



Western Work

12.07

News of Western Yearly Meeting of the Friends Church

Friends Historical Reading---Women in Ministry

“While the preaching and praying of women is strictly excluded from the public worship of the generality of Christians, Friends believe it right, freely and *equally*, to allow the ministry of both sexes. That this is indeed a necessary consequence of those sentiments which I have already endeavored to unfold, must be evident to the reflecting reader. Since we conceive, on the one hand, that all true ministry is uttered under the immediate influence of the Spirit of Christ---and since, on the other hand, we confess that the wind bloweth where it listeth---we cannot, reasonably, do otherwise than make way for the exercise of the gift by those persons, of every description, whom the Sprit may direct into service, and whom the Great Head of the church may be please to appoint as his instruments, for the performance of his own work. It is, indeed, declared that ‘the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets:’ and hence it may be inferred that, in the conduct of our gifts, we ought not to neglect the dictates of a sound discretion: but we believe that we must not limit the Holy One of Israel, or oppose to the counsels of infinite wisdom our own fallible determinations. We dare not say to the modest and pious female, ‘Thou shall not declare the word of the Lord,’ when we believe that, from an infinitely higher authority, there is issued a directly opposite injunction, ‘Thou shall go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee, thou shall speak.’ [A Peculiar People, The Rediscovery of Primitive Christianity, 1824; Richmond, Indiana: Friends United Press, 1979.]

Do you endeavor to recognize and develop your special talents and abilities for service in the meeting and do you pray for divine guidance in their use?

Do you cultivate the spiritual gifts of the members of your meeting?

Are you always ready to encourage and advise those who engage in the vocal ministry and in other Christian work?

[Western Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice, “Queries for CM&E”, p. 30]

“Healthy Congregations,” WYM Winter Retreat, 2/16/2008

8:00 a.m. – Registration

8:30 a.m. – Worship

9:00 a.m. – “Introduction: What is System Thinking?” and Video Case Study: “The Anxious Congregation/The Responsible Congregation”

9:30 a.m. – Break

10:45 a.m. – “Healthy Congregations Manage Anxiety” and “Healthy Congregations Invite Differentiation of Self”

Noon – Break

1:00 p.m. – “Healthy Congregations Focus on Strength” and “Healthy Congregations Manage Conflict (and Other Relationship Patterns)”

2:30 p.m. – Break

2:45 p.m. – “In Healthy Congregations Leaders Promote Strength Through Their Presence & Functioning” and “Planning for Healthier Congregations”

4:30 p.m. – Close

Cost: \$25 per person or \$30 for couple if they share a book; pastor of the church comes **FREE** when three people from the church attend.

Deadline for Pastors’ Winter Gathering is January 1, 2008, to insure the discount of housing.

Deadline for the Winter Retreat is February 1, 2008, to insure lunch and the training book.

150th Anniversary of Western Yearly Meeting

This next year *Western Work* will feature Western Yearly Meeting historical information leading into the Sesquicentennial Celebration, July 31- August 3, 2008, with the theme, “He Who Began a Good Work in You Will Continue...” [Phil 1:6] Join us as we celebrate the spiritual heritage of Western Yearly Meeting! Special speakers in the 2008 Sessions include Tom Hamm and John Punshon.

How well do you know the history of Western Yearly Meeting? Try this trivia...

1. What year did the WYM Minute Book indicate there was only one set of clerks rather than separate clerks for men and women in business?
2. Where did they have meeting for worship during WYM Annual Sessions other than the meetinghouse?
3. How many ministers were recorded by Western Yearly Meeting in 1894?
4. Where were many of the early pastors trained in Western Yearly Meeting?

[see the next page for the answers]

Together Encouraging All Meetings (TEAM) Prayer Reports

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

December 3 – Vermilion Grove

December 10 –West Middleton

December 17 –West Newton

December 24 –West Union

December 31 - Westfield

January 6 - Amo

January 13 - Beech Grove

January 20 - Bethel

January 27 - Bloomingdale

Special prayer requests for publication in the Western Work may be submitted by the meeting to the office prior to the printing deadline.

Additional Prayer Requests

FUM

In December our Co-Superintendent, Steve Pedigo, will be traveling to speak at the Kenyan/Ugandan Friends Pastors' Triennial Conference, held at the Vihiga High School. Please pray that God will anoint him and those traveling with him in ministry as they bring an inspiring and encouraging message to the pastors. They also anticipate representatives from Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo.

Opportunity for Friends

FWCC held their Triennial sessions and celebrated their 70th birthday August 11-19, in Dublin, Ireland. FWCC has posted on their website three Triennial messages by Maria YiReyna, Cuba Yearly Meeting; Ken Comfort, Northwest Yearly Meeting; and Stephan Wamboka, Uganda Yearly Meeting. There is also the opportunity to hear a Friends African Choir. Check it out --- <http://fwccworld.org>

The Quaker United Nations Office – New York invites applications for their August, 2007 – September, 2008 internship program. The internship provides an opportunity for college graduates or candidates with equivalent experience who have an interest in international affairs, a commitment to Friends' principles, to work at the UN. Currently, QUNO focuses on issues of peacemaking and development on the UN agenda. Interns work closely with permanent staff on one or more issue areas, while providing administrative support to the daily operations of the office. Stipend and medical coverage provided. QUNO can assist successful applicants with obtaining a work visa. Further information and applications are available online (www.quno.org), or may be requested by contacting the office: 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, or qunony@afsc.org. Deadline for submission of applications and references: **February 8, 2008**. If you have any questions, please call, Gabriel Morden-Snipper, (212) 628-2745.

Statistics

Deaths

- Norman Bangel [West Newton] b. 5-25-1926 d. 5-29-2007
- Richard Edmondson [Danville] b. 3-7-1927 d. 10-27-2004
- Jean M. Gurley [Pleasant Grove] b. 12-29-1924 d. 10-12-2007

Pastoral Searches

Wanda Coffin Baker is serving as interim pastor for **Bloomingdale Friends Meeting** while they continue to search process for a pastor.

Westfield Friends Youth Minister – Contact Tracy Rogers at (317) 896-3715

Hemlock Friends Full Time Pastor – Contact Beth Lightfoot (765) 963-5917

First Friends Kokomo Full Time Pastor – Contact Jim Crew, (765) 455-3887.

West Newton Friends Pastor – Contact Gladys Dorrell (317) 856-6576

WYM Historical Trivia Answers

1. 1894
2. *At the Indiana Reform School in Plainfield and in tents located on the WYM Campus*
3. 24 ministers
4. *Earlham College's summer Bible Institute for Western Yearly Meeting and Indiana Yearly Meeting (with speakers such as Rufus Jones, R.A. Torrey from Moody Bible Institute; and Jane Addams, from Chicago's Hull House).*

Christian Education Information

Sundesmos First Bi-Annual Mission Trip

This is our first Sundesmos Mission Trip and we are joining forces with some of the North Carolina YM Young Adults to work at the MOWA Choctaw Friends Center in Alabama. The team has already begun to form but we're still accepting applications for others interested in going. Here's the info:

WHERE: MOWA Choctaw Friends Center, McIntosh, Alabama (a ministry of North Carolina Yearly Meeting)

WHEN: Jan. 1-6, 2008

WHO: WYM College/Young Adults

WHAT: visit the site & meet people, general maintenance projects, lead youth group, bible study, etc. organize and help with rummage sale, help with after-school tutoring program, small construction work, help with organizing, planning, and promoting events, have fun!

COST: \$30

Applications for this trip are now available and are due ASAP!

Contact Katy Palmer for an application or with any questions:

katypwym@sbcglobal.net 317-839-2789

WYM Youth Cabinet Road Shows

The WYM Youth Cabinet has begun a new year of Road Shows. Please plan on seeing this group of young leaders of the Yearly Meeting in action at some point this year. The next Road Shows are: Coloma Friends – January; Danville Friends – February.

Quaker Haven Camp Summer 2008

Get your 2008 calendars. Here are the dates for the summer 2008 camping season at Quaker Haven Camp.

Pioneer Camp – June 8-13

Jr. High Camp – June 15-20

Sr. High I Camp – June 22-27

Beginner Camp – June 27-29

George Fox Camp – July 6-9

Sr. High II Camp – July 13-18

Friends Disaster Service Work Crew Report

Sixteen members of Western Yearly Meeting Friends Disaster Service (FDS) and one from Indiana Yearly Meeting FDS traveled to Greensburg, Kansas on October 27, to help build a house with National Friends Disaster Service. The home was destroyed by the tornado that wiped out the town of Greensburg on May 4, 2007. Thanks to the many who have donated money to FDS, we are able to show the love of Christ to those who have been affected by disasters. Not only does this benefit the victims, it truly benefits the volunteers who work so hard together. This is the fourth mission trip that Friends Disaster Service has made in the year 2007. We have sent two teams to Lafitte, Louisiana; one to Wilmington, Ohio, and this one to Kansas. Friends Disaster Service is our outreach. Please respond when a call for help is issued by volunteering your time and/or your finances.

Submitted by Lane Sims

Opportunities for Friends

Pastors' Christmas Dinner

We would like to invite all WYM pastors and their families to the Bravo Italian Kitchen, 2658 Lake Circle Drive, Indianapolis (north of 86th Street between Michigan and Meridian) on **Sunday evening, December 9, 2007 at 5:30 p.m.** to a Christmas Dinner and Fellowship. This is a very nice restaurant with fine Italian and American food. This year you will have a buffet with several options to choose from and a children's menu is available. Pastor Don Perry will be our special music and of course we will sing your favorite Christmas songs. We may also have some special surprises, so come and have fellowship and enjoy the Christmas Spirit of our Lord.

150th Anniversary of WYM

The 2008 Celebration Committee announces two items for sale to members and friends of Western Yearly Meeting.

1. **Attractive wooden ornament featuring the Yearly Meetinghouse.** These 6" x 2" x 1/4" representations show the meetinghouse in winter mode, suitable for Christmas giving. It comes with a hanging string for use on your Christmas tree, or the string can be removed and a magnet could be attached for use on a metal surface. The ornaments sell for \$6 each. Please have correct change or a check made out to **Western Yearly Meeting with 2008** on the memo line. We hope that not only will you want to have this handsome miniature, but that you will purchase several others as gifts for your family and/or meeting who would enjoy having this collectable.

2. **Attractive white plates** with a raised border of fruit and leaves, featuring in silhouette a Quaker couple and the George Fox quote, "Be Friends in the Truth." On the back is a brief general statement about Friends' belief and the quotation from John 15:14. The plates sell for \$10 each. Please have correct change or a check made out to **Western Yearly Meeting with 2008** on the memo line.

If you have questions or want to purchase either item, please contact either Ann Carter (765) 883-5696 or (eannc@sbcglobal.net) or Peggy Hollingsworth (hollypeg@hotmail.com).

Upcoming Events

December, 2007

- 1 WYM Executive Committee, 9:00 a.m., Kelley Conference Room
- Indiana Friends Committee on Legislation Annual Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Indianapolis First Friends
- 3-20 Steve Pedigo, WYM Co-Superintendent, will be the speaker for the Kenyan Friends Pastors' Conference
- 8 WYM Youth Cabinet Christmas Party, 5:00 p.m.
- 9 WYM Pastors' Christmas Dinner, 5:30 p.m., at Bravo Italian Kitchen, 2658 Lake Circle Drive, Indianapolis
- 24-31 WYM Office is closed

January, 2008

- 1-6 Sundesmos Work Crew to Choctaw Friends Center in Alabama
- 8 North Central Area Pastors' Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Carmel Friends
- 9 WYM Pastors' Planning Meeting, 10:00 a.m., WYM Office
- 12-13 Youth Cabinet Road Show at Coloma Friends
- 15 Central Area Pastors' Meeting, 12:15 p.m.
- 17 West Central Area Pastors' Meeting, 10:00 a.m., WYM Office
- 18 Northern Area Pastors' Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Jamie Lyon's Home
- 19 WYM Board Meetings, 9:00 a.m., WYM Meetinghouse
- 22 Training & Recording Committee, 9:30 a.m., Kelley Conference Room

February, 2008

- 16 WYM Winter Retreat, 8:00 a.m., Western Yearly Meetinghouse
- 17-18 WYM Pastors' Gathering, Plainfield Hampton Inn

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
203 S. East Street, Box 70
Plainfield, IN 46168
(317) 839-2789
Website: www.westernym.net

Steve & Marlene Pedigo, Co-Superintendents
Steve's E-mail: stevewym@sbcglobal.net
Marlene's E-mail: marlenewym@sbcglobal.net
Cell Phone: (317) 292-2388

Katy Palmer, Christian Education Director
E-mail: katypwym@sbcglobal.net
Cell Phone: (317) 450-4712

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

**MATERIALS DEADLINE FOR NEXT
NEWSLETTER:
1/22/08, 9:00 a.m.**

Address Correction Requested