

## **EASTSIDE FRIENDS MEETING** **State of Society Report, Spring 2018**

Expectant worship remains the heart of what we do and who we are as a Meeting. Our silence is deep and healing. Vocal ministry is rare—and rich. We are grateful that we can come together for mutual support in a time when many of us are anxious about what's happening in the world.

We have welcomed several new attenders since our last report. Overall, though, our weekly attendance is noticeably reduced from what it has been in earlier years—a continuing concern, and one shared by many Meetings. We grieve the absence of members who have moved away or who no longer feel able to attend regularly.

As we mourn the death of long-time member John David (Dave) Heywood on Thanksgiving Day 2017, we remember his good will, good humor, and firm commitment to the Peace Testimony. His Memorial Meeting was held on December 29, 2017 and a memorial minute is attached.

In our “Second Hour” adult education series, we have taken up Olympia Meeting’s challenge to recognize and counter racism. We have given one Second Hour each month to racism and racial equity topics. We are looking closely at “intersections” such as racism and the criminal justice system, racism and climate chaos, and so on, drawing on the in-house expertise we have in a wide range of fields.

Adapting our structure to the resources of time and talent we have available is a juggling act at Eastside. Many of us carry multiple responsibilities. The tasks seem to proliferate; the people who can do them are few and feel stretched thin.

Our Children’s Meeting is small and energetic, with a marked preference for active learning (outside, whenever possible). This year’s theme is “Caring for Each Other” and it is a joy to watch our older children showing care and modeling behavior for our toddler. The children are also working on a bat box to mount on a light pole near the Meetinghouse.

We have one Junior Friend at this time; she is active among Junior Friends at the regional, quarterly, and yearly meeting levels.

We have one worship-sharing group that has met monthly for several years, and 2 active “Friendly Eights” groups that meet occasionally for dinner in individual homes.

Eastside does not currently have a functioning Peace and Social Justice Committee. However, last spring we decided to consider peace and social concerns as a “committee of the whole” in several Second Hours each year. It’s not clear yet how this model will work for us.

In last year’s report we noted the establishment of an Environmental Ministry Fund to support Lynn Fitz-Hugh’s work around climate change. This ministry continues: Lynn has created and is leading two organizations, One Sustainable Planet (1SP) and the Faith Action Climate Team (FACT).

The Meeting continues to explore ways we can support Friends with a variety of individual ministries (prison work, education, and end-of-life transitions, among others). Like any other community striving to live up to our Light, we remain a hopeful work-in-progress.

## 2018 MEMORIAL MINUTE

John David Heywood, age 84, passed away on November 23, 2017 in Bellevue, Washington. Dave was a member of Eastside Friends Meeting for over fifty years, serving in various leadership roles. For several years, Dave represented the Quaker faith when he served as a member of the Church Council of Greater Seattle Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

Dave graduated from Earlham College and the University of Chicago School of Medicine. He practiced internal medicine, hematology, and oncology in Bellevue for twenty-one years.

Dave had a deep commitment to peace and social justice. He served on the Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility Board of Directors for eleven years. He also worked with Cops and Docs (a school outreach program to reduce violence), Washington Truth in Recruiting (providing high schools with information on military recruiting), Eastside Peace and Justice Committee, and Veterans for Peace.

Dave is survived by his wife Carol; children Steve, Alan, and MaryAnne; and eight grandchildren.