



Western Work

11.06

News of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church

Superintendent Bible Study, James 3:1-13

James states the importance of words in our Christian lives. There are times in the midst of conflict that we are hurt more by the words that are said to us than by the actual outcome of the decision made. Jesus said, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil man out of his evil treasure brings forth evil." [Matthew 12:34-35, RSV]. The intent of kind words is to bless others. In 2 Peter 1:7, the word for "brotherly kindness," *philadelphia*, means brotherly love. The deeper question is---what is the intent of the words *we* use?

Words can either bless or curse others [James 3:10]. The most destructive use of words in the church today is gossip. Frequently gossip is introduced as "I heard...", "Someone told me...", or "It's been said..." In most cases gossip is not meant to bless but to curse. Gossip is used regularly to discredit and demean someone's character in order to validate a personal viewpoint in conflict. Decisions based upon gossip wound people. Our conversations can either escalate or de-escalate conflict. Let us remember that the individuals we address with our words are made in the likeness of God [James 3:9]. As Friends we are to speak to that of God in all people.

As we approach Thanksgiving, why not stop and think how you can bless others with words of kindness. Perhaps it might mean a note to someone, a phone call, or taking time to give a sincere word of praise or appreciation. Let us speak words of *philadelphia!*

WYM Quaker Queries #9 – "Do you consistently practice the Christian principles of love and good will toward all men? Do you work actively for peace and for the removal of the causes of war? Do you observe the testimony of Friends against military training and service? Do you endeavor to make clear to all whom you can influence, that war is inconsistent with the spirit and teaching of Jesus?"

Western Yearly Meeting Administrative Council, November 11, 2006

The fall Administrative Council of Western Yearly Meeting will be held on November 11, 2006, 9:30 a.m. at Plainfield Friends Meeting. Lunch will be served for a cost of \$8.00. Following business, Friends are invited to gather at the Sugar Grove Friends Meeting House to hear Phyllis Gladden (Fairfield Friends) share about the history of Friends in the area. Sugar Grove Friends is a recently restored Conservative Friends Meeting House on the southwest edge of Plainfield which was featured as a historical tour by Plainfield Friends Library this past spring. Please dress warmly!

Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee of Western Yearly Meeting met on Saturday, October 21, 2006, at the Western Yearly Meetinghouse. Business items of interest included the following items:

Western Yearly Meeting 150th Annual Sessions. The dates of August 2-5, 2007 have been approved by the WYM Program Committee for the 150th Sessions of Western Yearly Meeting. David Kingrey, Mid-America Yearly Meeting, will be present on Thursday evening as the Quaker Lecturer. Friday evening the WYM Youth Cabinet will lead meeting for worship. The United Society of Friends Women and Quaker Men will plan the Saturday night mission emphasis. **Please note** these dates for next year!

WYM Handbook draft copy of proposed changes has been circulated among the members of the Executive Committee. Further handbooks and manuals for WYM committees are being updated to better equip the leadership which serves Western Yearly Meeting. All proposed suggestions are to be submitted to the WYM Office.

Friends United Meeting. The next General Board for Friends United Meeting, February, 2007, will be in Kisumu, Kenya. Funds were approved for Marlene Pedigo to attend as the representative for Western Yearly Meeting.

Together Encouraging All Meetings (TEAM) Prayer Reports

"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other..." [1Thess. 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, 11/27/06.

November 5 – Shiloh Friends

- Pray for the SURVIVAL of the church and that in some way it can grow and maintain a more meaningful function and support to our surrounding community. We can't possibly benefit from anything more important than growth in numbers that in turn would help the church survive.

November 12 – Tangier Friends

- that we remain faithful to our call to service

November 19 – Valley Mills Friends

- Our primary concern at this time has to do with our future. In the next few months, we are going to have to make some major changes. Our prayer is that we are given wise discernment as we proceed.

November 26 – Vermilion Grove Friends

- Increased outreach in the immediate neighborhood for Christ.
- Continued love of God, for each other, and for others...in a way it can be felt.
- Continued unity of purpose that aligns with God's word.

Upcoming TEAM Schedule for December

- December 3 – West Middleton
- December 10 – West Newton
- December 17 – West Union
- December 24 – Westfield
- December 31 – All Meetings & WYM Staff

Vital Statistics

If your meeting has any statistical data [marriages, births, new members, or deaths], please feel free to contact the Western Yearly Meeting Office prior to the next deadline of Western Work.

Deaths

Isaac Phillips, who was a recorded minister of Western Yearly Meeting, and pastored for over fifty years, died on Friday, October 27, 2006.

Harold King, a retired recorded minister of Western Yearly Meeting, died on 10/24/06. A memorial service was held on 10/29/06.

Clifford Wolf, former Indiana pastor, died this week in Kansas City, Kansas.

Resources for Meetings

Organs

Is your meeting looking for an organ? Please feel free to contact these individuals for a free organ for your meeting: Jennifer Hodge, (765) 526-2222 or for a Technics Organ, Model SXON3 valued at \$14,000, call Kim Ketring (317) 224-1028.

Chairs

Courtland Avenue Friends has two dozen chairs that are straight-back and cushioned that they would be willing to give to any church that needs them. If you are in need, contact Jack Dean, (765) 432-2469.

WYM Growth Grants are Available

Growth grants are available to meetings from the Board on Meeting Development & Nurture. Board meetings are the third Saturdays of January, May, and September. Grant applications are due at the Yearly Meeting office one month prior to those meetings. Application forms are available on the official Yearly Meeting website, westernym.net. As of October 15, 2006, the old forms will no longer be accepted. Please remember if your meeting has a Growth Grant, you agreed to supply the Board with a progress report at the other two meetings during the year after your application was approved. Continuation of your grant depends upon an annual review which includes these reports.

Center for Congregations will hold their next new grants initiative meeting on 11/14/06, 7 p.m. at the Rodgers Park United Methodist Church, 401 N. Delaware. This year's new grant initiative provides an opportunity for congregations "to assess their present situation, discover their vision, and create their future." Check their website at www.centerforcongregations.org

Pastors' Christmas Dinner

December is not far away. As your holiday calendar starts to fill up with commitments, please mark down on your calendar the Pastors' Christmas Dinner, December 10, 2006, 5:00 p.m., at the Mayberry Café, 78 W. Main, Danville, Indiana [317/745-4067]. The dinner will be served buffet style at a cost of \$10 per person, plus gratuity and tax. This is a great opportunity to enjoy the fellowship and encouragement that is experienced when pastors of the yearly meeting gather together to celebrate Christmas. All recorded ministers and pastors of the yearly meeting are invited to attend with their spouses. Please confirm your attendance by contacting Steve Pedigo, stevewym@sbcglobal.net or calling the office by December 1, 2007.

Youth Cabinet Road Show

The Western Yearly Meeting Youth Cabinet Road Show will be present at *Sandcreek-Azalia Friends* on November 12 at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is invited, especially youth in the Southern Area. This is a chance to meet the Youth Cabinet, connect with other youth in WYM, and to have a good time worshipping together

2007 Summer Camp Dates

June 10-15, 2007	Pioneer Camp
June 15-17, 2007	Beginners Camp
June 17-20, 2007	George Fox Camp
June 24-29, 2007	Senior High Camp, 9 th Grade – 2007 Graduates
July 1-6, 2007	Junior High Camp
July 15-20, 2007	Senior High Camp, 9 th Grade – 2007 Graduates

This year's camp registration will be a little different than it has been in past years in an attempt to streamline the process. More information will be coming out in the next couple of months. Please be aware of these changes and ask questions. Thank you for your help in this process!

SUNDESMOS UPCOMING EVENTS

The Sundesmos Winter Retreat will be held on January 2-5, 2007 at the WYM Hospitality Center in Plainfield. Please mark your calendars and remind the college students and young adults in your meetings. This year's retreat topic is "Calling: How Does Our Faith Affect our Choice of Vocation?" Cost is \$25 if you register by 12/1/06. We will have a chance to fellowship and serve together. A good time will be had by all! Don't miss it!

Resource Training Events

Western Yearly Meeting Winter Retreat

You are cordially invited to attend the Western Yearly Meeting Winter Retreat, February 17, 2007, at 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Western Yearly Meetinghouse. This year's retreat theme is "Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches." Lombard Mennonite Peace Center will provide the workshop leadership with activities that include significant interpersonal and small group work.

8:30 a.m.	Worship
9:00 a.m.	Introduction: <i>"The Nature and Role of Conflict;" "Conflict in the New Testament;" and "Finding Renewal in Conflict"</i>
10:30 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m.	Self Assessment Exercise: <i>"Understanding Your Own Style of Response to Conflict"</i>
12:00 noon	Catered Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Interpersonal Peacemaking Skills: <i>"How to Be Effective When People Are Angry"</i>
2:30 p.m.	Break
2:45 p.m.	Congregational Conflict: <i>"Understanding Conflict in Groups and How to Manage It"</i>

We want to encourage pastors, clerks, elders, youth leaders and other local meeting leadership to come as a leadership team to this event. The pre-registration cost of \$25 includes lunch and training materials. If at least three individuals from your meeting come, the pastor will be FREE.

A special program will be planned for children whose parents are attending the Winter Retreat (at NO COST). The youth and children's program will be under the leadership of Katy Palmer, WYM CE Director, and Julie Kappes, First Friends Kokomo. Come and bring the whole family!

Registration forms will be available at the WYM Fall Administrative Council or by calling the WYM Office.

Pastors Gathering

Following the Winter Retreat, all Western Yearly Meeting Pastors are encouraged to attend the Pastors' Gathering at the Plainfield Hampton Inn. Felicity Kelcourse, faculty member at Chicago Theological Seminary and recorded Friends minister from Wilmington Yearly Meeting, will provide leadership on how to set healthy personal boundaries in ministry. There will again be a free children's program for families. The cost is \$50.00 per night for Saturday and Sunday nights. If you are commuting, the cost is \$40.00.

Upcoming Events

November, 2006

- 3 **Fairfield Friends Feast**, 4:00-7:30 p.m., this meal is a fund raiser for Quaker Haven Camp
- 4 **Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting of Friends**, Chicago Monthly Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 5 **Central Area Meeting**, Irvington Friends, 6:00 p.m.
- 8 **North Central Pastors' Meeting**, 9:00 a.m., Hortonville Friends
- 9 **WYM Financial Trustees**, 9:15 a.m., Larry Nunn & Associates, 4000 Clarks Creek Rd.
- 11 **WYM Administrative Council**; 9:30 a.m. – Registration; 10:00 a.m. – Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business
- WYM Celebration Committee**, 12:00 noon, WYM Meetinghouse
- New London Friends Fish Fry**, 4:00-7:00 p.m., \$8-adults, \$4-children 4-12; Children under 3 FREE
- Westfield Friends Chicken Noodle Dinner & Bazaar**
- 12 **WYM Youth Cabinet Road Show**, 5:00 p.m., Sandcreek-Azalia Friends
- 15 **Western Pastors' Meeting**, 10:00 a.m., Newport Friends
- 17-20 **7th Friends Ministers Conference**, San Antonio, Texas
- 18 **Indiana Friends Legislative Meeting**, 10:00 a.m., 3030 Kessler Blvd. East with Pitch-in Lunch
- 21 **Central Pastors' Meeting**, 12:15 p.m. (check with Buck Bunner for location of restaurant)

December, 2006

- 2 **WYM Executive Committee**, 9:30 a.m., WYM Kelley Conference Room
- 10 **WYM Pastors' Christmas Dinner**, 4:30 p.m., Danville Mayberry Café, 78 W. Main, Cost \$10

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

Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church
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Office Hours: 9:00-12:00-1:00-3:00; M-Thursday

MATERIALS DEADLINE FOR NEXT

NEWSLETTER:

11/27/06, 9:00 a.m.

Address Correction Requested