

March, 2013

Western Work

*News of the Western Yearly Meeting
Of Friends Church*



**3—Central Area Gathering,
Indianapolis First, 6:00 p.m.
West Central Area Meeting,
West Union, 4-7 p.m.**

**5—Property Trustees Meeting,
WYM Office, 9:30 a.m.**

**7—Northern Area Meeting, New
London, 7 p.m.**

**9—Fairfield Friends Yard Sale,
9 a.m.-3 p.m.**

**5K Sap Run, 1 Mile Sap stroll,
Pancake breakfast, Quaker
Haven Camp**

**12—PME Sustainability, WYM
Office, 9:00 a.m.**

**Nominating Committee, Kelly
Room, 1:00 p.m.**

**Program Committee, Kelly
Room, 3:30 p.m.**

**14-17—FWCC Section of the
Americas, Morgantown, IN**

**16—Administrative Council,
Russiaville, 9:30 a.m.**

**21—Communication Commit-
tee, WYM office, 9:30 a.m.**

**23—Youth Cabinet at West
Newton**

**29—WYM Office closed for
Good Friday**

Easter Meditation

Susann Estle-Cronau, Pastor of Hopewell Friends

I approach the Easter season every year with trepidation. I have very mixed feelings concerning the cross—or, The Cross. The Roman means of execution was horrific, and there are times when I choose to wear one as a piece of jewelry, it lays heavy on my heart, literally. I remember the unimaginable pain Jesus and so many others of his time experienced, and I shudder. I question God. I ask, “Why? Why did it have to be this way? Aren’t there other sacrificial means that would have been acceptable?” When God let’s me know this answer, I’ll pass it along.

Other times, when I wear a cross, I feel paradoxically unconditionally loved. I feel the enormity of the Creator, of the Trinity. I comprehend there’s a mystery of my faith I can’t understand or explain, but only experience as a child of God. Jesus chose an unfathomable path, chose to give

up his life for others, even while we cause others pain, destroy relationships, or in other words, sin. And so I peruse my collection of crosses and wonder, “How does my heart feel today? Of what



is this a symbol today? Is this a symbol of my faith, or it is a symbol of the pain of the world?”

Hopewell Friends has a wonderful tradition which has helped my heart. Every Easter morning, every member of the congregation brings a large bouquet of flowers with them to the meeting. Standing in the meeting room is a four-foot tall

wooden cross, wrapped in chicken wire. One by one, we pass by the cross and transform it as we place one flower at a time around the cross. We transform the plain, dead, dull brown cross into a living and vibrant symbol of our faith. The congregation takes as much time as we need to add the flowers, and celebrate the time we come together as a community to create a new symbol.

When we leave the meeting house for the day, we place the cross outside for all to see. The cross is no longer just pieces of hardware, but a bouquet of beauty. The cross is not draped in a shroud, but vibrant with the colors of creation. The cross is no longer dead, just as Jesus is no longer dead. My heart no longer feels hard, just as the cross no longer looks hard. I rejoice in the beauty of the Lord.

Monthly Meeting News



Don Perry, pastor of Marshall Federated Church received the **Man of the Year** award for Parke County this month. While in Tangier Meeting, I asked why Don received

the honor. They referred to his ministry with the entire community, not only in the church. People in the community feel free to call on him with their needs. Don, himself, said he has given 331 funerals since his arrival at Marshall Federated in 1986. We congratulate Don for his recognition, and are proud to have him working among us.

Chicken/Beef & Noodle Dinner at Kokomo First Friends Meeting (1801 Zartman Rd.) on Saturday March 9 from 4:00-7:00 p.m.. The cost is \$7.50 for adults, \$3.50 for children 3-10, and free for children under 3. Desserts are \$1.00 and carry-out is available. Half of the proceeds will go to Kokomo Urban Outreach.



The Chicagoland Friends Gathering, Save the Date! On Saturday, April 20, 2013, North Side Friends will be hosting the Chicagoland Friends Gathering at the Admiral at the lake, a Kendal retirement community, 929 Foster Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60640. The theme will be "Dancing on the Edge of Time: Maturing in the Spirit."

Those interested in finding out more about Chicago Friends School can begin the morning with a 9 a.m. "beginning of life" tour of the school, at 1246 W. Thorndale, Chicago.

The full gathering will convene at 10 a.m. in the Lighthouse Lounge, the 14th floor meeting room of the Admiral. Our morning activities, still in the planning stage, will include coffee, conversation, music, silent worship, and presentations centering on the

theme "Dancing on the Edge of Time."

A potluck lunch will be followed by a short business meeting. In late afternoon, interested Friends may take a look at celebrating "life at the end of life" with a tour of the Admiral which uses a Quaker form of governance. For more information, contact Bonnie McKeown at barrelhouseconni.com.

Mooreville Friends Meeting recently received into membership (if I counted correctly) eight new members. They included Linda Sutter, who was a member of **Bridgeport Friends** before it was laid down.

Mooreville Friends are having a beach party in their basement! Let's hope it has nothing to do with the current rains. Actually, they are beginning the new season of **Kid's Club** with youth as leaders.



Finally! It's time for a **Yard Sale!** For those who have been going through withdrawl because of the end of the Yard Sale Season, **Fairfield Friends** will have a yard sale at their meetinghouse on Saturday, March 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.. All proceeds will go to **Right Sharing of World Resources.**



Yearly Meeting News

Russiaville Friends (270 E. Main Street, Russiaville, IN 46979; phone 765-883-5280) will host the next **Administrative Council Meeting** on Saturday, March 16, 2013. Registration will begin at 9:00 EDT. With the meeting following at 9:30 a.m.

Russiaville Friends USFW Friendship Circle will be serving the following for noon meal: Pork Loin, Hashbrown casserole, Green beans, Applesauce Jello Salad, Rolls, Homemade Pies, Tea, Coffee and Lemonade for a cost of \$8.50 per person. Light refreshments will also be served

during registration. Childcare is available by contacting Russiaville Friends. Please contact the WYM office if you will be unable to attend the meeting. Hope to see you there!



from students who attended **Winter Sneak** teen retreat a Quaker Haven Camp on February 8-10. In all about 80 students and 20 adults attended to hear several

“Had an amazing weekend.” God...has a never ending love.” “Literally been the best weekend of my life.” These are all Facebook/Twitter quotes

speakers and be led in worship by Anderson Kursonis and his band.

The theme was Storyline, and the speakers related well to the students by telling a

piece of their own story. This then gave the students a place to start thinking about and eventually having an avenue to tell their own stories

Of course, there were great games and activities too. Gaelic Soccer, Quiddich, and of course the mainstay, Four-way Kickball were all a hit. All attenders also enjoyed the frozen lake-front and some free time to reconnect with Camp friends or even make new connections.



Monthly Meeting News (Continued)

On Sunday, March 17, at 3:00 p.m., Fairfield Friends will host **Velinda Landaverde, Executive Secretary of Evangelical Friends Churches in El Salvador**. She will speak about her experiences with AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project) in El Salvador. All are welcome.

From **Downers Grove Friends**: Garnet Fay reported on Downers Grove cooperation with the IL Conference of Churches. ILCC is preparing for a drive to not only address the Pentagon budget, but also work on curbing gun violence in the city and state. Chris Kennedy reported to the ILCC a program called "Top Bucks", working to set up more options for affordable food to "food deserts" in urban areas. For more information, contact Garnet Fay at egarnetfay@yahoo.com.



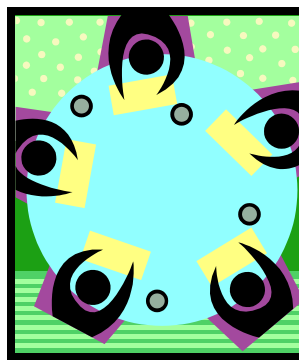
The **57th Street Meeting of Friends** Annual Newsletter reported that "The number of children present in the Meeting continues to grow both by birth and newly attending families. Currently under the care of the Meeting there are 16 children ranging from 4 months to 17 years old, 12 of them between the ages of 3-12. This growth has resulted in the need to buy a new, larger area rug to accommodate floor seating of First Day School (FDS) programs as well as a new 8 ft. banquet table for additional craft space." We rejoice with you on your growth! Their annual newsletter is on the table at the WYM office entrance.

Yearly Meeting News (Continued)

West Central Area Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 3 from 4-7 p.m. at West Union Friends, 2038 W. SR 42, Monrovia, IN 46157. Business will begin at 4 p.m., with a pitch-in meal at 5.

Sarah Lookabill will present "the Family Promise Program" at 6 p.m. The Family Promise Program is an established program that is just now being introduced to our local area to help connect the care, concern, and resources of local churches to assist local families out of

homelessness. For more information, contact Della Stanley-Green, West Central Area Clerk



Central Area Council will meet on Sunday, March 3 at 6 p.m. at First Friends in Indianapolis. It will begin with a chili supper.

Northern Area Council will meet at New London at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 7

News from Around the Globe

This past Sunday, fourteen people from Indianapolis First Friends visited the **Hindu Temple** on German Church Rd. as an **interfaith youth activity** (we were also joined by some students from Indiana Wesleyan). Maltie Maraj arranged for our visit and we were warmly welcomed by the congregation.

Eight of their young people gave us an informative tour, presented a power point presentation on Hinduism and Indian culture and invited us to stay for lunch. We

were impressed with these young people and their interest in their religion and preserving their culture all the while being teenagers attending Carmel High, Fishers High and other area schools.

They described their religion as a complex monotheistic one. Yet they spoke the language of seeking the Truth and following a life journey to understand God. The different shrines they have are representations that offer a life journey to

understand God, but they do not worship these symbols.

I loved how one person described this in terms of our modern day technology. When we talk on a cell phone, we are not having a conversation with the phone but the person on the other end. The cell phone is purely the means of transmission. There are many ways of transmission to God, but we are all seeking that connection, that relationship that is life changing. We felt the Divine's presence with these friends and gained an appreciation for their path. -*Beth Henricks*

A Seminar of Friends Decision Making will be held at the Friends Memorial Meeting in Muncie on Saturday, March 9, beginning at 9:30. Jay Marshall is the keynote speaker. The first session focuses of Friends beliefs, and how our process is driven by our theology. The second session is a time of more practical Q&A directed at a panel of clerks, with Margaret Frazier, Marlene Pedigo, and others. Lunch will be cooked and served by Iglesia Amigos.

This event will be useful for clerks, representatives, members of committees, and anyone



else who is interested in what Friends believe, and how it applies to the way our meetings function.

Please RSVP to Friends Memorial Meeting at 418 W. Adams St., Muncie, IN 47305, 765-288-5680, or email at friendsmemorial@sbcglobal.net.

IPCUM Closing. You are invited to the closing ceremonies of the Indiana Partners for Christian Unity and Mission, Saturday, April 6 at 11 a.m. It will be held at the Allisonville Christian Church, 7701 Allisonville Rd., Indianapolis.

There will be displays of the work IPCUM has done, lunch, a time of memories and a worship service with Michael Kinnamon, guest speaker.

Please RSVP by March 22 to juli@iquest.net

Winter Retreat

Winter Retreat was held on Saturday, February 23, led by Della Stanley-Green. The theme, “COMMUNITY: Living in Harmony with One Another” (I Peter 3:8), invited us to “spend some time reflecting on the type of community that God is calling us to build.” To that end, Della offered thoughts based on the reading of Thomas Kelley’s essay “Blessed Community” in Testament of Devotion, as well as other resources listed for us. She provided a nifty tri-fold paper to key our thinking and note taking throughout the day. Small group discussions



in both morning and afternoon allowed for us to “move towards deepening the relationships within our faith communities.” Important words for our consideration included notice, articulate, identify, commit, openings, barriers, and practices.



The first small group session used the *Examen of Self* process with the following questions . What was it like when I experienced the ‘blessed community’? What was it like when I experienced the opposite of ‘blessed community’? For what moment am I least grateful?

At the end of the second small group, we were encouraged to take at least 15 minutes to pray for: Each one in our group/Our Meetings/Western Yearly Meeting/Meetings that have left Western Yearly meeting/FUM, Church throughout the world/Friends in Kenya/Our enemies/AND anything else that the Holy Spirit brings to you!

In conclusion, we were challenged as to how we intended to share our own experiences here. So, for the benefit of those who could not attend, I am writing this very brief review of the day, so



that you will have some idea for what a **blessed** opportunity it was. Ample time was allowed for lingering in conversation over morning refreshments and non boxed lunches.

THANKS to ALL for a most enjoyable and thought-provoking experience in COMMUNITY building. The Message translation of I Peter 3:8 sums it up best: “Be agreeable, be sympathetic, be loving, be compassionate, be humble. That goes for all of you, no exceptions!”

Friends United Meeting General Boards were held Feb. 6-7 in Richmond, IN at Quaker Hill. Six members of WYM were there in various capacities.



We talked about:

- The Kaimosi Hospital being offered to a for-profit institution;
- Getting the shops in Ramallah built and under the control of the Friends Schools;
- Selling the land in Belize to a responsible buyer.

Each consideration is accompanied by many questions and decisions. Two strengths of the Board are multiple viewpoints and varied expertise.

North American Ministries is considering programs for “Unleashing the Power of Your Meeting/Church”. You will hear more about these programs in the future. NAM also set up a task force to develop a workshop for Young Friends and Young Friends leaders “Bridging Gaps: Experiencing Sabbath Rest” will be at Quaker Hill on Sept. 20-22, 2013.



Micah Bales, FUM Communications and Web Specialist is seeking volunteers to help him on the web. Contact him at micahb@fum.org.



Although **Tangier Friends** is a programmed meeting, they do not have a pastor. They have developed a system for speakers. Every 2nd and 3rd Sunday, MJ Brown speaks. I was fortunate to be there when he and his wife, Marilyn also offered special music. Another person comes on the 1st Sunday. 4th and 5th Sundays are chosen by the worship leader.

You only see the pianist in the picture below, but they also have an organist.

This is a mostly “Brown” meeting, not in color, but in ancestry. It is interesting to see how different families settled in different parts of the YM. One of the monthly activities of Tangier Friends is preparing plates to take to shut-ins. Several plates had been prepared and delivered that week.



Western Yearly Meeting
203 S. East Street
Plainfield, IN 46168

Phone: 317-839-2789
Fax: 317-839-2616
E-mail: westernym@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.westernym.net

Be in Prayer



As we approach **the general Kenyan elections** on March 4, 2013, please pray for the people of Kenya, as they make their choice, remembering the violence that took place at the time of the last election. There are more Quakers in Kenya than anywhere else in the world, and they have been instrumental in building peace since the time of the last election.

-Ruthie Tippin

What an opportunity! **The FWCC Section of Americas** is meeting in Morgantown, IN, March 14-17 at Waycross Episcopal Camp and Conference Center. They invite us to come celebrate FWCC's 75th Anniversary with them. "Let the Living Water Flow! Friends serving God's purposes" will take place on Saturday, March 16. This program will bring the message of the 6th World Gathering that was held in April 2012 in Africa. For more information or to register, go to www.fwccamericas.org.

CD's—At the 2012 WYM Annual Sessions, Chase Slaughter (Fairfield) recorded the Quaker Lecture by Sylvia Graves, the devotions by Colin Saxton, and the Sunday morning worship by Colin Saxton. Larry Mills (Indianapolis First Friends) copied the tapes onto CD's. Thank you both. CD's are available from the WYM office for \$1 per CD, plus \$1 per CD for shipping .