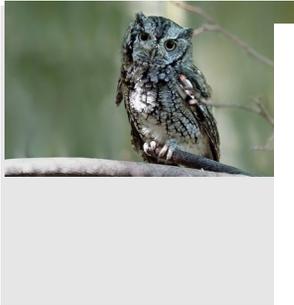
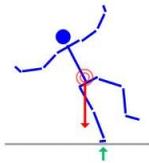


# Thee and Me



**January 2019**



## **Center of Gravity**

I have shared this thought before and it is worth repeating as we all begin a new year together.

This is from Henri J. M. Nouwen in [Making All Things New -](#)

Jesus does not respond to our worry-filled way of living by saying that we should not be so busy with worldly affairs. He does not try to pull us away from the many events, activities, and people that make up our lives. He does not tell us that what we do is unimportant, valueless, or useless. . . .

Jesus' response to our worry-filled lives is quite different. He asks us to shift the point of gravity, to relocate the center of our attention, to change our priorities. Jesus wants us to move from the "many things" to the "one necessary thing." It is important for us to realize that Jesus in no way wants us to leave our many-faceted world. Rather, he wants us to live in it, but firmly rooted in the center of all things. Jesus does not speak about a change of activities, a change in contacts, or even a change of pace. He speaks about a change of heart. This change of heart makes everything different, even while everything appears to remain the same. This is the meaning of "Set your hearts on his kingdom first . . . and all these other things will be given you as well.

What counts is where our hearts are. When we worry, we have our hearts in the wrong place. Jesus asks us to move our hearts to the center, where all other things fall into place.

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## Ministry and Counsel Notes

January 2019

As we look to a new year, we see new opportunities and we see new challenges. I have heard it said that "challenges should be perceived as

opportunities". One thing is for certain, changes are coming. Not all change is improvement but that should not be our excuse for not trying to change anything that has room for improvement. What is seen as improvement by one may not be seen as an improvement to another because many of us like things the way that they are. Unfortunately, we and the people and things around us, are constantly changing whether we like it or not. The only things we control are the ways we react to the changes around us. We are taught to believe that God never changes. Since we are taught to believe that God is omnipotent, then would it be reasonable to believe that He also would have the ability to change? Certainly, our perceptions of God change with each new revelation or personal experience that we can only attribute to God.

What do we, who are involved with Plainfield Friends Meeting, believe should be kept as they are? Why? What do we want to see changed? Why? How do we make those changes? What proposed changes should we resist and what changes should we accept? Do we trust in God and pray for guidance? What is God telling you? When you formulate an answer to any of these questions, is it your will or are you yielding to God's will?

Please pray for God's will as we prepare ourselves and our Meeting for the coming changes.

Gene Carter

**Plainfield Friends  
Monthly Meeting for Business Minutes  
December 16, 2018**

**Opening Minute:** Plainfield Friends Monthly Meeting for Business convened the Twelfth Month, 16th day, 2018 following Meeting for Worship and the fellowship meal. There were 15 present.

**Bill Heald, Clerk, read Faith & Practice Query #11 “Social Conscience”**

1. Are you concerned that our economic system shall so function as to sustain and enrich the life of all?
2. Are you giving positive service to society in the promotion of peaceful methods of adjustment in all cases of social and industrial conflict?
3. Do you support efforts which promote a humane criminal justice system and oppose the death penalty?
4. Do you as workers, employers, producers, consumers, and investors endeavor to cultivate good will and mutual understanding in your economic relationship?
5. Do you intelligently exercise all of your constitutional privileges and thus seek to promote Christian influence locally, nationally, and internationally?

**Devotions** Brenda Hubbard Jackson  
**WELL, BLESS HER HEART**

Karen Ehman, Proverbs31.org (Dec. 4, 2018 Devotion excerpts)

“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35 NIV) I often heard my mom use an expression (from the southern U.S), “Well, bless their heart”. My mom uttered this saying when referring to someone who was sad or hurting. If the neighbor girl took a tumble sledding, skinned a knee and then began to cry, my mom would utter, “Well, bless her heart” before scooping up the child and then offering a cup of steaming hot cocoa to help her forget the pain. ...

The expression is also invoked when trying to convey that someone is totally clueless... without being unkind.

I would like to offer a third meaning...what if we made this saying an ongoing goal of our relationships?

When we think of those God puts in our path—wondering just why they’re in our lives—let’s imagine Jesus giving us the directive: “Well, (You) Bless Their Hearts” We might think of the Lord urging us to gift them with a word of encouragement, some needed physical help or a simple gesture of kindness...

We can give in a way that will bring genuine blessing to their heart...Will you decide to not rush by the people who naturally intersect with you in life?...Will you give of your time, resources or words in order to

bless another soul?... (Dear) Jesus may I go through Christmas & the New Year not looking to get but looking to bless others...

**Minutes of November 18, 2018**

**Corrections:**

1. Minute 4: change “Walk A Mile in my Shoes” to “My Daily Walk”
2. Minute 5, #2: change Aaron to Erin
3. Minute 8, Treasurer’s Report c): add \$7,893.58
4. Minute 17, #2 change Ousdol to Osdol

**Correspondence: Bill Heald**

1. The letter was received from Karen Means, Board Member of “My Daily Walk” sharing the success of their first give away of 85 items of coats & shoes. They thanked us for the use of Plainfield Friends Foyer and look forward to doing it again.
2. Letters from 2 companies with Pest Control bids were given to Trustees for their consideration.
3. Rebekah & Michael Furnish sent a letter requesting transfer of membership from Plainfield Friends Meeting, Plainfield, Indiana to Fairfield Friends Meeting, Camby, Indiana. The clerk will fill out the form and have our church secretary forward it to Fairfield Friends Meeting, Camby, IN.

**Pastor’s Report – Bill Clendineng**

**APPROVED ( highlights follow):**

1. Pastor Bill will be on vacation December 26th – January 3rd
2. Scout Sunday will be February 17th

### 3. Chamber of Commerce Focus Group

#### **Ministry & Counsel Report – Bill Heald for Gene Carter - APPROVED**

1. **APPROVED** - Received & approved the request from Michael & Rebecca Furnish to transfer their membership from Plainfield Friends, Plainfield, IN to Fairfield Friends, Camby, IN.

2. Ministry & Counsel & spouses met at the home of Clark & Diana Hadley planting the seed for future small group gatherings. We discussed the importance of opportunities to:

a. Share needs

b. Find ways to meet needs

c. The goal is to become better acquainted with all members and attendees and explore the needs of the community.

3. The process of a Pastoral Search has begun

a. July 1, 2019 is the goal for calling a new pastor

b. 1 application has been received

c. **APPROVED** – Ministry and Counsel request \$2,000 be budgeted for the projected expenses of the pastoral search.

d. Members of our Meeting are asked to keep the Pastoral Search in prayer that we may be led by the voice & hand of God.

4. There was a discussion of “Hate Crime” Legislation brought up by Diana Hadley in CME and the meeting is asked to prayerfully consider the following:

a. What should be the stand of individuals and Plainfield Friends as Quakers & Christians on Hate Crime Legislation:

b. who/what determines the specifics of a Hate Crime & for what reasons

c. How might all persons be treated as equals, in the sight of God, in proposed legislation?

d. What position (if any) should we ask IFCL to take and why.

5. Members of Ministry & Counsel have agreed to be the search committee for new pastoral leadership.

#### **Treasurer’s Report (Stewardship & Finance) – Marilyn Tucker - APPROVED**

1. Treasurer’s Report

a) November beginning balance: \$9,640.17

b) November ending register balance \$11,450.35

c) November Offerings : \$ 9,640.17

d) Our November income was \$15,767.33 (includes \$5,000 from Edward Jones Account)

e) Total Brokerage balance at the end of November was \$429,487.36.

#### **Stewardship & Finance Committee – Marilyn Tucker for Clark Hadley ACCEPTED**

1. Recommended 2019 Proposed Budget was presented by the Treasurer in the absence of Clark Hadley.

a) **APPROVED** with the understanding that revisions may need to be made due to the pastoral change & pastoral search.

2. Parsonage sold Friday December 14, 2018. After expenses, we received \$134,000 (roughly)

a) This money has been put into a “Parsonage Account” to cover future parsonage allowance expenses.

3. The question was raised on how the Stewardship Committee is planning to present stewardship needs regularly to our congregation.

a) Specifically, it was requested to present an end of the year report to our members emphasizing the need for continued, faithful stewardship and sharing needs.

b) Marilyn Tucker will email Clark Hadley with this concern.

#### **Trustees Report – Jim Wilson APPROVED**

1. The parsonage sold December 14, 2018 and passed inspection with no concerns.

2. The concern was raised that we need new toilet paper & soap dispensers in the bathrooms. Trustees will look into this.

3. A concern was raised about upstairs classrooms having too much miscellaneous items stored in them & not being used.

a) This prompted a request to update the upstairs classroom. Brenda Hubbard Jackson and Michelle Earl volunteered to work with the CE Committee on accomplishing this task.

4. Morey Gladden, his grandson & Jim Wilson, took down 3 dead Ash Trees.

**Christian Education – Kathy Clendineng ~ No Report**

**MOPS – Kay Carter APPROVED**

1. The MOPS Committee is discussing a recommendation for the use of Quaker Day proceeds. It will most likely be ½ to Tanzania and ½ to the needed sidewalk repairs. This will be presented at the next business meeting.

**Visitation – Jim Wilson ~ 12 visits were made by the visitation committee**

**Church Federation - No Report**

**Nominating Committee – APPROVED – with the following changes & additions:**

1. Literary Committee should read Literature Committee
2. Scout Rep to Pack 429 is Michelle Earl 2019-2021
3. Jim Gibson declined reappointment
  - a. Della Stanley-Green volunteered and was approved
  4. Wayne Carter will confirm the acceptance by Cindy Simmons to serve on the Nominating Committee.
5. Financial Review Committee:
  - a. Joyce Heald -----2019-2021
  - b. Kerry Green ----2019 – 2022
6. Plainfield Chamber of Commerce:
  - a. Bill Clendineng
  - b. Jim Wilson

**Old Business – Shepherding Reports - APPROVED**

1. Wayne & Kay met with Katy & Bill McPherson they will get the Statistics sheet submitted to the office.
2. Kathy Clendineng & Jim Wilson will meet with Mary Van Osdol the Statistics sheet has been submitted to the office.
3. Brenda Jackson spent time with Michelle Earl as she was ill the date planned for Bill & Brenda to meet with Michelle. She will submit the Statistics sheet to the office.

**New Business - APPROVED**

1. Andrew Heald has officially resigned as a member of Ministry & Counsel due to his new position as associate pastor at Fairmount Friends and moving to that area along with his wife Jessica.
2. Jim Wilson reports that Family Promise this year has served 18 adults & 30 children through “Bridges Out of Poverty”. They thank Plainfield Friends for our support of Family Promise.
3. Dates for Coordinating Council will be February 5, 2019 - the first Tuesday.
4. It was suggested we need to put together a new Church Directory

**Statistics –**

1. Virginia Vapor ~ July 19, 1921 to December 8, 2018
2. Robert “Bob” Garris ~ April 19, 1930 to December 5, 2018

**Joys & Concerns –**

Pray for:

1. Phil, Brenda & Maggie Jackson’s “Gram” in hospital again.
  - a. Phil’s mom with upcoming surgery this Spring that she will be in good enough health to have it.
  2. Families dealing with the death of a loved one:
    - a. Sylvia Graves & family in the recent death of Dale Graves (West Newton Friends)
    - b. Teresa Mershon & family in the recent death of Bob Graves (Plainfield Friends)
    3. Lois Maxwell as she recovers from a fractured foot

Joys:

1. The fun & blessing Plainfield Friends members had Christmas Caroling to home bound members of our church & taking them cookies:
  - a. George & Berneice Stultz
  - b. Marjorie Hampton
  - c. Residents of Sugar Grove Senior Living Community
  - d. Bill & Lois Maxwell
  - e. Everette Stanley
  - f. Cliff Frost was not home this day

**Closing Minute:** Plainfield Friends Monthly Meeting for Business adjourns to meet 1st month, 20th day 2019, or on the call of the clerk.

Gene Carter closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by

Bill Heald, Clerk  
 Kathy Clendineng, Recording Clerk

**January Events**



**01/01 New Years Day-Office Closed**  
 01/03 7pm Choir Practice  
 01/05 9am Pinewood Derby Wkshp  
 01/07 7pm Scout Pack 429  
**01/08 7pm Coordinating Committee Meeting**  
 7pm Cub Scout Parent Planning Meeting  
 01/10 7pm Choir Practice  
 01/13 2pm Worship @ Sugar Grove Sr. Living  
**01/14 7pm Ministry & Counsel**  
 7pm Scout Pack 429  
 01/17 7pm Choir Practice  
 01/19 9am WYM Board Meeting  
**01/20 11:30 Fellowship Meal**  
**12:30 Meeting for Business**  
 01/24 7pm Choir Practice  
 01/26 7:30am Quaker Men/Women Breakfast @ Goody's  
 4pm Pinewood Derby  
 01/28 7pm Scout Pack 429  
 01/31 7pm Choir Practice

**January Birthdays**



01/01 Walter Maxwell  
 Jeanette Moore  
 01/07 Megan Allen  
 01/08 Kyle Rhoden  
 01/14 Rose Asava  
 Jarrod Cowell  
 Robert Milhous  
 01/17 Richard Heald  
 01/18 Nancy Stickney  
 01/21 Randy Maxwell  
 01/22 Jo Ann Long  
 01/23 Ronald Richardson  
 01/27 Cynthia Simmons

**February Events**



02/04 7pm Scout Pack 429  
 02/07 7pm Choir Practice  
 02/10 Scout Sunday  
 2pm Worship at Sugar Grove Sr. Living  
**02/11 7pm Ministry & Counsel**  
 7pm Scout Pack 429  
 02/12 7pm Cub Scout Parent Planning Meeting  
 02/14 7pm Choir Practice  
**02/17 11:30am Fellowship Meal**

**12:30pm Meeting for Business**

02/21 7pm Choir Practice  
 02/23 7:30am Quaker Men/Women Breakfast at Goody's  
 02/24 2:30pm Worship at PHCC  
 02/25 7pm Scout Pack 429  
 02/28 7pm Choir Practice

**February Birthdays**



**02/04 Christopher Jaeckel-Copeland**  
**02/05 Karen Roever**  
**02/06 Suzie Mathis**  
**Suzan Osborne**  
**02/07 Lyle Hunnicutt**  
**02/08 Josh Ellis**  
**Lois Maxwell**  
**02/10 Michael LaPorte**  
**Nancy Wilson**  
**02/11 Alexis LaPorte**  
**02/18 Mildred Moore**  
**02/19 Alice Huus**  
**02/20 Ron Richardson**  
**02/21 Kathy Clendineng**  
**02/22 Wayne Carter**  
**Jacqueline Hunnicutt**  
**02/24 Bruce Hamilton**  
**Evan Mosier**  
**02/25 John Gibson**  
**Jessica Heald**  
**02/27 Nadine Kemp**  
**Susan Konechnik**  
**02/28 Teresa Mershon**