

# Western Work



A publication of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church

**JULY**

A Christian Quaker Community where Faith Encounters Life

## Food For Thought

For 2/22/2015, written by John Connell

I don't know about you, but I like to have things my own way. It doesn't matter what it is I am doing, I would usually prefer that things were arranged just so. There is a sense of satisfaction that I think we may all feel when we get to follow our own course in life. It makes us feel empowered to assert our independence in this way. This is because of the sense of control that it gives us over our lives. When we are in control of things, we feel better. As long as I am calling the shots I know that I can minimize surprises, especially the bad kind! As we grow older and gain more experience, we learn the value of "thinking ahead" and planning for potential problems. This is a natural tendency of human behavior, and I think that it can serve us very well in many areas of life when put to good use.

But having our own way isn't always a good thing. As a matter of fact, God asks us to submit our own wills to his will if we are to grow spiritually. The writer of Proverbs tells us: "*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*" (Prov 3:5) But this can be difficult to do sometimes. After all, how do we know God's will?

As a community of faith, Friends have attempted to do this in two ways. First, by experiencing the risen Christ during our times of silent worship, and learning to listen for His voice as it bears witness with our own spirits. And secondly, by reading the Bible to understand how the people of God in the past have sought to be faithful to God's Spirit as it was revealed to them as a gathered people. By worshiping together in this way, Friends are able to submit their individual wills and agendas to the will of Christ as it is expressed within our midst. As Quaker author Douglas Gwyn puts it:

*"Let us then embrace Christ present as our primary authority. Our attention to that intimate authority requires a deep sensitivity to Christ's voice, light, or promptings within us. Our knowledge in Christ therefore has a strongly intuitive character. Each one of us must seek and know Christ first of all in this deeply personal experience. We must read Scripture first of all in the light of that experience. Unless we find and continue to seek that experience, we will not abide in Christ. We will operate out of our own motives, knowledge, and love, which cannot sustain us."*

*4—Office Closed*

*5— Little Friends Camp at Quaker Haven*

*6—Advance Reports For Annual Session Due*

*8– 12 FUM Stoking the Fire*

*12-16 FUM Triennial*

*16 –21 Senior High II at Quaker Haven*

*27—30 Annual Sessions*



## Monthly Meeting Notes



West Newton Friends hosted a booth at the Decatur Township Fair. Hunter is holding a postcard which says “Quakers are more than



The card welcomes newcomers and gives contact and location information.



“Plainfield Gothic” by the Wood brothers, Bill and Gene. Their extended family was at **Plainfield Meeting**, also, cleaning the flower and bush beds. Thanks, guys, it looks spiffy !



What is a mansard? It is that thing that “aprons” the roof at **Friends Apartment Homes**. It is being replaced after hail damage. It will also look good for the FAH 50th Anniversary in 2019. FAH is looking for memories, pictures, etc. of the life of FAH in the last 50 years.



**Board on Property Trustees** had some much needed painting and repair work done on the Yearly Meeting House, office, and parsonage. Keeping our buildings in good order is part of our stewardship as a Yearly Meeting. Other repairs they made will only be felt—our air conditioning.



## Colin Saxton Enters Year of Transition



For the last several years, I have been privileged to serve as general secretary of Friends United Meeting. FUM is an amazing fellowship—a global community joined together in common work and witness and learning to live into our shared fellowship in Christ. I have come to love this community and believe more strongly than ever that a vibrant and growing FUM is both necessary for the future of Friends and is a much needed gift to the world.

In discerning with the FUM General Board around the continuation of my call to service, we agreed that I will conclude this ministry within the next year (by June 30, 2018). My wife and I feel a strong leading to return home to Oregon to be nearer our children and their families.



*Thank you, Colin, for visiting our meetings, for speaking at Yearly Meeting, for representing Friends United Meeting, encouraging us to be involved and explore what God has for us next, for working so hard with us to raise the funds to advance God's leadings.*

Anyone wishing to leave a personal message, may go to

<http://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/news/2017/05/05/colin-saxton-enters-year-of-transition/>

Dear Friends,

We are right at the close of our three-year, \$3,000,000 Energize, Equip and Connect Campaign and we are on target! Thank you—so much—to all of you who have partnered in this effort! You are an amazing community!

As of today, we are at 98% of total financial goal—leaving just \$60,000 left to raise. Between now and the start of the FUM Triennial (July 12), any gifts and pledges to the FUM Campaign will count in our final tally. Pledges can continue to be spread over multiple years (up to five) and planned gift commitments are always welcome.

A remaining opportunity within the Campaign is a North American matching gift aimed at strengthening and launching new initiatives in the US and Canada. Thanks to a generous FUM supporter, we can double \$50,000 per year for the next four years with gifts and pledges designated for this work. A pledge sheet is attached—and I am asking Friends to prayerfully consider supporting the FUM Campaign in this way. We each have an opportunity double the impact of our giving at a time when local meetings and churches in North America are asking for greater help from FUM. I have made a pledge toward this match and I hope you will, too.

Your generosity and partnership is greatly appreciated! Thank you, again!

Peace and joy to you! Colin Saxton

## **Energize, Equip, and Connect: The Friends United Meeting Campaign**

### **MATCHING GIFT TO SUPPORT MINISTRY IN NORTH AMERICA**

A significant focus of the FUM Campaign is aimed at energizing, equipping and connecting local meetings and churches in North America. Through several new support initiatives, and the addition of a much needed, part-time coordinator, FUM will collaborate with Yearly Meetings to provide leadership training, assist meetings in holistic outreach and address issues that keep our local fellowships from flourishing. For a copy of the pledge form for the matching gift, please look at the June 29 updates, or look on the FUM website.

**The Board on Finance of Western Yearly Meeting** is asking members of the Yearly Meeting to submit names of possible candidates to fill the position of Yearly Meeting Assistant Treasurer. Bonnie Hobbs, who currently holds this title, will be assuming the duties of the Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting as of January 1, 2018, which means we are seeking another person to assume the duties of the Assistant Treasurer at that time.

The primary duties of the Assistant Treasurer are to be the second signature on all checks written by the Yearly Meeting Treasurer; to approve by email certain electronic payments such as the twice monthly payroll and federal and state tax payments, and to fill in for the Treasurer if that person becomes incapacitated. Treasurers are approved for a three year term.

Information on possible candidates to fill this position should be sent in care of Yearly Meeting Superintendent, Wanda Coffin Baker at P.O. Box 70, Plainfield, IN 46168 or email [wandacbwym@gmail.com](mailto:wandacbwym@gmail.com)

**Volunteers for WYM Pancake Breakfast** - Dale Graves is asking for each meeting to send one or more Quaker men to assist with the pancake breakfast at Western Yearly Meeting. This would be Saturday, July 29, starting at 7 am to set up, and continuing to 10:30 or so. YM sessions start at 9 am and men are excused if attending the sessions. Please let Dale know if you are willing to flip - 317-831-7171.



Western Yearly Meeting, 2017 Indian Table Support

Recipients: Kickapoo, Mesquakie and Mowa Choctaw

Funds Raised in 2016: \$671.40 split three ways gave each \$223.80. It would be wonderful to increase that amount this year.

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.

Susan Felix, USFW President, Mooresville/Whitelick

[susi914@aol.com](mailto:susi914@aol.com); 317-839-0420



Memorial Day celebrations  
 Coloma Friends Meeting  
 Downers Grove Friends



Peggy Hollingsworth shows the sign welcoming **Eden Grace**, Global Ministries Secretary of FUM, to the **Northern Area Gathering at Russiaville Friends**. Eden thanked Western Yearly Meeting for providing scholarships for Young Adults to attend “Stoking the Fire” in Wichita.



She also noted a number of ways we could help with the work of Friends. Detailed descriptions of these ways are on [fum.org](http://fum.org), “Work With Us.” There are leadership positions—African Ministries Programme Officer, Quaker Life Coordinator in Ramallah, Director for Belize Friends Center, as well as a North American Ministries Coordinator. You can volunteer to be a Living Letter to Friends in other parts of the world, or a Friend in Residence. This person goes for a maximum of 3 months to help in schools, hospitals, etc. Edeng encourages you that if you feel God moving in your life for a ministry, contact her. [edeng@fum.org](mailto:edeng@fum.org); 765-962-7573

**From Friends World Committee for Consultation:**

This year's Epistles from Ohio Valley and Switzerland Yearly Meetings are now available to read at <http://fwcc.world/epistles-from-quaker-groups-from-around-the-world>. We hope you enjoy reading them and sharing them with your meetings.

During the 52nd Annual Representative Assembly of the Indiana Retired Teachers Association held on Wednesday, June 14 in Indianapolis, **Dinah Geiger (Fairfield Meeting)** was honored with the Outstanding Volunteer Award for 2016 for Hendricks County RTA (Area 4). Along with many others from throughout the state, Dinah was recognized for exhibiting a variety of leadership, assistance, and service contributions which make a significant impact to the organizations they serve. Friends in Western Yearly Meeting are familiar with Dinah's many hours of dedicated service on behalf of her home meeting (especially with Family Promise), USFWI and the John Sarrin Scholarship Committee, WYM USFW, ACFIA, and more. CONGRATULATIONS, Dinah, for a job well done!! [By the way, the incoming President-Elect of IRTA is Barry Conrad, a member of Wabash Friends Church.]



-from Peggy Hollingsworth and Roleen Pickard



**CALLING ALL ARTISTS:** photographers, painters, woodworkers, quilters, sketchers, potters, etc.

**The Pastoral Ministry Excellence (PME) Sustainability Task Group** seeking donations of artwork of all kinds to sell during the Festival Fun and Fellowship on Friday night (July 28) of WYM Sessions on the grounds of the Yearly Meetinghouse in Plainfield.



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They are accepting donations of art (paintings, photo cards, prints, sketches, woodcraft, wall hangings, pottery, postcards, jewelry, embroidery, etc.), **that can be sold for \$30 or less per item.**

**All proceeds will go to the Western Yearly Meeting PME Fund** which is used to encourage, support and educate the pastoral ministers serving the Monthly Meetings of Western Yearly Meeting by providing health care cost coverage, retirement contributions, financial training and other resources.

To help them plan their table at the Festival and Fun and Fellowship it will be a great help if you contact Della Stanley-Green (PME Project Director) [dellasgwym@gmail.com](mailto:dellasgwym@gmail.com) or [317-838-0499](tel:317-838-0499) by July 18:

- what you plan to donate
- the quantity and sizes of the art
- what price is fair
- when you can bring the item(s) to WYM
- what you want done with left-over items



Thank you for helping support the Pastoral Ministry Excellence Fund.

### New Minister in Western Yearly Meeting

**Jonathan Newton**, Kokomo First Friends. John's ministry statement is: "It is by following Jesus' example and teachings that we live a fulfilling life because we are created to love the way God loves. It is also by following Jesus' example and teachings that we improve the world around us and "build the Kingdom". Beyond following the example and teachings of Jesus, we are to spread this message of love to others in the hope that they too will find fulfillment and join us in improving our community and world."

We hope to meet you at Western Yearly Meeting, July 27-30.



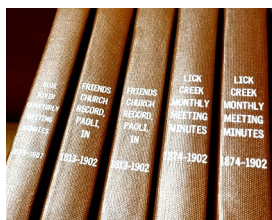


After 130 years, **Sheridan Friends Meeting** had their last service. David related how the Sheridan Friends attending had grown up in the Church, had come for comfort and help, and had found their needs met by God and the community. Issachar Church, Assemblies of God, will continue ministry in the building. Sheridan Friends sent a clock to the Yearly Meeting that had been given to Sheridan in the 1880's.



**Coloma Friends at Hobson Farm**

Sue Smith and her cousin brought Coloma records to the office to be taken to the Earlham Archives to be digitized, copied and rebound. The original records will stay at the archives. The copies will be returned as bound copies like these from Blue River, Lick Creek, and Paoli.



Nine Wednesday Sewing Friends from **Mooreville Friends Meeting**—who meet in the Friendship House very Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM — made this wall hanging which was presented to Pastor Sue at the reception held in honor of her and Allen's almost 14 years with them. Individual blocks were made by: Phyllis Smith, Betty Heshelman, Laura Brown, Lynn Oliver, Susan Joyner, Lois Hoffman, Luanne Hagee, Brenda Dunham, and Susan Felix. It was then pieced together by Phyllis, quilted by Lynn, and an embroidery label, made by Laura and signed by all, was attached to the back.



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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.*

## **Speaking in Meeting**

The most satisfactory ministry in the Quaker meeting of today arises out of a flash of insight, felt in the silence and delivered with brevity and a deep concern. ~ Howard H. Brinton in *Prophetic Ministry*

When one rises to speak in such a (gathered) meeting, one has a sense of being used, of being played upon, of being spoken through. ~ Thomas R. Kelly in *A Testament of Devotion*.

Brevity, earnestness, sincerity, and frequently a lack of polish— characterize the best Quaker speaking. ~ Thomas R. Kelly in *The Gathered Meeting*

From *The Mooresville Friend*, May 2017