

Yearly Meeting Sessions:

Indiana Yearly Meeting meets in session Thursday, July 28 through Saturday, July 30, at Quaker Haven. Changes from previous years: 1) Our sessions will end with the "Feast of Faith" on Saturday evening rather than continuing through Sunday morning. (There is an "Afterglow" option for those who would like to stay for worship with Dewart Lake Community Friends on Sunday morning.) 2) We are streamlining business and reports to allow more time for additional workshops, fellowship, and enjoyment of the camp.

Hinkle Creek Friends held their first official youth meeting with new Youth Pastor, Edie Henry, last Sunday. They had a good group of teens helping to plan their youth program. They will meet this Saturday to clear the woods for trails, fire pit, etc. for upcoming events. Also, last Sunday, three new families were present in worship. Please pray for these new and exciting endeavors at Hinkle Creek.

Knightstown Friends Pastor, Tim Basford, is meeting weekly with 40-45 male and female cadets, 16-18 years of age from the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy, in a voluntary Bible Study program. This is the 6th class of cadets he has worked with. Tim stated, "These young people are working so hard to earn a second chance for their lives... what a wonderful ministry to be a part of!" Palm Sunday the cadets, the community, and Knightstown Friends held a Sunday morning service together with Pastor Tim officiating and with music given by the Knightstown Friends choir.

Tri-County Quarterly Meeting will be held at Westfield, Sunday, May 1 at 6:00 pm. Dinner will likely be at 5:30.

From IYM Treasurer, Max Smith: Thank you for your continuing donations toward the 2017 Budget Campaign. We now have total pledges and donations of \$53,347.41 which is 56.2% of the \$95,000 goal. If your meeting is yet to schedule an IYM Sunday, please consider getting one scheduled and you may contact the office for a speaker and any other support you would need. Payment of the 2016 program assessments are well ahead of the monthly schedule with 11 meetings on the monthly schedule, 8 meetings ahead of the monthly sched-

ule, 10 meetings having paid 100% for the year and 3 meetings that have paid over 100% for the year. Thank you so much for your continued support of IYM and all of its important programs.



CE Spotlight: Please don't let finances prevent a single child or teen from attending Quaker Haven Camp this summer! We encourage meetings to provide financial aid for teens and children in your church or community. If the church cannot meet all of the needs, scholarships are available from Quaker Haven. The form to apply for this scholarship is on the Youth Ministries tab at iym.org. The IYM Evangelism & Outreach Committee also has funds available to assist kids going to camp. Individuals or churches can contact John Norris, or another member of the E&O Committee with questions about these funds.

Representative Council Highlights

Approved a new purpose statement: Creating environments that empower churches and individuals to be disciples of Jesus Christ and to make disciples of Jesus Christ

Revisions to F&P that simplify initial steps in the recording process and provide flexibility for term limits for key officers and committee members were approved to be sent to Monthly Meetings for consideration

First readings of the 2017 Missions Goals and Program Budget were presented. No increase in assessments recommended.

Many encouraging reports were received with joy. The hospitality of Hemlock Friends was appreciated!

Pastors Short Course brochures will be mailed out soon. This year's edition of PSC will be a shortened version beginning on Tuesday evening, July 5, and concluding with lunch on Thursday, July 7. Dave Williams, Superintendent of Mid-America Yearly Meeting, will be this year's speaker and the theme will be *Rhythms of Grace: Life-Saving Disciplines for Spiritual Leaders*. Great workshops and worship are

planned along with programming (and child care) for the entire family.

Focused Living, a tool that can make you a wiser follower of Christ, strengthen your local church, and bless Indiana Yearly Meeting, will hold workshops on April 29-30 at Farmland Friends, September 30-Oct 1 at Wabash, and November 4-5 at Wabash. For more information contact Dave Phillips at 260-563-5497 or email to dave@wabashfriends.org.

Friends Theological College (FTC) at Kaimosi now has a total of 67 students, residential and off-campus. There are 26 students at Lugulu, 8 at Samburu, and 8 at Nairobi Satellite centers. They anticipate a higher number of student enrolling in their residential program this September although unfortunately there are some students who are unable to return because of insufficient funds. A **Solar energy project** is a significant project for FTC which will greatly benefit the ministry of the school in numerous ways, including supporting the accreditation process and increasing internet capacity. The ministry of FTC is expanding every day, and they are thankful for your support and prayers.

John Muhanji of FUM's African Ministries Office in Kenya will be in Indiana from May 16 through June 1 and would be available to speak to churches and interested groups of Friends during that time. Contact the yearly meeting office to schedule him.

Reports from Kickapoo and Mesquakie Friends Centers

Kickapoo Directors Brad and Christine Wood were guests at the Indiana USFW Spring Gathering at Westfield last week. Christine brought a inspiring report and the offering was for a new parsonage to replace the 1899 house. Mac and Berny MacDonald report from the **Mesquakie Friends Center** that they are seeing prayers answered and faith growing. "We are in continual awe witnessing His love for us and His people. It's not all flowers and rainbows, but in the struggles we see His great mercies. We are growing into a loving community of grateful sinners living together in prayer with anticipation of God's forgiveness and joys."

Good Morning,

An August 2015 poll from Barna revealed what some are calling a "new moral code" among adults in the United States. For example, 79% of those surveyed agreed with this statement: "People can believe whatever they want, as long as those beliefs don't affect society." It amazes me that 61% of practicing Christians agreed. 69% of U.S. adults agreed that "Any kind of sexual expression between two consenting adults is acceptable." Even more alarming is that 40 % of practicing Christians concurred. If this data is accurate it seems that at least 40% of practicing U.S. Christians are more influenced by cultural norms than by biblical teaching.

I recently read about a pumpkin farmer who has designed molds that encase growing pumpkins. He's made more than a few dollars on pumpkins that have been shaped into Frankenstein heads by his strong molds. Romans 12:2 cautions us to not be conformed to the world. A paraphrase of this verse says, "Don't let the world squeeze you into its mold."

One characteristic of early Friends that impresses me was their dogged determination to be obedient to biblical teaching and the Spirit's leading even

when it was politically incorrect and very costly to do so. While one could argue that Fox and Friends (not the TV news program) could have avoided some jail time by trying to cooperate with the system of their day, no one can deny their deep commitment to complete and costly faithfulness. I wonder what Friends in our day will be known for? I hope it's not for being shaped by the mold of our culture.

-Doug Shoemaker

Communicator

Indiana Yearly Meeting,
4715 N Wheeling Ave,
Muncie, IN 47304

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MUNCIE, IN 47304
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The Communicator

800-292-5238
765-284-6900
Fax: 765-284-8925
<http://www.iym.org>

Doug Shoemaker
doug@iym.org
Pat Byers
pat@iym.org
Betty Ison
iyminfo@iym.org

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IYM Upcoming Calendar

5/01 *IYM Sunday, Farmland Friends*
5/01 *IYM Sunday, Center Friends*
5/01 *FUM Energize, Equip & Connect, West River Friends, 4 pm*
5/03 *Work Group on Pastoral Ministry, IYM office, 6 pm*
5/15 *IYM Sunday, Westfield Friends*
5/17 *Committee Night, Upland Friends, 6:30 pm*
5/19 *Faith & Practice Review Comm., IYM office, 6:30 pm*
5/23 *Program Committee, IYM office, 6:30 pm*
5/29 *IYM Sunday, Jericho Friends*
6/05 *IYM Sunday, Amboy Friends*