

**Memorial Minute for Marie Cotton
(November 30, 1928—October 28, 2014)**

Marie Cotton was a beloved member and the organizing force behind the Sidney Worship Group of Broadmead Friends Meeting. She and her husband, Wendell, organized twice-monthly worship and also hosted the full monthly meeting several times a year.

Marie first became acquainted with Friends in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, where she became a member of the Doylestown Meeting. She and her husband, Wendell, moved to the Oberlin, OH area about 1961 and lived there, raising four children and attending Oberlin Meeting for over 30 years. Marie was described as “bridging the gap” between students and locals during the deeply divisive Vietnam War years. Marie and Wendell stood in a peace vigil at the White House in 1965 and continued to stand for peace at various vigils from 2005-2011. As her health declined, Marie continued to communicate with public officials by letter about issues of social justice.

Marie taught English at Midview High School in Grafton, Ohio, for 20 years. During that time she founded an Alateen support group for students struggling with the effects of parental alcohol abuse. Her students loved her and several credit her with encouraging them to become teachers. Marie also designed and taught a “Bible as Literature” course during these years. Her children remember learning at home that a life of faith meant a concern for social justice.

Marie was a deeply spiritual person who loved her quiet time of renewal each day. She was an avid reader, sometimes reading as many as 30 books at a time, and often passed on book suggestions to others. Marie liked to communicate by letter, notes, and cards, and always included some uplifting or encouraging words or quotations in her missives. One Friend described her as having “an aura of mysticism about her.”

Marie and Wendell were a devoted couple. She died on the same day as Wendell after 64 years of marriage.