



Encourage, Support, Equip

Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church

**February/
March
2018**

Well, we made it!

The crystal ball of light dropped in Times Square amidst frigid temperatures, the clock struck twelve midnight, and in one literal second we transitioned from 2017 to 2018. For the most part, it was the same thing we experience each and every year. Yet, as I was watching Dick Clark's Rockin' New Year's Eve this year, I noticed something a bit different. You could call it a theme.

It was clear the producers intentionally aimed for a theme of "Unity," which seemed appropriate with the clearly divided country that 2017 presented us. Everything from Planet Fitness honoring two actresses who modeled non-judgmental, inclusive, and accepting attributes with "Be Free" awards, to host Jenny McCarthy sensing a moment of unity in giving singer Mariah Carey a second chance after last year's technical debacle. All this had me asking a query of myself and our country, "Are we awakening to an important lesson about unity?"

As Quakers we talk a great deal about unity. Sometimes we refer to it as the "sense of the meeting." Either way, something I think we can all agree on is that unity does not come easily - nor can it be just a theme. Unity is a process and takes time. Maybe all the division in our nation is affording us the time to come together to give each other a second chance and see each other as equals.

Think about it, a year ago, people were not even willing to consider a second chance for Mariah Carey, expecting the network to give her the "boot." Yet, time has allowed us to reconsider Mariah. It has also allowed us to take a closer look at the quality of all people and how our diversity should bring us together more than separate us.

Unity is not instant or magic. Rather it is learned and achieved over time by experiencing real life - the division, the failure, and the needed changes and decisions that too often come through difficult times. Barry Morley shed some light on this in his book, "Beyond Consensus," where he shares his belief that we can foster skills that help us to seek unity. Things like sharing our experiences with each other, listening attentively, encouraging one another, reflecting on spiritual matters, and utilizing silence throughout! These are the things, I believe, First Friends should be committed to in 2018.

Let's make "unity" more than a theme for 2018 - let's make it a reality!
Pastor Bob, *Friend to Friend*, Indianapolis First Friends



WESTERN WORK

Calendar: *February*

23-24 Clerking Workshop, Quaker Hill Conf. Center

March

2-3 Flourish - Celebration & Workshop, Quaker Hill Conf. Center

3-4 AVP Workshop, Indianapolis First Friends, 3-8:30am-8pm; 4-8:30am-7pm

4 West Central Area, West Newton, 3-business; 4-program; 5-supper

10 Small Mtgs, Office, 9am

15 Office Advisory Com., 1pm, office

15 Northern Area, 6pm, Russiaville

March 17—Administrative Council, Fairfield Friends Mtg,

April 27-29 WYM Retreat, Quaker Haven Camp
29-30 Pastors' Retreat, Quaker Haven Camp

Monthly Meeting Notes



Jonathan Newton uses the overhead for songs, scripture, and notes for his sermon. A young adult shares the story with the juniors.

How do I (we) not just be “SPICES” in the world, but be fruitful? - Brent Bill, **West Newton**



West Newton Friends gather in front of facing bench to talk about the sermon, community members and family. - And wonder which meeting the ceramic Quaker dolls came from.



Our December mittens are keeping people warm in the January wind! **Downer's Grove** January Newsletter

Downers Grove has a way to keep members warm and dry. It will be using a heat mat system to melt ice on the front walk from where the ice drips off the roof to the parking lot. They purchased two 5 x 2.5 foot mats. For a discussion of the use of this system, please contact Pam Wolfe (contact information in the WYM Minute Book).

I Have Called You Friends, John 15:14

A Friend is supportive no matter what. They have a “yes” face.

We want to know the truth. A true friend will make you feel important by letting you know the truth.

Christian friends can guide us.

Gray Friends meet the definition of a friend.

David Webster, pastor



Plainfield Friends and Bill Clendineng want us to remember that all are welcome for the Worship Services held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at Sugar Grove Senior Living at 2:00 p.m., and at the Plainfield Health Care Center at 2:30 on other Sundays.

Children of Light

“He [Jesus] was the true light that enlightens everyone coming into the world.” [John 1:9] In Ephesians, Paul tells us, “walk as children of Light.” [Eph. 5:8] In other words, if we are to be “Children of Light,” then we have to live like it.

Cliff Loesch writes on the University Friends Meeting Web Site, “Light makes things beautiful. Light sets a kind of mood. If you think of all these lights, just note the kinds of images and even feelings and moods these call forth. Think of a candle at a dinner table for two. Think of a campfire with young people singing and roasting marshmallows. Think of a flashlight when the electricity goes out. A street lamp on a foggy evening. The sun coming through stained glass windows; a Christmas tree; the sky just before the sun rises or sets; a reading lamp beside a cozy chair. Our lives can be like that: powerful and beautiful.”

I would add that it is fitting that, scientifically, the speed of light is the standard by which everything else is measured. In like manner, we measure our lives by the Light of Christ.

Pastor **Rex Jones**, Greenfield Friends



On February 18 at **Downer's Grove**, Meeting for Learning showed “Death Makes Life Possible,” a documentary about transforming the fear of death into motivation for living life fully. If you are interested in this documentary, please contact Marcia Nelson, clerk (see Minute Book for contact information).

The Quaker Corner, AFSC's 50th

Did you know that The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) received the Nobel Peace Prize (along with British Quakers) in 1947? Founded in 1917 it has been working for peace and social justice all over the world. They ministered to war-ravaged communities during and after World War I, helped distressed Appalachian mining communities find alternative means of making a living in the 1930's, established economic development programs in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and are working today to continue to build peaceful communities all over the world.

Check out their website for current initiatives: <https://www.afsc.org/>.

By: *Nancy Childs*, Carmel Friends, *Carmel Connect*, Feb 2018



PSYCHOTHERAPY AT FAIRFIELD FRIENDS

Fairfield Friends Meeting has established a new ministry. Fairfield has contracted with licensed psychotherapist, Laura Jay-Ballinger, to use the Meetinghouse office to provide counseling services. The rate is \$35 per session, and the Meeting can supplement the cost of treatment for those that cannot afford it.

This ministry is a resource for members, attenders, fellow Quakers, and anyone else interested in pursuing therapy to improve their lives and relationships.



What a good idea! MEETING FOR EATING

Another new group for **Fairfield Friends** women has been formed. They will gather for a Meeting for Eating, AKA lunch, on third Tuesdays at 11:30 AM. There will be no other agenda other than spending time with each other and exploring eating establishments around the area.



Shawn & Katrina currently have 95% of the funds needed to be Programme Officers in Kenya. If you can help them, please contact FUM for a monthly pledge or one time donation. Or send your donation to WYM Benevolence Fund, Sylvia Graves, Treasurer.

Belonging

One of the events we got to attend during our September visit to Kenya was a retreat that was planned for the Clerks and General Secretaries of all the Yearly Meetings in East Africa. It was a great opportunity for us to meet with about 40 key leaders from all over and get a glimpse of their love and dedication to their churches. The retreat started like many retreats do: with registration and dinner. Folks were arriving from near and far and many were warmly greeting each other, happy to be together again. I (Katrina) felt awkward and uncomfortable, definitely like an outsider who didn't belong. And then something happened: we went around the room and each of us introduced ourselves. The instructions were to share our name, position, and something we care about. I tend to take notes in meetings and at church, jotting down whatever stands out or that I think I might want to remember so I began a list of the things people said they care about and went something like this: **I care about.....music, truth, financial accountability and transparency, sharing ideas, passing on leadership to younger people, children, standing for truth, peace, serving my Quaker church, Bible study, sharing, conferences, making friends, serving the Lord, peace, making people happy, the Word of God, integrity, the Quaker church, teaching Sunday School, reading the Bible, listening and speaking my mind, people who love giving their lives to the work of God, celebrating, listening and learning, truth.**

The funny thing is that sitting here four months later, I don't remember what I said in my own introduction. What did I tell them that I care about? The really great thing is that I could've said any of the things that they said. What a gift to know that even though I felt so out of place at the time and I know I will feel like an outsider again for quite some time, I **do** belong. What a gift to have such a tangible reminder that we are brothers and sisters in Christ, united by a common call to ministry among Friends. On the surface, our differences may appear to be great but we have so much in common. We care about so many of the same things. We do belong together.



Without A Vision

A cartoon shows two Eskimos fishing through holes they had cut in the ice. One has his line dangling through a hole the size of a soccer ball, the other through a hole the size of a bath tub! Their expectations determined the size of the holes they cut. One's limited vision limited him to exactly that. The other's bigger vision made possible something far greater.

If we are a church with vision, we should have the ability to look beyond our present limitations and visualize what could happen if God is in it. We are "workers together with God", so we should have faith in Him to fulfill God-sized expectations. Robert Kennedy, commenting on different responses people had to a vision he had laid before them, wrote: "Some people see things as they are and wonder 'why'. Other see things as they could be and wonder 'why not!'"

BEWARE! Little-mindedness is contagious! Let's not allow it to dominate our thinking, but see ourselves as God sees us - a church with great potential which He has planted in Carmel for a purpose. Our resources are small but our God is **BIG!** Prayer is the linkage between our lack and God's provision!

Keith Glasgow, *Carmel Connect*, Carmel Friend Church,
with illustration help from a pulpit website





Pastoral Ministry Excellence held a workshop Jan. 27 which was a blessing to the people involved.



Friends Committee on National Legislation, 75th anniversary!

Here are a few of the quotes from that meeting:

We appreciate the Theology of the Slow. We make changes so fast, we alienate everyone. The tyranny of the urgent needs to succumb to the Theology of the slow.

We need to train people into a position; we want to train the church to be better. We invest in training.

Event stacking. Do one event after another to get people to come back for 2 or more events. We do things in waves. Prepare the congregation to be good hosts.

Power of empowerment. People are not afraid of change; they're afraid of loss. God has given us the power to change one person.

Dale Graves, Belize Project Manager and member of West Newton Friends Meeting, returned to the United States in late January for diagnosis and treatment of fluid on his lung. He has since been diagnosed with adenocarcinoma. Please hold in prayer Dale, his family, and his co-workers and friends in Belize, as he begins medical treatment in Indiana.

-FUM e-news



Hot chocolate IS LIKE A hug FROM THE inside

MAN OF THE YEAR, Parke County Chamber of Commerce has honored Bruce Brown (a member of Tangier Friends Meeting) as "Man of the Year." Brown is the correspondent for Tangier, spokesperson for Liberty Township and a retired North Vermilion High School teacher. (Sentinel photo by Lisa Wood). [Sent by Roleen Pickard. Thank you.]

Western Work

A publication of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church

203 S. East Street
P.O. Box 70
Plainfield, IN 46168
Phone: 317-839-2789
Toll Free: 1-800-909-3452
E-mail: westernym@sbcglobal.net
www.westernym.net

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PLAINFIELD, IN
PERMIT NO. 86

Purpose

WYM encourages, supports, and equips meetings and individuals to grow and share their faith in Jesus Christ as we seek the will of God through Scripture and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, expressed in Quaker tradition

A Cup of Hot Chocolate

As I sit trying to organize, compose and put a few thoughts to paper (word processor) on a day that is below zero, my wife of almost 51 years brings me a cup of hot chocolate. That is so like her, thoughtful of others.



My mind switches to another event 2,000 years ago. Stepping out of a crowd gathered along the Jordan River a man named Jesus presents himself to be baptized by a prophet known as John the Baptist. Why did Jesus come? Did he have a spiritual awakening, an awareness of his own sin, a need to be baptized and begin a new life of his own?

Mark, the presenter of this account does not go into details. For now Jesus had a new direction for his life. He began immediately to teach, heal and make disciples. In fact, he said Yes to God, not unlike what his mother said to God as recorded in Luke. The power of ministry is in the Yes. For now Jesus has a new ministry, one that a carpenter's shop could not contain.

That is the way it should be with us. Coming from diverse places and backgrounds we experience God's call. We have the choice; say Yes to God, taking the road less traveled; or stay on the course you are on. The power of each ministry is the saying of Yes to God.

Faith happens when we say Yes, accept and be transformed: the world changes. If we stay our former course nothing changes, nothing gets better, the darkness does not get challenged; our lives are not made whole. Life is a journey, let us each say Yes to God as we enter into the new year.

Jim Wilson, **Plainfield Friends Meeting**

