

## **We Come Because...**

*By Kathy Dahlk*

Welcome to The Religious Society of Friends, informally known as the Quakers. We are a community of seekers who have come together for a variety of reasons, some of which are named below. We are delighted to have you join us in worship and welcome your questions.

### **We Come Because...**

... the Quaker way of worship offers a sanctuary of silence where we can quiet ourselves to feel and know what is really true. We can rest in the healing power of silence and restore our souls.

.... Quakers affirm that “there is that of God in everyone” and full respect is given to all – male and female, gay, transgender, and straight, old and young, rich and poor, and people of every race

... there is no creed to stand in the way of being welcomed. There is no minister or priest because Friends share a deep knowing that the Spirit is available to each of us equally.

... there is a power in our gatherings together that is greater than any of us individually dare to dream. We name its stirring among us in different ways but we are humbled and awed when we share a deeply spiritual or gathered meeting for worship.

... we are nourished by the vocal ministry of others who speak from their hearts, naming their experiences of the Sacred and sharing how they honor its truth and love in their lives.

... we seek simplicity and yearn for a deeper abundance of life to heal the sickening materialism that surrounds us and deadens our souls.

... Quakers know the power of nonviolent actions, and we want to stand with all in saying yes to peace; no to war and the instruments of war.

.... we need to offer our gratitude for all the glimpses of grace we’ve been given, and we need to celebrate the beauty and mystery of life with others.

... we look into the faces of our children and cannot deny their unspoken demand that we find a way to make life flourish.

.... Quakers conduct their business as a part of worship believing that each person’s measure of light will lead to maximum wisdom. We seek a sense of unity which also respects each person’s view of the truth.

... we want to join Quakers seeking justice for the poor, the imprisoned, and the marginalized, understanding that justice and compassion is the path to peace.

... we need others who are walking a similar spiritual path, trusting that they will hold us up when we stumble; knowing that we will do the same should they fall. We are the faces of hope for each other.

.... our family, our friends, our world is in pain and crying out. We need help in holding them in the light and in working for their healing.