

Hominy Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) STATE OF SOCIETY REPORT

For we live by faith, not by sight. -2 Corinthians 5:7

As we look to the future, we are reminded that we live by faith, trusting in God and understanding that the path before us will not always be clear. The saying that hindsight is 20/20 reminds us that we can benefit from past actions and thus we reflect upon our past year in preparing this report.

August 14, we included a back-to-school blessing during meeting for worship, praying for students, parents, and teachers.

Osage Indian Baptist Church, Pawhuska, OK, responded to our invitation to the latest in a series of sharing Osage hymns, Bible study using an 1830's Osage version, devotions, prayers, and fellowship. Afterwards we enjoyed breaking bread together in our fellowship hall. We look forward their next invitation to join with them in Pawhuska. We began this exchange prior to the pandemic as a way to encourage the use of Osage in worship.

We particularly enjoy our special occasion fellowship dinners, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day cookout, and our Mothers' Day cookout. We usually plan part of the menu at monthly meeting with the balance being pot-luck, as usual.

It was gratifying to come together for our usual Christmas Eve activities. The children re-enacted the first Christmas events interspersed with all of us singing Christmas carols. Afterwards we reassembled in the fellowship hall with the lovely cedar tree. We sang several Christmas songs before Santa arrived for more festivities. Each person received a treat sack on their way out.

In January we began consideration of appointments to Yearly Meeting as well as locally. As we lacked information about length of terms, we waited until February to complete the process.

Our annual Wild Onion Dinner fundraiser on March 18, was a time of joyous fellowship as we worked together and greeted our patrons. We did not run out of food this year even though it was the best-ever, according to many. We are resolved to do a better job publicizing the event in 2024.

Each weekday prior to Easter Sunday the Hominy Ministerial Alliance sponsors a series of "Lenten Luncheons." Last year we hosted them and this year the Church of the Nazarene hosted. Each day a different church serves the food and shares a devotional message along with singing and prayer. We served Tuesday and Carole Revard filled in for David Nagle who had been down with Covid 19.

David Nagle was in Philadelphia April 12-16 for the annual corporation meeting of the AFSC. He concluded six years of service as an At-large member of the Corporation, including the last five on the Friends Relations sub-committee.

Jack Core's last big project prior to his death was leading the effort to get the Osage Nation to build a chapel for the Hominy Indian Village, similar to what existed in Pawhuska Indian Camp. The structure provides a place for Osage families to have the body lie in state prior to burial on the fourth day. Renovations to enlarge and improve it are underway. Hominy Friends have been glad to again make our facilities available while the chapel is unavailable. At a recent funeral, the funeral feast was even held in the Meetinghouse. David Nagle was asked to conduct that funeral and has conducted several others this past year. He also conducted a wedding inside the state prison north of town.

Though we are a small group, we do our best to be involved in our local community, in the life of the Osage Nation, and in the wider family of Friends. David Nagle led a German language Advent worship service at the German-American Society of Tulsa Event Center in December with about 100 participants. He has since been elected President of the organization. Kristofer Revard has been active in FFA, including attending events in Kansas City and Indianapolis. Kyle Pepper and others were involved in the movie "Killers of the Flower Moon." We are glad that Beth Green-Nagle continues to serve the Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, as an interpreter and translator as well as representing our Yearly Meeting. She also hosts unprogrammed worship Sunday mornings in Tahlequah.

Tahlequah Friends Fellowship continues to meet in the Nagle home for mid-week meeting and at the Wesley Student Center adjacent to the NSU campus First-day mornings. The first 10-15 minutes allow those gathered to share about the week's developments, concerns and prayer requests, before settling into unprogrammed worship. Attendance continues to be pretty small with usually 1-3 on First-days and 3-5 midweek. The need for outreach efforts is clear and we trust the Spirit will guide us going forward. We plan to have some signs made soon.

We were delighted to be able to host the 2022 Yearly Meeting at Council House and provide GPYM Friends an opportunity to experience the facilities and Friends there. Despite our hopes and prayerful support, Shane Rush did not work out as interim pastor and in First Month was released from all official responsibilities. Not long after that David Nagle went to Council House to lead worship one Sunday morning. On the way he stopped at the Splitlog Chapel, where Larry Pickard led worship for many years. They have a group of four ministers who rotate each week as worship leaders. David felt inspired after worshipping with them and his time with Council House folks was blessed.

Thinking that the Splitlog model might be an option for Council House, David began to cast about for appropriate people. These efforts led to a commitment by three individuals, including Josh Martin, former youth pastor at Wyandotte Friends, to cover the month of March. This ministry team has rejected any financial recompense. During a meeting with David Nagle (and Stan Johnson for part of the time) at Council House on 5/13, they shared their leading to

minister at Council House and their commitment to see it grow into a healthy monthly meeting. Josh's wife is also feeling led to begin a "children's church" for those up through age 6, with those 7 and up expected to worship with their families. Hominy Friends rejoice that God is answering our earnest prayers for Council House.

Our HVAC fund for the parsonages at Council House and Hominy remains at 55% of our \$10,000 goal. A mini-split system for each building seems to make the most sense, and \$5,000 for each building seems a realistic figure, despite recent inflation. The Council House parsonage was vacated the first of May. The HVAC system needs to be installed in order to rent it out. Rental fees from the parsonage stand to be the main financial support for Council House.

We have reached out several times to Ramona Friends, but with no response. David recently dropped off paper registration forms and a note inviting them to be our guests at Yearly Meeting. We continue to pray for them and hope for fellowship together.

Sometimes the seeds we plant take a long time to germinate, grow and blossom. Perseverance has long been a distinguishing characteristic of Quaker efforts. In our modern world in which there is so much that is instantaneous, we need to be reminded not to give up easily and to be open to God's timing. As we are led by the Spirit, we can be found faithful, even if we cannot always know the impact of our efforts. Let us continue to be witnesses and examples where we live and beyond.

On behalf of Hominy Monthly Meeting,

Carole Revard, Presiding Clerk