



Western Work

A publication of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church

A Christian Quaker Community where Faith Encounters Life

Getting our Eggs in Order (the following devotion is from the *West Newton Friend*, Jan.



2002. Elizabeth was 12 years old. Wanda Coffin Baker, the author, was much younger, too. We also had two growing boys – Howie and Kenny).

My daughter, Elizabeth, re-orders my eggs in the refrigerator door. She lines them up, or puts them all on one side or the other of the tray.

I don't know why she does that. I used to get mad at her, and tell her to quit playing with the eggs. But then in a day or two, I'd open the door and they would be changed again.

Finally, I decided it didn't matter. She has never broken one (that I know of), and we never need to worry about using the old eggs first. They aren't around that long.

There are so many important things to deal with when kids are growing up, I decided to let this one slide. And I thought I had, until last night. I opened the refrigerator, and Elizabeth had been there before me.

Now, I do not consider myself a stick-in-the-mud, though I occasionally find myself up to my elbows in muck.

Assigning kids chores and being away for committee meetings tend to make you more tolerant. I don't really care if all the underwear goes into the drawers folded, as long as it is clean. The cans and boxes of groceries don't really need to be organized by variety, as long as they get put away. My pans and dishes don't have to be in one certain place, as long as they are close. (I did once lose a saucepan lid for 3 months after being away for a week.)

Occasionally, however, when I am in a hurry, and trying to get too much done at once, and I can't find something, and no one knows where it is, because, *of course*, no one had it last, I lose my cool. And as the saying goes, "If Momma ain't happy, ain't nobody happy."

After a while, I repent and have to admit that in the scope of world events, this wasn't as important as I made it out to be. It's more important that the kids learn to be responsible and help around the house. They need those skills to grow up.

In Matthew 6:28-34, Jesus spoke to the crowds on the mountain slope. He talked about "things" and "worry." *Seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness*, he advised, *and all these things will be yours as well*.

Consider what things are important, he said, before you consider putting your eggs in order. What will bring in God's kingdom?

Board Meetings, Jan. 21.

Donuts at 8:30am, Worship, 9am, Business at 9:30



- 5 Training and Recording, 1:30pm, Drake Room
- 14 Pastoral Ministry Excellence, 10am, WYM office
- 15 Youth Invasion, 5-8pm, Carmel Friends Mtg
- 18 Prayer for Christian Unity, 7pm, King of Glory Lutheran Ch. Carmel
- 19 Property Trustees, 9:15am, Office Conf. Room
- 21 **Board Meetings**, 8:30am Coffee
9am Worship
9:30 Board Business
- 23 Youth Worker Dinner, Hamilton Town Center, 6:30pm
- 25 Office Advisory Com., 11am, Office
- 25 Looking Forward Task Force, 1:30pm, Office
- 27-28 Quaker Men Ground Hog Retreat, Quaker Haven Camp
- 28 Board on Finance, 10am, Kelley Rm

View the year, 2017 to mark your calendars. Go to : Westernyearlymeeting.org

Monthly Meeting Notes

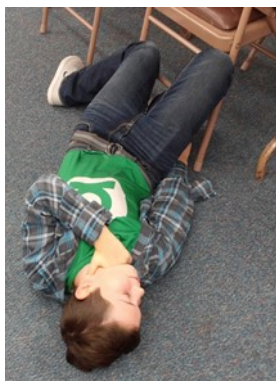
Merry Christmas from the cast of "The World is in Bethlehem". **Hopewell Friends Meeting**. Photo sent by Lisa Ellis.



Indianapolis First Friends had a real live baby to be Baby Jesus.. It was a special feeling to have a live Baby Jesus there among them.



Valley Mills used hand-cut snowflakes for their decorations.



Herod dies a dramatic death as **Hadley Friends** children get ready for their Christmas Play.



Kokomo First Friends Children's Choir and Junior Bell Choir shared their talents at the Christmas Eve Service. Look on www.facebook.com/firstfriendsmeetingofkokomo/ for videos.



Plainfield Friends Neighborhood Outreach Committee is exploring new activities to reach out to the Plainfield community.

- ⇒ A “Blue Christmas” service, December 21st to provide support for persons in the community that have suffered a loss, or suffer from symptoms of depression. Refreshments to be served following the service. Grief Support opportunities to be available.
- ⇒ It was suggested that we work with the local funeral homes.
- ⇒ It was also suggested that we work with the local schools to provide support for families who have lost a parent through separation or divorce.

- from Plainfield MM Meeting for Business, 10/16/16

From **57th Street Meeting Newsletter**:

Collecting Gloves, Hats and Scarves

Angie Thinnies is collecting gloves, hats and scarves for members of Thresholds, a community mental health center that serves people with serious mental illnesses. Gloves are especially needed. There will be a collection box at the meetinghouse.



The Hyde Park Refugee Project's efforts to sponsor a Syrian refugee family went so well, that they are preparing for a second refugee family to move into Hyde Park. 57th Street Meeting is a partnering organization of the project. Following is a link for additional information:

www.refugeeone.org/hydeparkrefugeeproject .



3rd Annual SnowQuake

This year's SnowQuake has a new option to retreat overnight at **57th Street Meeting's** Quaker House. SnowQuake will be Saturday/Sunday, February 4-5, 2017 starting at 10 a.m. on Saturday and ending with lunch on Sunday. SnowQuake will be held at 57th Street Meetinghouse. You can come just for Saturday or make it a weekend. The program for the weekend of winter fun and fellowship follows:
Saturday: 10 am - Semiprogrammed all ages worship; Noon - Potluck Lunch; Afternoon: Ice skating on the Midway (walking distance) and free time; 6 pm - Communal Dinner; Evening - Games, singing and

outdoor play, weather permitting. **Sunday:** 9 am - Pancake Breakfast. 10:30am - Unprogrammed worship and First Day School; Noon - Potluck Lunch.

Overnight accommodations available Friday and Saturday night at Quaker House: \$5/night/person or \$10/night/family. To sign up or for more information, contact Joy Duncan at joymargaret916@gmail.com or [773-456-7470](tel:773-456-7470).

First Friends Kokomo is once again participating in the Samaritan's Purse gift box.

After sharing the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said "Go and do likewise."

Learn More By Visiting:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>



Monthly Meeting Notes



Two sets of spectacles!

Every day I wake up and put on my glasses. Without them, I am unable to see clearly. What is blurry suddenly becomes clear through the corrective lenses.

But, they are not the only lenses I put on each morning! I spend time reading and applying God's Word, and that becomes the lens through which I view all of life. I look at the world through the lens of my worldview.

A worldview is the framework of basic beliefs that we hold, whether we realize it or not, which shapes our view of the world. Each morning, time spent reading and meditating on the Bible helps reinforce and correct my thinking, ensuring I face life with a biblical worldview. We all have a worldview and it has huge significance. It affects what we believe about God, marriage, politics, morality, social structures, the raising of children, etc.

In our culture today, there is a clash of worldviews. Those who do not believe in God or the authority of God's Word, look at the world through different lens than the Christian. That is why it is important for us, not only to put on physical glasses, but to spend time each day in God's Word, to keep our vision sharp and clear.

(used by permission from Keith Glasgow, pastor of Carmel Friends Church.)



As I look at this, I'm reminded that with vision problems (macular degeneration), I need to blink and take a second look. What I thought I saw may have been a distortion. This is what Scripture and Quaker values provide for me, the worldview that Keith writes about and that "sets me straight".



Kay Record Carter, Plainfield Friends, *Thee and Me*, Nov. 16

Legislative Priorities for FCNL - 350 Quakers from around the country met in Washington DC for the annual meeting of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) on November 10th -13th. Several from First Friends attended and the legislative priorities for FCNL over the next 2 years were approved (see them here: <https://goo.gl/Zukhzo>). We also lobbied our Senators and Representatives on supporting passage of Criminal Justice reform for non-violent offenders in the lame duck session. If you are interested, call your Senators and ask them to support Senate Bill S2123 and your Representative to support bills in the house HR 3713 and HR 759. More information about this legislation is on the FCNL website: <https://www.fcnl.org/>



The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** will soon be here. It stretches from January 18- January 25 (the traditional date for the celebration of the conversion of St. Paul).

At 7:00pm on January 18, 2017 at King of Glory Lutheran Church, 2201 E. 106th St., Carmel, IN, the Christian community of Greater Indianapolis Area will gather for prayer. A reception will follow.



PENDLE HILL ONLINE: EXPLORING THE QUAKER WAY After an incredibly successful first session in Summer 2016, Marcelle Martin is again offering her online course, Exploring the Quaker Way January 9th through April 2nd.

It is designed for people who want to explore historical and spiritual themes through personal reflection, focused study, and deep dialog within a lively learning community gently guided by seasoned Quaker educators. Recruit people from your meeting to receive a group discount!



Youth Notes



Andrew Heald, Hannah Lyon, Case Estle, Brock Sizelove, and Jessie Vore remain completely serious while attending the fantastic program at the National Youth Workers Conference in Cincinnati, OH, in Nov.

YOUTH INVASION

JAN 15TH @
CARMEL FRIENDS CHURCH

5-8pm

Ages: 7th-12th Grades

Cost is FREE!

Come out for a great evening of **CAMP** programming crammed into 3 hours! There will be camp speaking (with Garrett Howell), camp music, camp games and great food (even if it isn't QHC food). Email Pat Byers at pat@iym.org or Andrew Heald at andrew.heald13@gmail.com if you have questions.

IYM.ORG

WESTERNYEARLYMEETING.ORG

QHCYOUTHPROGRAMMING.COM

WYM/IYM Youth- Worker Dinner

Come and Join Us...

...for a great dinner, fellowship, sharing of ideas, and more at *Stone Creek Dining Company* (Hamilton Town Center in Noblesville) on January 23rd at 6:30pm.

Please RSVP by January 18th to:

Pat Byers - pat@iym.org

Andrew Heald - andrew.heald13@gmail.com

Restaurant Address:

13904 Town Center Blvd Suite 900,
Noblesville, IN 46060

Quaker Haven Camp wants to say a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who financially and prayerfully supported us to end 2016. Due to your support QHC is now able to update our PA system and purchase a Leap Pad to be used for camp programming. Your support is the reason QHC is able to keep improving and make 2017 the best year yet for God to work through Quaker Haven and the staff.

Be on the lookout for more ways to get involved with us as we look towards our **100 year anniversary**.



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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.*



Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.

The phrase “Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart” has always fascinated me. A journalist would want to interview Mary and ask her what she meant; what was going on inside her head at that time. To me it speaks of truly availing one’s mind and heart to God during times of spiritual puzzlement. It is a Quaker-like positioning. Can we ever truly come to understand Christmas as the incarnation of God as man? We are brothers and sisters in Jesus with Mary the mother of Jesus and at that point we are equals in trying to comprehend this wondrous visitation by God. May we participate in the same treasuring and pondering in our hearts. I am sure God has light to bring and comfort to bestow if we do.

Gary Jones, Pastor, First Friends Kokomo

Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus’ sake. Amen! —Robert Louis Stevenson

