

Brandon Eaton has been called to serve Wabash Friends as their lead pastor. Brandon has been on staff as youth pastor for Wabash for six years.

Mike Thornburg has announced that he will be concluding his ministry at Danville Friends June 30 after many years of ministry there.

Hemlock Friends enjoyed a Christmas Dinner on December 21 hosted by Pastor Rob and Brenda Schwarze at their home. An evening of fellowship, delicious food, games, and singing was thoroughly enjoyed!

Wabash Friends is seeking to hire a full-time Youth Pastor. Details about the position can be found at <http://www.wabashfriends.org/jobs.html>.

Attention Recording Clerks! Good minutes are important tools for Monthly Meetings and committees. They also provide a valuable historical record. If your meeting has older minutes, an archive is maintained at the Lilly Library at Earlham College where your records will be kept in a climate controlled environment and carefully stored. Contact the yearly meeting office if you would like assistance in depositing your records there. Also, each meeting is encouraged to have printed copies of minutes in addition to electronic files which can easily be lost forever. Thank you for carefully taking minutes and maintaining them.

Thank you for your faithful giving for the ministries of IYM. Keeping you up-to-date on our march toward meeting our goal of \$102,000 is vital. We want you to be informed donors. The progress report tells us that \$38,000 in cash and pledges have already been received - well over 37% of the needed funds. What a blessing!

We still have a way to go toward meeting our goal though. So as we move deeper into our campaign, we ask that you prayerfully and carefully consider how you can join us to fully fund the IYM 2019 operating budget.

- The Advancement Committee

Mileage Rates; The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has issued the 2018 optional standard mileage rates and beginning on January 1, 2018, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car, van, pickup or panel truck will be **54.5 cents** per mile for business miles driven (up from **53.5 cents** in 2017).

An up-to-date version of Faith & Practice including revisions approved in 2016 and 2017 is now available on the yearly meeting website www.iym.org.

Mid-Winter Retreat for Pastors and Spouses will be held January 19-21 at Clifty Inn, near Madison Indiana. Registration deadline has passed, but we still have a few openings available. Call the yearly meeting office right away to reserve your spot.

Pastors are people too! An article at <http://www.seminarygradschool.com/article/9-Secrets-Pastors-Keep> may help you understand the unique challenges pastors face.



CE News:

Youth Invasion, January 1, Farmland Friends, 5-8 pm, plus Winter Sneak, February 2-4 at Quaker Haven Camp.

Be sure and check out the Youth Ministries tab at iym.org for information about the upcoming Youth Invasion in Farmland and the Winter Sneak youth retreat at Quaker Haven. While there, you can also find links to view or download highlight videos from the 2017 Quaker Haven camping season.

Yearly Meeting Sessions 2018 will be held at Quaker Haven Camp, July 26-28. A block of rooms has been reserved at Brook Pointe Inn, just four miles north of the camp. Most of these rooms are spoken for, but a few are still available. To save your spot call 574-457-4466 and ask for one of the rooms reserved under the name of "Indiana Yearly Meeting." A discounted rate of \$99 per night has been negotiated.

Mac & Bernie McDonald, directors at Mesquakie Friends Center in Iowa, will be in Indiana later this month and would love to meet with any churches or groups while here. They have openings to meet on January 22 through the morning of January 28. Contact them at (515) 339-1423. They will also be speaking at Eagle Creek Friends, near Westfield, on January 26 for a 7 pm service featuring music by A Better Day, and Zion's Joy.

The next "Stoking the Fire" spirituality gathering will be held on May 17-20, 2018 at the Stony Point Center in Stony Point NY. Stoking the Fire is an annual Pentecost gathering in the presence and power of Christ, for those hungering for the spiritual fire of renewal. Stoking the Fire is sponsored by Friends United Meeting's North American Ministries program and is open to participants from all branches of Friends.

Rowena Holliday, long-time secretary at IYM, recently had gall bladder surgery. She is now in rehab. Your prayers for a speedy recovery would be greatly appreciated.

Riley Friends invites you to an Open House on Saturday, January 27 or February 3, 2018 from 5-6:30 p.m. at 20 West South Street; Greenfield, Indiana 46140. We look forward to seeing you and sharing the Riley Friends Church ministry with you. If you're unable to attend please remember to pray for us. For more information contact Rileyfriendsmeeting@gmail.com.

Good Morning!

What is your church's reputation? Whatever it is, it's likely that it has been earned! What kind of reputation would you like your church to have and how can such a reputation be built?

I'm encouraged by the reputation that Indiana Yearly Meeting is gaining. Increasingly I am hearing from Friends pastors outside of IYM who have heard of us and long to be part of such a yearly meeting. I'm encouraged by the growing attendance at yearly meeting sessions and the generous financial support from individuals; both indicators that the yearly meeting is no longer regarded as toxic,

but instead a healthy body that has value. I'm encouraged that four independent Friends meetings have chosen to join IYM in recent years with others positioning to do the same.

But not everyone agrees. IYM has resisted political correctness and cultural shifts. Christianity in America is increasingly seen as intolerant and bigoted, and there are some who would likely use such terms to describe our yearly meeting! I have this dream, though, of being a yearly meeting that confounds the common stereotypes of our day. I hope we never

compromise biblical standards of morality, yet I hope that we aren't known by who we are against. Instead, I hope we are known for how much we love and care for those who have discarded the very standards we embrace..

Jesus showed us how to do this. He never condoned evil, yet gained a reputation as a friend of sinners! Religious people didn't understand, but thousands of unwashed people flocked to be near him. I have a dream of building that kind of reputation .

-Doug Shoemaker

Communicator

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January 4, 2018

IYM Upcoming Calendar

01/06 Executive Committee Retreat, IYM office, 9:30 am
01/14 Youth Invasion, Farmland Friends
01/15 Program Committee, Conference Call, 6:30 pm
01/16 Curriculum Writers Meeting, IYM office, 6:30 pm
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
02/08 Pastors' Toolkit, Bethel Friends, 10 am

IYM office hours are Monday thru Thursday, 8:30 am—4:30pm.