

**Shaping the Future of IYM** sessions are scheduled throughout January and February. Your participation in these events is crucial as we consider how IYM will be structured, staffed and supported in the future. Each session will include a brief presentation reviewing IYM's current status spiritually, numerically and financially. The presentation will also include some interesting data showing how we compare with other Friends yearly meetings. The centerpiece of the sessions will be small group discussions where attendees will have the opportunity to have a voice in shaping our future. Please plan to attend a session near you!

**Rescheduled—Shaping the Future of IYM.** The January 5 session that was cancelled at Lynn Friends has been rescheduled for Feb 16 at 4:00 pm.

**A Sabbatical for our General Superintendent,** Doug Shoemaker, was approved at Representative Council. It is scheduled to begin August 15 and continue through November 16, 2014.

**Isaias Gutierrez** has been meeting with a core group of Hispanic Friends in Chicago twice a month in hopes of launching a new congregation there. Isaias is pastor of Manantial de Vida in Logansport where the congregation has been worshipping in their new building for about three months while they continue to renovate it. This Hispanic congregation is a Preparative Meeting sponsored by Maple Run Friends.

**Stephen Johnson** has accepted a call from Farmland Friends to serve as their pastor. A native of Wisconsin, Steve has pastored in several evangelical denominations. He will be coming to Farmland from Oak Grove Church of God in Columbia City where he has served since 2006.

**Aaron Makin**, son of Wabash Friends Church Associate Pastor and Director of Counseling, Scott Makin, recently made national news with his remote control snow blower. You can watch one of the news clips online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNH9jpNTfNk>.

**Scott Miller**, pastor at Lynn Friends, is asking each IYM church to send him a list of their attendees who spend winters in a warmer climate. Please send names of your "snowbirds" and the area where they winter to Scott at [mpastorscott@aol.com](mailto:mpastorscott@aol.com).

**Long Lake Friends** enjoyed the Sabre Singers from Traverse City Christian School who led worship during their December 22<sup>nd</sup> service: <http://www.longlakefriends.org/108/>.

**Sycamore Friends** will participate in "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" an annual walk that is a fund raiser for Open Arms shelter for homeless women and children. The walk is Saturday, Feb 8.

**Wabash Friends** recently held a Bible Reading Marathon where members signed up for slots of time to read the Bible aloud. Readers finished reading the entire Bible in 79.5 hours, then began reading the New Testament for a second time. The Marathon concluded with a time of prayer and praise together at the culmination of 91.5 hours of continuous reading aloud of God's Word. Readers raised pledges to support the mission work of John Muhanji in Kenya. Wabash is also planning a trip to Belize in Feb.

**Pastors Mid-Winter Retreat:** registration deadline was Dec 31, but we still have a few openings. Contact the IYM office immediately if you would like to attend.

**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](mailto:info@quakerhaven.com).

**Solar Grants for Congregations** are available for customers of Indiana & Michigan Electric. Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light (H-IPL) will help congregations with the application process. Congregations that undertake the grant activities will see a major reduction in their utility bills. If an IYM church

wishes to apply, please contact IPL as soon as possible at [SeventhDayInitiative@gmail.com](mailto:SeventhDayInitiative@gmail.com). An orientation after Jan 15 will help congregations with the application. For questions call 317-654-1524.

**Found at Pastor's Christmas Gathering** a Vera Bradley eyeglass case. If this is yours, please contact IYM office at 765-284-6900 or [iyminfo@iym.org](mailto:iyminfo@iym.org).

**FUM Triennial** will be hosted by IYM June 11-15, 2014, at Indiana Wesleyan University. We will need many volunteers to successfully host this international event.

**The FUM Chain of Prayer** began Jan 1 and is thru June 15. It's not too late to participate. For more information <http://www.fum.org>.

**Kaimosi Hospital** will be handed over from Friends United Meeting to the National Council of Churches of Kenya at some point in the first few months of 2014.

Give thanks that the Council is prepared to invest significant capital in the hospital, and pray that the healing ministry of Jesus will continue to be glorified through the transition period.

**Two Million Dollars Was Pledged** by alumnus and United States businessman Farouk Shami (Class of 1961) to support the Ramallah Friends School's new endowment fund. This unprecedented and historic pledge comes from Mr. Shami's belief that RFS plays an important educational, humanitarian and social role in Palestinian society.

**Our Sympathy** is extended to **Chris Sitler**, former IYM pastor at Knightstown and Dublin, at the death of his mother, Mary Mildred Sitler, on December 25.

**Join the Smith Family** and friends on a private tour of the Holy Land on March 10-19, 2014. To join the Smith's on this tour, please contact Steve Smith 765-754-7525 [smifar@gmail.com](mailto:smifar@gmail.com) or Max Smith 765-969-6962 [425mas@gmail.com](mailto:425mas@gmail.com).

Good Morning!

It seems like just yesterday I was teaching my children to tie shoes, shoot basketballs, and drive a stick shift. These days, my young adult children are teaching me much, and I'm finding that I've got a lot to learn. Many churches lament the absence of young adults in their 20s and 30s. This age group hasn't written off faith altogether but longs to be part of authentic faith communities that care more about people than pipe organs and payrolls.

A Friend recently forwarded an article to me describing how The Episcopal Church has been mired in issues similar to those that resulted in IYM's 2013 reconfiguration. Our

approach seems to have been more gracious than theirs where many congregations lost their buildings and assets because their conscience would no longer allow them to remain in their denomination's fellowship. The article at [http://www.worldmag.com/2013/12/tidings\\_of\\_discomfort\\_and\\_joy/page1](http://www.worldmag.com/2013/12/tidings_of_discomfort_and_joy/page1) quoted Phil Ashley of the American Anglican Council, which now advises many churches to walk away from their property and focus on their mission. He said, "For far too long we've been more in love with our buildings than lost people."

My parents were aghast when as a child I entered the home of fellow church-members and announced, "It stinks in here!" I've found that young adults are especially adept at sniffing out where a church's heart is. They are unlikely to proclaim that it stinks, but are quick to avoid something that seems to focus more on buildings and traditions than the needs of people. Ask a young adult how your church "smells," but only if you want to learn something.

Doug Shoemaker

## Communicator

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

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### The Communicator

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

Doug Shoemaker  
[doug@iym.org](mailto:doug@iym.org)  
Aaron Hughes  
[aaronhughs@iym.org](mailto:aaronhughs@iym.org)  
Betty Ison  
[iyminfo@iym.org](mailto:iyminfo@iym.org)  
Carol Wright  
[carol@iym.org](mailto:carol@iym.org)

January 8, 2014

### IYM Upcoming Calendar

1/11 *Shaping the Future of IYM, Fairmount Friends, 9:30-11:30 am*  
1/12 *E & O Meeting, Hemlock, 3:00 pm*  
1/12 *Shaping the Future of IYM, Cadiz Friends, 4:00-6:00 pm*  
1/14 *Westfield Area Pastors, Cadiz Friends, 9:30 am*  
1/14 *Recording Committee Meeting, Upland Friends, 5:00 pm*  
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*  
1/20 *Program Committee, IYM Office, 6:30 pm*  
1/26 *Shaping the Future of IYM, Maple Run Friends, 5:00-8:00 pm*  
1/28 *Trustees, IYM Office, 6:30 pm*  
1/30 *Scholarship & Loan Committee, White's RFS, 9:00 am*