



Western Work

Dec. 2012/Jan. 2013

News of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church



A Reflection on Light

By Miriam Bunner, Valley Mills

I've been thinking a lot about light and darkness lately. Part of the reason is obvious — it's late fall and the sun sets earlier and earlier every day. We are entering the dark time of the year. As I grow older, the loss of light affects me much more than it used to. There are times in my life when the darkness has been so oppressive, it sucked the life out of me, covered me like a blanket, heavy and suffocating, coloring my thoughts in shades of gray. Watching the seasons change, seeing the trees lose their leaves, it looks and feels like they are dying. And I remember every loss I have ever known. How wonderful it is then, that this time of year was chosen to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The timing couldn't be more perfect. We celebrate the Incarnation of God by lighting advent candles, filling our homes with lights inside and out, and lighting our city streets.

Darkness is banished for awhile as we are dazzled by the beauty of lights that shine in the darkness. The Gospel of John uses this light imagery when describing Jesus. "In Him was life, and that life was the Light of all mankind. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it ... There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man," John 1:4-5, 9 This light brings us hope. It's the very time of year we need light and hope the most.

It is comforting for me to remember that the birth of Jesus also represents the birth of Light in our hearts. We as Friends especially treasure this Light Within, this Presence of the Divine in our lives. As I think of this light and dark imagery, I'm reminded of the story of an old Cherokee who is teaching his grandson about life. "A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy. "It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil - he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego." He continued, "The other is good - he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. The same fight is going on inside you -and inside every other person, too."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed." In this coming season, which wolf will you feed? As for me, I choose to feed the Light.

Pastors, your insight and expressions are an inspiration to Western Yearly Meeting. You are invited to send a devotion to be used in **Western Work** to Mary Anne at WYM office or to westernym@sbcglobal.net.

The next WYM Board Meetings will take place on Saturday, January 19, 2013. Refreshments will be served at 8:30 a.m., followed by Worship at 9:00 a.m. and meetings at 9:30 a.m. — WYM Building.

News Among Friends



Celebrate Christmas with WYM Friends. Last year's Christmas Celebration was such a special time of sharing our joy for the birth of Christ and our cherished friendships with each other; it was decided to do it again. So, we invite you to come for a concert at the Yearly Meeting Room in Plainfield on Saturday, December 1 at 3:00 p.m.

Friends are encouraged to mark their 2013 calendars for **annual sessions of Western Yearly Meeting, July 18-21**. "Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you.." is our theme, taken from 2 Timothy 1:6 (NIV).

Jan Wood will be devotional leader each day and for worship on Sunday morning. Jan has done extensive work in the field of spiritual gifts. John Carter will bring the Quaker Lecture as we explore the connection of the arts and worship. Friends are reminded to be working on projects of visual giftedness for displays during sessions. Musical jam sessions will also be on the agenda for those so gifted.

Be watching for other "new" events for this year! We hope to see you there!

Outreach Board. 'Tis the Season to **clip, twist, cut, wash** – Clip stamps for Right Sharing; Twist off pop tabs for Riley Hospital; Cut soup labels and Box Tops for Education for Choctaw; Wash empty prescription bottles for a Park County clinic.

It may not be the right season to sew, but look for after-Christmas sales to get t-shirts and bed skirts – or material – for dresses for Haiti. Contact Susan Joyner at joyner.s@sbcglobal.net or Florence Emma Peery at flopeery@frontier.com for more information.



A Friendly Challenge. The Lindi School, in the Kiberia slum of Nairobi Kenya, which provides education for over 200 children, is the focus of the Western Yearly Meeting (WYM) Special Project. Each year the WYM Board on Christian Outreach chooses a project for yearly meeting to support. The \$9,000 that we are working to raise this year will assist in providing students with a free daily lunch. For many of these students this is their only meal for the whole day. As the WYM Benevolence Treasurer, I am aware that the funding for this project is coming in slowly. **At the November 2012 Administrative Council, I offered a personal challenge to those of us in attendance to contribute \$1 for each year of formal education we have had.** And I asked Friends to share that challenge with others in their meetings. I just wrote my check for \$22. **I invite you to accept this Friendly challenge as well.** All checks need to be made out to the **WYM Benevolence Treasurer** and sent to the **Western Yearly Meeting, P.O. Box 70, Plainfield, IN 46168**. Be sure to make a notation on the check for the 2012 Special Project. –Della Stanley-Green, WYM Benevolence Treasurer



All are invited to Noblesville Friends' Christmas Candlelight Service, Sunday, Dec. 16th, at 6:30 PM. Music of the season from Naomi Jackson (soprano), David Hinshaw (trumpet), Cheri Brightman (saxophone), Margaret Hite (violin), & Joe & Tom Roberts (pipe organ & piano) – all interspersed with scripture readings telling the anticipation & fulfillment of Christ's birth. Plan to come early to get a good parking spot & to hear the prelude of organ-piano duets. As usual, the service will culminate with our meetingroom aglow with candlelight & the congregation's reverent singing of "Silent Night." Holiday glow will continue with a time of fellowship & refreshments after the program.



You are invited to **Vespers at First Friends Indianapolis**, December 2, 5:00 pm. There will be a Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, Flute Choir, and many carols for all to sing.

Mooresville Friends Christmas Party will begin with a meal, December 16, 5:30-7:45 pm in the Friendship House. Following the meal, the Christmas Pageant **Double Take** will be presented by the Kids Club, Youth, Leaders and adults.



Carol Sing at Downers Grove Friends Meeting with the Jones Family. On December 23, 5pm Downers Grove Friends and friends will be singing along with the Jones Family. Bring a musical instrument or just your voice. Afterwards, celebrate with a potluck dinner.

Mark it on your calendar: **FWCC Americas Section** will be in Morgantown, IN on March 14-17, 2013. Check it out at fwcc.org.

How is the Living Water flowing in you?

For personal reflection or small group discussions, use this new study booklet to get the conversation flowing. The book includes moving personal stories from the Sixth World Conference of Friends, a Biblical reflection on the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well and a spiritual reflection on clean water issues in the world. Studded with queries for deeper consideration and an activity guide for interactive sessions, the booklet is for Friends of all ages. Now **available for download** and as an **onscreen flipbook**, FREE from the Section of the Americas, fwcc.org.




Let the Living Water Flow!

Friends Serving God's Purposes



Study Guide and Resource Booklet
Friends World Council for Christian Unity
1974 - 2012

Friends World Council for Christian Unity of the Americas

From **FUM**. Each year we have had the opportunity to pray  for another meeting as well as the needs of Friends United Meeting through the **Chain of Prayer**. This year, we participated in the *40 Days of Prayer* in the fall. In order to remain faithful to the process and give our energies over to this critical process, FUM has decided not to offer the *Chain of Prayer* this year. You are of course welcome to pray for FUM and its many project partners as well as other meetings within FUM at any time you feel led to do so and we hope that you do. But, we will not be promoting a formal *Chain of Prayer* this year. For the daily prayer guide, go to fum.org/daily-prayer-guide.



The next **Friends Disaster Service Work Week** will be December 17-21 in Henryville, IN. FDS will be staying in the Country Lake Christian Center. For each disaster worker, the camp is charging FDS only \$100 for food and lodging for a 6 day week, not counting Sunday. FDS will be paying this during the work week thanks to the past and present support of all our WYM Friends. Bring your work clothes, gloves and shoes/boots and your own personal hand tools. FDS will supply the rest. For more details and information, please contact Eldon Studer at 812-879-3236 or 317-445-8720 or studer.e@comcast.net.

3rd annual Arts and Eats event will occur at Indianapolis First Friends, December 16th in fellowship hall after meeting for worship. You will have the opportunity to purchase homemade goods and art from our members/attenders, children's Sunday school classes as well as buy coffee, chocolate, olive oil or make a donation to Right Sharing of World Resources. Please contact Beth Henricks at henricksbeth2@gmail.com or the Indianapolis 1st Friends office for more information.





A 50th Wedding Anniversary

Party for **Jerry & Letitia Dain** will be held on December 1, 2012 from 3:00pm until 6:00pm in the Hodson Center at White's Residential & Family Services Campus in Wabash, Indiana. The address is 5233 S. 50 E., Wabash, IN 46992. The children are hosting the event to celebrate the marriage of their parents & the wonderful legacy they are passing down to their children, grandchildren, and all their adopted kids. They request there be no gifts, but graciously invite you to attend. For more information, call 574-518-0022, or email

danielbauer@yahoo.com.

Christian Education Update

WYM / IYM Fall Impact Retreat

by Pat Byers

With God, there is past, there is present and there is future. This is what we were reminded of by speaker, Brandon Eaton (Youth Pastor at Wabash Friends), at the joint WYM / IYM Fall Impact Retreat at Quaker Haven. Brandon spoke about how God met His people in the past, even when they turned away. He told us how in our present, faith is essential and we cannot do it alone. Lastly, Brandon helped us see how we can line up our futures with God's future, a future where He makes things right and His will comes through. When we put all these together, we can make an Impact for His Kingdom!

During the weekend, we were blessed by Anderson Kursonis (from Indiana Wesleyan University) and his band in worship. For a couple of their sets, they broke down to acoustic guitars, simple percussion, mallets and a trumpet! We also had the opportunity to attend the Michael Card concert Quaker Haven put on that Saturday night. It was a laid back, easy-going evening of Michael's signature finger-picking guitar and soothing piano playing. We also played some great games (Glow-In-The-Dark-Finger-Rocket-Dodgeball...need I say more?), had nightly camp-fires, spent some time serving and giving back to camp and ate in the wonderful QHC dining hall.

In all there were 53 participants in the retreat this year, including students and adult chaperones. This was the first time WYM and IYM combined for this retreat. We hope to continue to pool resources to make bigger and better events!

Thanks to all those who came together to make our retreat a true Impact! See ya next year!!!



Quaker Haven Fall Impact 2012

Fall Impact (continued)

“Breakdown”



Chaney and Brettan



Snack Time



Worship



to **Katherine Murray**, First Friends Indianapolis, who has just been selected as Publications Coordinator for Quaker Earthcare Witness, a non-profit organization that provides material and spiritual support for individual Friends and Friends groups who want to grow in ecological awareness and move toward sustainability in spirit and practice. For more information, contact <http://www.quakerearthcare.org/>



Alternatives to Violence is re-establishing itself in Indiana. Miriam Bunner, on WYM P&CSC Board and member of Valley Mills, is the local chapter representative. She and others go to prisons to train prisoners to react to difficult situations with something other than violence. If you would like more information, check it out at www.avpuse.org or www.Facebook.com/AlternativestoViolenceProject.

On December 7, 7pm, Downers Grove Meeting will show **“Smoke Signals”**. It is the first movie about Native Americans made by Native Americans, featuring a screenplay by Native American author, Sherman Alexie.

PeaceWays, the magazine of AGLI (African Great Lakes Initiative of the Friends Peace Teams), has many articles about “Quieting the Roaring Lions: Preventing Violence Before It Happens.” This is about the expected violence when the Kenyan elections are finally held. One of the statements is *Unfortunately AGLI has found that it is much more difficult to raise funds for violence prevention than it is after the conflict has erupted and the media is full of fire and death.*”

Plainfield Friends and WYM Office will host the Southwest Quadrant Meeting for the Church Federation, December 10 at 8:30 am. It is a part of the outreach and renewed focus of the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis.

FCNL Annual Meeting. Beth Henricks and Tom and Noell Krughoff, Indianapolis First Friends, joined 300 people from across the country in Washington DC November 15th - November 18th to attend the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) annual meeting. For the first time at annual meeting, 137 visits were made to Congress asking for consideration in reducing Pentagon spending during the lame duck session. During the meeting, **Senator Lugar** was given the Ed Snyder award (annual award given by FCNL) for all of his work to promote peace around the world. Senator Lugar accepted the award in person and gave an outstanding speech. For more information see www.fcnl.org.



Elizabeth Bunner, USFWI Stewardship Secretary in the 1980's, has recently relocated from her farm home near New Castle, Indiana to Novi, Michigan [27475 Huron Circle, Apt. 320/zip 48377]. Since there are no Friends meetings in the area where she lives, she is attending a United Methodist church. Betty misses her Quaker connections and would welcome correspondence. She will celebrate her 93rd birthday in February 2013.

The Staff of Western Yearly Meeting wish you all a



And



**MATERIALS
DEADLINE
FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER:
1/21/13**

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

December, 2012

- 1 **Executive Committee**, WYM Kelley Room, 10:00 a.m.
WYM Christmas Celebration, Yearly Meeting Room, 3:00 p.m.
50th Wedding Anniversary for Jerry & Letitia Dane, 3-6 p.m., Hobson Center at White's, Wabash
- 2 **Hanging of the Greens & Continental Breakfast**, 9:45 a.m., Valley Mills Friends
Vespers at Indianapolis First Friends, 5 p.m.
"A Good Spell of Christmas", New Salem Friends, 7 p.m.
- 16 **All Church Christmas Party & Pageant**, Mooresville Friends, 5:30-7:45 p.m.
Noblesville Friends' Christmas Candlelight Service, 6:30 p.m.
- 17-21 **FDS Work Week in Henryville, IN**
- 23 **Christmas Worship & Cantata**, Bloomingdale Friends, 10:30 a.m.
Downers Grove Carol Sing & Potluck, Downer's Grove Meetinghouse, caroling at 5 p.m., supper at 6:30 p.m.
- 24 **Christmas Eve Service**, Valley Mills Friends, 4 p.m.
Candlelight Service, New London Friends, 9 p.m.
- 24-26 **WYM Office Closed for Christmas Holiday**
- 27 **Seasoned Friends**, Richard's Restaurant, Noon

January, 2013

- 1 **WYM Office Closed for New Year's Holiday**
- 19 **WYM Board Meetings**, 8:30 a.m., WYM Bldg., Plainfield
- 21 **WYM Office Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**



Western Yearly Meeting of

FRIENDS CHURCH

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Address Correction Requested