discussed conscientious objection, and Linda Daigle directed thoughtful consideration of the connection between Scripture, Christmas carols, and the nature of gifts.

Activities planned for 2009 include Meeting for Worship at each of the other Cincinnati meetings, a visit to a local mosque, a service project in Over-the Rhine, a trip to the Cincinnati Observatory, and friendship, fellowship, and pizza on the first Friday of each month.

At Linda's request, the Committee has begun discussing the process for hiring a new leader for Young Friends. This is a new group leader, but not a replacement because Linda is, quite simply, irreplaceable.

## **Community Life Report**

**Prepared and submitted by Jeff Arnold and Joan Effertz, Co-Clerks**

### **2008 Community Life Committee:**

*Jeff Arnold (Co-Clerk)*

*Joan Effertz (Co-Clerk)*

*Carol Hoffman*

*Karay Martin*

We planned and executed four events in 2008:

1. An Ice Skating event on Fountain Square in Feb, which was fun for those who attended, though not very many did. We don't think we'll do this again in '09. But- important to note that attendees included some from Community Friends as well as Cincinnati Friends.

2. A Swim party in August at the Fairfax Swim Club. This also was a lot of fun for those who attended, and we had a decent (15 total) turnout for swimming, conversation, and pizza. Note: the Rehard-Nugent family did show up for this event, as well as regular Cincinnati Friends.

3. A Canoe Trip followed by a Picnic in October. This year the canoe trip sort of fell through (the Rehard-Nugents were the only group on the river) but the picnic was very successful. Friends from both meetings were present, it was a beautiful day, the Hadley farm is an outstanding location for this event, food was excellent, kids had a ball, and the fellowship was warm and wonderful.

4. The Holiday Family Craft Party in December turned out to be very successful in spite of moderate snowfall that morning. Adults and kids enjoyed music, craft tables, and decorating

cookies. Carol's lunch was excellent, and the sense of togetherness in the Fireside Room while the snow fell softly outside was just wonderful. Note: This event drew in the cooperation of the CFM Craft group, notably Debbie and Barb.

Community Life is happy to report that many of our events draw in people from other meetings, or people from other committees in our meeting. We hope to continue this kind of outreach in all our events.

Looking forward into 2009, the Neighborhood Gathering is scheduled for January 24. This event is the culmination of lots of planning and preparation. We hope to kick off social events in the various neighborhoods of CFM (we defined 5 for the purposes of this Gathering.) After we get the neighborhoods defined, and some events underway, Community Life will follow up with more ideas for development of this project, including inter/intra-neighborhood interaction, service projects, drawing the other meetings into the map, etc.

Also planned for 2009 is a Star Party in Feb, a Spring Celebration at the Highlands Sanctuary in May, a Friendly dinner out in March or April, a Retiree/Empty Nester get-together in May/June, another Swim Party in the summer, the now-annual Fall picnic (possible bike ride instead of canoe trip this year), and the Holiday Family Craft Party again in December.

## **Communications Committee**

### **Prepared and submitted by Pauletta Hansel**

#### **2008 Communication Committee:**

*Michele Bertaux*

*Eileen Crowe*

*Owen Cramer*

*Pauletta Hansel (Clerk)*

*Debbie Overmyer*

*Andrew Schwarzer*

The work of this Committee continues to be the ongoing production of *The Traveling Friend*, the primary mechanism for CFM's communication with members and other supporters who do not regularly attend meetings. *The Traveling Friend* is published on a quarterly publication schedule. Each issue includes a monthly calendar of CFM events, stories and photographs of recent CFM activities, announcements of upcoming events and other items of interest to the community, including updates from committees and spiritual nurture groups and reflective essays by members, attenders and pastors. A new feature of *The Traveling Friend* is an interview with a member of the CFM community. Beginning with the Fall 2008 issue, the newsletter has been printed and folded at a copy center instead of being run off on the copy machine in the office.

The principal function of *The Traveling Friend* is to communicate both the spirit and the activities of CFM and its community, with a goal of inspiring and enabling its readers to more fully participate in the life of the Meeting. In 2008 those involved in the Meeting have fully contributed to the growth of *The Traveling Friend*; each issue has brimmed with news and stories.

In the last year we both lost and gained membership and assistance. Pastor Dan Kasztelan did the layout and photography and wrote articles for the first half of the year; his

visual and literary artistry is missed, as is Michelle Clement's administrative support and written contributions.

Erin Bagus brought new energy to the work of the layout and does a terrific job of it, as well as in finding photographs and graphics and in providing administrative support. Interim minister Donne Hayden is a regular contributor and provides excellent advice to the process. When Eileen Crowe went off to college, Andrew Schwarzer joined us mid-year as writer and reporter.