

Bear Creek Friends had its annual dedication of shoeboxes for *Operation Christmas Child* on November 13, donating 284 shoeboxes. The church also honored its veterans on November 13 and hosted a children's activity, "Kingdom Fest," for elementary-aged children on November 12. Bear Creek will again host a Christmas party for the foster children of Randolph County on December 10.

Fairmount Friends will have a Christmas potluck dinner with "Compass Rose" of White's Residential and Family Services joining them for worship and the dinner.

Farmland Friends C.H.A.N.G.E. Ministries will present "The Night Divine Tour" featuring "Turnaround" with special guests Toddiefunk (bass player for TobyMac), James Daytona, and Egypt Speaks, Sunday, December 11, 6:30 pm (doors open at 6 pm). This is a free-will offering event. It is also "Ugly Christmas Sweater Night" - join the fun and maybe win a prize.

Hinkle Creek Friends recently held their Homecoming Sunday with "A Better Day" bringing music, followed by their Thanksgiving meal.

Portland Friends, at their request, has been moved out of Van Wert Quarterly Meeting and are now members of Winchester Quarterly Meeting.

Sycamore Friends sent 136 Christmas boxes to *Operation Christmas Child*. Also they have prepared a "Prayer Closet" for their congregation to use.

Wabash Friends youth group raised \$1035 for their camp fund through a bake sale.

Westfield Friends will perform a live nativity in Hadley Park from 4:30-6:30 (corner of Union and SR 32) during the "Westfield in Lights" event, December 3, 3-7 pm. On December 4, Westfield will host "Christmas With Friends" at 6 pm. This is a gathering of area Friends churches celebrating Christmas with special music from the various meetings, singing Christmas carols, the reading of the Christmas story, and refreshments.

White River Friends will hold their Bazaar, Saturday, December 3, 9-3 pm. Baked goods, a candy bouquet, handmade items, and more will be available. The proceeds will go to their Christmas outreach project for their community. Donations: contact Annette Harris at 765-546-0294.

Introducing our newest Preparative Meeting: Danville Friends Church was first established in 1876 in Danville, Indiana. Beginning as a Preparative Meeting, under the care of Western Yearly Meeting it became a

Monthly Meeting in 1917. After much prayer & soul searching, Danville formally withdrew its membership from Western Yearly Meeting in August 2011 finding themselves out of unity with WYM regarding certain theological & Biblical issues, specifically the deity of Christ & same sex marriage. Mike Thornburg, pastor, has stated "We have read the Indiana Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice and we are in complete unity with it. We are excited about the prospect of uniting with a yearly meeting that honors Jesus Christ as God's Son and follows the teachings of Scripture wholeheartedly."

Representative Council Highlights

- Approved contracting the accounting firm of Brady-Ware for additional services with the aim of improving internal financial controls
- Iglesia Amigos continues to meet as a worship group but is no longer a Preparative Meeting under Westfield. A transition team has been appointed to assist them moving forward
- Two proposals from *Faith & Practice* Committee approved to be forwarded to Yearly Meeting: One allowing for delegating some authority to a Coordinating Committee and a second proposal that would no longer require Quarterly Meetings
- Danville Friends was accepted as a Preparative Meeting under the care of Westfield
- A Traveling Minute was approved for Keith & Robin Huffman who will be traveling to Kenya in December where Keith will speak at a pastors' conference
- Approved Portland's request to be attached to Winchester Quarterly Meeting
- Authorized the clerk and superintendent to fill the slate of IYM representatives to the FUM Triennial and authorized them to act on behalf of the yearly meeting in dealing with a meeting facing unresolved challenges.

IYM Sunday is March 12! Each meeting is asked to observe "IYM Sunday" on March 12, 2017. Please mark your calendars and plan to use this day to share the good news about what God is doing in IYM. Be watching for literature, presentation outlines, and even a video that can be used to help members and attenders of your congregation to learn

more about your yearly meeting.

From IYM Treasurer, Max Smith:

Thank you for your continued donations toward the 2018 Budget Fundraising Campaign. We now are at a total of \$16,757.95, 16.4% of the \$102,000 goal. It is such a blessing to see how everyone is so supportive of the programs and activities of IYM. Additional information will soon be available from the office considering this fundraising campaign.

Missions Giving in IYM is strong.

As of November 23, 21 of our churches have already met or exceeded their missions goals for 2016 with thirteen of those meetings exceeding their goal! Here is a list of those 13 meetings and the amounts paid **above** their goals: Sycamore \$5725, Hemlock \$3074, Bear Creek \$1978, West River \$1878, Arba \$1786, Little Blue River \$1000, Knightstown \$899, Upland \$700, Jonesboro \$600, Amboy \$500, Bethel \$388, Center \$367, and Walnut Ridge \$50. Wabash Friends has made the largest contributions in 2016 with \$10,152 given toward their IYM mission's goal.

The Indiana Yearly Meeting and Barclay College Friends Ministry Training Certificate Program

will provide ten fully accredited online courses available to any high school graduate for full academic credit. Any participant who completes all ten courses will have met the educational requirements of the IYM Sub-Committee on Recording and will receive a certificate of completion from Barclay College. Those wishing to continue their studies will have accumulated credits toward a Barclay College Bachelor's degree. Brochures and more details will be coming soon. The first class is scheduled to begin January 30.

Friends United Meeting (FUM) is looking for a Head of School and Quaker Life Coordinator at Ramallah Friends School. FUM also has opportunities open for released ministries in Belize and Kenya. For more information see www.friendsunitedmeeting.org

Sympathy and prayers are extended to Tim Basford, pastor at Knightstown Friends, whose father, Herbert Basford, passed away on November 13. Also to Duane Summitt, former IYM pastor, whose eight-year-old granddaughter, Mecenzie Bickel, passed away on November 26 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident November 12.

Good Morning!

A cartoon by Doug Hall originally in *Leadership Journal* depicts the miracle of the feeding of the 5000, with a small boy speaking to a disciple asking, "About my loaves and fishes, could I get a receipt for tax purposes?" There are lots of good reasons for giving beyond tax breaks. Recent studies have shown several health benefits associated with giving including lower blood pressure, increased self-esteem, less depression, lower stress levels, longer life, and greater happiness. Check out <https://health.clevelandclinic.org/2016/11/why-giving-is-good-for-your-health/> for more details.

As a young pastor, I noticed that healthy churches also seemed to be giving churches. Was it a coincidence that the church I was pastoring began to grow at about the same time we made a conscious decision to increase our support of missions? Not only did our church grow but we seemed to experience increased self-esteem, less depression, and greater happiness! How much should a church give to missions? Some suggest 10% as an appropriate amount, and IYM congregations average even more than that. My goal has always been 50%; spending as much on missions as we do on ourselves.

As a yearly meeting, our missions giving and endowment distributions to missions represent at least 30% of our combined budgets. I wonder what Jesus thinks about year-end giving appeals and "Giving Tuesday." As we find ourselves in a season of giving, it dawns upon me that this shouldn't be seasonal. It was God himself who gave us the pattern, freely giving His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but instead have everlasting life. And all without receiving a receipt for tax purposes. *-Doug Shoemaker*

Communicator

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November 30, 2016

IYM Upcoming Calendar

12/03 *Committee Day, Upland Friends, 9 am*
12/10 *Pastors Christmas Dinner, Back Creek Friends, 5 pm*
12/19 *Investment Board, Muncie Red Lobster, 11 am*
12/23—1/1 *IYM office will be closed.*

Quaker Haven Upcoming Events:

Madrigal Dinners—December 2, 4, 10, 11
Men's Groundhog Retreat—Jan 27 & 28
Winter Sneak—February 3-5
5K Sap Run—March 11

Pastors and Spouses

are invited to a complimentary Christmas Dinner to be held December 10 at 5 pm. Back Creek Friends will host this year's dinner. Enjoy a good meal, good fellowship and a brief program. Please RSVP to the yearly meeting office by Monday, December 5.