

Our meeting life is one of participation, excitement and involvement, sustained by weekly worship together of increasing depth and vitality.

We realize that we should be more aware of the needs of all: parents who look for guidance in their children's training; young people who are seeking a deeper role in the meeting; friends who are facing adjustments in their lives; all of us who are growing in the spirit. Child care is now provided during Monthly Meeting time so parents can participate in the business of the meeting. As we reexamined the place of children in meeting and prepared to reprint two pamphlets about children and worship, we found the process of talking and listening with good will enabled us to welcome children as "our children", and to guide and nurture them.

We revived the custom of giving a Bible to each young person in the third grade, and also presented Bibles, in the version of their own choice, to all those in Sunday School who had missed out in earlier years. College bound young people were given copies of Faith and Practice.

Bright Blue Sunday has become a time of sharing a focus for worship. This is often planned by our young people. Though the high school class continued to visit shut-ins and worship with them, we all need to give more thought and effort to meeting the needs of our older members.

A project involving everyone was creating a quilt for one member who has AIDS. The quilt with its angel theme was on display in Westport and at Yearly Meeting as well.

The children asked us to remember our faithful dog, Otto, who died during the year. They recalled that, "He was nice to people and once, after we had all told our names, Otto barked."

Through Peace and Social Concerns committee we continue to help international projects and local endeavors with financial donations. Through Amnesty International and Hands Off, letters are written to support political prisoners. Our meeting also sponsors the SHARE program in Westport.

The Macomber Community House is used by a growing number of groups and is a valuable resource we can share. The old carriage shed, now rebuilt, enlarges our capacity to serve the meeting needs. It provides space for books and storage and room for one class. We are grateful to have had the financial resources to undertake the necessary building projects as well as contribute to causes outside the meeting.

Most important it is the sense of growing closer together that excites us. In worship sharing one friend said, "What I love here is that we can ask questions and not have answers. We can look at each other with openness. The spirit is here. We allow each other to search and find our answers for ourselves and for our children. It is beautiful and wonderful."