

Shaping the Future of IYM

We hope every church will be well represented as "Shaping the Future of IYM" sessions will be held during the months of Jan & Feb. Each gathering will include a brief overview of the current condition of IYM and an opportunity for everyone to have input into the future of our yearly meeting. Plan to participate in one of the sessions hosted at one of the following sites:

Lynn Friends, Jan 5, 4-6 pm
Fairmount Friends, Jan 11, 9:30-11:30 am
Cadiz Friends, Jan 12, 4-6 pm
Van Wert First Friends, Jan 19, 4-6 pm
Wabash Friends, Jan 19, 4-6 pm
Maple Run Friends, Jan 26, 5-8 pm
Farmland Friends, Feb 9, 4-6 pm
Long Lake Friends, Feb 15, 4-6 pm
Center Friends, Feb 16, 3-5 pm
Charlottesville Friends, Feb 23, 2-4 pm
Hispanic Churches, TBA

Hinkle Creek Friends is actively seeking a new pastor. The position will be part time initially requiring 15-20 hours per week. Contact the IYM office for more information.

Wabash Friends Marriage Retreat will be held Feb 14-16 at the Ft. Wayne Hilton and Grand Wayne Center with Dr. John Townsend as the keynote speaker. In addition to John there will be entertainment each night - Keith Conner (musician, comedian) and Mike Hemmelgarn (ventriloquist, comedy juggler). The registration is \$75/couple if you sign up and pay by Dec 31. The only other expense is your hotel room at a rate of \$82 a night (plus taxes). Groups of five or more can register for \$60 per couple before Dec 31 (\$70 after). Register online at www.wabashfriendscounselingcenter.com.

2013 Assessments: We are happy to report the highest percentage of assessments paid in recent memory! At this printing, 33 of our 45 monthly meetings have paid 100% of their assessments (four over 100%) and nine more are on pace to be at 100% with their Dec payment. What a hopeful sign for the IYM future.

Donations to IYM continue to be received by the yearly meeting office. Re-

cent contributions have ranged from a very meaningful \$20 gift to an especially generous \$20,000 gift. These funds are being held in a fund to be applied to the large gap in our 2015 budget. Thank you to many Friends who are making special contributions!

Nearly 40 Pastors and Spouses enjoyed a Christmas gathering sponsored by IYM and hosted by Cadiz Friends on Dec 17. Special thanks to Kris Shoemaker for preparing the complimentary meal.

Pastors Mid-Winter Retreat: Dec 31, is the registration deadline for the Pastors Mid-Winter Retreat scheduled for Jan 31- Feb 2 at Das Dutchman Essenhaus Inn and Conference Center in Middlebury, Indiana. This year's theme will be "Lead Where You Are."

Quaker Men Groundhog Retreat will be Jan 31-Feb 1 at Quaker Haven Camp. Randy Quate, North Carolina YM Superintendent, is the guest speaker. The \$60 cost of the retreat includes housing, three great meals, and costs associated with an outstanding speaker. To make your reservation call Quaker Haven Camp at 574-834-4193 or email to info@quakerhaven.com.

Quaker Haven's New Year's Eve Extravaganza is Dec 31 at 7 pm. Come enjoy fun, food, and fellowship in the Activity Center at 6:30 pm. The Program Fee is \$40 per family and lodging is \$16 per person. For reservations call 574-834-4193 by Dec 22.

MEI Grant: As your M&O/monthly meeting works on budgets for 2014, please consider applying for an MEI grant to assist your pastor with insurance, retirement, education loans, or sabbatical support. The next MEI application deadline is Feb 1. If you have questions contact Carol Wright (carol@iym.org). Find the application at www.iym.org.

Scholarships for Quaker Haven Campers (over \$70,000) have been generously provided by the IYM Evangelism & Outreach Committee since 2009. Important changes to this program are being made for 2014. E&O wants to ensure

that every child wanting to go to camp has the financial means to do so, but churches will no longer receive reimbursements for half of the camp fees since funds are now limited. E&O has budgeted up to \$10,000 to be used for camp registration in 2014 and it will be reimbursed to churches that help campers with financial needs. The selection of the campers with need will be determined by the church and the request for reimbursement needs to be made to E&O by May 1. Each church should determine why the camper has the need, how much it would be, if the church could meet the need, or if it should be requested from E&O.

National Friends Church Multiplication Conference has been rescheduled to May 7-9. The NFCMC will feature inspirational messages, "best practice" workshops, and time for fellowship and networking with other Friends from around the country. Where: Barclay College, Haviland, Kansas. For information contact Jim LeShana at 620-862-5252 (work) or at 714-337-7596 (cell).

Mileage Reimbursement Update: The Internal Revenue Service has issued the 2014 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile. Beginning on Jan 1, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups, or panel trucks) will be 56 cents per mile for business miles driven.

Job at Pendle Hill Quaker Retreat/Conference Center: **POSITION:** Guest Services Manager - go to www.pendlehill.org for a complete job description and desired qualifications.



Good Morning!

Christmas is a time of great joy for many, but not for all. It was on this very week, just days before Christmas, that my mother died eighteen years ago. Mom had lived a full life, had a deep relationship with Jesus Christ, and was finally released from the chronic pain that she had lived with for nearly all of her adult life – yet I grieved. Even though she was truly “home for Christmas,” our family scrambled to celebrate this holiday in the midst of great loss.

Winter weather can be beautiful, but long nights and cloudy days trigger Sea-

sonal Affective Disorder (SAD) for many. The Mayo Clinic website describes SAD as “a type of depression that occurs at the same time every year. If you're like most people with Seasonal Affective Disorder, your symptoms start in the fall and may continue into the winter months, sapping your energy and making you feel moody.”

Many people struggle in this season. I'm sure that folks in Newtown, Connecticut and Centennial, Colorado will never be able to approach the Christmas holiday without an aware-

ness of the deep pain that visited them in a season that was supposed to be full of joy. The same is true for many of the Friends that you worship with every week. Your church has an amazing opportunity in this season. We are good at planning Christmas programs, musicals and parties but what people need most is an experience of The One who will be with us even when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Will visitors to your meeting experience Jesus this year?

Doug Shoemaker

Communicator

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December 18, 2013

IYM Upcoming Calendar

12/24 *Office closed*
1/2 *Office re-opens*
1/5 *Shaping the Future of IYM, Lynn Friends, 4:00-6:00 pm*
1/7 *Trustees, IYM Office, 6:30 pm*
1/11 *Shaping the Future of IYM, Fairmount Friends, 9:30-11:30 am*
1/12 *Shaping the Future of IYM, Cadiz Friends, 4:00-6:00 pm*
1/14 *Westfield Area Pastors, TBA, 9:30 am*
1/15 *Marion Area Pastors, Back Creek, 9:30 am*
1/16 *Triennial Host Committee, Back Creek, 6:30 pm*
1/18 *Executive Committee Retreat, Shoemaker Home, 9:30 am*
1/19 *Shaping the Future of IYM, Van Wert Friends, 4:00-6:00 pm*
1/19 *Shaping the Future of IYM, Wabash Friends, 4:00-6:00 pm*
1/26 *Shaping the Future of IYM, Maple Run Friends, 5:00-8:00 pm*

Indiana USFW's new web site address is indianausfw.org.