

Ron Forsythe is now serving as a transitional pastor at Back Creek Fiends. We welcome Ron and Rita back to IYM!

Zach Kennedy, pastor of Bear Creek Friends, and his wife Courtney, welcomed their new son, Thomas Winston Kennedy, who was born early Sunday morning, January 7. Congratulations!

Cadiz Friends invites you to "Dinner & a Movie" on 1/20, 2/17, and 3/17. Dinner is at 5:00 pm with a movie at 6:00 pm.

Dewart Lake Friends Church is beginning a new sermon series called "Who on Earth" looking at the People of God as Dewart Lake looks deeply at God's heart for the Church. Community Groups begin January 25th, allowing small groups from both inside and outside the congregation to process sermon topics and grow deeper. Dewart Lake is also trialing live streaming sermons to help God's people stay connected. Children's ministries, 3D worship, and youth ministries will be continuing on from last year's fresh changes. See Facebook for more information.

Iglesia Amigos thanks you. Christmas presents were provided to 28 children. We had a birthday party for Jesus on December 16 with 40+ children and 30+ adults. We couldn't have done this without your help.

Bequest Recipients; IYM has been informed that Edwin & Ruby Katherine Barker have remembered IYM missions as part of their estate planning. Edwin had pastored several churches in IYM and passed away in 2004. Ruby Katherine died in November 2017. During 2018, our missions endowment will receive over \$245,000 from their estate.

IYM Sunday will be April 15, 2018. Please mark this date on your church calendar and watch for more information soon about this day where we seek to remind our members and attenders of the value of being part of Indiana Yearly Meeting.

Statistical Reports for 2017 have been mailed. Our 2019 budget, which will soon be crafted, is based upon membership and attendance figures that are requested in these reports. Forms may be downloaded from the yearly meeting web site. Please return completed reports to the IYM office by January 31.

A June 2018 Cuba trip, organized by FUM, is now open for registration. This

Living Letters work trip is scheduled for June 16-28, will participate in a building project working alongside Cuban Friends and skilled professionals. Registration *deadline is February 8 and the total cost for this trip* is: \$2,300. To register email lisas@fum.org or call 765-962-7573.



CE News:

Winter Sneak, Feb 2-4 at Quaker Haven Camp

Games led by Andrew Morrical, worship led by a bank from Malone University, and four chapels brought to us by Bill Quigley (professor from Malone). Cost is \$100. Register here: <http://www.qhcyouthprogramming.com>

2017 Finances; We are grateful to report that for the fifth consecutive year we have ended the budget year with income exceeding expenses! Thank you to committees and leaders who have spent carefully, and churches and individuals who have given generously. Nearly all our meetings have paid 100% of their assessments with nearly 25% of our churches paying over their required amount. Here is a list of seven congregations who exceeded their assessment obligation by \$500 or more: Lynn \$5970, South Marion, \$1325, Sycamore \$1300, Portland \$1225, Peaceful Valley \$800, West River \$725, and Mooreland \$550. Many churches sent in generous IYM Sunday contributions as well! We also gratefully acknowledge Wabash Friends, our largest congregation that faithfully pays 100% of their assessments each year, totaling \$18,550 in 2017.

2017 Missions Giving; We are grateful to report that we were

able to meet over 95% of our missions goal for 2017 with most congregations participating and several supporting IYM missions at a level well above their requested goal. Here is a list of eight congregations who exceeded their missions giving goal by \$1000 or more: Sycamore \$8,215, Hemlock \$3648, Arba \$2530, Marion First \$2502, West River \$2045, Bear Creek \$1758, Fairmount \$1200, and Upland \$1093.

Financial Planning for Pastors; Beginning January 2018, credentialed and active pastors from any churches affiliated with Everence are eligible to receive a Pastoral Financial Plan Grant toward the cost of a first-year Everence comprehensive financial plan. For more information contact Madalyn Metzger at 800.348.7468, Ext 3437 or madalyn.metzger@everence.com.

Adult Sunday School Curriculum is a project of the IYM Christian Education Committee. Would your church like to be part of a pilot project? We are looking for congregations willing to test-drive a series of lessons written by Friends from IYM. Plans are to have these lessons ready for the December 2018 – February 2019 quarter. Please consider helping pioneer this exciting new effort.

On January 6, 2018, the Executive Committee recognized **Riley Friends** as its newest worship group. In celebration, Riley Friends invites you to an open house on Saturday, January 27, 2018, or Saturday, February 3, 2018, from 5-6:30 pm at 20 West South Street, Greenfield, IN. At Riley Friends, we are "looking for ways to love people." We look forward to seeing you and sharing the Riley Friends ministry with you. If you are unable to attend, we ask that you remember us in prayer.

Clerking Workshop; Quaker Hill Conference Center in Richmond will be hosting Arthur Larrabee, former clerk and General Secretary of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, for a two-day workshop, "Clerking – Serving the Community with Joy and Confidence." It will be held Feb 23-24 with registration due by Feb 15. Call the conference center for more information at 765-962-5741.

Good Morning!

According to an article by Phillip Ross in International Science News (8-15-13) a public zoo in the third largest province of China temporarily shut down due to an unusual problem. Visitors discovered that the zoo's lion was really a dog. According to a Beijing newspaper, the fraud came to light when a mother and her young son visited the zoo and the animal labeled an "African lion" starting barking. The outraged mother said, "The zoo is absolutely cheating us ... I paid good money for the tickets and I feel defrauded." The chief of the park's animal department claimed

that they really did have a lion, but it was away at a breeding facility. A spokesperson for the zoo said, "We're doing our best in tough economic times."

When I was asked in my early childhood what I wanted to be when I grew up, I confidently responded, "a zookeeper!" Indiana Yearly Meeting is far from a zoo, but like this facility in China, many of our congregations find themselves scrambling to do the best we can. A common problem in some churches is a shortage of mature spiritual leaders who even come close to the qualifications

found in Titus 1 or 1 Timothy 3. Consequently, immature Christians or even people without a clear Christian testimony are sometimes placed in positions of leadership. Nominating Committees should give special care to see that leadership positions are filled with individuals who meet spiritual qualifications to lead. Failure in this area is critical. When those given lion-like stature by nature bark like dogs, those who most need the church are cheated.

-Doug Shoemaker

Communicator

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January 17, 2018

IYM Upcoming Calendar

01/19-21 *Mid-Winter Retreat, Clifty Inn/Madison*
01/22 *Advancement Committee, IYM office, 4 pm*
01/30 *Trustees, IYM office, 6:30 pm*
02/2-4 *Winter Sneak, Quaker Haven*
02/06 *Missions Committee, IYM office, 6:30 pm*
02/08 *Pastors' Toolkit, Bethel Friends, 10 am*
02/9-10 *Groundhog Retreat, Quaker Haven Camp*
02/19 *Program Committee, Conference Call, 6:30 pm*
03/03 *Committee Day, Upland Friends, 9am*

Groundhog Retreat at Quaker Haven Camp will be February 9-10. Lloyd Stangland from Iowa, President of Quaker Men International, is the scheduled speaker.