

Dear Friends,

Doug asked me to write some reflections on being a Friend's pastor this month during his "well deserved" sabbatical absence.

As has been reported in prior *Communicators*, I recently took early retirement from the pastorate, after only 45 years of service, because of health concerns. A question one might ask is, "If I had it to do all over again – would I?" The answer to that question is easy—Yes! It would be "Yes" because being a Friends pastor isn't something I chose to do, it essentially chose me.

It wasn't a "career move," just as the meeting's I served weren't "career moves," because being a Friends pastor isn't a career, it's a calling.

Much could be said about what it means to be "recorded" or about the various leadership styles assumed, or the gifts and skills needed. However, the most important lesson I've learned about being an effective Friends pastor is simply one's ability to be a friend; to relate to others in their needs and their strengths.

The pastorate is about relationships: our relationship with Christ and His word and our ability to integrate that in

our relationships with each other. Such relationships demand integrity, authenticity, knowledge, and most of all, a big heart for God's people.

The richest blessing of my ministry has been God putting His love for His people in my heart. I stand in awe, and I praise Christ for His call and for His gifts to me. My prayer is that I have been counted faithful.

Prayerfully, *Rod Dennis*

Communicator

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September 3, 2014

IYM Upcoming Calendar

9/8 Program Committee: IYM office, 7 pm
9/9 Westfield Area Pastors Meeting: Cadiz Friends, 9:30 am
9/11 Van Wert Area Pastors Meeting: TBA, 10:30 am (Thursday)
9/14 Tri-County Quarterly Meeting: Upland Friends, 5:00 pm
9/17 Marion Area Pastors Meeting: TBA, 9:30 am
9/18 Faith & Practice Committee Meeting: IYM office, 6:30 pm

**Start planning now to participate
in "Work Days" at Quaker Haven,
October 3-4**

**For more information, contact Brandon Dennis at
info@quakerhaven.com**

Kennard Friends has been blessed with a wonderful turnout for their latest community outreach events. They had a recognition Sunday to honor and thank the men and women on the town's volunteer fire department, and they had about 30 little souls who attended VBS. Their next outreach is September 21. Mike and Kelly Hammerle (9Westfield Friends) will be sharing their time and talent. Mike has a special God-given gift as a singer/songwriter. Please pray that the unchurched in our community will come for The Concert and leave with The Christ!

Farmland Friends will host Dr. Michael Barry, Sunday morning, October 26, 9 am and 10:45 am, and again that evening at 6 pm. Dr. Barry was the Director of Pastoral Care at Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Philadelphia where he specialized in the connection between spirituality and health, particularly as it relates to cancer. He has written four books, his most recent book, being *The Forgiveness Project: The Startling Discovery of How to Overcome Cancer, Find Health, and Achieve Peace* (Kregel Publishing, Grand Rapids). In it he details the spiritual and physical benefits of forgiveness, as well as teaches readers "how to forgive" based upon his years of experience in mentoring cancer patients. IYM was blessed to have him speak at Pastors' Short Course in July.

Long Lake Friends is hosting a chicken dinner (picnic style), Friday, September 5, 5-7 pm. This is a fundraiser to help place a new roof on their church building. \$10 per plate; \$5 for kids 6-12; \$25 for families of parents and children.

Westland Friends pastor Paul Bravard and his wife, Debbie, are hosting "Generation Change" at Westland Friends this month. "Generation Change" is an all-new suite of Bible studies designed to lead teens to a better understanding of God, themselves, and their money. Check the promo video link: <http://genchange.central.com/video/>

White River Friends will host a "Concert on the Lawn," featuring "The Prodigals" from Greenfield, Saturday, September 13, 1 pm. There will be free hot dogs served from noon to 1 pm so bring your lawn chairs and enjoy some good fellowship and music. For more information, call Brian Edwards at 765-857-2449.

Tri-County Quarterly Meeting will be held at Amboy Friends, Sunday, September 14, 5 pm, meal; 6 pm, program. The program will feature southern gospel entertainer, Billy Hodges, from Gatlinburg, TN.

October 1 is the next MEI application due date. If your church and pastor have needs concerning the pastor's health care, retirement, education debt, sabbatical relief, or some type of emergency needs, please contact Carol Wright at carol@iym.org. The matching grant money is waiting to be used. The forms are available at IYM's website (www.iym.org). Look for Ministerial Excellence Initiative for the grant application.

Carol Wright reminds us that MEI Day will be held, September 14, Please take time during your morning worship services and pray for MEI (Ministerial Excellence Initiative) and our yearly meeting. We are wrapping up the Lilly Foundation grant and are looking at the future plans for this Initiative.

Dave Phillips and Paul Cochrane will be leading "Focused Living," a personal growth workshop, September 12, 13 & 20 at Wabash Friends. The goal of the workshop is to give you tools to identify your personal life purpose and map a path for life-long spiritual growth. Cost will be \$25. Contact dave@wabashfriends.org for more information or to register.

From IYM Treasurer Max Smith Fundraising is becoming more and more important in today's society and now that includes IYM as well as our local meetings. If you want to learn more about congregational stewardship, FUM and The Quaker Hill Conference Center are sponsoring

Saturday, November 1. Many of the IYM Stewardship and Finance Committee members are planning to attend this promising workshop. Details can be found on Quaker Hill's website www.qhcc.org with registration fees increasing after 10/14. Please keep in mind IYM's fund raising for the 2016 budget. We are off to a good start but need to keep working toward the \$85,000 goal.

White's Residential & Family Services will host the "Open Door Dinner—Sowing Spiritual Seeds," Saturday, September 20, 5:30 pm social hour and campus tours; 6:30 pm dinner; 7:30 pm entertainer Dana Daniels (The Fun-nyside of Magic). Please RSVP by September 6. www.whiteskids.org/ opendoordinner or email to shanea.headrick@whitesrfs.org.

Frederick Chiropractic, IYM's new tenant located next door to the IYM office, is having a Grand Opening, October 4, 11 am to 2 pm. There will be face painting, chair massages, food, and other freebies. Everyone is welcome.

Joe Fick, with InterVarsity ministry at Earlham College for the past 12 years, reports that his position with InterVarsity is changing from direct contact with students to the Ministry Partnership Development Coach for InterVarsity, effective immediately. He will miss the students but will be working to develop better, more fruitful relations with their supporters, which, in turn, enables them to spend even more of their time participating in God's work on campus. He thanks IYM for their support and for playing a part in this student-transforming, campus-renewing, and world-changing ministry.

Our sincere sympathy goes to the family of **Nina Dealey**, mother of Portland Friends pastor, Byron Dealey, who passed away August 2.

and to
the family of **Walter Sumner**, a longtime member of Friends Memorial and Dayspring Friends, who passed away August 14.