

Members and attenders gathered together to reflect in Worship Sharing on what shaped and guided our meeting in the past year. We considered these questions:

How shall we remember 1989?

What draws us to meeting/

How are we dealing with growth?

Are we integrating the old and the young,
the old and the new?

Are we empowering each other?

Our youth remember 1989 for the toys shared on First day seed planting, working together, the religious symbols banners and the Book Fair. Adults remember the year for opportunities to go beyond our growth in numbers to become a loving community of the Spirit. There were many needs addressed in a year unusual for the illnesses and varied problems faced by members and attenders. We learned to find happiness in receiving as well as giving. We experienced the joy of shared work as well as the gatheredness of worship, at times being filled to overflowing with the Spirit.

To many, attendance at Meeting is not so much an option as a response to a powerful spiritual magnet. William James wrote, that, in some, religion exists as an acute fever and in others as a dull habit. For those who habitually attend worship at Westport there seems to be no dullness. There were comments on the unexpectedness of openings of the Spirit at Meeting, of the experience of fellowship, of the eagerness of youth to attend, on the depth of insights revealed, on the radiance shed by the children and the quality of the expectant silence in worship.

In that silence many of us have found solace, new energy, new directions. We have been empowered in many ways - by encouragement, by example, by teaching, by the physical presence in worship of beloved Friends whether they be silent or vocal. Each of our functions when faithfully carried out has given Light and strength to our neighbors. Westport Meeting enters a new year and a new decade with openness and confidence, seeking the Way with fresh vigor.