



Western Work

A publication of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church

March

A Christian Quaker Community where Faith Encounters Life

OH NO, NOT AGAIN!

This newsletter article was started one of those days when we were having snow. What happens when we hear the weather report saying we will be having snow? We wonder how many inches we will have? Also, if we are told the snow will happen overnight we think about what we have to do the next day and how the snow will affect our plans and schedule.

I wish to move from the affect physical storms have on our lives to think about what affect spiritual storms have on our lives. Just as we experience storms in our physical lives we experience storms in our spiritual lives.

We have listened and read the children's stories in which every body lived happily ever after. We fantasize that our spiritual journey will be made without any problems or disappointments. We must remember that just as the physical storms come upon us they also move on and life returns to a more normal pace.

Our Faith in God must be more than a belief that we will never face pain, sorrow and disappointment or other circumstances that create unpleasant situations.

The message of the Bible speaks about God's presence in the midst of daily living. Think for a moment about some of the names that stand out in the Bible. The following are but a few which could be mentioned: Noah, Moses, David, Daniel, Peter and Paul. We look at these persons as spiritual pillars. They are pillars because they were able to stand against spiritual storms. They could have found a number of times when they said, "OH, NO, NOT AGAIN". Instead they said, "My faith is in God, in Him will I trust." In whom do we trust?

There is a gospel song that speaks about God's care in the midst of life's storms. That song is entitled "A Shelter in the Time of storm". Listen to the words:

The Lord's our rock, in Him we hide, A shelter in the time of storm:
Secure whatever ill betide, A shelter in the time of storm.
O, Jesus is a rock in a weary land, A weary land, A weary land;
O, Jesus is a rock in a weary land, A shelter in the storm.

The writer of Philippians speaks about how to live in God's presence among the storm of life in 3:12-13.

Taken from The Mooresville Friend, February 2003

March

- 11—Quaker Haven 5K SAP Run
- 12—Daylight Savings Time Change
- 15—Office Advisory Committee—WYM Office
- 18—Administrative Council Sandcreek-Azalia Friends
- 18-20—RSWR Annual Mtg, First Friends Indianapolis
- 21—Property Trustees, Office, 9:30am
- 23 -26—FWCC Section of the Americas, Stony Point Center, NY
- 26—Yearly Mtg Retreat Planning, Panera Brd, Greyhound Pass

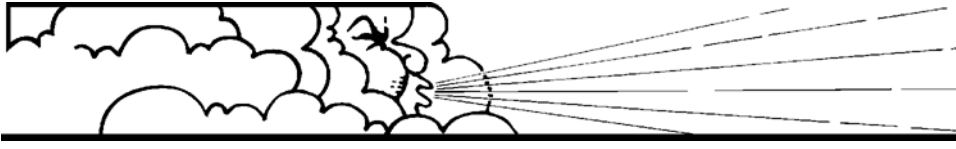
Looking Forward

April 1—Faith & Practice Workshop

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

Westernyearlymeeting.org





Administrative Council, March 18

Sandcreek-Azalia Friends Meeting extends an invitation to attend Administrative Council at Sandcreek-Azalia Meeting, March 18th. Lunch will include a selection of soup, sandwiches and desserts for a free-will donation. The donation money will be used for Belize, 2017 Special Project of the Outreach Board .

The schedule is:

- 9am – Coffee and Conversation
- 9:30 – Worship,
- 10:00 – Meeting for Business
- 12:00 – Lunch provided by the local Meeting
- 1:00 – Finish Business Meeting
- 1:15 – Program by Craig Floor, Everence
- 3:00 – Absolute end



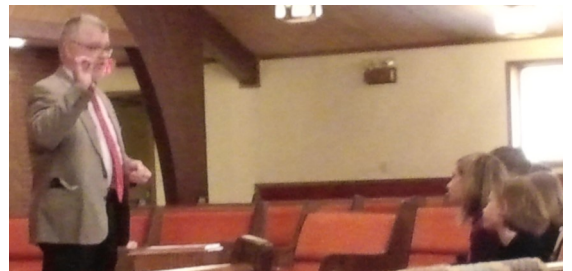
Recording of Ministers. John Connell spoke at Bloomingdale Friends Meetings about all the splits among Friends. His ministry project focuses on the Ministry of Writing.

On April 1, No Fooling! Training and Recording Committee is opening their Faith and Practice Workshop to active pastors in the Yearly Meeting on April 1, not just Kathy Luethje and John Connell, who are in the recording process. Invitations have gone out to the pastors. Please RSVP to the Office at your earliest convenience.



When the Spirit of God moves over the land, sometimes the spire on **Kokomo First Friends** sings. The choir was also good.

Gary Jones, pastor, used 2 stones, one rough and rugged; one smooth. The smooth stone has been through a lot and has been shaped by its challenges. When we have a predicament and we react like Jesus, our rough edges get worn off and we become like smooth stones.



Indianapolis Debut

You're invited to attend a film debut at **West Newton Friends Meeting** on April 5th, *DISTURBING THE PEACE*. This film follows former enemy combatants - Israeli soldiers from elite units and Palestinian fighters, many of whom served years in prison - who have joined together to challenge the status quo and say "enough." The film reveals their transformational journeys from soldiers committed to armed battle to nonviolent peace activists, leading to the creation of Combatants for Peace. While based in the Middle East, *DISTURBING THE PEACE* evokes universal themes relevant to all viewers and inspires them to become active participants in the creation of a peaceful world.

The evening will begin with a soup supper at 6 p.m. and then follow with the film and discussion at 7:00 p.m. The film runs approximately 90 minutes. There is no charge for the film or the supper, but donations will be accepted to help pay for the food and film.

If you would like to view a trailer of the film please go to <https://youtu.be/A95PDQWr4xs>
For further information, contact J. Brent Bill, www.brentbill.com or holyordinary.blogspot.com



57th Street Meeting. On 2nd Sundays after taking part in a majority of meeting for worship, the older children will be going across the street to Hyde Park Union Church to help cook chili as part of Open Kitchen, a Hyde Park-Kenwood Interfaith Council service project. Chili making is from 11:30-1:00 pm. Older children are invited to help during this time, for all of it or part of it. About 200 people are served a meal.

Meanwhile **57th Street adults** have a Monthly Multigenerational Religious Education Program every 2nd Sunday, January-June at 9:45-10:30 am. It focuses on building up and strengthening the meeting for worship "muscles." This program is for everyone, including newcomers, children, adults, and seasoned Friends.



Pastoral Ministry Excellence is coming into the home stretch.

Support from your Meeting in 2017 will provide a lasting investment in the availability of PME Grants and ongoing educational opportunities for years to come. We hope that **you** will consider a gift from your Meeting to PME. (A suggested amount is one which totals approximately \$10 per attendee.) There are several ways to contribute to the goal:

Hold a fundraiser (chili supper, pie auction, yard sale, etc.)

Take up a special offering (WYM can provide bulletin inserts!)

Include PME in your annual Meeting budget

The Pastoral Ministry Excellence Fund raised \$87,491 in gifts and pledges so far. Thank you. That leaves \$12,509 to complete our campaign. Please consider a donation toward finishing this amount..

The WYM PME Sustainability Task Group is hoping to be able to celebrate the completion of the \$100,000 fundraising goal at Western Yearly Meeting sessions in July.

“... wait upon the Lord in silence for that renewal of strength, whereby alone we can grow up as trees of righteousness of his own right hand planting.” --Thomas Shillitoe. 1839



With the arrival of March here in Indiana, robins begin to sing in the morning. Daylight lingers longer in the evening. Creatures great and small notice these incremental changes and are alerted that a season of renewal is upon us. Seasons of renewal are most recognizable when they follow periods in which signs of vigor are lacking. After a winter of barren trees and frigid temperatures, welcomed signs of new life rarely go unnoticed.

The passage quoted above by Friend Thomas Shillitoe understands the importance of renewal within the human soul. It does not necessarily follow the rhythm of nature's four seasons, but its impact is no less powerful. I hope you are noticing signs of new life stirring within you – those moments can be such exciting times.

As I travel among Friends today, renewal is a popular topic. At an individual level, we want a faith that has a practical impact as we seek meaning in the midst of a life that sometimes makes no sense. At a corporate level, we desire to be part of a faith community that feeds our spirit and bears a vibrant witness to society at large. If you know the power of renewal that comes from God, you know that our faith can affect powerful change at all levels of this wounded world. Part of our call within God's work is to live as ambassadors of that renewing power.



Excerpt taken from **Earlham School of Religion** letter to **West Newton Monthly Meeting** dated March 22, 2004. Authored by Jay Marshall Dean

Pastoral positions changing

Many of you are aware of things changing around the Yearly Meeting. One of those things has been the change in pastors.

On the people side:

Gary Jones is hoping to retire soon from Kokomo First Friends and pursue other interests.

Ruthie Tippin is retiring and will be moving back to God's land and her family on the Pacific coast. Don Perry and Jim Walters are retiring and staying put in God's land, though Jim did threaten to move in with his son. Sue Whitesel and Jennifer Silvers have resigned and are heading into new adventures.

On the Meeting side:

Kokomo First Friends is looking for a pastor. Contact www.kokomofirstfriends.org

Indianapolis First Friends is looking for a pastor. Contact www.indyfriends.org/apply

Mooresville Friends and Lick Creek are looking for a pastor, but are not ready to accept applications.

Fairfield may be looking for a part-time pastor, but needs more time.



A true friend freely, advises justly, assists readily, adventures boldly, takes all patiently, defends courageously, and continues a friend unchangeably.

William Penn



Kathryn from Toshiba has been very helpful with our new Toshiba Copier. We haven't learned everything yet, but **Carol LaFara** can now make banners! In case you can't read this banner, it is the Lord's Prayer.

Carol can print a banner for your Meeting for \$5.

PLEASE HELP US CELEBRATE

Friends Apartment Homes is pleased to announce we will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary in August of 2019.

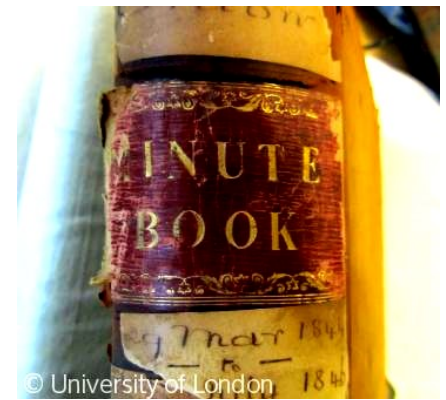
If you have memories, pictures or documents related to the building of Friends Apartment Homes and the people who helped with making Friends Apartment Homes a reality or who have lived in the apartments, we would greatly appreciate copies of those special notes, pictures or documents so we can display them at the anniversary. Thank you for helping us celebrate.



Record Keeping

Occasionally, old minute books are found in some very creative places—in the barn, in a safe, in someone's attic, between the newspapers stacked in the back room. Everyone knows where the minutes are until that generation passes. Then it is a matter of luck if they are found again.

Western Yearly Meeting recommends you put your minutes in an archive which is temperature and moisture controlled. Earlham College has an archive which is used by many meetings. Tom Hamm, the archivist, will send your minutes to Ft. Wayne to be digitized, copied and bound. The original minutes are kept in the vault at Earlham College. The digitized copy is available to be used in the library, and the bound copy is sent back to the Meeting. Contact Tom for more information at 765-983-1616, ext. 1511, or tomh@earlham.edu .



Piece of Advice for Peace of Mind. Cemeteries don't require a whole lot of continual tending, except for mowing, trimming, repairing headstones, etc. But they do require care for the long term. Every meeting that has a cemetery is encouraged to establish a cemetery fund, the interest of which should be enough to take care of their cemetery for an entire year. This will give you and coming generations peace of mind.



They must first judge themselves that presume to censure others: And such will not be apt to overshoot the Mark. We are too ready to retaliate, rather than forgive, or gain by Love and Information. And yet we could hurt no Man that we believe loves us.

Let us then try what Love will do: For if Men did once see we Love them, we should soon find they would not harm us.

Force may subdue, but Love gains: And he that forgives first, wins the Lawrel. If I am even with my Enemy, the Debt is paid; but if I forgive it, I oblige him forever.

Love is the hardest Lesson in Christianity; but, for that reason, it should be most our care to learn it. It is a severe Rebuke upon us, that God makes us so many Allowances, and we make so few to our Neighbour: As if Charity had nothing to do with Religion; Or Love with Faith, that ought to work by it.
-From Some Fruits of Solitude; Religion, William Penn

We often think of William Penn for his great accomplishments as a statesman and his political force, establishing 'Penn's Sylvania' and bringing to bear the fruit of his Quaker conviction in governance. But perhaps we often overlook the inward view of Penn's spiritual depth and character. Some Fruits of Solitude gives us that chance.

Penn was able, in his own words, 'to take a view of himself and the world, and observe wherein he hath hit and missed the mark; what might have been done, what mended, and what avoided in his human conduct.'

How often are we able to take this long view back at our lives lived, and consider our 'mark'? Perhaps if we did, we might more readily understand the power of love and forgiveness. We might see and recognize the depth of love others have for us, and could then more easily reciprocate that love. We might be better students in the lessons of love God lays out for us – not learning by rote - but taking care to comprehend love fully, exercise it well, and courageous enough to try it.

And so, as Penn asks us, let us then try - not what love can do, might do, could do, or should do, but what Love will do.

Happy Valentine's Day, Ruthie, 2/8/17, Indianapolis First Friends, *Friend to Friend*



Friends United Meeting Triennial

Every three years, the global community of **Friends United Meeting** gathers to celebrate our life together, to grow in our ability to serve the world, and to worship Christ our Lord! Along with our Triennial host, Great Plains Yearly Meeting, FUM invites and welcomes Quakers from all over the world to join us in Wichita, Kansas, on July 12–16, 2017. We will meet on the campus of Friends University, and look forward to seeing you there. Messages will spring from Thomas Kelly's book, "The Eternal Promise." The early-bird registration deadline for the 31st Friends United Meeting Triennial is coming soon! Register before March 31st and save \$30! To register, please visit: <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1877598>

WYM Annual Surveys have been sent to every Meeting and handed to the appropriate person for filling them out. Mar. 31 is the first deadline. If you can't find your surveys, please call the Office or look on our web:

www.westernyearlymeeting.org .

Dates

Friends World Com. For Consultation is **Mar. 23-26** in Stony Point, NY

Apr. 22, a celebration is planned for Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR) at Indianapolis First Friends with Colin Saxton as speaker. Bruce Birchard, former General Secretary of FGC, will speak at IFF on Sunday morning, Apr. 23.

Apr. 22, Friends Disaster Service Banquet at Carmel Friends. Wiley Shore, president of North Carolina FDS, will be the speaker. There will be no charge, but a free will offering will be collected. This banquet will be for people who are interested in FDS.

April 25, USFW Spring Conference at Bloomingdale Friends Meeting

Apr. 27-29, Friends United Meeting General Board at Quaker Hill in Richmond

April 28-May 1, [Yearly Meeting Retreat /Pastors' Retreat](#) at Quaker Haven

July 9-12, Stoking the Fire, a gathering in the power of Christ, Wichita, KS. Contact Friends United Meeting at friendsunitedmeeting.org or 765-962-7573 or info@fum.org

July 12-16, Friends United Meeting Triennial, "A Living Flame," Friends University, Wichita, KS. Registration and information at fum.org.

July 27-30, Western Yearly Meeting Sessions, "We are the Body – Every Supporting Ligament,"

September 11-12, WYM/IN USFW Fall Retreat at Quaker Haven Camp

September 23, USFW Fall Conference at Sandcreek-Azalia Friends Mtg

Quaker Day 2017 is **October 1**. FWCC promotes this. For more information go to Americas@fwccamericas.org.

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"Some religions don't eat meat on Friday because there's separation of church and steak."

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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.*



Grumbling, Grumbling! It's so easy to do! My husband, my wife, my car, my boss, my back pain, my schedule, my..... I was reading Philippians 2:14 in my daily me with God, where Paul writes: "Do everything without grumbling....." I got to thinking - why do we grumble? Normally, it's because people or circumstances are seen to be against us or fail our expectations, and we have no control to change them. It's a symptom of facing the unwelcome things in life from a merely human point of view. The next verse adds: "so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault....." If we are going to live as children of God, we don't grumble! God doesn't grumble! And He's got lots to grumble about! Or has He? His sovereign rule over this universe, over all things good and bad in our world, means He has no cause to grumble like a petulant child who doesn't get His own way. He has a purpose and a plan! He will use all things, good and bad, to fulfill His sovereign plan. And that truth filters right down to our personal lives! We trust Him. He is in control of those people and circumstances that we have no control over! There is no cause for grumbling as He has a plan to use everything in my life, good and bad, to fulfill His loving and good purpose in my life! Grumbling dies when faith rises.



Keith Glasgow, *Carmel Connect*, Feb. 2017