

Committee Day
Saturday, December 5, 9 am
Upland Friends

Rob Schwarze (Brenda) has accepted a call to serve as interim pastor at Hemlock Friends. Rob had previously filled the pulpit at Maple Run Friends during their pastor's sabbatical earlier this year.

Richard Martin has announced that he will conclude his 10-year ministry at Jonesboro Friends, January 24.

Paul Hamrick, pastor of Van Wert First Friends, recently spent 10 days on a mission trip to Kotzebue, Alaska, where he taught at the Friends Bible Training School which is part of Alaska Yearly Meeting.

Bear Creek Friends collected 201 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child this year. Also the meeting took in five new adult members and three new junior members in 2015.

Hinkle Creek Friends will hold their Christmas Program and Candlelight Service, December 20, 6 pm.

Sycamore Friends filled 137 shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse joining 24,478 collected in the Kokomo area, and **Lynn Friends** filled 1,655 boxes.

Walnut Ridge Friends will hold their Annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 5, downtown Carthage, from 9-2. They will host a Community Christmas Choir cantata on Sunday, December 20 at 6:00 pm followed with cookies & coffee. They will hold their annual Christmas Eve service on December 24, at 10:00 pm.

Westland Friends will celebrate their 175th Anniversary, Sunday, December 20, 10:30 am. There will be a reception at 1 pm with food and fellowship, and at 2:30 there will be sharing of memories and history. RSVP's are appreciated but not required to rcrook7859@gmail.com or 317-694-1451.

Iglesia Amigos will open its doors for a Christmas dinner for immigrant families who do not have families here with which to celebrate Christmas. Also, some of the children may not receive gifts so Iglesia Amigos would like to be their family on December 20, 5:30 pm. Would you please consider donating to Iglesia Amigos to help them to help others at this Christmastime?

You can mail your donation to 831 N. Edmondson Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46219, or if you would like to come to their Christmas Dinner, please do so. Also, Iglesia Amigos will have a "Birthday Party for Jesus" for their children on December 18, funded by World Renewal. The congregation would like to express their gratitude for your past generosity to them! They wish you a Merry Christmas as we all celebrate Jesus coming into our world.

From the IYM Treasurer, Max Smith: Praise the Lord for the donations toward the 2017 budget. We have now collected or have pledged a total of \$37,343.90 which is over 39% of the \$95,000 goal. What a blessing to see the responses. Please let the IYM office know as you schedule IYM Sundays and how we can help make that a successful event. Thank you to the meetings that have paid all of their 2015 assessments or are on track monthly to fulfill that commitment and especially thank you to the three meetings that have paid over their 2015 assessed amount. If your meeting is behind on the monthly basis or have not paid at all, please consider getting that caught up by year's end. We need to end the year with 100% of assessments paid to fund all of budgeted IYM expenditures.



The Annual Winter Sneak teen retreat at Quaker Haven, February 5-7, will have the theme of "Doing Life in Worship—Together," with Ben Makin, Counselor at White's RFS' Compass Rose program speaking. The musical worship will be led by Jacob Eaton, brother to Wabash Friends Youth Pastor, Brandon Eaton. Directors are Brock Sizelove and Cierra Simmons. The cost is \$100. You may register soon at qhcyouthprogramming.com.

Pastors are reminded that the annual Christmas Dinner for pastors and spouses will be held, December 17, 6:30 pm, at Hemlock Friends. RSVP requested by December 10. Call the IYM office or email to doug@iym.org to make your reservations.

Mid-Winter Retreat for pastors and spouses is scheduled for January 29-31 at Das Dutchman Essenhaus Inn and Conference Center in Middlebury, IN. Reservations and payment are due by December 31.

Dave Phillips and Paul Cochrane are available to present their "Focused Living" and "Apex" workshops in your meeting. Would your church be interested in hosting an event in your area? Contact Dave at dave@wabashfriends.org to learn how God might use these workshops in your congregation.

Informative seminars coming in February: Craig Foor, Financial Advisor with Everence Financial, will present "Estate planning and charitable giving" this February at three central Indiana churches. Plan now to attend, and learn how estate planning can help you reduce taxes, support ministries important to you, and care for those you leave behind. You'll also learn about wills and who makes medical decisions on your behalf if you can't. Finally, you'll learn some charitable giving techniques that will help maximize your efforts. Join Craig for one of these seminar dates: **Saturday, February 6, 10 am**, Bethel Friends; **Saturday, February 6, 2 pm**, Bear Creek Friends; **Saturday, February 20, 2 pm**, Knightstown Friends.

Leon Amstutz, formerly of Upland Friends and past clerk of the IYM Recording Committee and sound man for IYM sessions, is taking a leap of faith to join SonSet Solutions Mission Organization whose purpose is "to provide technology-based solutions to advance the Gospel worldwide," headquartered in Elkhart. This is a support organization for ministries around the world. He and his wife, Anne, hope to move to Elkhart by the summer of 2017 and begin serving full-time with SonSet Solutions. He will be a technology manager, developing innovative technical solutions to help improve education in Liberia, West Africa.

Due to the passing of both Carl Bennett and recently Sheri Bennett Davis, a fund has been created to help their children. The **Sheri Bennett Memorial Fund** is an account at First Merchants Bank. Anyone who wishes to contribute in her memory may do so at any First Merchants Bank using the account title. This fund is monitored by Mandy Madison, a close friend of Sheri, and will be distributed to Ethan and Hannah as needs arise. If there are any questions, please contact Melody Radford: mradford@nltc.net. Thank you.

Good Morning,

This is the 18th in a series of letters I'm writing to George Fox, the founder of Quakerism.

Dear George,

As a young man I remember quoting the words of Jesus from Matthew 5:48, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." A Quaker leader I respected a lot quickly cautioned me that none of us will attain perfection in this life. I've been trying to decide who I should believe, my beloved Quaker friend, or Jesus. I think I know a bit about how you felt when you often

taught we are called to a level of Christian experience you called "perfection" while the rest of the church seemed to be lowering the bar to accommodate our human limitations.

In your Journal you wrote: *For of all the sects in Christendom (so called) that I discoursed with, I found none who could bear to be told that any should come to Adam's perfection, - - into that image of God, that righteousness and holiness, that Adam was in before he fell; to be clean and pure, without*

sin, as he was. You consistently raised the bar, calling us to a relationship with God that not only results in forgiveness from sin, but also power over sin. Holiness revivals of the 19th century didn't shape Mid-western Quakerism as much as they resurfaced the heart of what you called us to. "Thank you" for calling us to a transforming knowledge of God that holiness preachers later described as "entire sanctification." Your goal wasn't to just stumble into heaven by the grace of God. Thanks for pointing us to a better way.

-Doug Shoemaker

Communicator

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December 2, 2015

IYM Upcoming Calendar

12/5 *Committee Day, Upland Friends, 9 am*
12/14 *Investment Board, Red Lobster, 11 am*
12/17 *Pastors Christmas Dinner, Hemlock Friends, 6:30 pm*
12/24-1/2 *IYM Office Closed*
12/29 *Trustees, IYM Office, 6:30 pm*
1/11 *Recording Committee, IYM Office, 6 pm*
1/21 *Faith & Practice Review Committee, IYM Office, 6:30 pm*
1/23 *Executive Committee Retreat, location TBA, 9:30 am*
1/25 *Program Committee, IYM Office, 6:30 pm*
1/29-31 *Pastors' Mid- Winter Retreat, Das Dutchman Essenhaus*

Looking for some fun Christmas events? How about traveling to Quaker Haven to attend a Madrigal Dinner, December 4, 5, 6, 11, 12. Contact info@quakerhaven.com or 574-834-4193 for more information.

Friends United Meeting will hold their "Chain of Prayer," January 1 to Pentecost Sunday, May 15, 2016. For more information contact FUM at 765-962-7573 or info@fum.org.