



Western Work

February, 2012

News of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church

Can I Serve The Lord & Laugh My Way To Heaven ?

Ramona Burroughs Trover, Pastor of Newport Friends

Someone recently said to me, “you always seem so happy; I know when you’re around before I see you, because I can hear your laughter.” I feel God wants me to use the gift of joy and laughter, in speaking, singing and writing. God’s people have a responsibility, actually a privilege to listen and to help uplift whatever person God puts in their paths.

I have asked myself and my congregation, “Just what does God expect from us this year?” I found one answer in Micah 6:8, “to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God”.

Another answer I found was in Psalms 46:10, “Be still and know I am God.” There you go. God has a sense of humor. He has told us, “I gave you one mouth, so slow down and be quiet.” God gave us two ears, so we can be better listeners and know that with every experience, God is in charge. It is no accident that we are who we are and we are where we are supposed to be.

Can I be humble and funny and caring and loving, *and* serve the Lord? Jesus said in Matthew 11:28, “Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yolk upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Yes, I can be funny, love justice and kindness and God’s people. I can be the person God intended me to be. I can climb out of my (my life problems) box, pray to God for strength, poke my head out like a jack-in-the-box and bring a smile to someone, give them hope, and let them know that they are loved and that Jesus is the way. Humbly but sure of the truth.

“Do you ever wake up grumpy?” someone asked me. I replied, “No way, I let Paul (my husband) sleep as long as he wants to.” I recognize a blessing when I receive one! Smile, joy is contagious!



Do I have a deal for you!

These happy people were presented with a coupon for 1 free Yearly Meeting Registration, plus 1 for their pastor! You too could receive this coupon by signing up as a **Communications Minister** for your meeting by calling the Yearly Meeting Office, 317-839-2789. (Please read small print – Sorry, meals are not included.)

Western Yearly Meeting Sessions Update

“Living in Harmony with One Another” from 1Peter 3:8 will be the theme for this year’s sessions of Western Yearly meeting, July 19-22. Bringing devotional messages and the Sunday morning worship from the theme will be the new FUM general Secretary, Colin Saxton. This will be an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with Colin and to enjoy his wonderful sense of humor, as well as his spiritual leadings.

The Quaker Lecture will be presented by Sylvia Graves, fresh from many experiences in living in harmony with people from many Yearly Meetings, as well as from other countries. We look forward to the message Sylvia has to share with us on our theme.

We are delighted to once again schedule the Quaker Haven Barbeque for the Friday evening meal. This has traditionally been a highlight of sessions, and we hope everyone can come and join us!

Saturday will again feature workshops. Affiliate bodies will have morning presentations and Boards will be offering afternoon sessions.

Be watching for more detailed publicity plus the opportunity for **on-line registration for the very first time!**

And for our first-time attendees, we are working on matching those Friends up with someone more familiar with Yearly Meeting so they may find places and people more easily.

Reserve the dates on your calendar . . . NOW . . .so you can participate. We are looking forward to seeing you!!

News Among Friends



Carmel Friends "Magic"

Part of the fundraising by Carmel Friends is "Magic," My Action Grows Into Cash. They purchase gift cards and certificates from Great Scrips for retailers from around the USA. When the card is used, a percentage goes back to the Meeting. For more info, contact Carl Comstock, Gail Schmid, or Dick McDivitt. (Mooresville Friends uses a similar fundraising approach with Kroger.)

Parsonage for Rent

The Western Yearly Meeting parsonage has been repaired and redecorated, and is ready for rent. It is a 3-bedroom ranch with a full basement, and new carpet in the main living area and hallways. If you would like further information, please contact the Property Trustees by calling the Yearly Meeting Office at 317-839-2789.

Seasoned Friends

Seasoned Friends is a monthly luncheon opportunity for Quakers in the greater Kokomo/Howard County area. The January 26 gathering, despite the messy, wintry weather, was well attended.

Pat Shrock, USFWI President from Greentown, told of her recent 10 week mission experience in Northern Ireland. Pat "did what she could" to witness to her faith among children, youth, and seniors. Her personal account was informative and moving.

Seasoned Friends will next meet Thursday, February 23, 2012, 11:30 a.m. at Richard's Restaurant, Kokomo.

(Did you realize that 40% of the US population can trace their family roots back to the Emerald Isle, which boasts a 1,500 year Christian heritage, dating from the arrival of the Apostle to the Irish, St. Patrick (389?-461).)

Fairfield Friends Meetinghouse Dedication

The dedication for the new Fairfield Friends meetinghouse will be Sunday, May 20, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. There will be a pitch-in dinner following worship. It is hoped that each meeting might send a Friend to help inaugurate the new space.

First Friends Indianapolis Retirement Celebration

Stan Banker is retiring from First Friends Indianapolis and from pastoral ministry at the end of this year. First Friends Indianapolis will hold a celebration of his service and friendship among them on Sunday, March 25 during worship and noontime.

Indianapolis Re-Entry Facility

The Residents of the Indianapolis Re-Entry Education Facility need your assistance! One of the programs is Dress For Re-Entry. While the Residents are incarcerated at the facility, one of the goals is to assist them to stop thinking as if they are in a prison, and start thinking about living outside the fence. To assist them, they encourage and allow them to dress in street clothes. Some Residents aren't able to get their own clothes from home, and that's where you come in!

They are in need of Men's shirts - both long and short sleeves - in sizes 2X and larger. They are blessed with an abundance of Large size, but are desperately in need of larger shirts. They will accept larger slacks as well, and blue jeans are needed as well for outside work crews.

You can contact Susann Estle-Cronau at (317)639-2671 ext. 317, or at JEstle-Cronau@idoc.in.gov. (approved by Outreach Board)

90th Celebration

Della & Kerry Stanley-Green and Irvin & Allison Green invite you to the 90th Birthday Party for Ellen Stanley, Sunday, Feb. 19, 3-5pm at Friends Fellowship Community, Richmond, IN. Ellen's husband, Don, was pastor at Gray Friends in the late 1940's, and Chicago Friends from 1965-70. Don and Ellen also ministered in Wilmington, New York, and New England Yearly Meetings. Ellen is probably best known for her connection with the USFWI *Advocate* and, as well as with Earlham College and the Earlham library. Della asks that you RSVP to dellag@gmail.com or 317-838-0499 by Feb. 10.

Opportunity to Share Devotions

The Office Advisory Committee is asking any pastor (Retired, serving a meeting, serving in another capacity) in the Western Yearly Meeting to submit a devotion (250-400 words) for use in Western Work. If you are interested in submitting a devotion, please email the devotion to westernym@sbcglobal.net or send it by postal mail to Western Yearly Meeting, P.O. Box 70, Plainfield, IN 46168

Executive Committee

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be Saturday, February 18, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in the Kelly Room at WYM.

Administrative Council

The next Administrative Council Meeting will be Saturday, March 17, 2012. Look for more details in the next issue of Western Work and via email.

Youth Cabinet Road Show at Courtland Avenue Friends



The Youth Cabinet theme for this year is "An Act of Love" from John 15:13

Christian Education

Camp Dates



- Beginners Camp (K-2 with parent) June 15-17, 2012
- Junior Camp (Grades 5 & 6) June 24-29, 2012
- Kids Camp (Grades 3 & 4) July 15-18, 2012
- Junior High Camp (Grades 7 & 8) June 10-15, 2012
- Sr. High I Camp (Grade 9-2012 Grad) June 17-22, 2012
- Sr. High II Camp (Grade 9-2012 Grad) July 29-Aug. 3, 2012

*Please correct grades in WYM Minute Book

Youth Cabinet Road Show



- February 25-26 – Road Show/Meeting Visit at Downer's Grove Friends (Chicago)
- March (date still in the works) – Road Show/Meeting Visit at Plainfield Friends
- April 21 – Road Show/Camp Promo Concert Event at Indianapolis First Friends
- May (date still in the works) – Road Show/Meeting Visit at Newberry Friends

WYM on Facebook

*Where can I tell people about the special event at our church?
How can I get the word out about the conference that would be of
interest to f/ Friends?
Is there any place I can share what God is doing in my meeting and
Western Yearly Meeting?*

One answer is Facebook. The Western Yearly Meeting Facebook page is a place where all of these things can happen. It's a place where people have been sharing information about special Christmas events, watched videos of the Yearly Meeting Christmas Concert, and have kept up on people in the Yearly Meeting who have needed our prayers.

If you already have a Facebook account, simply direct your browser to **Facebook.com/WesternYearlyMeeting**. Then click on the "Like" button right next to the title at the top of the page. You will receive everything that is posted on the Yearly Meeting page in your account and you will also be able to post items on the Yearly meeting page to share with others. And be sure to add the page to your bookmarks/favorites.

If you do not have a Facebook account, go to **Facebook.com** and sign up. For those who are concerned about privacy, the only information Facebook requires to sign up is your name, your email address, whether you are male or female, and your birthday (to verify that you are over 13). After you sign up, you can choose to keep everything but your name private.

Missions Update

Iglesia Amigos Update

Iglesia Amigos, the new Hispanic Friends Church in Indianapolis, is raising money for a van. Members of this new church hope to raise \$500 by March 1. The WYM Iglesia Amigos Task Force is looking for ten churches who would commit to raising \$500 a piece to match their sacrificial giving, and multiply it. Would your meeting be able to participate in this exciting match by organizing a fundraiser or taking up a special offering? We need your help! To participate, or for more information, contact Amy Perry at 317-696-5074 or Doug Shoemaker at 1-800-292-5238.

Renewal – Quaker Haven Capitol Fundraising Campaign

Quaker Haven Camp is in the midst of a Capitol Fundraising Campaign "Renewal" to raise \$145,000 by May, 2012. The funds will be used to: RENEW Friendship Lodge to better serve family ministries. RENEW the commitment to leadership development with the building of the climbing wall and zip line. RENEW the equipment to maintain their beautiful natural settings. *The Annual Capital Campaign Fundraising Dinner* will be held at Mooresville Friends Meeting on Feb. 25; h'ordeuvres at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:25 p.m. The cost is \$25 for individuals and \$40 for couples. Please RSVP by Feb. 20 to info@quakerhaven.com, or (574) 834-4193.

Calling All Quaker Men

Quaker Men International has pledged to raise 1,000,000 shillings for a loan fund for Friends Theological College in Kenya. North American Quaker Men have agreed to that amount in a match with Kenya Quaker Men. The fund will provide loans to students at FTC to get started in a business that will allow them to pay their college fees. The student must present to the college a viable business plan in order to get the loan. A million shillings is about \$13,000. That makes the US half \$6,500. If your local Quaker Men chooses to accept the challenge, please send the money to Dan Carter, Treasurer of the WYM Quaker Men at 8436 W. 500 S., Russiaville, IN 46979.

Board Updates

Christian Ministry & Evangelism

Pastoral Ministry Excellence Grants will be available for Pastors to attend the National Friends Pastors' Conference in Middlebury, IN, October 30-November 2, 2012. For more information, please contact John Heshelman at jr.heshelman@gmail.com.



Meeting Development & Nurture

In response to "Fulfilling the Purpose" #9 Encourage individual meeting growth, we are asking all churches to send us pictures with descriptions for outreach activities they have done in the past or just share your ideas or projects you have tried, to promote growth. We will use all the information and incorporate it to a display for all to see at this year's Yearly Meeting Session. All information should be in by June 1st and can be sent to the YM Office or email Chris Zike at zikechris@yahoo.com.

Christian Education

This year's Yearly Meeting Sessions workshops will be 1.) Meet the Youth Cabinet and 2.) Christian Education Resources.



Outreach

The Outreach Board is pleased to let you know that we exceeded our Special Project goal for 2011. The total received was \$9,132.44. This money will go towards field staff salaries. Our 2012 project is \$9,000 for the Lindi School in Kibera slum in Nairobi, Kenya. The money will help the lunch feeding program.

We are still collecting pop tabs for Riley Hospital, cancelled stamps for Right Sharing of World Resources, and Campbell's soup labels and Box Tops for Education for Choctaw Friends Center. We now have a source to recycle used medicine bottles. Pam & Lane Sims will be going to Haiti in April to take eyeglasses collected by the Lions Club. If you have glasses to donate, please give them to Pam or Lane. We will have collection boxes for the above items at Administrative Council, yearly meeting sessions, and USFW Spring and Fall Conferences. If you have any questions, please contact Dinah



Geiger at dinageiger@att.net.



Peace & Christian Social Concerns

The P&CSC Workshops for yearly meeting sessions will be:
 "Underground Railroad: the Wabash Road" by Bruce Brown
 "Respecting Boundaries" by Gale Stutz
 "Middle East Peace" speaker to be announced

The Board on Peace & Christian Social Concerns would like Friends to be aware of the current legislative priorities for the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): Ending the war in Afghanistan, building the movement to reduce military spending, preserving US investments in war prevention, preventing atrocities and genocide, protecting the EPA, making the world safe from nuclear weapons, Iraq war is not the answer campaign, Native American advocacy, protecting women from violence, and immigration reform. See <http://fcnl.org/assets/about/govern/priorities112th.pdf> for details. FCNL seeks local Meeting recommendations on priorities for the next (113th) Congress. See online survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TVSL7TB>.



Out in the World

From Quno (Quaker United Nations Organization)

British Quakers made a corporate spiritual decision to become a low-carbon sustainable community. QUNO presented a workshop on "The human impacts of climate change – what Quakers are doing at the UN," which was energizing for both attenders and organizers. There were many questions on how QUNO can apply its unique working methods to the international climate change negotiations. Learn more at quno.org

Wm Penn House, Washington, DC

Washington Quaker Workcamps has become a program of Wm. Penn House. They create a deeply spiritual opportunity for Quaker service. "Our Quaker service has multiple goals including the benefit to the participants and to those being served as we seek to break the cycles of violence and injustice through education, awareness and stewardship of resources now and for years to come." For more info, see www.williampenhouse.org

FCNL – Mass incarceration: Massively Wrong

Of the 2.3 million people in U.S. prisons, 93 % are men – equal to the male population of six states. About 2/3 are black, Hispanic or another minority group. ... By one estimate, 80% of the prison population is in need of mental health services; four times as many mentally ill people are in prisons as in mental hospitals or psychiatric facilities." For more info, contact fcnl.org.



**MATERIALS
DEADLINE
FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER:
2/21/12**

Our Purpose Statement

*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.*

Upcoming Events

February, 2012

- 4 **Winter Workshop**, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Downers Grove Friends
- 18 **Executive Committee**, 9:30 a.m., Kelly Conference Room
- 23 **Seasoned Friends**, 11:30 a.m., Richards Restaurant, Kokomo
- 25-26 **Youth Cabinet Road Show**, Downer's Grove Meeting (Chicago)
- 25 **Quaker Haven Camp Fundraising Dinner**, 5:30 p.m. h'ordeuvres, 6:25 p.m. dinner, Mooresville Friends

March, 2012

- 17 **Administrative Council**, (Place to be announced)
- Youth Cabinet Road Show**, Plainfield Friends (date to be announced)

April, 2012

- 21 **Youth Cabinet Road Show/Camp Promo Concert Event**, Indianapolis First
- 24 **USFW Spring Conference**, Sugar Plain



Western Yearly Meeting of

FRIENDS CHURCH

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Address Correction Requested