



# Western Work

June, 2012

News of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church



## *Facing the Future Unafraid*

*Jim Wilson, Retired Minister*

Have you ever noticed that God is still creating? Have you every tried to capture the beauty of a rose by plucking it and putting it into a glass of water? You know that that the rose's loveliness is soon lost and the rose soon dies. If I took a bucket of water from the gurgling and babbling creek that runs not too far from my house, I would soon have a bucket of water that had no song to sing and would become a bucket of stagnant water.

We too often foolishly try to keep our children mere children by objecting to their struggles to make their own decisions. We become anxious when our little ones show their independence. Yet nothing is sadder than a child that remains a small child in intelligence, insight, and emotional development. Thank goodness that God let Adam and Eve have their independence.

Many people resent the passing of their youth and the onset of middle age or even the golden years that I have just entered into. Billions of dollars are spent on cosmetics that proclaim they will take away the wrinkles from our face. During the downturn of our economy, Avon, the world's largest cosmetic company, is having an upturn in profits. Now, I am not one to be too critical of looking nice and smelling good. Yet, aging gracefully is the art of anticipating changes the years will bring; sensing that every era of one's life has its own unique adventures, pleasures and contentment. It knows that God is not just in today, but in all of our tomorrows.

We always lose life's charm and miss its meaning when we try to stop its onward flow or shrink from necessary change. However, such a confident trust is more than a generalized belief in God. A belief that if you wish upon a star your dreams will come true is a cruel hoax. Dreams come true when we do hard work to make them come true. Addressing the flaws of others, our institutions, and within ourselves is hard work. I doubt that Jesus spent prayer time wishing upon a star. I suspect He was more likely confessing His doubts and seeking strength. Trusting God means awareness that uncertainty and risk taking are parts of God's plan. Without risk there can be no character, no courage, no faith, for there would be little need for them.

In algebra, we find the unknown in any equation by using the known to get at it. And this is a valid method of arriving at the answers to life's elemental problems. Of one thing the person of faith is certain: there is an everlasting steadiness at the heart of things, a reliable love and care that we call God. What we ask of God is humility, honesty, courage, and forgiveness. It is these things the wishing on stars will not bring.

Jesus left his desert place and returned to His ministry that in not too many months took His life.

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### **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 for use in Western Work. If you are interested in submitting a devotion, please email the devotion to [westernym@sbcglobal.net](mailto:westernym@sbcglobal.net) or send it by postal mail to Western Yearly Meeting, P.O. Box 70, Plainfield, IN 46168

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### **Executive Committee Meeting**

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be Saturday, June 16, 2012 beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will take place in the Kelley Room in the Western Yearly Meeting Hospitality Center.

## News Among Friends



### General Superintendent Search

Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church (FUM) is seeking applications for the position of General Superintendent (beginning August 2013). Applicants should send resume, with letter of introduction describing their interest in this ministry, by August 31, 2012, to Tim Hagmaier, Search Committee Clerk, [Thagmaier@aol.com](mailto:Thagmaier@aol.com) or 2305 E. 200 N., Kokomo, IN 46901, (765) 452-7019.

### Board Updates

**Christian Education** – Quaker Haven Camp could still use a few good men as counselors for the George Fox and Pioneer Camps this summer. Please contact Pat Byers at [patrick.byers.wym@gmail.com](mailto:patrick.byers.wym@gmail.com)

**Meeting Development & Nurture** – The grant structure will change starting in September 2012. MD&N will no longer be offering 3 year grants of \$2,000. The new structure will be “one time only” \$1,000 grants once a year. Also, Meetings are requested to send pictures & descriptions of outreach growth events or projects, including fundraiser activities. MD&N will be using these in a slide presentation during their business report, instead of making a display.

### Outreach Board

#### Special Project:

The Outreach Board 2012 project is \$9000 for the Lindi School in the Kibera slum in Nairobi, Kenya. To date we have raised over \$218.37. The total stated last month was incorrect. As you can see, we are very far behind in our giving. The money will help with their lunch feeding program. Please continue to support this project. All checks need to be made out to the WYM Benevolence Treasurer and sent to the yearly meeting office. Be sure and make a notation on the check for 2012 WYM Special Project - Lindi.

#### Collections:

We have an ongoing collection of pop tabs for Riley Hospital, canceled stamps for Right Sharing of World Resources, Campbell's soup labels (\*see note below) and Box Tops for Education for Choctaw Friends Center, and we are recycling medicine bottles. We hope that you have collection boxes available at your own meetings. You can bring your collected items to yearly meeting sessions and leave them at the ACFIA Market table. \*Please note that the labels need to include the front label and UPC part. You can trim off the rest of the label.

#### Shorts and Dresses for Haiti:

We are still collecting dresses and shorts for children in Haiti. If you need patterns to make the clothing please contact Florence Emma Peery at [flopeery@frontier.com](mailto:flopeery@frontier.com). Please include a few dollars to cover the cost of postage to mail these.

#### ACFIA Market at YM:

We need your donations of craft items, baked goods, fresh produce, etc. for the ACFIA Market. Just bring us your pre-priced items when you come to yearly meeting sessions. If you would like to work at the market, please let us know. All proceeds will go to our Native American Centers.

#### WYM Workshops:

The Outreach Board is providing 2 workshops at yearly meeting. 1. Bill Medlin and daughter Sarah will give a report of the Friends World Committee on Consultation World Gathering that was held in Kenya this April. This will be a wonderful opportunity to hear about Quakers from all around the globe. 2. Would you like to know more about Cuba Friends? Come see and hear of the experiences that Dale & Sylvia Graves, Jim & Pat Wilson and Jim Crew had while in Cuba for an FUM work trip in January.

The Historic **National Road Yard Sale** will be Saturday, June 2, 2012, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm in front of Plainfield Friends. It will feature castoffs, collectibles and crafts. Lunch will be served in the church basement. If you would like to reserve a space to sell your items, or for more information, phone: (317)839-6490 or email:

[pmminwym@yahoo.com](mailto:pmminwym@yahoo.com)



Night before last I was reading the "History of Lee County, Virginia" to catch up on my ancestors and discovered that one of them on my dad's side (Dr. Thomas Wynne) came from England to Philadelphia in the 1600's to serve as the personal physician for William Penn. Another ancestor in Virginia was a Quaker who built a sturdy fortress to protect the other settlers from Indian attacks. Guess I have Quaker in my genes.

But being a real Quaker is a matter of faith, not ancestry. That's what I'm aiming for. Let's all work toward building our faith in Christ after the manner of Friends.

*Chris Wynn, Hadley Friends Minister*



Where does she find all this stuff? Inside the door to the WYM office, is a small table which holds, monthly meeting newsletters, newsletters from other Quaker bodies and Quaker magazines. You'd be amazed at all you find there!

Just can't leave that computer at home? **Plainfield Meeting** is rumored to be wireless by Western Yearly Meeting Sessions!



**Sacred Walk for Prayer, Peace & Remembrance**, sponsored by the Indianapolis Church Federation, will be held Sun., June 10. Gather at 4:15 at one of 3 locations: Bethel AME, 414 W Vermont; Roberts Park UMC, 401 N Delaware; or in house tour & presentation of St John the Evangelist Catholic Church 126 W Georgia.

A **Prayer Service for Unity** will be held after the walk on Sun., June 10, 6pm at Christ Church Cathedral on the Circle. On street parking is available, or you can use EZ park on Pennsylvania (cash only).

## Among Friends (cont.)

At **Retired Pastors Gathering**, May 22, they were talking about the decline of the Area Meetings in WYM. Area meetings were set up in the 70's. The pastors were reminded of Elmer Merrill, who was pastor at several meetings in WYM, the last of which was New Salem. When Quarterly Meetings were laid down in favor of Area Meetings, someone complained to Elmer that they missed the Quarterly Meetings. Elmer is reported to have said, "You know, I told my wife one time that I missed the old spittoon that had been in the middle of the floor. She said, "That's why I moved it." Is this a story for us?



Good news! **Baymont Inn & Suites** has contracted with the yearly meeting to rent rooms at \$62 a night for up to 4 people a room from 7/18-7/21. This includes a microwave, frig, coffeemaker, and a deluxe breakfast from 6-9:30 am. There is even free 24-hr airport transportation for quick get-aways. **YOU MUST CALL** Baymont Inns (317-837-9000) **before July 2** to insure that you get this deal. After that rooms will be released to the general public and reservations will be made on a space available basis.

Room Codes: NDD1=2 Dbl beds/non-smoking; PND2=2 dbl beds/handicap accessible/non-smoking

**Fairfield Young Friends Update** The Younger Young Friends went on their first mystery trip following meeting for worship on April 22. We weren't sure exactly what was going on when we drove to the Quaker Laundromat in downtown Plainfield, got out of the car, had our picture taken, got back in the car and drove to the United Methodist Church and repeated the process. After doing the same thing at Aldi's, we started trying to figure out if there was a pattern going on. When we got to Kentucky Fried Chicken, we figured out we were spelling QUAKER. The last two stops were Edward Jones Investments and Red Robin. At that point, everyone decided we should add an "S," so we went to Sally's Beauty Supplies. Our trip around town ended with lunch at McDonalds. We are looking forward to doing a summer activity and hosting a fund-raiser in the future. *The Fairfield Friend*, May 2012



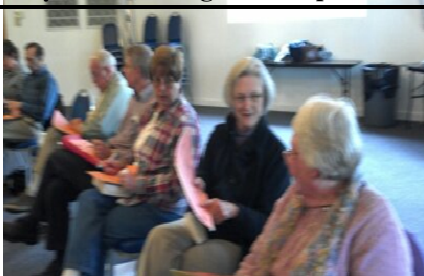
**Coloma Youth** We have been blessed this past year with so many great events and gatherings. Our young people presented an awesome Christmas Musical entitled "Aaron, the Allergic Shepherd" to a full house at the Christmas Eve Program. In February, they served a candlelight dinner to over 60 friends and church family as a fundraiser for going to camp at Quaker Haven. This is a highlight of the year for the young people and they really do a great job serving the dinner! ... Another exciting time for our young people is earning Bible Bucks to spend at the Bible Bucks Market each month or two. It's great seeing them bring food pantry items and their Bibles each week to Sunday School, reading chapters, memorizing verses, and inviting friends to join us on Sunday morning. What a blessing they are to our church and community!! --In a letter from Coloma Friends, May 2012

**Poverty and Possibilities in Indian Country** According to the 2010 census, 1 in 6 people in this country live with an income below the subsistence level calculated by the federal government. Among Native American, the reality is even more harsh. More than 1 in 4 (28%) live in poverty. On reservations, the number rises to more than 1 in 3 (38%). Pushed off arable lands and isolated from transportation and communication networks, Native Americans on reservations are struggling to make a living in unyielding physical, social and economic climates. American Indians and Alaska Natives have a unique relationship with the federal government. The investments that the U.S. now makes (and should make) in Indian Country are part of a trade – for more than 500 million acres of land taken from Native Americans between 1492 and 1934 – more than one fifth of the land mass of the United States. The exchange created a "trust responsibility" for the U.S. government, which was expressed originally in treaties and now in federal statutes. The harsh conditions in much of Indian Country reflect a poorly-kept bargain and forgotten obligations. Excerpts from FCNL: "Indian Report," Issue #91, Spring 2012. For more info for bills to support, contact [fcnl.org/nativeamericans](http://fcnl.org/nativeamericans) or call 202-547-6000



92<sup>nd</sup> Annual **Coloma Homecoming and Pastor Appreciation Day** will be held at Coloma Friends Meeting. "We hope to see you for our Homecoming celebration on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Special music will be "Stick with Hymn Ministry." They are a family ministry group affiliated with Nyesville Full Gospel Fellowship and Rockville Christian Church. They love sharing God's word through song interpretation. They use dowel rods (yes sticks) and signing to express the movement of each song that they perform. ... We extend our love and gratitude to Rev. Flanigan for 37 years of leadership and devotion to this little church called Coloma." - In letter from Coloma, May 2012

### A day not to be forgotten – Apr. 21



Executive Committee Retreat at Camp Camby was a day of listening, planning, and sharing.

Ask Pam Wolfe about her Quaker background.



That night (April 21), **Camp Promo** was loud and energetic at First Friends Indy.



Leader Julie Kappas with Aaron Hughs

Our illustrious leaders Aaron Hughs (IYM) and Pat Byers (WYM), both C.E. Directors



Who is this with Luann Heald?



It was hard not moving to the bands "Please Promise" (shown here) and "The Cast and Crew". The bands not only inspired by their music, but by their words of testimony.



Youth Cabinet on the bus to Florida.



This motley kitchen crew kept everyone filled with pizza and soda. It takes a lot of work to host an evening out. Thanks!



**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



**Notes from Pat**

The camp season starts June 10th with Jr. Hi Camp. Please pray for our directors, counselors, campers and staff members. The summer is sure to be "More Awesome"!!!

**Yearly Meeting Sessions Update**

Please remember to register all of your children who will be attending YM Sessions. That will help us to prepare. Pre-registration is due by July 1, 2012.

In this newsletter is a registration form for the Jr. Yearly Meeting and Young Friends and Nursery. Please feel to make copies as needed. You can also register online through the Yearly Meeting website at westernym.net.

You will also find a schedule for the Jr. Yearly Meeting and Young Friends in this newsletter.

**Sandcreek-Azalia**



Fred and Shirley Darling. Fred has come out of retirement while Sandcreek-Azalia considers their new pastor.

Flowers are a gift for the soul as well as the eyes.  
We were given a Kauai for the office.



**Farmers Institute Meeting** near Lafayette, meets the first Sunday every month for worship and business meeting.

Farmers Institute Friends has done a lot of work on the building and plan to do more. As you can see, they have made a place very conducive to worship. The building behind the meetinghouse has been used for housing during the time the Institute was a school, for renting as a home, and during the 1800's, it was station on the Underground Railroad.



**Chicagoland Friends Gathering** (a.k.a. Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting of Friends) is made up of WYM Friends meetings, meetings from northeast Illinois and far northwest Indiana (ILYM), an EFI meeting and a Hispanic meeting. They meet quarterly. In May, they tried a different format. They wanted time for worship, but also more time for Fellowship. Morning was worship time, but after lunch, we broke into 2 groups – one group of discussion; one group of activity. The activity group made protest banners with careful instructions, but with freedom to design. Could this be a model for other area meetings?



**MATERIALS  
DEADLINE  
FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER:  
6/21/12**

*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**

**June, 2012**

- 1-2 **Quaker Haven Father/Son Fishing Retreat**
- 2 **National Road Yard Sale**, Plainfield Friends
- 3 **Orange County Fellowship of Friends**, 6:00 p.m., Beech Grove
- 9 **Finance Board**, 9:00 a.m., Kelly Room
- 10 **Quarterly Unprogrammed Worship Group**, 3:00 p.m., Noblesville Friends Meetinghouse
- 10-15 **Junior High Camp**, Quaker Haven Camp
- 15-17 **Beginner Camp**, Quaker Haven Camp
- 16 **Executive Committee**, 9:00 a.m., Kelly Room
- 17-22 **Senior High Camp I**, Quaker Haven Camp
- 19 **PME Committee**, 9:00 a.m., WYM Office
- 24-29 **Junior Camp**, Quaker Haven Camp
- 27-30 **FUM General Boards**, Richmond, IN

**July, 2012**

- 2-5 **Pastor's Short Course**, Quaker Haven Camp
- 4 **WYM Office Closed for Independence Day**
- 15-18 **Kids Camp**, Quaker Haven Camp
- 19-22 **WYM Annual Sessions**
- 29-Aug 3 **Senior High Camp II**, Quaker Haven Camp

Office Hours will be maintained while office staff is on vacation  
Wanda – June 5-12  
Mary Anne - June 11-15



*Western Yearly Meeting of*

**FRIENDS CHURCH**

203 S. East Street, P.O. Box 70  
Plainfield, IN 46168  
(317) 839-2789

Website: [www.westernym.net](http://www.westernym.net)

**Interim Superintendent**

**Wanda Coffin Baker**

E-mail: [wandawym@att.net](mailto:wandawym@att.net)

Cell Phone: (317) 313-1599

**Director of Christian Education**

**Pat Byers**

E-mail: [patrick.byers.wym@gmail.com](mailto:patrick.byers.wym@gmail.com)

Cell Phone: (260) 571-2406

**Office Assistant**

**Mary Anne Martin**

E-mail: [westernym@sbcglobal.net](mailto:westernym@sbcglobal.net)

**Office Hours**

Monday-Friday: 9 a.m.-12 & 1-3 p.m.

**Address Correction Requested**



**Fairfield Friends Meeting** celebrated the dedication of their new meetinghouse on May 20, 2012. The inside of the new meetinghouse is shown in the picture on the left. The picture on the right shows attendees walking from the old meetinghouse built in 1892 to the new meetinghouse, built in 2012. Fairfield will continue to use both buildings.



# Celebrations



May 27<sup>th</sup> was graduation day at **Amo Friends Meeting**. Bibles were given to two students who had graduated from Junior High. Grandma had brought a poster of their lives to that point.

Since they have no one to play piano or organ, Amo uses a program called “Noteworthy Composer” on their computer. This program allows you to write hymns, add the notes and play the hymn from the computer. Hymns are also available from the program’s files. Amo uses their hymn books with the digital music.

Larry & Sandy Boswell serve Amo Friends Meeting.

