

Back Creek Friends held a "Membership Sunday," January 24. Eleven new adult members and eight new junior members were received into the meeting.

Farmland Friends supports the Pregnancy Care Center of Randolph County by providing baby bottles for their congregation to put their loose change in to be collected on Valentine's Day.

Shirley Friends invites you to their Valentine's Celebration and Fun Night, Friday, February 5 at 6 pm.

Wabash Friends Ministry & Oversight held an afternoon retreat on January 31 led by Adrian Halverstadt, Chancellor of Barclay College.

Mid-Winter Retreat was attended by 46 pastors and spouses, January 29-31. The program included worship led by Pat Byers and video highlights from the 2015 Global Leadership Summit. Thank you to each congregation that encouraged, supported, and released your pastor to attend. It is a great investment in your pastor and in your own meeting.

Attention Pastors: The February 16 Pastors summit originally scheduled at White's has been changed. Instead it will be held at Maple Run Friends with Doug Shoemaker leading on the topic, "Unloading Baggage that Undermines Ministry." Other summits will be held March 15, 9 am at White River Friends, "Discernment" led by *Marlene Pedigo*; April 19, 9 am at Maple Run Friends, "Prayer Ministries," led by *Jeff Nagell*.

Carol Wright has completed her service as our Ministerial Advocate. She has served in this part-time position since August of 2012 and has been a valued advocate for pastoral support and congregational health. Her presence on the IYM staff will be greatly missed. The Lilly Funded-Ministerial Excellence Initiative in IYM concluded at the end of 2015.

The Executive Committee of IYM held a day-long retreat at the IYM office on January 23 where they worked hard on a strategic plan that will clarify IYM's purpose, help our committees to function well, and equip local meeting leaders to understand and carry out their responsibilities.

Estate Planning Workshops are being made available to all members/attenders of IYM churches, sponsored by our Stewardship & Finance Committee and presented by Craig Foor of Everence Financial Services. Please consider attending one of these events: Feb. 6, 10 am at Bethel Friends; Feb. 6, 2 pm at Bear Creek Friends; Feb. 20, 2 pm at Knightstown Friends.

From IYM Treasurer, Max Smith: Thank you for your continued contributions to the 2017 Budget Fundraising Campaign and a big thank you to all for another year of exceeding our Program Assessment. With the IYM Sundays that are happening across IYM, the contributions should continue to flow in the next couple of months. We currently stand at a total of \$44,848.60 in donations and pledges equaling 47.2% of the \$95,000 goal. Wouldn't it be great to see us over the 50% level by the next *Communicator*?

Statistical Reports were due from IYM congregations January 31. Thank you to the many churches who submitted these on time! Several have not sent theirs into the IYM office yet. Please complete and mail your forms **as soon as possible**.

A **"Focus Living Workshop"** will be held, March 4 & 5 (Friday, 6:30-8:30 pm and Saturday, 8:30 am-4 pm) at Wabash Friends. This workshop will help you explore God's calling on your life and fulfilling God's purposes in your life. Research has shown that one out of three Christian leaders finish well. This workshop is designed to help you to finish well. It is a tool for

Christian growth and ministry. The cost is \$35 which includes a meal and a workbook. If you have questions, please call Dave Phillips at 260-563-5497.

Greatness from God's Perspective will be the theme of 2016 yearly meeting sessions scheduled for July 28-30 at Quaker Haven. Worship will be led by The Kramer's (<http://thekramersmusic.com>) who will also present a concert at our Saturday evening Feast of Faith. Amy Cornell from White's will be our guest speaker. Add this to your calendar today!

Indiana's USFW Spring Conference will be held Saturday, April 23 at Westfield Friends with registration and Continental breakfast at 9:30 am, business and singing at 10 am, message by Christine Wood from Kickapoo Friends Center at 10:30 am and a native American lunch served at noon (cost \$10). An offering will be taken to support construction of a new parsonage at Kickapoo.

Don't forget to pray for the team sponsored by the IYM Missions Committee that will be traveling to Kenya, February 19-March 2. The team consists of Eric Dale (Wabash), Keith Huffman (Farmland), Max and Anne Smith (West River), and Superintendent Doug Shoemaker. They will be looking for ways that IYM can create partnerships in Africa that can yield fruitful and sustainable ministry.



Good Morning,

Once when preaching in a Friends Church I encouraged the congregation to repeat after me phrases like "I love my church. I love reading God's Word, and I love worshipping together." Everyone enthusiastically complied. When I added the request to repeat "I love Monthly Meeting," laughter broke out. How about you? Do you love Monthly Meeting or does it feel more like a monthly beating?

My personal opinion is that our practice of having Monthly Meetings for Business is one of the most misunderstood aspects of our tradition. I'm not suggesting that we discard

business meetings, but in some instances the admonition of Paul to the church in Corinth might apply to us: "In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good" (1 Cor. 11:17).

One reason why Monthly Meeting may do more harm than good is a misunderstanding of its purpose. The aim of a business meeting is not to guilt committee clerks to attend and share lengthy details of every idea they have discussed. The goal of a Monthly Meeting should be to collectively discern how

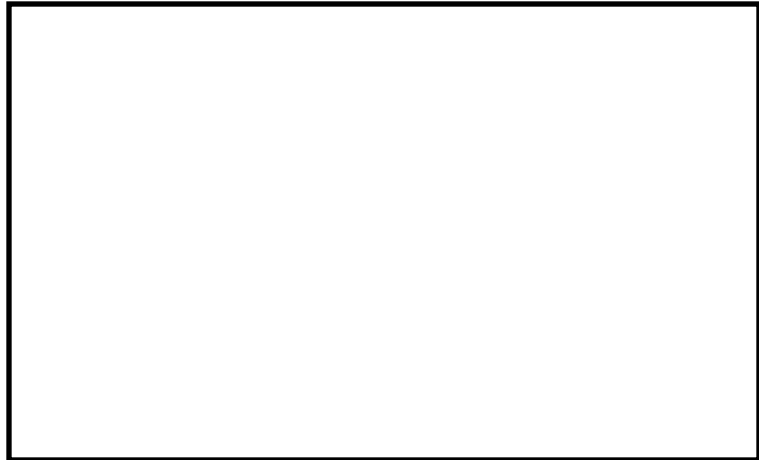
God is leading us. That's why we have a business procedure that is neither pastor-led nor congregation-led; it is intended to be God-led. We make use of consensus rather than voting to discern our direction but our goal is not a consensus of our opinion, the goal is discernment of the will of God. If our Monthly Meetings were characterized by less minutia, and a greater commitment to hear from God, there might actually be more who could say "I love Monthly Meeting" with a straight face. *-Doug Shoemaker*

Communicator

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February 3, 2016

IYM Upcoming Calendar

- 2/06 Estate Planning Workshop, Bethel Friends, 10 am
- 2/06 Estate Planning Workshop, Bear Creek Friends, 2 pm
- 2/08 East Africa Mission Team, Wabash Friends, 7 pm
- 2/16 Pastors Summit, Maple Run Friends, 9 am
- 2/16 Recording Committee, IYM office, 6 pm
- 2/19-3/2 IYM Missions Team trip to East Africa
- 2/20 Estate Planning Workshop, Knightstown Friends, 2 pm
- 3/5 Committee Day, Upland Friends, 9 am
- 3/7 Program Committee, IYM office, 6:30 pm
- 3/14 Executive Committee, IYM office, 6:30 pm
- 3/15 Pastors' Summit, White River Friends, 9 am