



Western Work

12.08 & 1.09

News of Western Yearly Meeting of the Friends Church

Superintendent's Bible Study

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."
[Romans 1:16, NRSV]

"Let the Lord Be in Your Eyes" and "Come into the Spiritual Order of the Gospel" — George Fox, 1674 —

"And in your Men and Women's Meetings, you are in and about the Lord's business and not your own. Therefore, let the Lord be in your eyes, that all of you his presence, Power and Wisdom and judgment may receive, to do, and act and speak in..."

"Friends, all that are sensible of the Power of God...live in it and grow up in it. For the Power of God is over the power of the devil, which Power of God is the Gospel and it is called the Cross of Christ...Take your possession of the same. In it keep your Men's and Women's Meetings... Herein is the holy, heavenly and powerful Order, which is everlasting and will have no one. This Order of the Gospel, which is the Power of God, is over all the orders in the world and before they were, whether Jews, gentiles or apostate Christian..."

"For Christ (who) redeemed his people out of their vain conversation, purchased them with his blood and is become the Head of the Church. The heavenly and spiritual man has given them a heavenly and spiritual possession and order to walk in, to keep in...to wit, the everlasting Gospel, the Power of God, which I am not ashamed of... 'for it is the Power of God unto Salvation, to everyone that believes.' (Romans 1:16)"

"So Friends are not to meet like a company of people about town or parish business, neither in their Men's nor Women's meetings, but (they are) to wait upon the Lord and feel his Power and Spirit to lead them... That whatsoever they may do, they may do it to the praise and Glory of God, in Unity in the Faith, in the Spirit, in Fellowship in the Order of the Gospel (which) the devil and his instruments cannot get into..." [The Power of the Lord is Over All, the Pastoral Letters of George Fox, Edited by T. Canby Jones, Richmond, Indiana: Friends United Press, 1989, pp. 305, 309, 312]

"Understanding Friends Discernment," WYM Winter Retreat, February 14, 2009

The theme for this year's Western Yearly Meeting Winter Retreat is "Understanding Friends Discernment." This is a wonderful workshop for members who participate in Western Yearly Meeting decision making process, as well as those on the local meeting level. If you are currently a clerk, this is an excellent opportunity for training and the chance to have questions addressed about the purpose of meetings for worship with a concern for business. Our speaker for the day is Bruce Bishop, Northwest Yearly Meeting's Communication Director and Co-Author of the book, *Practicing Discernment Together, Finding God's Way Forward in Decision Making* (books are available through the Western Yearly Meeting Office for \$16). This year's cost is \$10 (which includes lunch if you register by February 1, 2009). If three people from a meeting attend, the pastor comes FREE. A children and youth program is provided free of charge to everyone who registers by February 1!

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

- 8:30 a.m. – Registration
- 9:00 a.m. – Worship
- 9:30 a.m. – Deepening of Personal Discernment Skills, Part 1
- 10:30 a.m. – Break
- 10:45 a.m. – Deepening of Personal Discernment Skills, Part 2
- 12:00 noon – Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. – Deepening our Corporate Discernment Skills
- 2:30 p.m. – Break
- 2:45 p.m. – Debunking Quaker Myths Around Consensus
- 3:30 p.m. – Wrap Up Questions
- 4:00 p.m. – Close

The Winter Retreat will be followed by the Pastors' Gathering, February 14-16, 2009, at the Plainfield Hampton Inn. The gathering will include worship, fellowship, continued discussion with Bruce about "Friends Discernment," "Financial Peace University Financial Management Training," and training about the upcoming Western Yearly Meeting Pastoral Ministry Excellence Program Grants. A children and youth program will be provided. Registration cost for pastors is \$100. Additional retreat expense may be paid through a WYM Pastoral Excellence Ministry Grant. Pastors will apply for this reimbursement grant at the time of the retreat.

Missions Update

Barbers' Plan Accelerated

Sam and Becky Barber knew they would be leaving their positions at Vennard College in Iowa at the end of the school year in order to move to Belize City to co-direct the Friends Boys School. What they didn't know was that Vennard College would be closing down in December for financial reasons. While the closing of the college is distressing, the opportunity does open for the Barber family to report sooner to duty in Belize. Their adjusted timeline is as follows:

January & February – Barbers will visit local meetings to solicit prayer and financial support

March – Attend two-week Missionary Training in Colorado

April – Report for ministry at the Belize Friends Boys School

In order for this plan to be implemented, the Barbers will need to raise \$50,000 by April 1. For questions, or to make arrangements for the Barbers to come to your meeting, please contact Terri Johns at (765) 962-7573; missions@fum.org. You can also visit the Barber's Website at: www.belizebarbers.org.

Friends Theological College

Ben and Jody Richmond just completed their graduation celebration at Friends Theological College in Kaimosi, Kenya with fifty-eight "graduands." Thirty-six graduated from the "short course" Certificate in Pastoral Ministry! Pictures are posted at <http://s536.photobucket.com/albums/ff326/benrichmond311ftc%20graduation%202008/>. Praise God!

John Muhanji Truck Update

At the recent Administrative Council meeting it was announced that several monthly meetings had shown strong support for the Quaker Men project of raising money for a new vehicle for John Muhanji. Western Yearly Meeting Quaker Men have challenged each meeting in Western with a \$10 per man challenge. As of Thursday, November 20, the following meetings have participated in the campaign and sent in money: Courtland Avenue, Sheridan, Ridge Farm, Noblesville, Valley Mills, Kokomo 1st, Hemlock Russiaville, Plainfield, Mooresville, Westfield, and West Newton. Several meetings have notified me that they are raising money and it will be forthcoming. I will let you know of those next month in *Western Work*. At this time, Western has raised just short of \$12,000 including the \$3,000 raised at yearly meeting sessions! WOW! Is that great or what? I know that Indiana Yearly Meeting is also actively raising money and that North Carolina Quaker Men will be meeting in January to consider this contribution. I also know of at least one meeting in New England that has adopted the project. Praise God for the wonderful results so far. If your church has not participated in this project, please do. Make checks payable to *Quaker Men International* and forward to Dale Graves, 6398 E. Hendricks County Road., Mooresville, IN 46158.

*Submitted by Dale Graves, President
WYM Quaker Men*

USFW News

Belize Scholarships in Memory of Margie McAdams

At the request of the family of Margie McAdams, memorial contributions may be given in her memory for student scholarships at Friends Boys School in Belize. Margie died at St. Joseph Hospital at Kokomo on October 5, 2008. She was a member of Hemlock Friends Meeting and was actively involved in serving Western Yearly Meeting and gatherings of Friends in the Kokomo area. She is survived by her son James McAdams and wife, Debra, Greentown, IN, her daughter, Mary Gross and husband Bill, Oostburg, WI and grandchildren.

Margie married Walter McAdams at South Marion Friends Meeting in 1945. She served alongside Walter in the pastoral ministry until his death in 2001. She was an elementary teacher in the Kokomo Center Schools from 1965 until retiring in 1989.

Memorial contributions may be made payable to USFW of WYM with notation "in memory of Margie McAdams" and sent to Pam Sims, USFW-W Treasurer, 18210 Little Chicago Road, Noblesville, IN 46062. Contributions received will be forwarded to Belize School and notice of gifts received will be sent to the McAdams family.

USFW 2009 Conference Dates

Tues., April 28 – USFW Spring Conference at Kokomo First Friends Kokomo with Brandon Dennis, Director of Quaker Haven Camp.

Sat., August 1 – USFW Tea and Missions Program at Yearly Meeting in Plainfield with Jody and Ben Richmond, Friends Theological College.

Sat., September 26 – USFW Fall Conference at Noblesville First Friends, speaker to be announced.

How You May Belong to the United Society of Friend Women of WYM

If you have a heart for Christian service and Christian fellowship and have within your local Meeting an organization known as the United Society of Friends Women of Western Yearly Meeting, you already have access to information about how we support missions around the world and those who work in missions. If you are not actively involved, we encourage you to become an active participant.

If you have a heart for Christian service and Christian fellowship and do not have within your local Meeting an organization known as the United Society of Friends Women of Western Yearly Meeting, you may become an at-large member.

Membership at-large is available to any woman interested in the goals of USFW but has no local USFW to which to belong. The person requesting an at-large membership contributes annually to the USFW-WYM Treasurer, the amount of \$15.00. This provides membership in USFW International, subscription to Fox Tales newsletter, a copy of the program Blueprints, and Conference Flyers and Directories.

Payment of \$15.00 made payable to USFW may be sent to Pam Sims, USFW-W Treasurer, 18210 Little Chicago Road, Noblesville, IN 46062. Include your name, postal address, telephone, and e-mail address if available. Your name will be listed in the next directory published each year in July.

If you have questions or want additional information, you may contact Mary Frances Taylor, President of USFW-WYM, 6514 West 250 South, Russiaville, IN 46979, (765) 883-5280, e-mail: mftaylor@taylored.com.

*Submitted by Mary Francis Taylor, President
USFW-WYM*

Christian Education Opportunities

Sundesmos Winter Retreat

WYM's college/young adult ministry, Sundesmos, is sponsoring another Winter Retreat for college students and young adults in WYM. This retreat is being planned for January 2-5, 2009 here at the WYM Hospitality Center in Plainfield. This event is open to college students and young adults in WYM. Our theme will be "What does it mean to be a Quaker?" We'll have special guests joining us including: C. Wess Daniels, Tom Palmer, Della Stanley-Green, Pat Byers, and Marlene Pedigo. Our goal will be to look at Quakerism through the Christ-centered lens of Western Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice*, the Richmond Declaration of Faith that was recently re-affirmed by FUM and our own post-modern worldviews.

Youth Cabinet

Our new WYM Youth Cabinet is on the road and coming to a Meeting near you. Don't miss it as we continue to explore ways to "Let Yo' Light Shine!" Upcoming Road Shows & Events:

- Dec. 5 – Youth Cabinet Christmas Party at Katy's Apartment
- Jan. 25 – Youth Cabinet @ Carmel Friends
- February 22 – Youth Cabinet @ Bethel Friends

CE Resource Highlight

Four times a year the WYM Office receives a box full of goodies. This box is from an organization called Interline. This group believes that music is one of the most important forces affecting youth culture today. WYM has a subscription to their service that provides a box full of resources to us. In this box they send the latest Christian music CDs, information about upcoming movies and concerts, and a new DVD containing new Christian music videos. These music videos are also accompanied by a magazine that is full of interviews with the artists, information about upcoming events, and unique and easy Bible study lessons to go along with the music videos. It's a relevant and easy way to do a youth Sunday School/youth Group/whatever lesson...and they're available to any Meeting in WYM to use. Stop by the WYM Office to check it out.

WYM Winter Retreat Family Programming

Plan now to bring the whole family to the upcoming WYM Winter Retreat on February 14, 2009. The programming for the adults, youth and children will all be focused on how we hear God speak to us through discernment. So bring the kids and make it a family event!

What's Happening in WYM

Lilly Endowment Awards Grant to Western Yearly Meeting

Lilly Endowment's "Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Indiana Pastors" has awarded a grant to Western Yearly Meeting. This grant will provide annual grants for the next four years to local meetings restricted for two areas for their pastors: retirement contributions and health saving accounts contributions. Each meeting must apply with their pastors and return the completed application by March 31, 2009 (forms to be sent out with annual reports). This grant will also include a reimbursable grant for those attending the Winter Gathering (training requirement to receive grant) and reimbursable grant for Training & Recording classes. Thank you for praying!

Hinkle Creek Friends

More than a hundred Friends attended a recent Music Night and Chili Supper at Hinkle Creek Friends. Ministry is happening at Hinkle Creek Friends with increased attendance for worship, efforts to reach out to their community, a new newsletter, and work on the meetinghouse (a new sidewalk, new sign, and a new chair lift to the meetingroom and basement). Their mission is, "*Hinkle Creek Friends is a Christ centered, Bible based Church united in nurturing the Body of Christ and reaching out in love to further the Kingdom of God.*"

Blue Christmas Evening at Irvington Friends

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Only it isn't. Not for everyone. Some of us are in pain, through the loss of a loved one, or the loss of a job, the loss of health, or fighting depression. We try to hide this pain especially in this season of joy. Please join Irvington Friends for a quiet evening of comfort on Sunday, December 7, at 6:00 p.m.

Noblesville First Friends Christmas Candlelight Service

You are invited to attend the Noblesville First Friends Christmas Candlelight Service on Sunday, December 14, at 6:30 p.m. Music of the season from three vocalists, violin, trumpet, recorder, pipe organ, and piano--all interspersed with readings telling of the anticipation and fulfillment of our Savior's birth. Fellowship afterwards.

Resources for Discernment

Why not check out one of these books to learn more about discernment:

- (1) *Practicing Discernment Together, Finding God's Way Forward in Decision Making*, by Lon Fendall, Jan Wood, Bruce Bishop (this year's retreat speaker). Newberg, OR: Barclay Press, 2007.
- (2) *Leading Quakers, Discipleship Leadership, a Friends Model*, by Jennifer Isbell, Richmond, Indiana: Earlham School of Religion, 2008.
- (3) *The Way of Spiritual Discernment, Sacred Compass*, by Brent Bill, Brewster, Massachusetts: Paraclete Press, 2008.

Numerous materials are now available which help individuals discern awareness for ministry leadership: spiritual gift discernment, leadership style, conflict resolution style, emotional quotient, personality temperament, etc. Tools are also available to help local churches to discern possible areas for ministry. If you would like to learn more, feel free to call the office and talk to Steve or Marlene.

2008 Special Project!

BELIZE: Leadership

We are nearing the end of 2008 and we would love to be able to send \$10,000 to help support leadership in BELIZE.

Right now we have just over \$6,000

Your extra support could help us reach our goal.

Please send all donations to:

Nadine Kemp

605 S East St. #14
Plainfield, IN 46168



Western Yearly Meeting

FRIENDS CHURCH

203 S. East Street, P.O. Box 70

Plainfield, IN 46168

(317) 839-2789

Website: www.westernym.net

Steve & Marlene Pedigo,
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Address Correction Requested

Western Yearly Meeting Calendar

MATERIALS DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER:

1/24/09, 9:00 a.m.

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.

Twelfth Month

- 5 Youth Cabinet Christmas Party, 5:00 p.m. at Katy Palmer's
- WYM Pastors' Christmas Dinner at MCL Cafeteria, 2370 W. 86th Street, 6:00 p.m.
- 6 Executive Committee, 9:00 a.m. Kelley Conference Room
- 7 Blue Christmas Evening at Irvington Friends, 6 p.m.
- 9 Training & Recording Committee, 9:30 a.m.
- 13 Second Friends Neighborhood Christmas Party, 4 p.m.

First Month

- 2- 5 .Sundesmos Winter Retreat, at WYM Meetinghouse
- 12 West Central Area Pastors Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 13 North Central Area Pastors, 9:30 a.m., Noblesville Friends
- 17 WYM Board Meetings, 9:00 a.m.
- 20 Program Committee, 2:00 a.m.
- 22 Western Area Pastors' Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Ridge Farm Friends
- 25 Youth Cabinet Road Show at Carmel Friends
- 26 Northern Area Pastors' Meeting, 12:00 noon, at Jamie Lyon's Home

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