



July/August 2016



WESTERN WORK

A Christian Quaker Community where Faith Encounters Life

Since 1858

From the Least to the Greatest

We moved to the farm where we now live in 1960. When spring came, we found that the yard had been neglected and was full of weeds and dandelions. We hoed and pulled and dug weeds and dandelions and still they came. This was before we had chemicals to kill the weeds. As our farming operations changed, fences were removed and the yard area increased—thus more dandelions.

Years later came a long, very cold and snowy winter with many nights 20 degrees below zero. It seemed that spring would never come. When spring came, it was still cold, with piles of dirty snow in various places in the yard and fields. One day, I was taking my kitchen peelings to be tossed in the field to be eaten by the birds. As I passed by a very large pile of dirty snow, I looked down, and there at the edge of that dirty snow was—yes, a beautiful yellow bloom with green leaves, a dandelion!! A sign that warmer weather would soon come. How amazing that our God puts beauty in unexpected places to help us realize that our hope is in Him. How amazing that our experiences change our outlook of things we once thought ugly and unwanted to become something beautiful—even dandelions.

When our walk with God becomes closer and more dear, we find many things we desired are no longer important—even a yard free of dandelions. We are reminded of the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:28, “consider the lilies of the field, how they grow, they toil not, neither do they spin, and yet I say unto you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”

God’s creation is a beautiful work from the tallest mountain to the smallest dandelion.

How awesome is our Lord, the almighty God and His great love for each of us!!

~ Louise Lamb, New Salem Friends Meeting



Calendar

August

- 2 Friends Apartment Home Board, 7pm at FAH
- 5 WYM Retreat Planning, Mooresville parsonage,, 1:30pm
- 6 Sandcreek-Azalia Hog Roast, 4-7pm.
- 7 Orange Co. Fellowship, at Lick Creek Frds, 6pm meeting; 7pm carry-in
- 9 Training and Recording, Drake Room, 1:30pm
- 13 Quaker Haven Board
- 12-14 Quaker Leadership Conference, Earlham School of Religion
- 18 Property Trustees, Office, 7pm
- 19 IN Friends Committee on Legislation presents “Quakers—That of God in Everyone”, 7pm in the Parlor of Indianapolis First Friends
- 20 Quaker Haven Golf Scramble
- 27 Chicken BB Q at Valley Mills

WYM Board Day has been permanently moved to the 2nd Saturday in September (until we change it). Board Day will be September 10, 2016, with coffee, conversation and donuts at 8:30am; worship at 9am; and business beginning at 9:30am.

Western Yearly Meeting Sessions Notes, July 14-17, 2016

September

- 2-5 Family Camp, Quaker Haven Camp
- 5 Office Closed
- 10 WYM Board Day
- 11 Pastoral Ministry Excellence Collection
- 12-13 WYM/IYM USFW Fall Retreat at Quaker Haven Camp
- 15-18 Quakers in Pastoral Care & Counseling
- 17 Quaker Day, Plainfield
- 24 USFW Fall Conference at Kokomo Friends Meeting

Please Put these Dates on Your Calendar—2017

- April 28-30, 2017—WYM Spiritual Retreat with a focus on Church Growth
- April 28-May 1, 2017 WYM Retreat for pastors and families
- July 12-16 Friends United Meeting Triennial at Wichita, KS
- July 28-30, 2017 Western Yearly Meeting, Plainfield
- Oct. 2—World Quaker Day



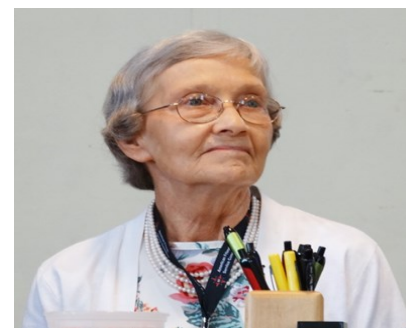
Scott Wagoner, from Deep River, NC, delivered the devotions.



“SO THAT FAITH, TRUTH AND LOVE MIGHT FLOURISH” 2 Thessalonians 1:3



Jonathan Vogel Borne gave the Quaker Lecture, “The Mark of True Discipleship.” He and his wife, Minga Claggett Borne, later gave two workshops. Sylvia Graves introduced them. Sylvia and Ann Carter were the co-clerks of the Program Committee which planned the Sessions’ program.



Pam Sims served for 2 years as clerk of WYM. Thank you Pam, we appreciated your work and visitation of Meetings, Boards, committees, etc.



Sarah Lookabill, giving an Outreach Board report, will be clerk for this next term.



2016 Western Yearly Meeting Report

Western Yearly Meeting (WYM) held its annual sessions from July 14-17, 2016 at Plainfield, Indiana. The theme for the sessions was “So that Faith, Truth and Love Might Flourish” from 2 Thessalonians 1:3 “...thank God for you, because your faith is flourishing and your love for one another is growing.”

Scott Wagoner from Deep River Meeting in North Carolina Yearly Meeting led our devotions each day and delivered the sermon on Sunday. He spoke about the Energy in our Meetings and how to nourish it and make it flourish. He discussed the theme of discipleship which was a continuation of the Spiritual Retreat in April of this past year.

The Quaker lecture was given by Jonathan Vogel Borne. Attendance at this session was larger than it has been in several years. He spoke about “The mark of true discipleship-The flourishing of faith, truth, and love among us”. He and his wife Minga Claggett Borne conducted two workshops. The first was on the Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) which was started in the prisons and is currently being used in New York. The second was on Contentious Conversation, how to approach those with whom we disagree.

A synopsis of the State of Societies was presented. Most feel that we are in good spiritual health but are declining in young people attending our Meetings.

Upon the recommendation of Executive Committee, the Yearly Meeting approved hiring Andrew Heald as the full time Christian Education Director beginning at the rise of Yearly Meeting in 2016 until the rise of Yearly Meeting sessions in 2018. He has currently served as the partial Interim Christian Education Director.



The Financial Trustees have noticed that the Retired Ministers’ Fund is lagging this year. They noted that Estate gifts are being accepted. They have arranged for electronic fund transfers to pay the monthly payments to retired ministers. It was approved that 4.75% of investment funds be distributed for expenses of the Yearly Meeting during the 2017 year.

It was approved that the 2016 Property Trustees’ budget be increased by \$10,000 for the painting of the Yearly Meeting building and the office.



Assessments are expected to increase by approximately 3.8% in 2017.

The operating budget for 2017 was approved.

The Board on Christian Education encouraged Meetings to look at the Affirmation Curriculum that Indianapolis First Friends has developed. For those Meetings needing money to help fund some of the field trips suggested, the CE Board offered to help defray the cost .



As of June 30, 2016 Pastoral Ministries Excellence (PME) has collected \$74,313.00 toward their goal of \$100,000. There are several ways to contribute to this fund.

The Board on Christian Ministries and Evangelism (CM&E) reported the following:

- There will be another Spiritual Retreat for members from April 28-30, 2017 with pastors staying through May 1.
- John Connell from Mooresville Friends has been accepted into the Training and Recording Process.

Continued on Page 4

Yearly Meeting Notes & Pics

- The Board has decided not to issue Pastor's Salary Guidelines this year.
- Part II of the CM&E Handbook: Guidebook for Elders should be out at the November, 2016 Administrative Council.

The Peace and Christian Social Concerns has several opportunities for members in the coming days. A minute was approved that expresses our concern that those in prison for low-level, nonviolent drug offenses are not receiving adequate education and treatment to help them not return to their former addictions when they are released.



Sunday, October 2, 2016 will be World Quaker Day.

A slide presentation was given by Eden Grace for Friends United Meeting (FUM). Several minutes were allowed for Dale Graves to discuss what is happening in Belize.

Margaret Namukoye Nagoya Musalia from Vihiga Yearly Meeting in Kenya gave the mission presentation before the USFW and Quaker Men banquets.

At 9:30 AM on Sunday we were led in worship by musicians from all over WYM. It also included numbers from a young Guatemalan and two daughters from missionaries in Bolivia.



Katherine Murray and Beth Hendricks, both from Indianapolis First Friends, were recorded as ministers at the WYM sessions.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Heshelman, Mooresville representative to WYM, from *The Mooresville Friend*

Fairfield Friends Choir provided special music before the Quaker Lecture



Bonnie McKweon, Chicago Friends, and Margaret Namukoye Nagoya Musalia of Vihiga Yearly Meeting (Kenya)



Young Friends worked beside the adults during one day of Sessions behind the Clerks' Table and as ushers.

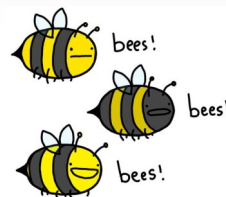


7/14 Thursday	2016	2015
Welcome & Devotional Service	85	60
Morning Business Session	77	
Afternoon Business Session	75	72
Memorial Service	52	42
Quaker Lecture	140	150
7/15 Friday		
Devotional Service	78	61
Business Session	78	75
Conversation Café	54	40
7/16 Saturday		
Devotional Service	91	85
Business Session	83	70
Mission Service	60	82
7/17 Sunday		
Concert of Gifts & Talents	115	108
Worship Service	217	151

← **WYM Attendance Report 2016**

Offerings During Yearly Meeting

Thursday Offering 690.05
 (for Yearly Meeting Sessions expenses)
 PME 88.70
 (for Pastoral Ministry Fund)
 Sunday Morning Retired Ministers 3310.50
 (taken the Retired Ministers Fund)
 Quaker Lecture Books 54.00



Action Items from Western Yearly Meeting In Session July 14-17, 2016

- Approved employing Andrew Heald as full-time Director of Christian Education, beginning at the rise of yearly meeting sessions 2016 through yearly meeting sessions 2018.
- Approved up to \$1,200 for funding expenses of searches for both the Director of Christian Education and for Administrative Assistant positions, to be paid from excess monies in the General Fund.
- Approved distribution from Financial Trustees of 4.75% from endowment for 2017.
- Approved amending the 2016 Budget, adding \$10,000.00 for Property Trustees to assist with needed expenses of upkeep. This was due in part to unexpected expense of dealing with infected and dead Ash trees.
- Approved Board on Finance recommendations for Financial Trustees through December 2019, of Beth Henricks (Indianapolis First Friends) and David Whicker (Hadley), and for Benevolence Treasurer through December 2019, of Sylvia Graves (West Newton).
- Approved the 2017 Budget as presented, with a total of \$227,074, and the Friends United Meeting Goal of \$102, 500.
- Approved for Recording Beth Henricks and Katherine Murray, both from Indianapolis First Friends.
- Approved the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. The incoming Clerk of Western Yearly Meeting is Sarah Lookabill (Fairfield).
- Approved a minute from the Board on Peace and Christian Social Concerns regarding mandatory minimum sentencing for low-level, nonviolent drug offenses.
- Approved the Outgoing Epistles of the Young Friends and of Western Yearly Meeting.

Monthly Meeting Notes

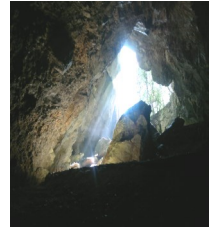


Mooreville Monthly Meetinghouse and the Fellowship Hall have gotten new roofs. They were 20 years old and beginning to have problems



Indianapolis First Friends Vacation Bible School

This week we have been living in a cave in fellowship hall, learning about how Jesus is the Light of the World through our Vacation Bible School program.



This year's theme has felt very Quakerly as we have talked about how God lights our way through the darkness.



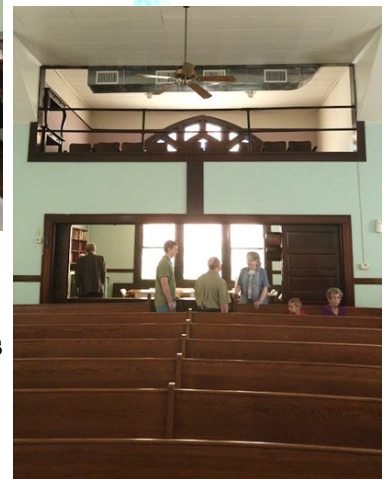
Sandcreek-Azalia recently held their VBS!! We had 13 children who learned how Jesus cares, provides, leads, forgives, and is our Savior now and forever!!!



Indianapolis Second Friends celebrated the 100th anniversary



of worshipping in the building on Lee Street. The old meetinghouse was destroyed by the flood of 1913.



Valley Mills Friends Meeting Hosts 100 Year Anniversary Celebration at our 62th Annual Chicken Barbeque

A tradition since 1954, the Valley Mills Friends Chicken Barbeque will be held this year on Saturday, August 27th.

This year's event is special as we will also be celebrating 100 Years as Valley Mills Friends Meeting. We will have lots of fun and entertaining events throughout the day. Members will be dressed in period "Plain Dress" to represent Quakers from 100 years ago. There will be a petting zoo, pony rides, The Cricket Creek Players Folk Band, Tom Roberts and Friends and much more!

"Best barbequed chicken I've ever tasted! No one cooks it slow like this anymore. I look forward to it every year." Mike McCormick, C.P.A. and barbeque aficionado.

Save the Date! IFCL Film showing! IFCL Presents the documentary film “Quakers – That of God in Everyone”. This 90-minute documentary will introduce you to untold stories of Friends from the American Heartland who profoundly influenced the course of American history, simply by seeing that of God in everyone. The IFCL will be showing the film on Friday, August 19 at 7:00pm in the parlor of Indianapolis First Friends. For more information, contact IFCL clerk Bill Chapman -317-255-4739.

Peace & Social Justice Committee at Fairfield Friends Meeting
August 28 after Meeting for Worship, Peace and Social Justice Committee has invited Congolese Human activists to discuss conflict within the Congo. A film and panel discussion will take place. Please bring a dish for a pitch-in lunch. Congolese food will be offered.

Peace and Social Justice Committee will be hosting a race relation talk on September 17 at 6:00 pm. A panel discussion will include Dr. Lee Formwalt (Historian), Denise Blackburn Abdul-Rahman (NAACP), James Mulholland (Author), Faryal Khatri (Muslim Outreach, ISNA), and David Shaheed (Judge).

Outreach Collection Changes

Please note the following changes in the collections for the WYM Outreach Board. We will no longer be collecting either soup labels or boxtops. As of August 1, 2016 Campbell’s has discontinued the soup label program and the MOWA Choctaw Native Center is no longer participating in the Boxtops for Education program. We suggest that you donate boxtops to your local school systems.



We will continue to collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House and cancelled stamps for Right Sharing of World Resources. Pop tabs may be given to Pam or Lane Sims or the Outreach Clerk. Stamps may be given to the Outreach Clerk or sent directly to the RSWR office in Richmond, IN.

Banquet Foods has started a new program, *Child Hunger Ends Here*, which you may be interested in supporting. This program is similar to the Prairie Farms one where each product has a code which is entered on the Child Hunger Ends Here website. We realize that not everyone uses a computer but maybe you have a friend or family member who can do this for you. Specific brands include: PF Changs, Chef Boyardee, Hunts, Marie Callender, Orville Redenbacher, PAM, Reddi Whip, Snack Packs, Blue Bonnet, Wesson, Healthy Choice, Peter Pan, Van Camps, Rosarita, Wolf Brand Chili, Act III popcorn, Tennessee Farms, Parkay and Libbys.



It was noted that when someone joins meeting, they aren’t joining an organization but are joining a people. The commitment is to people who are willing to share. An hour in silence with others is very different from being silent alone, there is a quality to shared silence and the discipline of listening- you can hear something in the group as you enter it and it enters you.
- Downers Grove Newsletter, 6th Month, 2016

Monthly Meeting Notes

The Great Migration

The Young Friends had a wonderful mission trip to Iowa from July 1st – 10th.

We made excellent time and, since no one accounted for the time change, we had some extra time and Sarah and Dinah pulled a surprise mystery trip over on Chase – The Herbert Hoover Birthplace and Museum. Everyone was so super excited to spend a few hours touring Hooverland and hearing all about how Herbert Hoover was the most excellent President, Quaker, and Human Being by their uber-knowledgeable Youth Group Leader Chase Slaughter.



We arrived at the Mesquakie Friends Center in Tama, Iowa in the late afternoon and met Mac and Bernie MacDonald, the Directors. The Center is absolutely beautiful. They have 40 acres and a lovely pond.

Tama has a 7% Native American population and a 7% Hispanic population. Much of Mac and Bernie’s ministry is centered around youth in the area and they have a very active youth group. The area is plagued by extreme poverty and drug and alcohol abuse.

The young people did an excellent job doing a lot of tasks around the Center. It is also very important to note that one of the main focuses of this trip was not just about work; it was to deepen our own spirituality as well as bond together as

a group . We did a lot of worshiping/reflecting both together and with the wider body of Friends.

Mesquakie Friends meets on Saturday night so we worshiped in their Meetinghouse with Mac and Bernie and about 10 locals. Sunday morning, we accompanied Mac and Bernie to Grinnell Friends Church in Grinnell, Iowa where we worshiped.

From Tama, we traveled to Cedar Rapids to the United Society of Friends Women International /Quaker Men International Triennial. During this time, we got to experience deep times of spiritual renewal and worship. We also got to meet Friends from all over the world and experience forms of Quaker worship that are different than our own. The Young Friends had their own program led by Pastor Anthony Nieuwsma of Grinnell Friends Church. They did a service project and spent time in worship and reflection. The Youth program of the Triennial also enabled the kids to meet young people from Kenya and Ramallah.



WYM Interns plus one gathered at Danville Friends Meeting for a graduation party before they were off to Quaker Haven Camp with CE Director Andrew Heald. Penny Clendinning spent the summer getting ready for her wedding.



Thank you, interns!

Best wishes Penny and Dee J!



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12 People Needed!

Alternatives to Violence Project is looking for 12 people to participate in a Training Workshop in September in the Plainfield area. We will be training volunteers to present Alternatives to Violence in our prison system - the prison system wants us, and we need teams to take this peace curriculum to them.



God has opened a way for us, and we need to walk through together. If you couldn't attend the AVP workshop at Yearly Meeting sessions, ask someone who did.

You will never be alone!

You don't have to make anything up - we will train you!

Your commitment MIGHT be one weekend a month - the more volunteers we have, the less time everyone will need to commit.

QREC—Quakers in Religious Education Consortium met at Quaker Hill Conference Center from June 10-12.

There were workshops, worship, resources and plans for the future. Joy Duncan (57th St. Mtg) and Beth Henricks (Indy 1st Frds) helped organize. QREC moves around the USA, but will be in the Mid-West for another year. It seeks to instill Quaker identity through Religious Education.



Financial Trustees

celebrated Gary Moss and the twenty years of service he has given to Western Yearly Meeting in managing our investments.

The emerald ash bore worked havoc on our Ash Trees. **Property Trustees** reported that 11 trees were taken down plus stumps before Yearly Mtg.



There is a new smiling face in the office. **Carol LaFara** of Mooresville agreed to be our **Administrative Assistant** for Western Yearly Meeting. She has a lot of skills and experience, which we are already enjoying. Stop in and say hi!



West Middleton said they hadn't come to take a picture. They are a source of comfort and strength to each other, as well as many other people who have passed their way.

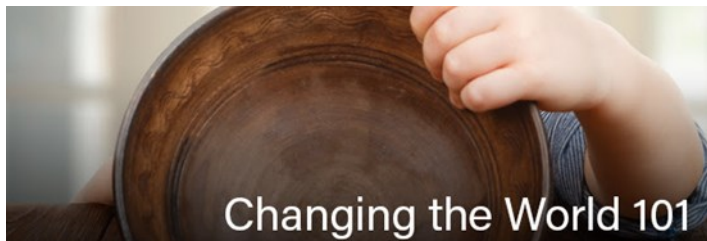


Learn how to change the world so no child goes hungry

Changing the World 101: Ending Hunger as a Case Study for System Change

Fall class at Christian Theological Seminary

Bringing real change to the world means changing its systems. Using the end of hunger — a goal now in reach within a generation — as a case study whose lessons can be applied to other pressing challenges and opportunities, Dr. Matthew Myer Boulton, and Dr. David Miner will lead this course. Students will explore the key skills and best practices involved in changing systems, as well as the biblical and theological perspectives through which people of faith can lead systems change in the 21st century. Guest experts in theology, hunger and systems change will also contribute to the course. Each participant in the class will lead a hunger advocacy project with support from an experienced hunger activist.



The class meets at CTS on two Saturdays, September 10 and September 17, from 8:30 am to 5 pm (with lunch break)

Cost: just \$50! This class for CTS Lifelong Learners (non-degree students not seeking credit) would normally cost \$340, but a grant has allowed CTS to offer scholarships that bring the cost to just \$50. Before you register, contact Dave

Miner to get a scholarship discount code: dminer145@aol.com or [317-691-7438](tel:317-691-7438). Students who want to take the course for seminary credit should consult with the [CTS Registrar](#) and will attend the class on four Saturdays, September 10 and 17 and November 5 and 12.

Christian Theological Seminary 1000 W. 42nd Street | Indianapolis, IN 46208. Phone: [\(317\) 924-1331](tel:317-924-1331) | Fax: [\(317\) 923-1961](tel:317-923-1961) | Email: communications@cts.edu | Web: www.cts.edu

Learn how to change the world so no child goes hungry



Earlham School of Religion is receiving an evaluation committee from its accreditor, The Association of Theological Schools, on September 19-22, 2016. In preparation for and as a requirement of that evaluation, the school invites comments in writing to the school and/or to the Commission concerning the institution's qualifications for accreditation. Comments may be sent to Earlham School of Religion, Attn: Jay Marshall, 228 College Ave., Richmond, IN 47374 prior to September 16, 2016. The school will appreciate any help that can be provided.



At the **USFW Banquet** on Saturday evening Roleen Pickard honored Peggy Hollingsworth for her part in carryiing the torch during the celebration of Indiana's 150th birthday.

Peggy Hollingsworth turns over the presidency of WYM USFW to Dinah Geiger.



More Pictures from Western Yearly Meeting Sessions





WESTERN WORK

A publication of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church
July/August 2016

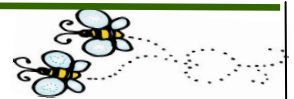
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Purpose

*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 cooperative ministries.
Through various expressions of our Christian faith, we strive to inspire ministry and the release of gifts of leadership.*



The Indy Festival of Faiths is coming up on Sunday, September 18th from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Veteran's War Memorial. The Indy Festival of Faiths is an annual gathering in downtown Indianapolis designed to recognize, highlight, and celebrate the *diverse religious landscape in central Indiana*. *Let's represent Quakerism! We are looking for volunteers to help with our booth. If you are interested in assisting or want more information, call Ed Morris at (317) 691-5542 emorri@earthlink.net or Bill Chapman (317) 255-4739 drchapman@earthlink.net.*



Hope

How do we overcome the darkness? By taking a deep breath of Light, and exhaling the darkness. By moving *determinedly* through the darkness. By living in the Light of the God of hope. By remembering that the God of Light is strapped to our heads and planted (the seed Christ) in our souls. By remembering to look up and out, noticing the Light of Christ in others. By acting in ways that brings Light into the darkness of others' lives. By refusing to give way to darkness – not through our own strength, but through the power of the God of hope. -by Ruthie Tippin, *Friend to Friend*, Aug. 3 2017