



9.06

Western Work

News of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church

Superintendent Bible Study, James 2:1-13

In the earlier passages, James points out the importance of applying the Word of God to our everyday lives: “But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act---they will be blessed in their doing.” [James 1:25, NRSV]

A primary place to apply the Word of God is in the area of “favoritism.” As the leader of the Jerusalem Church, James’ argument is directed towards the special treatment being given by the early Christians to the wealthy (many during New Testament times felt wealth was a sign of God’s favor). As Jesus’ brother, James certainly remembered the numerous teachings of Jesus about the concern for the poor (Luke 4:16-19; 6:20; 12:13-21; 14:15-24; 16:19-31; 18:18-30; 19-1-10). Many in the early church were poor, “those who are poor in the eyes of the world” [James 2:5, 1 Corinthians 1:26-29]. James admonished the church to avoid the divisive distinctions of social class which can destroy true Christian fellowship. The poor are not to be overlooked in favor of the rich.

There are at least two ways that Friends express favoritism today. The first one is described in terms of being a “weighty Friend.” Preferential treatment is shown towards those we label as “weighty” because of their influence among Friends. The second way we express favoritism is through groups or cliques. These groups of Friends are usually assigned proper names with the suffix, “ite” put at the end of the name of a weighty Friend who best expresses a favored viewpoint. Historically factions among Friends have formed according to these “ites.” The divisive tendencies of favoritism are in disunity with our call as Christians and Friends.

James rejects favoritism in light of mercy, “mercy triumphs over judgment.” (James 2:13). Perhaps we should form one large, weighty group and use a name that ends in “ian”---**Christian**. Then we can show favor to everyone.

Western Yearly Meeting, 149th Session

The 149th Session of Western Yearly Meeting was held on 7/29/06 – 8/1/06 in Plainfield, Indiana, with the theme, “Be Transformed” (Romans 12:2). The following is a glimpse of some of the business items approved:

New Christian Education Director, Katy Palmer. The Yearly Meeting gave the approval of a two year contract to hire Katy Palmer as the new Christian Education Director. A minute of appreciation was given to Della Stanley-Green for her service as Interim Christian Education Director.

Quaker Life Transition. It was approved to discontinue the Quaker Life in Every Home program at the end of 2006, and replace it with three copies of **Quaker Life** being sent to each meeting paid by the Yearly Meeting, billed to the Benevolence Treasurer. Each monthly meeting is encouraged to consider using one of the alternate **Quaker Life** plans to purchase subscriptions for their own members.

Harassment Policy was approved by Western Yearly Meeting to create an atmosphere free of harassment. This Harassment Policy is strongly recommended to all monthly meetings within Western Yearly Meeting for approval with a complaint and investigation process (please see attachment).

Appreciation of Tish & Jerry Dain was minuted by Western Yearly Meeting for their thirty years of faithful service as Directors of Quaker Haven Camp. Brandon Dennis is the new Quaker Haven Director.

Together Encouraging All Meetings (TEAM) Prayer Reports

"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other..." [1 Thess. 4:11, NRSV]

One item which emerged from the evaluation of our Jubilee year was the need for more communication and fellowship between meetings. Each Sunday of 2006 one meeting will be highlighted throughout the yearly meeting and lifted up in prayer. Special prayer requests for publication in the Western Work may be submitted to the office prior to the printing deadline.

September 3 – Nobleville Friends Church

- develop our faith in regard to today's most pressing issues, the most apparent being peace and justice among individuals and nations.
- be relevant in our times and to pursue a vitality of faith
- be a witness for peace and justice in our growing community.

September 10 – Paoli Friends Church

- peace among individuals, churches and nations
- understanding and unity within Friends' meetings in Western Yearly Meeting
- Paoli Friends part of the Apostles' Build project for Habitat for Humanity

September 17 – Plainfield Friends Church

- The health and strength of our older members
- Find effective ways to minister to and involve our young people
- Focus on "sharing our stories" this fall will encourage and challenge us
- That the "The Bible in 90 Days" will renew our understanding of what God is doing in us and in our world

September 24 – Ridge Farm Friends Church

Upcoming TEAM Schedule for October

- October 1 – Rush Creek
- October 8 - Russiaville
- October 15 – Sandcreek Azalia
- October 22 – Second Friends
- October 29 – Sheridan Friends

Additional Prayer Requests

Hermon Otioko, pastor at the Friends Turkana Mission, is in need of colon surgery and is in a great deal of pain. Contact Friends United Meeting if you are able to help with this financial need and please pray!

Denise Rendleman, Irvington Friends, was recently in a serious car accident which resulted in severe breaks of her arm which now has pins.

Our Prayers and Sympathy

Pat Barrett, pastor of New Salem Friends, at the loss of his wife, Pat, who passed away on 7/29/06.

New WYM Staff & Pastors

Katy Palmer

Joe Toren

Craig Blair

SUNDESMOS UPCOMING EVENTS

Resources for

Upcoming Events

September, 2006

- 2 Bloomingdale Friends Ice Cream Social, 4 p.m.
- 9 "Quaker Day" at Plainfield Friends---town parade, craft fair, lunch, music concert---fun for the whole family!
- 10 Vermilion Grove Friends 180th Anniversary, 10:30 a.m.
Indianapolis First Friends, 150th Anniversary, 10:15 a.m.
- 11-12 35th Annual Women's Retreat sponsored by Indiana and Western USFW
- 13 North Central Pastors' Gathering, 9:00 a.m., Westfield Friends
- 16 Western Yearly Meeting Boards, 9:00 a.m., WYM Meetinghouse
- 20 Bloomingdale Friends Grace Harmony Gospel Group
- 21 Pastors' Planning Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Kelley Room, WYM Meetinghouse

October, 2006

- 8-10 North Central Area Friends Revival, hosted by Hortonville Friends
- 13-15 Friends United Meeting General Board
- 13-21 Bloomingdale Friends & Parke County Covered Bridge Festival, learn about local Friends history
- 14 57th Street Friends 75th Anniversary Celebration, 12:30 p.m. – Potluck Lunch; Worship Sharing -2:00-3:00 p.m.
Danville Friends Chicken & Noodle Dinner
Central Area Youth Meeting at Valley Mills Friends
- 15 Hinkle Creek Friends 170th Anniversary, 10:30 a.m. – Worship, Dinner Afterwards
Northern Area Meeting, Courtland Avenue Friends, 5:30, Carry-in; 6:30, Patrick Nugent and Slides of FTC
- 21 Executive Committee, 9:30 a.m., Kelley Room, WYM Meetinghouse
- 26-29 Westfield Friends Youth Retreat, WYM Hospitality Center
- 29 Sandcreek Azalia Friends Homecoming

Seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Western Yearly Meeting equips Friends Meetings in the Gospel of Jesus Christ by exercising mutual care and extending cooperative ministries. Through various expressions of our Christian faith, we strive to inspire ministry and the release of gifts of leadership.

WESTERN WORK

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Office Hours: 9:00-12:00-1:00-3:00; M-Thursday

**MATERIALS DEADLINE FOR NEXT
NEWSLETTER:
9/18/06, 9:00 a.m.**

Address Correction Requested