

RED CEDAR FRIENDS 2013 STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT TO LAKE ERIE YEARLY MEETING

Spirit has been a constant presence in the community of Red Cedar Friends Monthly Meeting this year as together we shared Joy, Spirit, Unity, Service, and Grief.

Together we shared the joy of the marriage of Will Alexander and Mary Celia Tuttle. Will and Mary Celia's friendship of over sixty years is a witness to the power of love that moves in different shapes over a life span.

School of the Spirit has deeply influenced the spiritual practice of Red Cedar Friends. When Meeting hosted Testing the Waters, an introduction to the School of the Spirit program, little did we know four Red Cedar members would be moved to commit two years of study to the program. Each of the four members has a care committee whose members, participating in spiritual conversations, are also touched by the experience, expanding and strengthening the web of influence.

Unity has balanced our long discernment regarding fragrance and chemical sensitivity. With the faithful service of our Worship and Pastoral Care Committee we listened to each other through painful conversations. We stayed with those conversations. Together we found grace in our discernment. As we work to improve our practices regarding chemical sensitivity we realize we are not finished - it is a long path we have stepped out on.

Red Cedar Friends continue to be involved in the wider Quaker community. An opportunity arose to host the FGC Development Committee. Norman Peoples of the Alternatives to Violence Project spoke as part of that weekend. We opened the event to the Lansing's social justice community and had to move it to the Pilgrim Congregational Church to accommodate everyone. Hosting Quaker events is one way we have used our meetinghouse, now three years old. We have also been privileged to offer the meetinghouse to a number of community based initiatives in the neighborhood of Old Town as well as the city of Lansing.

And Spirit covers us as we prayed for and now mourn the death of a beloved long-time member, Weaver Rose Habl, a smart, funny, creative, loving woman who was called away too soon.

Marriage, spiritual study, reconciliation, service to the community, and loss has given Red Cedar expansive opportunity to pause and feel blessed by the Divine.