

Representative Council, November 14, 9:30 am, Knightstown Friends IYM Meetings: please send your representative. Non-representatives are also welcome to attend. Please pick up your new IYM Minute Books.

Bethel Friends recently helped assemble meals for “Feed My Starving Children” organization.

Charlottesville Friends’ recent annual Ham and Bean Supper was served to 127 people, and they received a free-will offering of \$2005 which will all be used for those in need at Christmas-time.

Jericho Friends will host “Harvest and Harmony,” Saturday, November 14, 4-7 pm with a full dinner menu from 5-7 pm (free-will offering). The “Daniel Edwards Family Singers” will sing at 6 pm, and a general store featuring homemade baked goods, handmade crafts, etc. will be for sale.

Westfield Friends will host the Indiana USFW Spring Conference on Saturday, April 23, 2016, starting at 10 am. The guests for the day are Brad and Christine Wood from Kickapoo Friends who will give an update on their ministry. An offering will be taken in support of the construction of a new parsonage at Kickapoo. A native American lunch will be served.

Isaias Gutierrez, pastor of one or IYM’s preparative meetings, Manantial de Vida (Well Spring of Life) has found a sponsor for his wife, Leyda, so that she is another step closer to being able to return from Guatemala. Please pray that this process will continue forward.

The November “Pastors’ Summit” will be held on Tuesday, November 17, at Bethel Friends beginning at 9 am. The free event will include worship, fellowship, and a presentation on “Spiritual Formation” by Carol Wright.

From the IYM Treasurer, Max Smith: All meetings should have received information about the 2017

budget fundraising campaign recently, specifically talking about IYM Sunday and other activities that might be an option for your meeting to raise funds for the campaign. Also, recently all previous individual donors received a letter about the campaign. Thank you to all who have contributed or pledged as we now have received over 20% of the \$95,000 goal in donations and pledges totaling \$19,263.90. What a blessing it is to see the results of your work and faith. As your meeting schedules an IYM Sunday or other activities, please let the office know so we all can be praying for God’s blessings on your efforts.

From the Stewardship & Finance Committee: The following are the six remaining Everence Financial topics of curriculum that you may tap into online. 1) “30 Days of Generosity,” this study invites us to dream beyond the budget and envision God’s larger call to generous living. Link: <http://www.everence.com/resources-for-church-leaders/>. 2) “Found Faithful,” Jesus taught that faithfulness starts with simple, everyday things of life. Link: <http://www.everence.com/resources-for-adults/>. 3) “Stewards of Grace,” a primer to holistic stewardship of time, talents, health, money, creation care and relationships. Link: <http://www.everence.com/resources-for-adults/>. 4) “Creating a Cash-flow Plan,” learn the basics of managing money, tracking expenses, and meeting goals through budgeting. Link: <http://www.everence.com/resources-for-adults/>. 5) “Money Matters for Youth: Integrating Faith & Finances,” a high-school curriculum on stewardship for Sunday school and youth groups. Link: <http://www.everence.com/resources-for-youth/>. And 6) “Congregational Stewardship Resource Manual,” provides resources to help your congregation better navigate many of the stewardship opportunities and challenges in today’s world. Link: <http://www.everence.com/resources-for-church-leaders/>.

Pastors and Spouses: Don’t forget to mark your calendar for the third annual “Pastors Christmas Dinner” scheduled for Thursday evening, December 17. A free-catered meal is being planned. More details will come to you soon. And get this on your schedule too: **Mid-Winter Retreat,**” January 29-31 at Das Dutchman Essenhaus Inn & Conference Center in Middlebury, IN. Again this year the program will include highlights from the most recent Global Leadership Conference. Details and registration information will be published soon.

Sabbatical Grants for Congregations: Details and application materials for the 2016 Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program and the 2016 Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations is now available. Eligible congregations will be able to apply for grants of up to \$50,000 each to support a renewal program for their pastor. Up to \$15,000 of the grant may be used for congregational expenses associated with the renewal program. <http://www.indianaclergy.org/>

Don’t forget to stop by the IYM office to enjoy the new renovation. Open house will be Thursday afternoon, December 3, 3-6 pm.

IYM Sunday: Each IYM church is encouraged to plan an **annual** “IYM Sunday.” Scheduling yours before the summer season begins would be ideal. We would love for every member and attender of your church to be exposed to the new life that characterizes IYM in these days. You are encouraged to invite a leader or staff member of Indiana Yearly Meeting to speak. The IYM Stewardship & Finance Committee also requests that you consider a special offering or fund-raising effort benefiting IYM as part of your “IYM Sunday.”

Good Morning,

Over the past several months, Doug has been filling this space with letters to George Fox. I would like to take that concept, and add a bit of a twist.

Recently, I was part of a spiritual exercise in a group, and we were asked to write a letter. That letter could be either a letter from ourselves to God, or it could be a letter from God to us. I found that the letter from me to God was pretty easy. I simply typed out my prayers, the things I wanted to communicate to God. Easy, right? I found it much more difficult to turn that around and try to write

down those things I think God would have to say to me. Have you ever tried to do that?

What do you think God wants to say to you? How would His letter to you read? Would He tell you He loves you (John 3:16)? Would He say you are forgiven (Acts 13:38)? Or would He give you some life-giving advice or words of affirmation (John 10:10b, Romans 8:1-2)? What if this letter has already been written?

This next year, the CE Committee and those who work to program

and execute the camping program at Quaker Haven will be studying John 1:14 (...the Word became flesh...). In today's reading of this passage, what is sticking out to me is God's Word...His voice...His message to the world...became flesh. The Message is the Man, and that man is Jesus.

So, the spiritual exercise for me today brings me back to Jesus. As you come into the presence of Jesus today, what is He saying to you? How does His letter to you read?

-Pat Byers

Communicator

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November 11, 2015

IYM Upcoming Calendar

11/14 *Representative Council, Knightstown Friends, 9:30 am*
11/16 *Recording Committee, IYM office, 6 pm*
11/17 *Pastors' Summit, Bethel Friends, 9 am*
11/19 *Faith & Practice Review Committee, IYM office, 6:30 pm*
12/3 *Open House, IYM office, 3-6 pm*
12/5 *Committee Day, Upland Friends, 9 am*

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.