

and presented to Spring Continuing Committee March 4, 2006. The report from the Winter Retreat marks the beginning of IYM's process of now responding to the felt needs of the monthly meetings.

It was the sense of the Winter Retreat participants that their recommendations should be sent to the Standing Committees for further discernment, and that the Standing Committees should each report back to the monthly meetings by Fall 2006, so that the monthly meetings can see the responses of the Standing Committees to their felt needs.

An important synchronicity/serendipity that turned up at the winter retreat was the number of interest groups that felt called to provide training, spiritual nurture, and outreach to monthly meetings through workshops and retreats at other times than the annual sessions. We're learning it isn't just teens that want mid-winter Quakes!

Discernment of Gifts is one piece of the Dream Gathering findings that needs further study.



Birthday celebration of a Quaker Youth Pilgrim during visit to IYM 2006

This piece isn't happening, and the Quaker conversation needs to continue. There's a huge interest from our monthly meetings, and IYM Ministry and Advancement committee is overburdened and understaffed already. We asked our monthly meetings what their needs were, and now we can't just drop this vital concern.

The Dream Gathering Ad Hoc committee recommended at Yearly Meeting the formation of an ad hoc committee to consider Discernment of Gifts in cooperation with Ministry and Advancement committee. We recommended holding four face-to-face meetings of this committee in Urbana, which is sort-of central to our widely separated meetings. The task of the Discernment of Gifts Ad Hoc committee would be to identify the barriers to discerning of gifts and putting them to use, and to make recommendations how we do it better. Margie Haworth, Sue Davison, and David Shiner are working now to name Friends for a Discernment of Gifts Ad Hoc committee.

The Illinois Yearly Meeting at the 2006 summer session recommended another Visioning Retreat on Discerning Gifts at Menno Haven in February 2007. We're dreaming of having several keynote messages delivered by special guests from outside the yearly meeting, followed by small group discussions of the topic. Thus, we

would have maximum input of knowledge and inspiration to kick off the discussion. The general theme would be “Discernment of Gifts” and each speaker could choose how to address it in his/her own way. Are you interested in helping plan Winter Retreat ‘07? Write Mariellen at m-gilpin@uiuc.edu or 818 West Columbia, Champaign, IL 61820. The more the merrier!

Building Changes Completed in Campground

By Bill Howenstine

Though finishing “touches” were not yet completed, the six new cabins and the relocated Junior Yearly Meetinghouse were



Friends gathered outside Junior Yearly Meeting house in its new location



New cabins on campground enjoyed at IYM 2006

able to be used during Illinois Yearly Meeting. By late spring the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse had been moved across the road to its new location in the southeast section of the campground. Now it has a new roof, three rooms instead of two, and a porch, which formerly had been on the east end of the old dormitory. Additional electrical work, repairs, and painting may not be so obvious!

As for the six new summer cabins, most of their wood came from the old dormitory, carefully dismantled by members of the Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage of northeast Missouri. For example, 12' x 16' sections of the dorm floor were removed entirely to become the floors of the new cabins. People staying in the cabins can look at those floors as an enduring monument