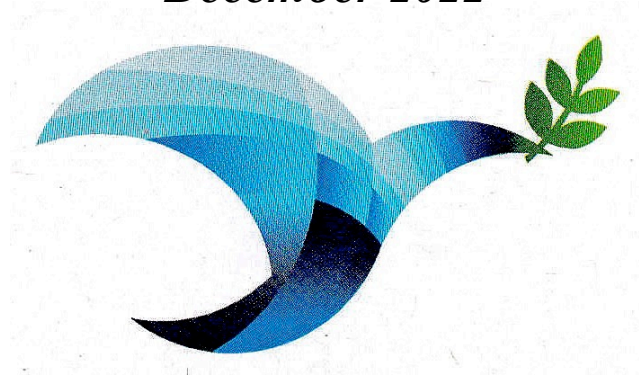


THE FAIRFIELD FRIEND

December 2022



Fairfield Friends Meeting is a diverse Quaker community that lives and shares the peace, love and Light of God in the world.



P.O. Box 45 · 10441 East County Road 700 South · Camby, Indiana 46113
(317) 856-3121 www.FairfieldFriends.o

The Fairfield Friend – December 2022

Dear Friends,

December is here! Another busy season is upon us. Please take a good look at the calendar—many events you won't want to miss! Wishing you all good tidings and joy!

M. Beth Symons

Thoughts From the Pastor, Phil Gulley

You Don't Always Get What You Want, And Other Truths from Mick Jagger

Joan asked me the other day what I wanted for Christmas, and wanting to appear virtuous, I told her world peace, though I'll settle for a set of saddlebags for my Triumph Bonneville motorcycle, which is far more practical and won't require the cooperation of megalomaniacs bent on worldly conquest. If every beauty contestant who had pledged to work for world peace had done so, Earth would be a regular Shangri-La. Not that I'm blaming them. It feels wonderful to announce one's support for world peace. I do it myself on a regular basis, but after a few days am willing to settle for a Dairy Queen Blizzard. Talk about Shangri-La. My Lord!

Welcome to Christmas, when, as Mick Jagger says, "You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometimes you'll find you get what you need."

That, my friends, is Christmas in a nutshell. We don't always get what we want, but sometimes we get what we need. So I probably won't be getting saddlebags, which cost \$500, for crying out loud, plus the frames to which they attach, another \$150, for a whopping total of \$650, plus taxes.

Joan has never been one to express her love by buying me things, a character defect I have tried to correct, without success, so I suspect I'll end up with a milk crate and bungee cord instead of saddlebags. Knowing Joan, she'll spend the difference on our grandchildren, buying them clothes, books, and other frivolous items, while I sit glumly on the couch on Christmas morning holding my milk crate.

Actually, I like milk crates and always stop to pick them up when I see them on the roadside. Upside down, they make ideal garage stools. Right side up, they store all sorts of things, not just milk. While resting on their sides, stacked atop another, they are serviceable bookshelves. If you need to transport hundreds of pounds of food from Fairfield to the food pantry in Cunot, they make wonderful carriers, as Bill Smith, Steve Kirchoff, and I recently discovered.

Mabel Capps, the director of the Cunot Food Pantry has relocated the pantry, and now works out of the yard barn we purchased, behind the Cataract Lake Grocery on State Road 42. When we delivered the food, we were told the pantry had been "slammed" the weekend before with people needing food for their families. This is the primary reason Joan won't buy me \$650 saddlebags for my motorcycle.

"You know how many kids you could feed for \$650," she'll say.

I can hear her now. She's right, of course, which is why I'll make do with a milk crate and bungee cord.

If you didn't get what you wanted, would you settle for what you needed, if the difference between want and need helped feed a little girl and keep her warm?

For now, the food has been delivered, the milk crates are empty, and we'll need to fill them up again. It seems there is always a need. Starting Sunday, January 1st, we'll be stepping up our support of Cunot. The wicker baskets will be passed, the food collected, and the poor in Cunot will get what they need, which is good news indeed.

Ministry and Counsel



With the approach of Christmas, the committees of Fairfield are planning several events. On **December 4** during Meeting for Worship, the Christian Education committee will be conducting the decorating of the Christmas tree on Snowflake Sunday. Immediately after service, Ministry and Counsel will host a church wide pitch-in where meat, drinks, and table service will be provided. The next Sunday, **December 11**, there will be the cookie exchange after meeting for worship. Then that evening at 6:30, the children will present their Christmas program followed by a candlelight service.

Since Christmas is on Sunday this year, the committee decided to not have a Christmas Eve service as many people are with their families that busy weekend. Because Fairfield has not been able to celebrate Christmas together for two years, we are looking forward to the coming events with renewed spirit. Hope to see you at several of these!

Family Promise

Prevention of homelessness remains the primary focus as the Family Promise staff seek to evaluate the unique situation for each family. Those who lose their home during the holiday season experience an added trauma as well as the added love that our community shows.

December 25th begins our next Family Promise support week. Because of the holiday season, I will check on the exact count for meals. Some families will be visiting relatives and their schedules may be more sporadic. Our meals could be prepared in advance, frozen and heated up for a timely delivery.

The children will not be in school, but those who work will still have full schedules. Some workers have seasonal overtime responsibilities as they work hard to regain stability.

Please keep our support week between Christmas and New Years in mind this holiday season. May everyone rejoice with the comfort of a loving community.

Thanks,
Theresa Minton

Membership

Membership does not require great moral or spiritual achievement, but it does require sincerity of purpose and a commitment to Quaker values and practices. Membership is a spiritual discipline, a commitment to the well-being of ones spiritual home and not simply appearance on a membership roll.

The above is taken from the Britain Yearly Meeting book on Quaker Faith and Practice. If you desire to join us at Fairfield Friends Meeting to share your and our journey in spiritual growth please contact Larry or Carol Cordray. Our contact information is below.

Carol Daffodil327@hotmail.com or 317-727-1678 Larry Lcordray3388@gmail.com 317-372-2777

CLERK PLEASE

December 2022

The following highlights are from the November 20 Monthly Meeting (MM), be sure to see the final minutes for details:

- Phil met with Sherry Rediger, our counselor, to be updated on her counseling arrangement with the meeting. He reported that the arrangement is working well for all involved. Friends who have sought her services are satisfied, and she says the situation with Fairfield is one of the best she has had with an organization in all the years she has been counseling.
- October was an uneventful month financially. There were no unusual expenses, so a total of a little less than \$7000 made it a good month. Below average revenue from worship service was compensated by the sale of items from the 1892 Meeting House, resulting in total income of around \$9500. Average weekly offering was about \$1900 compared to about \$3100 for the year to date. The result was a surplus of about \$2,500, and continued robust general fund reserves. A review of past minutes confirmed that our intent for surplus reserve funds is to spend them, preferably on outreach projects. We will revisit the dispersal of surplus reserves in January when the final financial statement for 2022 becomes available. Finance presented our first narrative budget with its proposal for 2023. This format provides much information regarding the nature and source of giving at Fairfield. The proposed budget was approved.
- Ministry and Counsel reported that they were able to send \$1000 to Max Carter, to compensate for his time and effort toward the recent Quakerism classes. M&C recommends that future Books and Brunch events be held on the first Saturday in November, and that a person be put in charge of publicity. The committee decided to continue with singing only two hymns for the present, with possibly more during the Christmas services. We will also continue with the collection baskets at the back since many people now contribute online and the committee has heard many positive comments of that placement. Starting after the first of the year though, the outreach baskets will be passed during the service to show our continued support for the needy in our community.
- Trustees reported that a number of items left unsold during the 'yard sale' were sold from a booth rented by the McClungs at TraderBakers in Martinsville. Other items of value were donated to Wellspring of Martinsville, a Habitat Restore, and Goodwill. The Music committee has found a home for the two upright pianos from the 1892 Meeting House. The organ needs repairs and is of little value. The air handler which supports the dining room area of the Meeting House had failed and was to be replaced Tuesday, November 22 by Airtron at a cost of \$4780. The damaged sections of fencing along Camby Road will be replaced by Parker Fence Co., with the Cemetery Fund paying the deductible portion at \$2500, and insurance paying the remaining \$2719. Damaged sections require custom fabrication which delays repairs.

- Next Monthly Meeting will be December 18.

We have not done our best communicating on the affairs of Western Yearly Meeting, the parent organization to which Fairfield belongs, and to which we pay significant quarterly assessments. If you are interested you can learn a lot at <https://www.westernyearlymeeting.org>. There you will find a link to Western Work, the WYM newsletter.

Randy Horton, Presiding Clerk

Holiday Cheer Bags

Every year at this time the Meeting prepares and delivers Holiday Cheer Bags to members and attenders who are shut-ins, going through long-term illnesses, or need extra care at this time. Many, but not all, of these people are on our every month card list. Currently we have 20 people on our list to receive a bag.

We need donations for the bags. Anything that you feel would fit the criteria is welcome. Examples of items are small lotions, small candles, puzzle books, pens or pencils, candy, individual servings of baked goods, crackers or nuts, fruit, small notepads, Chapstick, etc. We need 20 to 22 of each item. Please put your donations in the USFW room in the dining room **by December 4**. We plan to pack the bags after worship that Sunday. Let us know if you would like to help pack or deliver bags.

If you can help, or have questions, you can contact Dinah Geiger at 317-752-5306 or dinageiger@att.net.

Caring Friends

December 2022 Calendar

- December 1** Ministry and Counsel Committee 7-8:00pm
- December 4** Chat Room 9:30-10:30am
Snowflake Sunday and Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
Pitch-In Dinner 11:30-1:00
Writing Group 1-3:00pm
- December 7** NA Support Group 7-8:00pm
- December 10** Peace and Social Justice Committee 9:30-10:30am
- December 11** Chat Room 9:30-10:30am
Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
Cookie Exchange 11:30-1:00
Children's Program followed
by Candlelight Service 6:30-8:00pm
- December 14** NA Support Group 7-8:00pm
- December 15** Finance Committee 7-8:00pm
- December 18** Chat Room 9:30-10:30am
Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
Meeting for Business 7-8:00pm
- December 20** Stewardship Committee 2:30-3:30pm
- December 21** NA Support Group 7-8:00pm
- December 25** Chat Room 9:30-10:30am
Relaxed Christmas Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
- December 28** NA Support Group 7-8:00pm

December Birthdays

Sandy Chenoweth	December 01
Olivia Denny	December 01
Elizabeth Steele	December 02
Mary Lee Comer	December 07
Cindy Coakley-Vidal	December 09
Austin Settles	December 09
Brian Swift	December 10
Madeline Gulley	December 13
Lucas Swift	December 14
Bob Stevens	December 15
Herb Denny	December 20
Rita Goss	December 21
Becky Horton	December 22
Jim McClung	December 24
Paige Robbins	December 24
Jack Essex	December 27
Sean Gainey	December 28
Patty Bowling	December 29
Ann Davidson	December 31

December Anniversaries

Gandolfo, Georges/Kathryn	December 16
Chenoweth, Michael/Sandy	December 18
Pierce, John/Alma	December 21
Gulley, Spencer/Jessica	December 22
Cunningham, Mike/Mindy	December 27
Slaughter, Lane/Carolyn	December 28

A Solitary Crow in December

Overhead you flew so deliberately
Wings rowing on an unknown journey
Lacking urgency yet so purposefully
To a destination unknown to me
A lone flight we both must take

Odd for crow flying to be solitaire
Your kind finds comfort in company
Chattering clatter model knowledge there
Yet silently you flew unaccompanied
A lone flight we both sometimes take

Without a vow you mate for life
Which makes me ponder even more
Your marching flight sans drum and fife
To be with what you desired before
A lone flight we both sometimes take

My hear finds solace in your steady gait
Answers will come at flights end
Destinations of both our journeys fate
Understanding then what we transcend
The lone flight journey we ne're escape

Don Adams

Holding in the Light List

Family of Chris Fleming
(Friends of Don and Lynn Adams)

Finley "Peanut" Williams
(Cathy Lucas's dad)

Isabella and Lina Porter

Kelly Davis (Kyle and Leslie
(Blacketer) Rhoden's friend)

Vaughn Martin (Terri King's father)

Ann and Betsy Denney
(Herb's mom and sister)

Deborah Hunt

Jackie (friend of Patty Bowling)

Tina (Mary Dooley's niece)

Mike Roland
(friend of Bill and Pam Smith)

Gladys (Pam and Bill Smith's
beloved beagle)

Wilma Capco (friend of Pam Smith
and Sue Walton)

Don Edmundson (Lee's brother)

Ron and Kay Frye

Jack & Mary Lou (Mary Dooley's friends)

Neighborhood Bible Church

Diana Hadley

Randy & John Haymaker
(Treg Hopkins and Don Adams' friends)

Randy Horton

Kathe Bryant

Bill & Jo Maris (Stacey Dennis's parents)

Jeannie McKee & family (friends of Debbie Draper)

Deann Waltz (Zoom friend)

Patti Evans (Frank Burns' sister)

Barbara and Keith Raffell (Frank Bruns
sister and brother-in-law)

Becky McNabb

Randy Coffin

Bob Church (Rosemary's husband)

Rochelle Florence Colestock
(Randy Horton's sister)

Carol Gabbard (Jeff's mother)

Margaret Tutewiler-Cox

Margo Lawson

Martha Pokorny (wife of Cliff Prentice's friend)

Lauren Chinn (daughter of Larry Cordray)

Ruth Turner (daughter of the late Charles & Elsie Carter)

Daryl T. Brown

Julie Kindle

Beth Sotkiewicz

Brenda Sellers (Linze Southwick's mom)

Chris Gautier

Mary Denbo (Terry's Mom)

And we continue to hold in the light those in our Fairfield family and larger Quaker community who cope with ongoing issues of compromised health or aging, or otherwise live with challenging situations on a daily basis:

Alan & Helen Heuss (Cindy Streitmeier's parents)

Charles and Leslieann Lee

Abdul Sulaiman & Nisreen Rasheed family

Tom & Jeanne Seger (Phil Gulley's sister and husband)

Alan & Helen Heuss

Gage Boyd (Margo Lawson's grandson)

Jack Apple (Joan Gulley's brother)

Margie Wollitz (Mary's twin sister)

David and Jennifer Hodge

Meeting Contacts

Pastor

Phil Gulley
philiphgulley@gmail.com
317-446-4923

Choir Director

Presiding Clerk of the Meeting

Randy Horton
randyhorton4251@sbcglobal.net
317-839-9682

Outreach Committee

Stacey Denny
hdenny123@att.net
317-313-1171

Caring Friends Committee

Becky McClung
rgmclung@gmail.com
317-690-0160

United Society of Friends Women

Sarah Lookabill
slookabill@att.net
317-839-4712

To Be Added to the Email List

Tom Farrington
MessageToFairfield@att.net
317-839-3902

Fairfield Men's Fellowship

Ralph Baker
baker7298@sbcglobal.net
317-831-3526

Membership Coordinators

Larry & Carol Cordray
daffodil327@hotmail.com
317-372-2777
317-372-1678

Nursery (under age 3)

Sue Roe
Sue.roe@sbcglobal.net
317-445-9333

Bulletin

Tom Farrington
MessageToFairfield@att.net
317-839-3902

Children's Meeting (age 3-8th grade)

Tara Stewart
Tara_m_stewart@hotmail.com
317-627-8964
Jimmy McClung
moviemanjm@gmail.com
765-346-8848

Newsletter

M. Beth Symons
mbethsymons@aol.com
317-409-0300

Pianists: Lee Edmundson, Joan Gulley, Hubert Perry