

March 2015

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Deadline: 20th of each month

# Western Work

A publication of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church

**A Christian Quaker Community where Faith Encounters Life**



is a solemn religious observance in the liturgical calendar of many Christian denominations that begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, and covers a period of approximately six weeks until April 2. The traditional purpose of Lent is the preparation of belief through prayer, penance, repentance of sins, almsgiving, atonement and self-denial. This event, along with other pious customs, is observed by Christians in the Anglican, Calvinist, Lutheran, Methodist, and Roman Catholic traditions.

Quakers typically don't participate in the customs of Lent. They considered this as an empty ritual and a part of the Church of England that they chose not

to observe. Quakers believe that we should be doing it (prayer, repentance, self-denial) all the time, not just during the season of Lent. Quakers believe if there is something you need to give up in order to be closer to God, then you should/can give it up any time God leads you to do that.

William Penn's father sent Penn to France to learn to be a gentleman, and forget his silly ideas about being a Quaker. When William Penn came back from France, he wore the outfit of the upper class, which included a sword. He asked George Fox how long he should wear his sword. Fox responded by saying *as long as you can*. Penn not only gave up the sword but the other

trappings of being in the upper class in order to pay more attention to God.

John Woolman would not eat a meal that was served by slaves. He believed that he was no better than the slaves and valued slaves as humans, not as slaves. When he gave up the idea of slavery, it cleared his spirit/soul to be closer to God and not cluttered by thinking about people in slavery as less than human.

Giving up something for Lent is not a "rule" but a point of following God. Quakers value their personal relationship with God by allowing the spirit, *that still small voice*, to lead and guide them.

Sue Whitesel, Mooresville Frds, "The Mooresville Friend", Feb. 2015

## Calendar

### March

- 1 West Central Area, Mooresville, 4 pm
- 3 Program Com. , Kelly Rm, 3:30 pm
- 5 Northern Area, Rus-siaville, 7pm
- 6-7 WYM Retreat, Quaker Haven Camp, 6 pm
- 7-8 WYM Pastors Retreat, Quaker Haven, 5:30 pm
- 7 ILYM Spring Continuing Com., Lake Forest Friends Mtg.
- 11 Nominating Committee, Kelly Rm, 2 pm
- 14 Grow Our Meetings, Friends General Conference, Quaker Hill Conf. Center
- 17 Central Area, Valley Mills, 4 pm
- 21 Administrative Council, 57th St. Mtg. 9 am
- 28 Wilson Lecture at ESR



## Administrative Council—March 21—57th St. Meetinghouse

Will Brandt and the Chicago Meetings have encouraged Friends attending Administrative Council on Mar. 21 to stay overnight and visit one of our Northwest Area Meetings on Sunday— 57th Street, Chicago, or Downers Grove.

Watch the [Wednesday Updates](#) for more information.

## Monthly Meeting Moments

Lonnie Valentine, ESR Trueblood Chair of Christian Thought, will be coming to give a program open to the public about John Woolman and Peace on May 3, 2015, at 3 pm, Bloomington Friends Church.

This is done in conjunction with their studies of John Woolman's Journal. Everyone is welcome.



The Ladies of Russiaville Friends USFW Friendship Circle invite you to an event of unparalleled enjoyment: the Annual Dessert Auction with Dale Griffin, auctioneer. The schedule for the day is: 9:30 am Morning Worship; 10:50 am Sunday School; Noon lunch (carry in salads and desserts to add to basic meal. The Auction begins promptly following lunch! Proceeds will be given in support of Quaker Haven Camp. Snow Date: Mar. 15.



Rufus Jones is Coming to Meeting for Worship this March 1! Don't miss this opportunity to hear one of the leading Quakers of the 19th and 20th Centuries at Indianapolis First Friends Meeting. And it won't be the first time... Rufus presented his paper, 'Shall there be a Central Body?' at the Third Quintennial (Five Years Meeting) Conference

of Friends at Indianapolis First Friends in 1897. He has lots to share with us all!



Bob Garris, former General Superintendent of Western Yearly Meeting, is now President of the residents of Sugar Grove Senior Living in Plainfield. There are several WYM people living in Sugar Grove. Bob gives a bible study each week, and has other people who come to him for advice. He may have to retire again.



## Game Changing Impact

Morris Mills (Valley Mills Friends Meeting) is featured in an article in the latest EARLHAMITE (Winter 2015, pp. 46-49), "An Aptitude for Persistence." A 1950 graduate of Earlham, Morris attributes much of his success in state government and

higher education to the lessons he learned on the farm. In April, he will receive the 2015 Charles W. L. Foreman Award, a national honor awarded by the Council of Independent Colleges for the "game-changing impact" of his work as a trustee of the Inde-

pendent Colleges of Indiana. The Foreman Award recognizes board members, trustees or college presidents who have demonstrated "truly exceptional commitment and leadership."



First Friends Indianapolis have been teaching a class to the youth from a curriculum was developed by Vicki Wertz, a member of 1st Friends. They call it Affirmation Class because it seeks to affirm their Quaker identity. Three teachers rotate to teach the class: Ruthie



Tippin, Beth Henricks, and Deb Hejl. They have studied Quaker history and testimonies, meetings for worship and business, etc. This morning they were studying “discernment.” Part of the requirement for class is to attend Meeting for Business and bring a proposal to the Meeting. There has been good response from the youth.



Joshua Brainard, CTS intern to West Newton Friends Meeting uses a study of John to also study the Quaker Faith.

On their web site, they have a set of videos about different aspects of Quakerism. You may want to check it out.



Family Promise is a national organization to help families in crisis to obtain stability and find permanent housing. The families chosen are provided with temporary housing and help from the director in finding jobs and permanent housing. Hendricks County is starting a Family Promise Affiliate on Mar. 1. Churches and organizations that get involved will provide temporary hosting for 1 week at a time, 4 times a year.

Fairfield Friends Meeting will be hosting families for the first time the week of March 8-15th. Our second host dates are May 10th-17th. The host organizations receive training for their part of the venture.

Property Trustees Board of WYM and Plainfield Meeting are discussing using the rooms in the Yearly Meeting part of the basement, and the lunch room and kitchen to host families. For more information, please contact Chase Slaughter or Jim Wilson.

### Pastoral Ministry Excellence



A beautiful Garden Quilt, machine-pieced and hand-quilted by Betty Heshelman of Mooresville Friends, has been donated to benefit the Pastoral Ministry Excellence (PME) Fund. It will be sold via silent auction with first bids (minimum \$500) to be taken at March Administrative Council on March 21 and final bids taken at WYM Annual Sessions in July.



The quilt will be at Administrative Council for you to look at.



Mike and Rita Goss made a good ministry team at Fairfield Friends Meeting. Rita had the children’s sermon, using play dough to talk about how God is constantly molding us. That went very well with Mike’s sermon about growth and change.

During Sunday School, the adults watched a video by Prof. Mark Berkson, “Cultural Literacy for Religion” from The Great Courses (1-800-832-2412).



On Thursday, Mar. 26 at 7:00pm, Fairfield Friends are hosting “a joint presentation by two remarkable persons whose lives are power food for healing and spiritual growth: Creation Spirituality theologian Matthew Fox and former Indiana Poet Laureate Norbert Krapf. They will be reading “Catholic Boy Blues”.

Plans for Western Yearly Meeting Sessions are perking right along.

Lucretia Coffin Mott and John Woolman have put in a reservation for a visit.

Outreach Committee is considering bringing us all together on a work project.

The mad scientists from MD&N have promised to come back.

The Mission Speaker is scheduled for 5pm with dinner and business meetings for USFW and QM following.

More Smores have been requested. (We’ll have to see about that.)

Registration will be out by the end of March.

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David Adams is the On-site Coordinator for Yearly Meeting, and he could really use some help. Please contact David for more info (see Minute Book for contact info on David).

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For those of you staying over night, the Baymont Inn has once again reserved a block of rooms for July 16-19. You must make your own reservation at 317-837-9000 or 1-800-337-0303.

American Friends Service Committee. Erin Polley and members of the local Indiana AFSC program committee are developing a schedule of meeting visitation to raise awareness about AFSC. Any interested meetings are encouraged to contact Erin Polley or Tom Roberts. Please see contact info. in 2014-15 WYM Minute Book.



### 2015 OUTREACH BOARD SPECIAL PROJECT

People cannot live healthy lives if they do not have access to clean water and good sanitation facilities. A child cannot learn when they are hungry. Patients sometimes cannot leave the hospital because they are unable to pay their bill. The 2015 WYM Outreach Board Special Project goal is to raise \$12,000 for Health and Education in East Africa. The money raised will be divided equally among the following three areas: Water and Sanitation in Kenya and Uganda, the Lindi School in Nairobi, Kenya, and Lugulu Hospital in Kenya.

Flyers are available online now, in the latest WYM Update and will also be at the March Administrative Council where more information will be shared about the project.

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Friends Disaster Service has been quiet the last few months due to a lack of disasters. This does not mean that we are not doing anything. We have been working with Indiana Yearly Meeting and Midwest Evangelical Friends to coordinate all of our resources together.

Eldon Studer is the coordinator of all activity at the disaster site. He is our representative to *Indiana Volunteers Active in Disaster*.

Midwest Evangelical Friends has acquired a 28 foot trailer which will be converted into a bunk and shower trailer for the use of any disaster unit. WYM FDS has agreed to purchase the mattresses for the eight bunks.

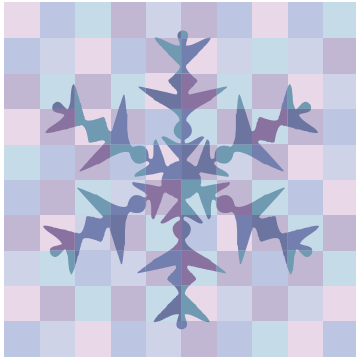
FDS is desperate for volunteers. When a call goes out, we do not have much time to get the word to the volunteers. When you volunteer, your food, lodging, and gasoline are paid. Please help when you can.

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The WYM Parsonage at 207 S. East St. in Plainfield is now for rent. The house has 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, a living room, dining room, kitchen, 2 car attached garage and a full basement - half of which is finished and could be used for another bedroom. The rent is \$850/month plus utilities. If you or someone you know is interested in this house, please contact Mary Anne Martin at [westernym@sbcglobal.net](mailto:westernym@sbcglobal.net) or [317-839-2789](tel:317-839-2789).

Church Women United: Every year, on the first Friday of March, women around the world join together to pray for the peoples of the world. The service is written by women of a different country each year - this year, by the World Day of Prayer group of the Bahamas. Men and women - all people - are invited to join together in prayer. Look in the newspaper for the CWU service nearest you.



### WYM Winter Retreat, March 6-7 at Quaker Haven Camp

The theme of WYM Winter Retreat is “How to Reach New People”, led by Jim Griffith. Jim is a dynamic speaker who is experienced in new church plants and revitalizing existing churches. We hope this will not only be a time of inspiration, but community building with other meetings in WYM.

### Pastor’s Retreat, March 7-8 following Winter Retreat

Jim Griffith will lead pastors, retired pastors, recorded ministers and spouses in a time of exploring ministry style. Jim will also be available for private conversations. In the afternoon a variety of workshops will be led by pastors. Everance (formerly Mennonite Insurance) representatives will attend the afternoon to lead workshops on estate planning and narrative budgets.

The retreats are almost booked up, but this will be a great opportunity. For more information or to reserve a place, contact the office (317-839-2789) or Sue Whitesell (840-5021).



### Chain of Prayer. It’s still not too late.

This year, 76 monthly meetings from Canada, Great Plains, Indiana, Iowa, New Association, New England, New York, North Carolina, Western Association, Western, Wilmington and Nairobi Yearly Meetings have participated so far in the Chain of Prayer.

Prayer Partners may have different dates but are paired together to pray for one another as well as to pray for the different ministries of Friends United Meeting. [Register your meeting today!](#)



On Pentecost weekend – May 22-25, 2015 – we invite Friends to gather in Cincinnati, Ohio for a retreat experience entitled Stoking the Fire. A lightly-scheduled program of extended worship, prayer, plenary speakers, home groups, topical workshops and attention to the movement of the Holy Spirit will allow us to:

- ⇒ experience the power of God’s presence
- ⇒ deepen individual spirituality, passion, and commitment, and build community with others
- ⇒ share stories of personal and corporate spiritual vitality and transformation
- ⇒ energize for work in our specific ministry contexts.
- ⇒ equip spiritual revival of our meetings/churches and communities.

You are invited to stoke the fire. For additional information and registration, please contact [fum.org](http://fum.org).

Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis held its annual meeting on Feb. 5. During business meeting, they updated their articles & bylaws. After supper, they recognized several organizations by awarding a check for their service to the community.





Friends General Conference will present a one-day workshop, Grow Our Meeting, at Quaker Hill Conference Center, Richmond, IN, on Saturday, March 14. Teams of two to three Friends from your meeting will join other Friends from the Midwest. This workshop combines experiential activities, worship sharing, discussions, collaboration, and a takeaway toolkit filled with resources, ideas, and inspiration around inreach, outreach, and integration. "Your meeting's team will leave with a plan for inviting growth and vitality into the life of the meeting.

Fee: \$75 per meeting for a team, (maximum three Friends), includes toolkit for each participant, lunch, and dinner.

**Get more info at: Friends General Conference**, 1216 Arch St, #2B Philadelphia, PA 19107  
215-561-1700; [fgcquaker.org](http://fgcquaker.org)

Construction has begun along the grounds of the upper Friends School in Ramallah.



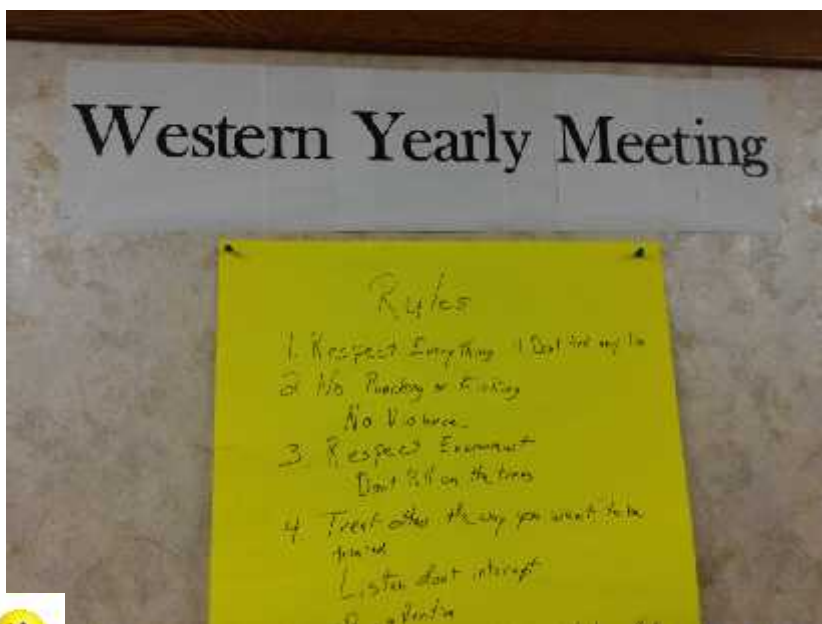
The shops being built will be rented out and bring a constant source of income to the schools. Friends United Meeting and Ramallah Friends Schools have been working for several years to bring this dream to reality.



### 2015 Workcamp Opportunity

HROC (Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities) is offering a Workcamp experience in Rwanda and Kenya. Teams will build a library room/house on the HROC property in Rwanda. In Kenya they will build a peace center. For more info, go to <http://healingandrebuiltourcommunities.org/> or contact Dawn Rubbert via [dawn@aglifpt.org](mailto:dawn@aglifpt.org).

This Bulletin Board in the basement Parlor, or Common Room, had rules from someone under the Yearly Meeting sign. Those rules include: don't chew on your books, don't run with sticks, no biting or bossing. All appropriate rules for Yearly Meeting.



# Western Work

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## ***Purpose***

*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 co-  
operative ministries.*

*Through various expressions of our  
Christian faith, we strive to inspire minis-  
try and the release of gifts of leadership.*

## God Hasn't Retired

God hasn't retired, you know. He's as busy now as he's ever been. But until you see it with your own eyes, it's tough to have a vibrant faith. God can seem distant or impersonal.

God IS active in our everyday lives...we just have to learn to look. And we have to make it a habit to keep an eye out for the daily overwhelming evidence that God is doing great things all around us.

We encourage kids and adults to look for God Sightings—everyday clues that God is present, passionate, and power-

ful. A God Sighting is simply an acknowledgment that God has done something. It is giving God credit where credit is due. It's developing a God-focused view and a grateful heart.

**Mooreville Friend,  
Kid's Club, studying  
"Thailand Trek"**



*"I'm giving up Google for Lent."*

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