

Hinkle Creek Friends will have their Homecoming (177 years of ministry), Sunday, October 6, 10:20 am. A carry-in meal will follow the service. On Friday, October 11, 6:30 pm, “The Kramers” will be in concert (www.thekramers.com). You are warmly welcomed to attend these services.

Kennard Friends was blessed with the ministry of Mike and Kelly Haemerle, Hinkle Creek Friends, Sunday morning as Mike led their worship and Kelly gave her testimony. After a carry-in dinner, Mike presented a concert, writing many of the songs he sang. Kelly spoke again, this time about being a former Gaither family member.

Lynn Friends will hold a revival, September 29, 30 & October 1 at 7 pm. You are invited to be blessed by the ministry of speaker Geoff Grow.

Shirley Friends is participating with four other area churches, holding a Fall Blast VBS during “fall school break,” October 8-10, 5:30-8:00 pm. The theme is S.H.I.N.E. (Share His Incredible News Everywhere). A meal will be served before VBS begins.

Wabash Friends Counseling Center invites you to their 21st Annual Live Life to the Fullest: Personal Growth Conference, October 26, 8:30 am—4:15 pm. This remains the largest one-day self-help conference in Indiana with several hundred attending. Dr. Gary Oliver will be the principal speaker at the Honeywell Center in downtown Wabash. He has more than 30 years experience in individual, premarital, marital and family counseling, and has authored or co-authored more than 20 books. A total of 30 self-help workshops will be given, led by 24 professional counselors and educators on such topics as parenting skills, marriage enrichment, managing your stressors, accelerating your spiritual growth, bullying, managing your ADD and 10 religious beliefs that will drive you crazy. Registration fees are \$30 by Oct 12, \$40 after Oct 12, and

\$50 at the door on Oct 26. Fees for students are \$15 before Oct 12 and \$25 after that date. To register, visit wabashfriendscounseling.com.

Jeff Beals of Westfield Friends announces that a work trip is being planned to Kickapoo Friends Center (McCloud, OK) for the week of October 7-12. If you are interested, please contact him by email or by phone at 317-460-4844 or j.l.beals@att.net.

Van Wert Quarterly Meeting met at Portland Friends last Sunday and were blessed with the music ministry of “New Dawning” from Ft Wayne.

It’s not too late to enroll for an MEI Grant (Ministerial Excellence Initiative). The next MEI application deadline is October 1. If you are struggling to meet that deadline contact Carol Wright (carol@iym.org) and let her know where you are in the application process. Find the application at www.iym.org.

Treasurers’ Workshop will be held October 26 at Anderson First Friends, 9:30-1:30. The cost is only \$15 per meeting (lunch included for one or 15—what a deal). The topic will be “Being a Good Trustee of God’s Many-Sided Grace” (I Peter 4:10). Starting the first week of October there will be an enrollment opportunity at the IYM website www.iym.org. This workshop is for treasurers and finance committee people. Contact Carol Wright for more details (carol@iym.org)

The Peace & Social Concerns Committee is in the process of discerning the future direction and priorities for the committee. The new members of the committee are requesting a response to a brief survey that has been sent to all IYM monthly meetings. The new committee members want to identify one or two issues that represent the consensus of the entire yearly meeting. Please present this matter to your October monthly

meeting and communicate the results of your brief congregational survey to the yearly meeting office by November 1.

Volunteers are needed as IYM hosts the June 11-15, 2014, FUM Triennial at Indiana Wesleyan University. Email or call the IYM office if you can help.

The World Day Against the Death Penalty Conference will be held October 11, 9 am, through October 13 at noon at Western Yearly Meeting in Plainfield, IN. The conference will feature workshops and training from leading anti-death penalty organizations around the country, testimony from those directly affected by the death penalty such as murder victims’ family members and death row exonerees, and opportunities for fellowship and networking. **For more information on cost and registration go to:** www.journeyofhope.org/conference or DPConferenceIN@gmail.com.

The Center for Congregations invites you to the vibrant, uplifting event “Flourishing Congregations.” This exciting, hands-on educational experience explores positive change processes and how they can work within congregations. Leaders from across faith traditions will gather in Muncie on Thursday, October 17, registration at 8-8:45 am; program 9 am—5 pm, Horizon Convention Center, 401 S High St. \$50 per congregation for teams of 2-5. Cost includes continental breakfast, lunch, parking, and workshop materials.

Please pray for former IYM pastor Ardith Talbot and current IYM pastor of Bethel Friends, Rod Dennis. Both are dealing with cancer issues.

**USFW Fall Gathering
October 5, Portland Friends
Registration, 9 am**

Good Morning,

A few years ago I attended a demonstration on pruning young hardwood trees. The forester gave some good tips, but suggested that pruning was "part art - part science." Two skilled pruners might look at the same tree and prune it differently, but both might result in an eventual straight and tall tree - the ultimate goal. Some trees may need only minor pruning while others may require major, even risky measures to prevent a lifetime of stunted or crooked growth. The pruner has to carefully survey the young tree

and make decisions that will shape it for years to come.

Indiana Yearly Meeting looks differently today than it did even a few months ago. Some limbs that were once part of our "tree" are no longer there and decisions we have made in our recent reconfiguration will undoubtedly shape us for years to come.

Admittedly this has been risky business, but doing nothing would have been an even larger risk. I don't know if it's appropriate to describe our actions as "part art - part science," but I know that the goal has been to

position us for long-term health and effective ministry. Already we have seen evidence that we are growing in the right direction.

What steps does your church need to take today to position for effective ministry for years to come? Some may need only minor adjustments, while others may require more drastic measures, but just like a skilled pruner will regularly look at how a tree is (or isn't) growing, church leaders need to assess our meeting's health and trajectory on a regular basis.
- Doug Shoemaker

Communicator

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September 25, 2013

IYM Upcoming Calendar

9/25 Marion Area Pastors, Fairmount Friends, 9:30 am
9/30 Program Committee, IYM office, 6:30 pm
10/3 F&P Review Committee, IYM office, 6:30 pm
10/5 USFW Fall Gathering, Portland Friends, 9 am
10/7 MEI Steering Committee, IYM office, 6:30 pm
10/8 Westfield Area Pastors, 9:30 am, location TBA
10/12 Financial Work Group, 9:30 am, IYM office
10/16 Marion Area Pastors, 9:30 am, location TBA
10/17 Van Wert Area Pastors, 10:30, Van Wert First Friends
10/26 Treasurers/Finance Committee Workshop, Anderson First, 9:30
10/29 IYM Trustees meeting, IYM office 6:30 pm

Fall Impact for junior high and senior high youth
November 1-3, Quaker Haven Camp
Contact Aaron Hughs for more details.
aaronhughs@iym.org or 800-292-5238