

Pat Byers has begun part-time work with Fairmount Friends. He will be spending 12-15 hours a week (on days off and unscheduled Sundays from his full-time Assistant Superintendent position) to come along side Fairmount Friends, helping them identify some next steps in ministry. He will then work beside them as they begin to implement those steps. This work will conclude before the next camping season.

Bear Creek Friends sent a team of sixteen people to assist with the children's ministries at Iglesia Amigos on November 12. The church also dedicated 207 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child that morning and also honored six veterans in attendance. Bear Creek reports one decision for Christ and several rededications recently. Attendance at worship and Sunday School has been increasing since last fall, with several new families and other visitors in recent weeks.

Bless a child at Iglesia Amigos (IYM's Hispanic Ministry in Indianapolis) this Christmas! They are looking for churches, small groups, youth groups, families, or individuals who would like to purchase a Christmas present for one of the children at Iglesia Amigos. Those interested should contact Katy Moran and you will receive information about the child you are shopping for. Items can be brought to Committee Day on December 2 (Marcus Dennis will collect items on behalf of Iglesia Amigos), the Yearly Meeting Office in Muncie, or contact Katy for other pick-up or delivery options. All items need to be received no later than December 13 and should not cost more than \$30. We ask that the items not be wrapped but labeled with the child's name and who it is from. Be the light of Christ to someone this Christmas! Contact Katy Moran at: 317-450-4712 or pastor.katy.moran@gmail.com.

Shirley Friends will host their Community Thanksgiving Service, November 19, 6:30 pm.

Wabash Friends Dave Phillips of Wabash Friends will leave soon on a mission trip for Cuba. He needs donated items to help Cuba Yearly Meeting minister to people there. If you can help, please contact Dave immediately at davewabashfriends.org or 760-953-7996.

Walnut Ridge Friends will hold a **Country CHRISTmas Bazaar** on December 1, 2:30-8:30 pm. More information later.

Mid-Winter Retreat for Pastors and Spouses will be held January 19-21 at Clifty Inn, Madison Indiana. Please encourage and support your pastor(s) to take advantage of this great winter get-away. Reservations are due December 18.

Pastors Christmas Dinner will be held December 9 at Liberty Friends Church. Enjoy a complimentary catered meal, a musical program, and fellowship with other pastors and spouses. RSVP to the yearly meeting office by December 4.

Pastors and Recorded Ministers are asked to annually complete a report sent out from the IYM Ministry & Oversight. Report forms were sent out earlier this week and are due to be completed and returned to the yearly meeting office by November 29. Please contact the office if you have not received your report form.

Year-end Giving; IYM is able to do its important work because individuals and churches make voluntary financial contributions to supplement assessment income that once was our sole source of funding. Please consider making a significant year-end gift to IYM. Your support is much needed and deeply appreciated.



CE Information:

Youth Invasion, January 14, Farmland Friends, 5-8 pm, plus Winter Sneak, February 2-4 at Quaker Haven Camp.

Yearly Meeting Sessions 2018 will be held at Quaker Haven Camp, July 26-28. A block of rooms has already been reserved at Brook Pointe Inn, just four miles north of the camp. It's not too early to reserve a room at Brook Pointe for Thursday and Friday nights. 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.

Friends Ministry Training for 2018: Please let Paul Cochrane know if you plan to take one or more courses next year. Even if you are not in the recording process, the FMT courses are great for enrichment and ministry growth. Applications for 2018 are being processed now. For more information go to <https://www.barclaycollege.edu/undergraduate/online/certificate/friends-ministry-training/index.html>. Contact Paul Cochrane at paul.cochrane@barclaycollege.edu or call him at 260 274 2257.

Heard (and Overheard) at Representative Council:

1. Indiana Yearly Meeting provides scholarships for all but one of the students at FTC in Kenya who are working on bachelor's degrees. Enrollment in this program has doubled in recent years.
2. Attendance at Quaker Haven Camp has increased for three years in a row, to 522. Of those, around 67 came from Western Yearly Meeting churches. The majority of the others are from IYM.
3. Attendance has exceeded 100 at the recent "Youth Invasions," with IYM youth comprising 90% or more of those in attendance. These have been events for 7th—12th grade students.
4. A new worship group will "kick off" in January in Greenfield. It appears to be the first attempt by IYM Friends to plant a new English-speaking church in 28 years.
5. We anticipate a request from an additional independent Friends Church, this one in Illinois, to join IYM soon. It will bring to five the number of such churches that have joined IYM in recent years.
6. Our Communications Committee has new publications forthcoming, including a Spanish-language version of our *Faith and Practice*.
7. We are strengthening our partnership with Kickapoo Friends Center and preparing to send yet another team to East Africa.
8. Assessment collection continues to be high and continues to exceed the percentages "pre-reconfiguration."
9. The Appraisal and Recording processes continue to function at high levels, and our new FMT program with Barclay College is bearing fruit. We have probably doubled the number of active pastors who are recorded since reconfiguration, even with real standards in place.
10. While we have had some high-profile pastoral turnover, the speed and quality of replacement has been high.
11. Our new minute books, distributed last Saturday, reflect the increase in adult membership, junior membership, and Sunday school attendance. The last two have increased for two years in a row. This would have happened even without the addition of Danville Friends.
12. Our Peace and Christian Social Concerns committee is functioning at a high level.

Good Morning!

Are there any safe places left? Mass shootings in schools have left us sickened and terrorist attacks like the one on the bike path in New York City have left many looking over our shoulders. The recent shooting in a small-town Texas church feels like a personal violation to many of us who have long valued the one safe place where we have been able to find refuge from the “present evil age” (Gal. 1:4). Now churches across our nation are re-thinking how to make houses of worship safe places.

In recent years we have had to consider how to make our nurseries and children’s

programming safe places. Many churches are providing training for workers and avoiding one-on-one encounters between children and adults behind closed doors. Background checks and child protection policies send signals that we care about the safety of our children. But how do we help Friends feel safe in worship services short of stationing armed guards outside of locked steel doors? I wouldn’t be surprised if this conversation is happening in your church right now.

A Friend who had recently been through “active shooter” response train-

ing at work shared that she had learned that throwing items at a shooter to distract him can buy seconds of valuable time. When I heard that, I thought, “Finally – a use for church hymnals!” I think I’m more likely to depend on God’s intervention than I am my aim with “Hymns of Praise.” Prayer should always be our first line of defense. [Preventing Crime and Violence eBook](#) is another helpful resource that may help your meeting think through these issues. *-Doug Shoemaker*

Communicator

Indiana Yearly Meeting,
4715 N Wheeling Ave,
Muncie, IN 47304

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
MUNCIE, IN 47304
PERMIT #795

The Communicator

800-292-5238
765-284-6900
Fax: 765-284-8925
<http://www.iym.org>

Doug Shoemaker
doug@iym.org
Pat Byers
pat@iym.org
Betty Ison
iyminfo@iym.org

November 15, 2017

IYM Upcoming Calendar

11/27 *Advancement Committee, IYM office, 4 pm*
11/27 *Bicentennial Committee, IYM office, 7 pm*
12/02 *Committee Day, Upland Friends, 9 am*
12/09 *Pastors' Christmas Dinner, Liberty Friends, 5 pm*
12/18 *Investment Board, Muncie Red Lobster, 11 am*
12/18 *Program Committee, Conference Call, 6:30 pm*
01/06 *Executive Committee Retreat, IYM office, 9:30 am*