

Jackie Michaelson and **Bob Garra** are now providing interim pastoral leadership at Marion First Friends.

Pat Byers has begun his service as Indiana Yearly Meeting's new Assistant Superintendent. You may contact him by calling the IYM office or directly at pat@iyam.org or (260) 571-2406. Doug Shoemaker and Pat Byers are both available and eager to come to your church to talk about IYM or to fill your pulpit when needed.

Wabash Friends Counseling Center invites you to the 15th annual Marriage Enrichment Retreat on February 13 -15. Dr. Joe Graham will cover the topic of the motivated marriage: how to reengage or stay engaged in a loving relationship with your spouse. The registration fee is \$85 for the retreat which is hosted at The Hilton, Grand Wayne Center in Fort Wayne. For more information or to register go to www.wabashfriendscounseling.com or 260-563-8453.

Dave Phillips and **Paul Cochrane** are again facilitating a Focused Living Workshop at **Wabash Friends**, Friday evening, February 27 and Saturday mornings February 28 and March 7. Much of the emphasis will be on the call of God on your life. The cost is \$35 per person which includes a workbook and supplies. Another one will be hosted by Farmland Friends April 17, 18, and 25.

IYM Sundays are being scheduled by several yearly meeting churches. The office has received notice that the following churches have already scheduled theirs: Anderson (January 25), Bear Creek (February 1 with Steve Howell speaking and a special offering taken for IYM), Wabash (February 8 with Doug Shoemaker speaking and a special offering taken for IYM) and Dewart Lake (date pending.) Please contact IYM to let us know when your meeting plans to celebrate IYM Sunday.

Statistical Reports were recently sent to each church and need to be completed and returned to the IYM office by January 31. Please see that accurate member-

ship and average attendance records are reported, since these will be used to calculate 2016 assessments. It is projected that the new system for calculating assessments will reduce assessment obligations for 80% of our congregations next year!

With the New Year upon us, time to again concentrate on our 2016 budget fundraising effort. I know we are just now getting into 2015 (which is funded for the year), but it is critical that we have funds in place by this spring to have a 2016 budget ready for the approval cycle. All meetings have received material promoting IYM Sunday which we hope to see scheduled by each meeting during January or February. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Dubois, clerk of Stewardship and Finance scott.dubois@live.com or the office. Praise the Lord for funds and pledges that continue to come in for the 2016 budget. We now have a total of pledges and cash on hand of \$40,623.21, 47.8% of our \$85,000 goal. Please continue to pray as to how you and your meeting can be a part of our successful drive, but more importantly being a part of IYM's mission of spreading the gospel of our Lord and Christ! Thank you to all that have contributed thus far and may the Lord continue to bless you.

2014 Giving to IYM has been outstanding! Of the 46 IYM churches with assessment obligations, 44 have paid 100% or more of their 2014 assessment, one has paid over 60% of their assessments and only one has failed to contribute. Contributions for the 2014 budget will continue to be accepted through January 15.

Tri-County Quarterly Meeting will meet, January 11, at Sycamore Friends. There will be a meal at 5:30, and worship will be at 6:30 pm. IYM's Superintendent, Doug Shoemaker, and our newly appointed Assistant Superintendent, Pat Byers, will join them.

Winter Sneak for grades 7-12 will be held at Quaker Haven, February 6-8. Cost is \$100 and registration is due to the IYM office by January 31.

We are in search of former members of the Teen Ambassadors, a youth choir that began in 1965 in IYM. A 50-year reunion is being planned during the IYM sessions this summer, and we want to invite all former members. Please send names and contact information to Ed Weirrick at cowboyed72@embarqmail.com or Stephanie (Varner) Morgan at sam5986@yahoo.com.

The magazine, *Quaker Life*, will no longer be sent to each IYM church. The IYM Communications & Publications Committee has opted to not renew the yearly meeting subscription that has provided copies of *Quaker Life* to local meetings for several years. Churches wishing to continue to receive *Quaker Life* should contact Kim Schull kims@fum.org at FUM, (765) 962-7573, to subscribe. A "Group Meeting Plan" is available providing reduced rates to meetings with five or more subscriptions.

Evelyn Banker (95), wife of long-time IYM pastor E. Stanley Banker, and mother of former IYM pastor J. Stanley Banker, passed away on December 18. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to her family.

The calling and funeral for Ellen Stanley will be on Saturday, January 10 at Wabash Friends. The calling will be from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm with the funeral beginning at 2:30. A memorial service at West Richmond Friends is being planned for the spring. Ellen was active in USFW and was the sister of Becky Binkerd (Wabash) and mother of Della Stanley-Green. Memorial gifts to Friends United Meeting, 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond IN 47374.

Good Morning!

**Here's the second in a series of letters
I'm writing to the founder of
Quakerism, George Fox.**

Dear George,

When I began reading everything I could that you had written I expected to find that today's liberal Friends have drifted far away from the solidly biblical expression of the Christian faith you espoused. I was right, but it was also surprising to see how far many of us who consider ourselves evangelical Friends have drifted away from the powerful experience that characterized early Friends.

I enjoyed reading your report that "*Many great and wonderful things were wrought by the heavenly power in those days; for the Lord made bare His omnipotent arm, and manifested His power, to the astonishment of many, by the healing virtue whereby many have been delivered from great infirmities.*" You reported devils being subject to the name of Jesus, instances of divine healing, and at least one individual that you touched being "brought down by the power of the Lord!" You cited many biblical references of men trembling in the pres-

ence of God; exactly the experience of early Friends!

I get the feeling you would be suspicious of today's nice churches that value friendliness and conservative values more than the power of God. In the gospels I read that many people believed when they witnessed God's miraculous power. I wonder if we would see more believers today if they experienced it too! My prayer for Friends in IYM this year is that we will be able to experience God like you did. I'm praying that the power of the Lord will be over all of us in 2015. *-Doug Shoemaker*

Communicator

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January 7, 2015

IYM Upcoming Calendar

1/10 *Executive and C&P committees meet jointly, IYM office, 10 am-noon*
1/12 *Pastoral Training Work Group, IYM office, 6 pm*
1/13 *Program Committee, IYM office, 7 pm*
1/14 *Scholarship & Loan Committee Meeting, Bethel Friends, 9:30 am*
1/23-25 *Pastors' Mid Winter Retreat, Essenhaus Inn in Middlebury, IN*
2/6-8 *Mid Winter Retreat for grades 7-12, Quaker Haven*

Note:

January 15, 2015 is the last day assessment payments will be posted to 2014.

The Internal Revenue Service has issued the 2015 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business purposes. Beginning on January 1, 2015, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car, van, pickup, or panel truck will be 57.5 cents per mile for business miles driven, up from 56 cents in 2014.