

Back Creek Friends will hold their Christmas Day worship service at 6 pm that evening.

Center Friends recently held their annual Christmas party with wearing ugly Christmas sweaters and filling pairs of Christmas socks with goodies, later taking a group picture with the ugly sweaters and Christmas socks on. Santa came and a taco bar was served. On December 10, pastor Duane Cox and wife, Pam, had an "Open House" for their congregation. On December 18, Center Friends children will present their Christmas program and on December 24 the church will have their Christmas Eve Service.

Fairmount Friends' Life Group, "Oldies But Goodies" will go to the Christian Center in Anderson to minister to the men there. They will bring them music, clothing, and refreshments.

Hinkle Creek Friends will hold their Christmas program on December 18, 6 pm with lots of music and a Christmas play.

Iglesia Amigos is asking for groups from IYM churches to do Children's Ministry on Sunday evenings this winter at their church on the east side of Indianapolis. They hope to have two Sundays a month supported in this ministry by IYM groups. This is an easy, local mission outreach opportunity for small groups, youth groups, or Sunday Schools. Contact Katy Moran for more information. 317-450-4712 or pastor.katy.moran@gmail.com.

Knightsdown Friends Candlelight Service will be held December 18, 7 pm and will feature their choir, vocal solos, readings, congregational singing, and the lighting of candles. On December 23, they will celebrate Christmas with Iglesias Amigos.

Lynn Friends enjoyed Pat Byers bringing a message to them the last of November. This month, they have collected 1,100 shoe boxes for those in need at Christmas time. They had their youth Christmas play on December 11 and will hold their annual Christmas cantata December 18, 10:30 am and their Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 11 pm on the 24th.

Shirley Friends will hold their Candlelight Service, December 18 at 6 pm.

South Marion Friends filled several shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Also, they decorated their meetinghouse during their "Hanging of the Greens" and held a pitch-in meal. Prayer meeting is held on the first and third Sundays of the month at 6:30 pm.

Sycamore Friends will have a chili supper and Christmas caroling, December 21.

Wabash Friends will sponsor a Marriage Retreat which will be held at Shipshewana, February 17-18. For more information, visit

www.wabashfriendscounseling.com.

Westfield Friends pastor, Steve Pedigo, will speak in Iowa Yearly Meeting, March 25 in the concluding special revival meeting at Mesquakie Friends Church. Iowa Yearly Meeting is holding "50 Days of Prayer for Revival" starting on February 4 with a Concert of Prayer.



Spotlight on Youth:

Winter Sneak will be held February 3-5 at Quaker Haven for 7th-12th grade students.

Garrett Howell from Awaken Ministries will, again, bring the teaching and Courtney McClure will head up a worship band consisting of musicians from Wabash Friends, Sycamore Friends, and Russiaville Friends (WYM). The theme is REWIRE from Psalm 51:10-12. Cost is \$100. Go to qhcyouthprogramming.com to sign up.

Youth/Children's Workers Dinner will be held on January 23, 6:30 pm. All paid and volunteer Youth and Children's Workers are invited to this dinner at Stone Creek Dining Co. in the Hamilton Town Center in Noblesville. The dinner is free to those wonderful folks who serve our young people in our churches. Please RSVP to Pat Byers, pat@iym.org, by January 18.

Year-end 2016 Statistical Reports are being mailed to monthly meeting statistical secretaries and need to be completed and returned to the IYM office by **January 31**. Copies of the reports can also be found at www.iym.org under the "Reports, Forms & Resources" menu.

2016 assessment payments will be accepted through **January 13**. Our thanks goes to the 34 meetings who have already paid their 2016 assessments in full (including several who have over paid) and the nine meetings who are on pace to be paid up by the end of the year.

IYM Sunday is March 12! Each meeting is asked to observe "IYM Sun-

day" on March 12, 2017. Please mark your calendars and plan to use this day to share the good news about what God is doing in IYM. Be watching for literature, presentation outlines, and even a video that can be used to help members and attenders of your congregation to learn more about your yearly meeting.

Pastors Mid-Winter Retreat registrations need to be received by the IYM office by **December 31**. Interest in this year's event is high and space is limited so please reserve your spot as soon as possible.

The Friends Ministry Training certificate program developed by Indiana Yearly Meeting in conjunction with Barclay College is ready to receive applicants! For more information see the brochure on the IYM website www.iym.org or to apply go directly to <https://www.barclaycollege.edu/forms/OnlineApply.aspx>.

Kaleo Academy, the new youth leadership development program beginning at Barclay College next year, is excited to extend the deadline for those interested in applying for our first cohort. The application deadlines are now: Applications and deposit received by March 1 is \$695. Applications and deposit received after March 1 is \$750. All applications due by May 1. Contact Katy Moran for more information or if you'd like to have a presentation about this new exciting program at your church. katy.moran@barclaycollege.edu or 317-450-4712 . <http://www.barclaycollege.edu/kaleo/>

Quaker Haven is continually making improvements to make your experience at camp safer and more exciting. They have two goals for 2017 to make this a reality. First is upgrading the camp-wide PA system. They have found a system flexible enough to meet the needs wirelessly throughout the camp, inside and outside. Second is a Jump Pad, a 50 ft x 30 ft inflated bounce floor giving kids another exciting way to play and exercise and can be used summer and winter. Any donation that they receive through the end of the year will be matched up to \$6000. Your donation can go twice as far! You can contribute online at www.quakerhaven.com. For more information, contact brock@quakerhaven.com.

Good Morning!

A roomful of pastors and spouses enjoyed Christmas dinner last week at Back Creek Friends. Janis Sizelove prepared a delicious meal, Kris Shoemaker added some of her rolls and pies, and Mike Haemmerle along with his sidekick, Kerry Davis, shared a wonderful musical program. Here is a sample of the remarks I shared with the pastors: Will Davis, author of the book, *Enough: Finding More by Living with Less*, shared about preparing to leave Nicaragua after a short-term mission trip and realized that he still had some unspent cordobas, the local currency, in his pocket. The value of them

wouldn't go far back home, but in Managua he was rich. So he spent the last day there as a rich man, giving generous tips and overpaying for purchases resulting in lots of smiles and even tears of joy.

On his return flight he reported sensing God saying this to him: "Will, you really enjoyed yesterday, didn't you? You loved being so generous and free with your money... But guess what? You're still rich! You can still be just as generous and giving as you were yesterday! You

see, where you are going your money is worthless. The American dollar is no more valuable in heaven than the cordoba is in the United States."

The Christmas story is one about a God who "spent it all." Sending His one and only Son to Bethlehem, and then to Calvary so that we might have life. I thanked our pastors and their spouses for following that example of sacrificial generosity. Today I say "thank you" to all of the Friends in IYM who are doing the same.
-Doug Shoemaker

Communicator

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December 14, 2016

IYM Upcoming Calendar

12/19 *Investment Board, Muncie Red Lobster, 11 am*
12/23—1/1 *IYM office will be closed.*
1/9 *Program Committee Conference Call, 6:30 pm*
1/14 *IYM Executive Committee Retreat, Wabash Friends, 9:30 am*
1/27-29 *Pastors Mid-Winter Retreat, Clifty Inn, Madison, IN*

*Merry Christmas to All of You!!
Christ! The Best Gift of All*