



# Western Work

A publication of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church

## MAY

### A Christian Quaker Community where Faith Encounters Life

Dear Friends, We know our mothers in so many ways - through biology, love, laughter and wise counsel. And also by community and nature, as in the shelter, strength, cradling and catching of tears. Not all of us received tender mothering; for some it was a challenging relationship of "catching it" when our dad got home or some other way of our actions catching up to us. Some of us got some mothering from an aunt, a grandmother, or even a dad, or from a sympathetic woman in our school, Meeting or neighborhood.

I was well-known by the young mothers around my neighborhood and the nuns at my elementary school. It wasn't because I had a mean mom or anything like that. My mother was the root of music and games in my house. But with the kid-count putting us in the running for the largest family in the neighborhood, Mom was pretty busy taking care of the youngest ones. She was also the one who attracted her own number of ragtag kids and taught us to play street ball, kick-the-can, and steal-the-bacon. She bought learning games before learning games prepared you for preschool entrance exams.

Occasionally, she'd be invited to school to fill in for one of the nuns in the classroom. Because of her experience with kids, I guess they trusted her to maintain control. When I became a teacher myself as a young nun, with no college or even a desire to be a teacher, I wove play and encouragement into the lessons just as my mother had.

Looking back, though, I am grateful for the women in the neighborhood who helped each other out. Today, I see the women in our Meeting as heirs of the tradition of shared mothering and see them appreciating the young children and mothers who have brought new energy and life to Valley Mills. This month of May we remember all the mothers and mother-fathers, the Friends and neighbors and teachers who nurtured us and the ones who continue the gift of loving and lifting up with encouragement. It certainly does take a village, doesn't it? Happy Mother's Day and Mothers' Month. We celebrate you.

-Marilee Gabrielle, *Valley Voice*, 5/17



16 - Nominating Committee—Kelley Room 1:30 PM

18 - Program Committee—Kelley Room 1:00 PM

20 - Board Meetings 8:30 AM

21 - Western Area Gathering— Bloomingdale Friends 2:00 PM

21 - Carmel Friends Church hosting Watoto Children's Choir 6:30 PM

23 - Property Trustee Meeting - WYM Office 9:30 AM

31 - Office Advisory Committee—WYM Office 11:00 AM



### BOARD MEETING - MAY 20

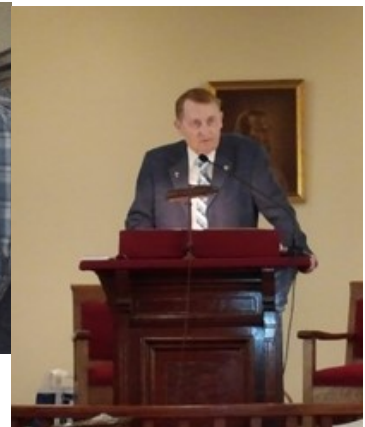
8:30 Coffee & Donuts 9:00 Devotions

9:30 Business

## Monthly Meeting Notes

### Some New Faces

Indianapolis First Friends is excited to welcome Bob Henry, his wife, Sue, and their three sons! Bob will begin serving as the Pastor the first week of July. After much consideration, their Pastoral Search Committee, Ministry & Counsel, Clerks' Council, and Monthly Meeting were pleased to extend the call to Bob, who has over twenty years of experience in various ministries, and has most recently served as the Pastor at Silverton (OR) Friends Meeting.



Stained glass windows shed a special light on **Gray Friends**. David Webster, the pastor, is well versed in history and humor.



**Jennifer Silvers**, co-pastor of **Fairfield Friends**, said goodbye on Easter morning. It was a busy time with blessing of the pets, dedication of a baby, welcome of a new member, and a special number by the choir.







Dinah Geiger presided over her first meeting as president of the WYM United Society of Friends Women at **Bloomington Friends Meetinghouse**. After reports by our chair people, Bloomington had a nutritious lunch (far left, second row) and a table laden with desserts, just like we like it.



Sarah Lookabill showed pictures of the updates on the Belize Friends Center. Peggy Hollingsworth reported on Earlham College, which recently hired a new president.

### From WYM USFW Spring Conference—Reports

Over years, **Right Sharing of World Resources** has received over \$70,000 from the used stamps coming in. WYM USFW has places that need pop tabs and plastic lids from bottles. USFW CANNOT use empty pill bottles, however, someone suggested that some local veterinarians can use them for animal medicine. Ask your local vets if they need pill bottles.

**Usfwi.net** is the new website for United Society of Friends Women, International. It contains some new information, and some from our old website. Face book is same for USWI, and so is email.



#### Bloomington Friends Meeting Updates from Sarabeth:

Mark your calendars for two dates. The first is Sunday May 21 when we will host a **Western Area Meeting** and get to meet Brian Holt, the new pastor of **Marshall Federated Church**. He will be sharing about "Gods 401 J Plan." He describes it as "A creative, biblical solution to financial needs \*How to get out of credit card debt \*How to acquire wealth for your family, church, or business \*How to acquire wealth to bless others. Note: This is NOT a lesson on tithing. Taken from the life experiences of Joseph as told in Genesis." We will be meeting at 2:00pm and there will be a fellowship and refreshment time, as well.

The second date is Sunday, June 4 when we will have a **Bloomington Friends Heritage/ Homecoming Day**. Plans are still being made, but we will have worship at 10:30, followed by a pitch-in meal at noon using some of our old favorite recipes. Then there will be an afternoon program from 1:30 to 3:00 open to the community with special music and speakers on topics such as the Regrowth of the American Chestnut trees and how the trees in our grove are helping this project.

Our Facebook page is now called Bloomington Friends/Quaker Church. "Like" it and listen to the weekly messages from Pastor Kathy and others and get updates on what we are doing. Blessings, Sarabeth Marcinko, Bloomington Friends Meeting

## Season's changes

The signs are all around us that tell us that we are entering again, the seasonal change that will make outdoor activities much more pleasant. We eagerly anticipate the sights and smells of colorful plants and flowers and the returning of the migratory birds and butterflies. The sounds of children laughing, shouting, even sometimes screaming as they run and play outside, will be common. We all seem to take on a new attitude as the season changes. The changing of our clocks make some happy to have more daylight after the day shift at work. We all welcome the seasonal change that fills our senses with pleasant things. If our attitudes have been more like the gray skies and chilly temperatures of the waning season, we now have a new environment in which to cultivate better attitudes. Growing our attitudes is as important as growing the crops, plants and flowers that nourish our physical and emotional beings. Our spiritual beings must also be cultivated and nurtured so as to allow us to produce 'fruits of the spirit'. With renewed attitudes we should be motivated to be about doing the work of helping with the building of that kingdom which we pray for in "The Lord's Prayer". To be a part of God's kingdom on earth, we each have responsibility. We are the faces of the citizens of God's kingdom. What others see in us is what they will perceive as what Christianity and the Religious Society of Friends have produced. -Gene Carter, *Me and Thee*, Plainfield Friends



Easter Eggs and Redbuds at Valley Mills Friends.



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### Getting Ready for Summer

Plainfield Meeting is preparing for our Summer Activities:  
National Road Yard Sale - Saturday, June 3

The Chamber of Commerce Farmers' Market will be held on the Yearly Lawn on Wednesdays from 4 to 7 pm, beginning June 7. free bottle of water or freezer pop at Plainfield's booth. are pamphlets and the opportunity to drop a prayer request into the box.





# WYM Retreat



Listening



Thinking



Building



Studying

Wish you were there!

**Friends Disaster Service  
Work Week, April 2017**



Happy are those who have turned in WYM Annual Surveys. Uh, oh. Haven't sent them in? Lost the forms? Look on our website: [www.westernyearlymeeting.org](http://www.westernyearlymeeting.org).

The June Western Work will feature the 2017 Yearly Meeting Sessions. For information now or for registration, look on our website.



**Right Sharing of World Resources shared its 50th Anniversary at Indianapolis First Friends.**

Friends shared their experiences about RSWR being set off from Friends World Committee for Consultation.

Colin Saxton, one of the Friends who oversaw the beginning of RSWR, was the key speaker. He said Right Sharing is an organization that shows what it means to wrestle with our testimony of simplicity, freeing us from poverty and materialism. He exhorted us to continue wrestling as God calls us to share out of abundance, so that God can make us free.



### Indian Table

Yearly meeting will be here before you know it! First I want to thank everyone who donated to the Indian table offerings last year and volunteered to work.

I just need two things! Donations and volunteers to work! I can accommodate any volunteer hour availability even as short as one hour availability.

#### Things that sell:

Food! Jams, cookies and candy, fudge is a favorite. Package one flavor of cookie per bag so that one flavor doesn't overwhelm the other, two cookies per bag works well. Folks love to have something to snack on throughout our meeting time.

Handcrafted items are treasures. Baby blankets, quilts, novelty items. Notes and greeting cards. Knitted and crocheted items. Anything new and unique.

Did I mention Apple Butter - everyone has their favorite and we have two meetings who donate the best apple butter you've ever tasted!

We need your help so we can bless others. Thank you and bless you for your consideration.

Recipients: Mesquaki, Mowa Choctaw, and Kickapoo Centers. Funds Raised in 2016: \$671.40 split three ways gave each \$223.80. It would be wonderful to increase that amount this year.

- Susan Felix, WYM Christian Outreach Board, [susi914@aol.com](mailto:susi914@aol.com), 317-839-0420



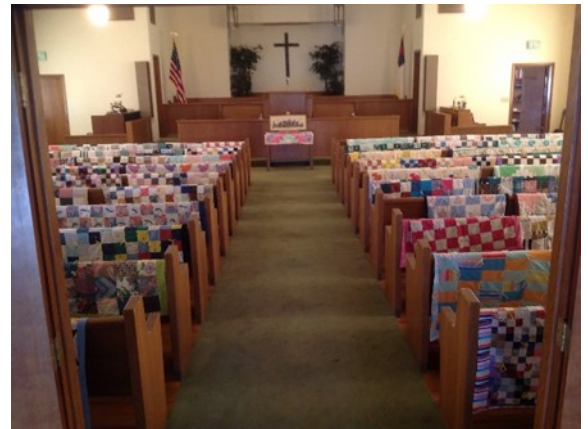
**Russiaville Friends** Women have been busy! This Lap Robes and Bed Quilts will be distributed to area Nursing homes and the women's shelter of Kokomo. Some will be held back for fire victims or other disaster related circumstances. They make UD Bags for those with catheters, lap robes, twin and full sized quilts. A year never goes by without a bumper crop of creativity and love!



On Sunday, May 8, at the conclusion of worship, Carol Lyon led the congregation at Russiaville in a prayer of dedication for the 40+ patchwork lap robes (small quilt comforters), which had been displayed throughout the sanctuary for two Sundays.

These colorful items were completed by several members of the local USFW groups working one morning per week during the early months of 2017. Some friends of Friends also worked from home on the project - cutting, piecing, and sewing.

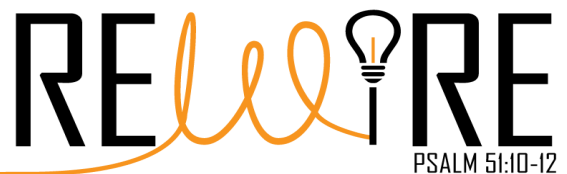
Soon these hand crafted pieces will be gifted to various community organizations (nursing facilities, shelters, and some individuals) for distribution.



Karlene Carter, USFW President, was the longtime *driving force* behind this wintertime project, prior to her untimely death in January 2017. Her daughter, Lois Anderson, continues to spearhead the planning and completion of these items, which has been a longstanding tradition at Russiaville for several generations.



**Early Registration Ends  
May 31, 2017  
Don't Miss it**



Register online [www.qhcyouthprogramming.com](http://www.qhcyouthprogramming.com)

Scholarships are available—we never want money to keep camper from coming to summer camp.

Contact Andrew Heald @ [andrew.heald13@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.heald13@gmail.com)

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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.*

This poem comes to us from Linda Lee, **Indianapolis First Friends**. Linda has enjoyed writing since 5th grade. Her first publications were during high school. Sometimes poems come easily, sometimes she hangs a poem on the refrigerator and revises it for weeks. Among mystics there is often a “holier than thou” problem; Fried Mystic offers an antidote.



## **Fried Mystic**

In those days  
I heard the planets sing,  
  
I lived in the yolk  
of the universe—  
quivering, tender, raw—  
formed yet fluid. I was  
sunny side up,  
perfect, and luminous  
with Love,  
smiling at everyone  
in the manner