Our community continues to gather in deep, expectant worship. After many months of fluid attendance that ranged from three to thirty, our gathering seems to be growing with attenders joining both in the silence and in fellowship. One regular attender has indicated a sincere interest in membership and we are in the process of clearness. We are grateful for new insights, relationships, and continued mutual support.

Even as we welcome new attenders, we mourn the loss of long time members. Lynn Fitz-Hugh has transferred her membership to Olympia Friends Meeting and we wish her well, especially in her continuing work on climate change and environmental concerns. Karen Braddock, a member since 1991, died on January 25, 2019. We remember, with admiration, her sense of humor and rugged determination to get to Meeting even as her health and mobility declined. David St. Germain who grew up in our meeting, the son of Anne St. Germain, died in California on March 3, 2019 after a long and courageous time living with cancer.

Three groups are under the care of Eastside Meeting. Walla Walla Preparatory Meeting functions completely independently. Mid Columbia Worship Group meets regularly and we stay in touch through email and Facebook contacts. Sky Valley Worship Group is struggling to continue with one regular attender, June Thomason, serving as the contact since the founding coordinator, Jean Roberts, moved to Oregon.

During spring and summer 2018, Eastside experienced difficulty in finding Friends for all positions and tasks in our nominating list. Several committees were feeling stretched thin and looking for ways to reduce their load. In response, with leadership from the Ministry & Worship Committee, we declared a "Jubilee Year" so that we could take time to look more closely and intentionally at what we are able--and are led--to do with the resources we have. As part of Jubilee we have potlucks on the last Sunday of every month, giving members and attenders new and old, extra and much-appreciated time for unstructured fellowship. Most of our other "Second Hours" have focused on Meeting committees and offices, looking at our expectations and the realities of keeping our Meeting spiritually and functionally sound, considering what might be reassigned or laid down. This is an ongoing process; any structural changes will come gradually. We have also taken some Second Hour time to explore particular areas of interest—including the work of AFSC, and topics from the new NPYM Faith and Practice. We are also experimenting with Bible study before Meeting for Worship on the first Sunday of the month. A small worship sharing group meets monthly in Seattle and one of our original Friendly 8 groups continues to meet occasionally.

Eastside’s Children’s Meeting is still small, and continues the theme of “Caring for Each Other and Our Environment”, through creative projects and discussions of testimonies from Faith and Practice. Our one Junior Friend, Thalia Newman, is still quite active at the Quarterly and Yearly Meeting levels, and will graduate from High School this spring. She is already organizing a Junior Friends Service Trip for Summer 2020. Our heartfelt thanks go to Paul Christiansen who serves as both Clerk of our Meeting and Yearly Meeting Junior Friends advisor. He is also visiting several Meetings across Washington and Oregon during the second week in April as the NPYM Outreach and Visitation Committee’s Visiting Friend.

In the absence of a formal Peace and Social Concerns committee, individual friends continue to do social justice/environmental work in many areas (prisons, criminal justice, education, hospice, homelessness, horticulture, community and Quaker organizations, and more). As individuals regularly report back to Meeting on the work they do, we are thankful that our worship and fellowship provide such a rich grounding for service in all of our various communities.