



Western Work

September 2012

News of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church

The True Cross

Bill Clendineng, pastor of Plainfield Friends Meeting

I was leading a group of fifth graders from St. Susanna's School on a history tour through the Yearly Meeting Building and as we settled in the Plainfield Meeting room I asked if there were any questions. One boy asked "If this is a church, why isn't there a cross?" A good question that needed a good answer. I tried to explain, on a fifth grade level, about early Friends concerns with outward symbols that got in the way of experiencing God in a more direct way.

Here is a longer answer to the fifth grader's question:

There might not be an outward representation of a cross in our building, but there is a cross in Friends worship. It has been there from the beginning. George Fox talks about the cross in one of his letters:

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. ... For Christ redeemed his people out of their vain conversation, purchased them with his blood and is become the Head of the Church.

At the heart of our faith is the concern for a restored relationship with God. Early Quakers, like Christians before them, understood the cross as part of this process of restoration. However, they differed with their contemporaries on how this worked. The most widely held views about the restoration involved external transactions of some sort. The cross had been understood as paying a ransom or payment to Satan for his claims on us, or as a satisfaction of God's standard of righteousness through the death of Christ, or as Christ substituting his life for ours on the cross.

For early Quakers the cross was not just an outward symbol or an external transaction but the inner reality of what George Fox called the "true Cross." Christ allowed himself to be put to death on the cross, so that we can take up our cross and allow all that is outward to be put to death in us. "*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*" (I Peter 2:21-24 KJV)

The crucifixion and resurrection of Christ is a demonstration of the power of God over the power of sin and we experience this power by following Christ to the true cross, the Power of God within.

Let me leave you with a challenge from George Fox:

And keep in the Cross of Christ, the Power of God, that keeps you crucified to the world, that is, dead to the world and the world dead and crucified to you ... Let in the spirit of the world, you let in his god which will crucify the good in you . . . therefore, keep that crucified with the Power of God, the Cross of Christ....



A little bored? Don't forget the **Board Meetings** September 15. for action, hard work, and accomplishment.



It's just the checker

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.

News Among Friends



Quaker Fair at Farmers Institute will be held the first Saturday before Labor Day, Sept. 1st. It highlights the restoration of the Farmers Institute Meetinghouse.

The **Seventh Annual Old-Fashioned Corn Roast and Pot Luck Picnic** will be held September 1, from 3pm to dark. This is hosted by Upper Fox Valley Quaker Meeting at the Howenstine's Pioneer Tree Farm (www.pioneertreefarm.com) and is a meeting of Chicagoland Gathering of Friends.

Bloomington Friends are having a **Heritage Sunday**, September 23rd. The 10:30 a.m. worship service will be followed by a pitch-in menu of old-time or family-favorite dishes. (Bring recipes to share.) The first afternoon session will focus on the early schools and Friends Academy in Bloomington. Then there will be two workshops: "Scrapbook Your Family Tree" (Bring a Picture of one of your ancestors.) and "Search Online for Your Family Roots." Please RSVP to Sarabeth Marcinko (765-597-2338 or marcinko@marcinko.net) for more information or to indicate your workshop preference.



Hazel Dell Friends will hold a **Blessed Assurance Homecoming** on September 9th. Worship will be held at 10 am, with a pitch-in lunch at 12. A program of special music will be presented at 1:15 by Esther Dotson Conor and Family.

Quaker Day Festival at Plainfield Friends is on Saturday, September 22. Craft vendors and community booths will be set up along the sidewalk beginning at 8 am. The Community Parade will start at 10 am from the Middle School. Plainfield Friends will start serving Pork Chops, Lamb burgers, hotdogs and more at 10:30 am in the church basement. The Chamber of Commerce car show will be out on the lawn from noon to 5.

USFW MEETINGS

WYM/INYM USFW **Fall Retreat** will be Sept. 10-11 at Quaker Haven. It begins with registration at 1pm on Monday, and ends after lunch on Tuesday. Cathy Harris, Assoc. Pastor at Spiceland Friends, will be the leader. Monday evening is Talent Night, so bring something to share. The cost is \$65. Please register by Sept. 3 with Judy Taylor, 2817 W. St. Rd. 38, New Castle, IN 47362 or djtaylor@comcast.net.



WYM **Fall Conference** is September 22 at Fairfield Friends Meeting. Registration begins at 9:30 with the program at 10:00. Jamie Lyon will give a visual interpretation of "Showers of Blessings." Business meeting will begin after lunch. There will be some USFW books available during registration and lunch, since they did not arrive at Yearly Meeting. Lunch will be \$8. RSVP lunch reservations to Sarah Lookabill by 9/8/12 at 317-839-4712 or slookabill@att.net.



Bloomington Friends Meeting has been given a **7-night time share in Orlando, FL** for the dates of September 15-22. It is a 2 bedroom unit with full kitchen and lots of amenities. (no smoking, no pets) If you would be able to use this, or know someone who could, please contact me as soon as possible for more details. We would not expect full value but would appreciate a donation to the meeting. Sarabeth Marcinko, clerk marcinko@marcinko.net 765.597.2338 (*editor's comment: A creative way to raise funds!*)

In May Young Friends at Kokomo First Friends packed many **Buddy Bags** for Kokomo Urban Outreach's Project EAT (Everyone Ate Today). Over 900 bags of food were sent home each week with children in many elementary schools in Howard County. Good job, kids!

ATTENTION Artists, Photographers, Stitchers, Quilters, China Painters, Doll Makers, Wood Carvers and any other type of Crafts Enthusiasts: The **2013** sessions of Western Yearly Meeting will be about using our gifts. There will be opportunity for displays of YOUR handiwork as part of the celebration of gifts. Be thinking and planning your work so that we may all enjoy the fruits of your labors as you use the gifts that God has given you.

Among Friends (cont.)

First Friends Meeting of Indianapolis was pleased to welcome **new pastor, Ruth Ann Tippin** on Sunday, August 19, 2012.

Tippin arrived at First Friends from West Branch Friends Meeting in Iowa, where she served as pastor for more than seven years. A recorded pastor with Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends, Tippin is a welcome addition to the First Friends family. She graduated from George Fox College, with a major in elementary education and a minor in music. She has a master's degree in education from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA and is part of the ACCESS Program at Earlham School of Religion. She is a writer and speaker and has served as president of the Iowa Yearly Meeting Pastor's Association. Tippin and her husband, Jon, are lifelong Quakers. They have two grown sons and two grandchildren.

Buy a brick. Quaker Haven Camp is creating a walkway of memories to vesper point. This will allow easier access for everyone, as well as be a means of fundraising to help with general operating costs. 4"x8" brick=\$100. 8"x8 brick=\$250. Bricks will be engraved in all capital letters. For more information, visit www.quakerhaven.com or call 574-834-4193.



Have you seen how the blue 'cornflower' weeds have sprung up around the church yard as the grass dries around it? It almost looks like somebody planted them, so we would not feel so forlorn about everything getting brown.

The blue flowers are bright and vivid, and they stick their heads up high with hope. "Somebody" did plant them. God did that! The message for me is that God still wants us to have life and to have it abundantly. That is why Christ said He came to earth.

The new life that comes may not look the way we expected or be the way it always has been. But there is still good life to have all around us.

- Kathy Luethje, pastor at Bloomingdale Friends



Coming in October – **Parker J. Palmer**, a Quaker writer, speaker, and activist who focuses on issues in education, community, leadership, spirituality and social change will be at the CTS on Oct. 23. He will be the main speaker at the CTS (Christian Theological Seminary) Petticrew Faith-in Action program. For more information contact CTS at 317-931-4224 or LifeEd@cts.edu

40 Days of Prayer

The Spirit is stirring within all of our hearts. 40 Days of Prayer is a devotional program to gather Friends all over the world to listen and respond to the One who calls us. What might be the possibilities that will arise from our collective heart?

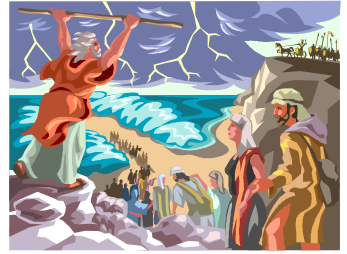
All of us together will make this program a success. Following are some steps you might consider:

- 1.) Create several small groups within your congregation-First Day/Sunday School classes or small study groups.
- 2.) Order enough booklets for each person participating. The *40 Days of Prayer guide/devotional booklet* by calling the FUM office (765-962-7373) or on-line (ww.fum.org/shop). Your purchase of the booklet for \$5.00 will provide a free copy to another Friend around the world who might not otherwise be able to afford one. (Digital copies will be available to download, free of charge at a later date.)
- 3.) Have each group prepare for the *40 Days of Prayer* by studying the book, ***Come Pray*** (available at our online bookstore, www.fum.org/shop)
- 4.) Study and pray together in your groups starting 10 October using the booklet, *40 Days of Prayer*, as your guide.
- 5.) Participate in the *Day of Discernment*. Join together in worship and reflection to consider and respond to a common set of queries focusing on the future of Friends United Meeting.

–Annie Glen, Interim Communications Manager/Editor, FUM

Thoughts from Dr. John Williams, General Superintendent, **2012 Outgoing Epistle, Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region.**

“Dr. William s’ message was on Exodus 14 and our “Dealing with Red Sea Moments.” At many times we find ourselves feeling stuck/trapped in situations, as the Israelites in the book of Exodus. Dr. Williams told us that 1) God wants us to cry out to him. Many times, we blame the wrong person or have a distorted view of history. 2) God wants us to stand down. We need to stop being angry, fussing and fuming about situations. The Lord will fight the battle for us, so we need to stand down and let him fight for us. 3) God wants us to move out. God has something for us to do and we need to get ready to start moving. There is something for you to do and you can do something. 4) God wants us to look out. We need to be looking for the blessings that God is providing and is intervening on our behalf. Dr. Williams cautioned us to be careful not to have repeated blindness to what has happened to us and we need to learn from our past.”



There is a “**Peace Pipe**” at Indianapolis First Friends each Sunday for collecting funds for the Heifer Project. The Peace Pipe is a long plastic tube that can hold 480 quarters, or \$120. 480 quarters is enough to purchase a goat, sheep, or pig than can provide milk, meat, muscle-power, manure, materials, money, and motivation for a family living in poverty.

Indy Artists' Peace Project's Community Concert,

Saturday, September 15th, 7:00 PM, @ First Friends Meeting (3030 Kessler Boulevard East Dr., Indianapolis, IN) ~ An artistic celebration of peace & social justice, featuring music, poetry & storytelling. Special Guest: Dan Henkel (folk/classical/fingerstyle guitarist and impresario of the Indy Folk Series.) Other performers will include Linda Lee (poet), Sam Carman & Sylvia Andrews (music), Michelle Gussow (storytelling), Catherine Swanson (poet) and more. FREE admission for all. FREE refreshments. Presented by Indy Artists' Peace Project. For more info e-mail indyartists@aol.com, or call (317)872-2155

Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) Workshops

First Friends Meeting, Richmond, Indiana is hosting two ‘basic’ **AVP Workshops** this fall. The first is **Fri., Sept. 14 to Sun., Sept. 16**, the second is **Fri., Oct. 5 to Sun., Oct. 7**. The cost of the workshop is \$40.

AVP workshops use the shared experience of participants, interactive exercises, games and role plays to examine the ways in which we respond to situations where injustice, prejudice, frustration and anger can lead to aggressive behavior and violence. If you are interested in attending either of these workshops, please contact **Aaron Nell** at nellaaro@gmail.com or 765-977-9367 to register.



Intern Mission Experience in NYC

The Interns and I had a wonderful experience on our recent trip to New York City. I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you all a little bit about it.



Our first service was at Brooklyn Teen Challenge. This is a residential rehab facility that helps people tap into the power of Christ to break the chains of addiction. They have a chapel service every week that we had the privilege of leading. As a part of the worship, each of the Interns (Sarah Medlin, Nathan Pedigo, Andrew Heald) gave testimonies about how God is working in their lives and how He is using them to further His kingdom. They did a fantastic job!



The next two days we worked with the New York City Relief Bus. This is an organization that draws from Matthew 25 in answering Christ's call to feed and clothe those who have found themselves in need. Our job was to serve food, and pray with those who came to accept the food we had to offer. We found this challenging, but insightful. Stepping out and striking up conversation with complete strangers is not easy...especially when there is a language barrier, as was the case much of the time. God was faithful in helping us to see His hand in meeting people's needs.



Our last day we visited QUNO (Quaker United Nations Office). There, we learned about some of the work Quakers are doing around the world to help find alternatives to violent conflict. One of the key actions of QUNO is to give space for intentional, "off the record" conversation between influential people who can work towards the mission of peace.

We also spent some time seeing New York City and visiting some popular sights. Each Intern was given the charge, at some point during the week, to be our navigator. It was their job to lead us to the right subway trains and get us where we needed to go. Again, the leadership they each showed was impressive.



Obviously, this is a short synopsis of our time. If you would like to know more, please contact one of the Interns, as I am sure they would love to tell you about their experience.

**MATERIALS
DEADLINE
FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER:
9/21/12**

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

September, 2012

- 1 **Chicagoland Friends Fellowship**, 3:00 p.m.-Dark
- Quaker Fair at Farmers Institute**, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- 4 **Training & Recording Meeting**, 10 a.m., WYM Office
- 9 **Hazel Dell Friends Homecoming**
- 10-11 **WYM/IN USFW Fall Retreat**, Quaker Haven Camp
- 13 **Interchurch Regional Church Leaders**, 8:00 a.m.
- 15 **WYM Board Meetings**, Plainfield
- Indy Artists' Peace Project's Community Concert**, Indy First Friends, 7:00 p.m.
- 18 **Pastoral Ministry Excellence Mtg**, WYM Office
- 22 **WYM USFW Fall Conference**
- 22 **Quaker Days**, Plainfield Friends
- 23 **Northern Area Meeting**, 6:00 p.m.
- Heritage Sunday**, Bloomington Friends



Western Yearly Meeting of

FRIENDS CHURCH

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Address Correction Requested