

April 2014

Wanda Coffin Baker, editor
Deadline May 20

Calendar

April

- 4-5 Winter/Spring Retreat, Quaker Haven
- 5 Memorial for T. Canby Jones, Wilmington College
- 5-6 Pastors Retreat, Quaker Haven
- 11-12 Fairfield Fish Fry, 11am-7pm
- 12 Ex. Com Retreat, 9am, at the Graves'
- 17 Ex Com Handbook revision com.
- 18 Good Friday, Office closed
- 19 PME Committee at Office
- 20 Easter - Plainfield-Sunrise Service at Sugar Grove
- 22 WYM USFW Spring Conf. at Bloomingdale Frds
- 23 INHEM Mtg
- 26 Youth Road Show, Fairfield Frds

May

- 1 Financial Trustees. 9:15, Kelley Rm
- 3 Chicagoland Gathering of Friends
- 3 Quaker men workday at QH
- 3 Camp Promotion, at Amboy Frds, 2-4pm

WESTERN WORK

A publication of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church

SINCE 1858



A Personal Lent

Quakers from earliest times haven't been too keen on observing "man-made, not God-made" days or seasons. Quakers generally feel that taking time for reflection and committing to doing better is a good thing whether or not it's "in season" or customary.

Whenever we feel our lives are out of balance, our relationships are cracking around the edges, our priorities are off-kilter, or our relationship with God needs some renewal, that's a good time to take a "personal Lent". This might involve spiritual practices like prayer and fasting, or it might be making a spiritual retreat, seeking spiritual

direction, meditating with the Bible, or taking a walk in nature, for a few examples. But it is an individual decision, not a one-size-fits-all. A teacher of prayer once said, "Pray regularly. Spend a half-hour in prayer every day. When you're really busy, spend an hour."

Whatever practice you follow and however much time you spend, may it renew you and bring blessings on you and your loved ones.

In the Light, Marilee Gabriel, pastor, Valley Mills Friends Meeting



Spiritual Leadership for Spiritual Growth: A Collaborative and Effective Ministry for Your Meeting. This is the theme for Winter/Spring Retreat April 4 & 5 at Quaker Haven Camp. Leaders are Della Stanley-Green and J. Brent Bill. You can still register by calling Quaker Haven Camp at 574-834-4193.

Monthly Meeting News

John Connell was recently awarded the Tom Mullen Scholarship at the Earlham School of Religion. John is a Master of Arts student from Camby, Indiana. He is a member of Mooresville Friends Meeting in Western Yearly Meeting. His motivation to come to ESR stems from his desire to serve Friends through writing, teaching and leadership. "I believe that I can best serve the Religious Society of Friends

in recovering and restoring the original theological vision that made early Friends such a powerful force of change within their surrounding culture," John stated in his application. He hopes to use his ESR education to help Friends fulfill their "original calling as an agent of transformation within the larger culture."

"You can bomb the world to pieces, but you can't bomb it into peace."

-Michael Franti
(as quoted in *Foxtales*)

Indianapolis First Friends invites us for Community Soup on Friday, April 4th, anytime between 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Enjoy soups, bread, and dessert in a relaxed atmosphere. No cooking, no dishwashing, and no charge.

The showing of 'Brother Outsider' - a film telling the story of *Bayard Rustin* has been rescheduled for April 4th after Community Soup at 7:00!

"When an individual is protesting society's refusal to acknowledge his dignity as a human being, his very act of protest confers dignity on him."

Bayard, a black, gay Quaker who had huge influence on the Civil Rights movement and the progress of healing divisions between people led an interesting and important life.

Join us for the film and discussion immediately afterward. We'll be joined by Evalyn Kellum from North Meadow Circle Friends Meeting.



Windows of Gray Friends Meeting in the afternoon sun.

Photo by David Adams

North Central Area attendees were enthralled by the "Presence in the Midst" presentation by Superintendent, Wanda Coffin Baker.

"Presence in the Midst" is one of Friends' most well-known paintings, but little is known about J. Doyle Penrose, the artist.

We also worked on Area Representation to the Yearly Meeting.



An Evening with Carrie Newcomer at Indianapolis First Friends Meeting.

Please join us Saturday May 3, 2014 at 7pm to kick off and celebrate Carrie's newest CD release "A Permeable Life". Tickets are limited for this indoor performance.

You can avoid the online service fees by purchasing your Will Call tickets in advance

at our office (317-255-2485) for \$20.00 during regular business hours, or (if not sold out) \$25 the day of show. Tickets are also available at: <https://www.neptix.com/events/4361> (plus a service fee).

We need a number of people to assist the night of the performance at our meetinghouse, please contact Sara Edgerton or Dan Linginfelter for more detail.

The architect who is working on the conversion to condos of the **old Friends Meetinghouse on 13th and Alabama Street, Indianapolis**, would like to talk to persons who have history of the building. If you know about the building and would be willing to talk to the architect, please contact Norma Wallman (nbwallman@sbcglobal.net or 257-4584).



Fairfield Friends Fish Fry, sponsored by Fairfield Friends Meeting Men's Fellowship, will be April 11 & 12 from 11am-7pm. Eat in or take out, the menu includes fish sandwiches, coney dogs, hot dogs and fixin's



Bloomington Friends' Song Circle will voicify on April 25, 6:30pm at the Bloomington Friends Church fellowship hall and shelter house (if the weather is good). It will be a small tribute to Pete Seeger, who died this year. We won't be doing ALL his songs, but some of them.

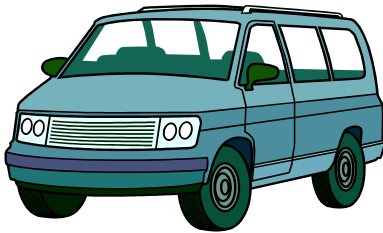
And, of course, whatever you all bring or request to sing. We start at 6:30 and sing til we can't sing 'no more!'

On Friday, March 21, the Indianapolis Peace and Justice Center is hosting a panel discussion on the problem of Mass Incarceration at Glendale Library, from 1pm to 4:30pm.



Yearly Meeting News

The 2014 Outreach Board Special Project goal is to raise \$10,000 toward the purchase of a van for the Belize Friends School. Currently, the school has to rent a van whenever they want to do a field trip and this costs several hundred dollars each time. This is a project that can be a lot of fun for local meetings. Kids can easily be involved. We have paper vans and flyers available which can be used to help you with fundraising. We also have a LARGE cardboard van which can be "driven" to your meeting to help with publicity or special events. Supplies may be obtained from Sarah Lookabill, slookabill@att.net, 317-839-4712.



At Administrative Council, Dale, Sarah, and Susan are left holding the bags for the Outreach Boards collections of pop tabs, box tops, pill bottles, and Campbell soup labels.



Person 1: Why does God allow all this poverty and suffering to exist?

Person 2: Maybe you should ask God yourself.

Person 1: Well, I guess I could, but I'm afraid.

Person 2: Afraid?! Why?.

Person 1: I'm afraid He might ask me the same question

Young Adult Leadership Development Opportunity
 FUM's North American Ministries Committee announces a new Young Adult Friends leadership development program in conjunction with the upcoming FUM Triennial, June 9-15, 2014. The FUM Stewards Program intends to provide a mentoring and service program for selected young

adults between the ages of 18 to 27.

If you know of any young people who fit in this age-range and would be good for this program, please contact Pat Byers for an application. All applications are due by April 18th.

Annual Reports. Nearly half of our meetings have sent in their State of Society and other annual reports. Are you among them?

Did you notice that there is no meeting financial report? Board on Finance deleted this report because it wasn't used. I have gotten some feedback about how the reports were useful and a wish that they would be once again included in the minute book. What do you think?

Conversation quoted in WYM USFW *Foxtales*, from RSWR.

From March Administrative Council notes:

1. On-line Registration for WYM Yearly Meeting Sessions will begin on May 1. WYM Board Workshops have been announced and will be included in the Wednesday Updates from the office.
2. Board on Christian Education is developing camp for this summer. The theme will be "Outward" from Phil. 3:12-16. CE has an Education Fund and is looking at its parameters.
3. Ministry Development and Nurture has a new Scholarship Grant program for non-pastoral persons who would like to attend out of town workshops, seminars, youth events, etc. For more info see the www.westernym.net.
4. The Outreach Board is grateful to Friends throughout the Yearly Meeting and from funds from a bequest held at Vermillion Quarter for a total of \$14,922.12 for the FUM field staff salaries.
5. Board on Peace and Social Concerns reported a full slate once again last year.
6. Board on Christian Ministries & Evangelism is planning the Winter/Spring Retreat and Pastor's Gathering for Apr. 4-6. They hope to soon have a CM&E Handbook which will be useful to Monthly Meeting CM&E or Ministry & Council Committees. Pastoral Ministry Excellence Program will host some events for fund raising this summer. Training and Recording has received the names of 2 people recommended for recording.
7. The treasurer brought the year-end reports. He included a more detailed report of Properties Trustees than we are used to seeing. He also included more simplified reports for the Lilly Grant and Sundesmos so we could perhaps see more clearly how they come out of the Operating Account.
8. Financial Trustees reported a good year for investments. However, they also noted that contributions for the Retired Ministers Funds were down by about \$8,000, and they encouraged local Meetings to consider increasing their contributions this.



Della Stanley-Green walked us through an exercise on talking more openly about finances.



Susan from Coloma Frds holds up one of the adult curriculums available at the WYM Office



Park County Friends Meetings worked together to provide lunch.

9. From Executive Committee: It was approved to relinquish our rights to first refusal on the NE corner property which we have not owned since the 1950's.

10. It was approved that our call to Pat Byers as our Director of Christian Education would continue for two years beginning Aug. 1, 2014—July 31, 2016.

Nominating Committee recommended the appointment of Suzie Mathis (Plainfield) to the Board of Friends Apartment Homes to fill an unexpired term, through 2016. This was approved.

A minute of appreciation was approved for the service of Jeff Jay to FAH Board.

Complete minutes will be printed in the 2013-14 Minute Book, or you may inquire at the office.



West Central Area, as well as North Central and Central Areas, studied three representations of "The Presence in the Midst" by artists J. Doyle Penrose, Fritz Eichenberg, and Ron Waddams.



We all like to eat, but what is a Mission Meal?

Once a month Members of the **Plainfield Friends Mission Meal committee** plan and prepare a home cooked meal, including an entree, vegetable, salad, dessert, and beverage. It is served on the second Tuesday of each month in the dining room at the **Friends Apartment Homes**. Residents of the apartments, members of the meeting, and others are welcome to make a reservation by



signing up at the Apartments or by calling there at 839-7846. Please call by the previous weekend. Where else can you find such a well-rounded meal, served in such friendly surroundings for \$5.00? What a bargain!



The idea of the Mission Meal was formed by members of the Plainfield missions committee and it has continued for over four decades. The profit from these meals has gone to Friends Indian Missions.

Quaker Men,

Please mark your calendars for a work day on Saturday May 3rd. at Quaker Haven. There is always much work to be done in getting the camp ready for camping season. This is a day of service that we can all perform. Feel free to bring your wives along. I'm sure they will have things to do also.



USFW Spring Conference

Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at Bloomindale Friends Meeting

Sylvia Graves will be speaking on "Courage to Serve"

Registration: 9:30; Conference: 10am Offering to go to Kaimosi Hospital

Salad Luncheon,\$7

RSVP by Apr. 14 to Sarabeth Marcinko, 765-597-2338 or Marcinko@marcinko.net

Quaker Haven Happenings – April
Scrap Booking Retreat, Apr 10-13
Christ's Passion Apr 11-13, 18-19
Quilt Camp Apr 24-27



The steps Jesus walked up into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. A recent photo from Laura Stuart, niece of Phyllis Paulsen, 2nd Friends. Taken 3/24/14

Quaker Mystics Gathering

The second gathering of Quaker mystics will be held at Earlham College June 6 – 10, 2014. This time together is perhaps best described as a retreat—a time to come together to support each other's spiritual lives, build community among Friends and discern how those who are gathered might better serve God's purposes. Persons from across the broad spectrum of the Religious Society of Friends have been invited to attend.

"It is our observation that the foundation of Quaker organizations rests in God's hands. While we have different orientations and motions, when in the presence of the One, we connect with each other better. Differences fade while acceptance and love grow. What is important when we join together in this deep place is not a person's role or title, but whether they desire to join with others and spend several days sitting at the Lord's feet ." Gathering Conveners.

Registration form and additional info is available for downloading at whatcanstthousay.org/gatherings.html. A detailed account of the first gathering also can be found at this address. More information about the leading being followed can be found on the blog quakermystics.wordpress.com.



"BUT CHRIST HAS INDEED RISEN AGAIN FROM THE DEAD. THE FIRSTFRUITS OF THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP."
- CORINTHIANS 15:20

WESTERN WORK

Western Yearly Meeting

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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.

The calendar tells us that Spring has begun yet I am waking up this morning with the temperature at 16 degrees. Strangers on the street talk about this winter and lament at its severity and how weary they are of snow and cold. It is easy to fall into a gloom as we stay inside, keep wearing our winter coats and keep waiting and waiting.

Yet, we see glimmers of hope. Some of the early flowers have been brave enough to poke their heads out of the ground. There is much going on beneath the earth that we cannot see. The most important work for growth and rebirth each Spring happens underground beyond our sight.

Friends, isn't this how growth and rebirth happens within our own lives? The breath of God touching our hearts and minds beyond the sight of others. The Spirit of rebirth changing us into a more merciful and loving mother, father, partner, sister, brother, child and friend.

May we open our hearts to the possibilities of transformation within our soil of the soul.

Beth Henricks, CE and Family Ministries Director, Indianapolis First Friends

Noblesville Friends Meetingroom

