



# Western Work

3.09

News of Western Yearly Meeting of the Friends Church

## Co-Superintendents' Bible Study

*"I am the vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.*

*You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.*

*If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.*

*I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete." [John 15:1-11, NRSV]*

Last week we had the opportunity to sit under the teaching of Bruce Bishop, Communications Director of Northwest Yearly Meeting. It was a day to retreat from our normal routines, and center upon what it means to discern God's will for our personal and corporate lives as Friends. If we strengthen our personal discernment skills, our church's corporate discernment skills will grow. Bruce challenged us to begin a "discernment portfolio" of how we personally are able to discern God's will for our life. If you were unable to attend the retreat, please be sure to catch Bruce's messages on the Western Yearly Meeting website: [www.westernym.net](http://www.westernym.net). Even better, see if you can find someone who did attend the retreat and ask them to share what spoke to them---extend the learning!

Since the retreat I have been thinking of what it means to abide in Christ Jesus---to discern his will and bear fruit for the Kingdom of God. I have always kept a journal, but perhaps I might intentionally focus my journal on my divine leadings and the fruit of discernment. Discernment skills are strengthened with our willingness to be under the care of the vinegrower and attached to the vine, Christ Jesus. As a farmer's daughter, I know first hand what it means to have a healthy vine. If you do not care for the vine, it may look like a lush green plant but its fruit will be sparse. The same principles apply to us spiritually. What may look like a "test" in our lives may later become one of our greatest "testimonies" of our faith. The ability to abide in our Heavenly Father's love brings the fruit of joy.

As winter comes to a close and we think about the plants springing forth in our garden, how are preparing our hearts to abide anew in Christ Jesus and bear fruit for the Kingdom of God? How are we preparing our meetings and yearly meeting? *Marlene*

## Spring Administrative Council Saturday, March 21, 2009

The Spring Western Yearly Meeting Administrative Council will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2009, 10:00 a.m. (Indiana Time) or 9:00 a.m. (Illinois Time) at Ridge Farm Friends Church. Friends are invited to enjoy fellowship during registration (coffee cake, muffins, doughnuts, coffee, milk and juice). Lunch menu will include: chili, vegetable soup, broccoli cheese, soup, ham and turkey sandwiches, chips, carrots/celery and pickles, deserts, tea, coffee, lemonade and water.

Proceeds from the lunch will go to help support the Ridge Farm Friends Food Panty.

## WYM Annual Sessions, 7/31/09 – 8/3/09

You are cordially invited to join us this summer for the 152<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sessions of the Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church, July 31 to August 3. These dates are a change from our normal schedule since yearly meeting will begin on a Friday and close on Monday. This year's morning Bible study speaker will be Linda Cabe from Indiana Yearly Meeting. Our Quaker Lecturer will be Carole Dale Spencer, a recorded Friends minister and professor at George Fox University. Friday night will include the Quaker Haven Camp BBQ with Youth Cabinet leading evening worship. Saturday afternoon plans include Board workshops and an evening mission service. All day Sunday we invite you to enjoy us for a day full of worship opportunities---including musical worship, Quaker lecture, and contemplative worship. All Friends need to pre-register to insure child care and meals. Overnight lodging is available at the Baymount Inn (formerly Lee's Inn) in Plainfield, (317) 837-9000; the cost is \$67 a night plus tax. When you call for your reservations mention you are with Western Yearly Meeting. Be sure to make your reservations before July 24 to receive the WYM group discount. Pre-registration forms will be available at the Spring Administrative Council Meeting in Ridge Farm.

In preparation for yearly meeting, you may wish to read Carole Dale Spencer's book, *Holiness: The Soul of Quakerism*.

## What's Happening in WYM

### West Central Area Gathering

West Central Area Friends will gather for their area meeting on Sunday, March 8, 4:30 p.m., at Amo Friends. The theme for the meeting is, "New Beginnings." A carry-in dinner is planned with Amo Friends providing the meat.

*Submitted by Larry Boswell*

### Training & Recording Classes

Western Yearly Meeting Training & Recording Committee will offer three classes this year at the WYM campus: Old Testament, New Testament, and Friends Theology. The Old Testament Class will be held on April 24-25, May 1-2, and May 8-9. The instructor for this class is CG White.

For more information about these classes, please contact the WYM Office, (317) 839-2789.

### Collecting Stamps

The Board of Peace & Christian Social Concerns has asked WYM Friends to collect stamps on behalf of Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR) projects of micro loans in Kenya and India.

If you are willing and able to help with this project, here are suggestions for you:

- Leave a border around the stamp or leave it on the envelope and cut the left end of the envelope to slide out the contents.
- Foreign stamps are very welcomed, but not flag stamps
- Place a collection box at the back of your church for Friends
- Bring your stamps to the WYM Office when you come to Boards or WYM Sessions or mail them directly to WYM.

*Submitted by Bruce Brown*

## Service & Missions Opportunities

### Friends Disaster Service

Western Yearly Meeting Friends Disaster Service will be heavily involved in the Columbus work crew site this spring. Be sure to contact Lane Sims if you are able to go to Columbus to help (317) 774-0787.

From March 29 - April 17th of 2009 our focus again turns to Columbus, IN. Last fall we successfully completed over 2,100 man hours in three weeks of work there and 15 families were able to return to their homes. More than 5000 houses and businesses near Columbus were flooded in the storms early last spring. There is still much to be done.

The Sandcreek-Azalia Friends Church 12 miles south will be our "bunkhouse". Pastor C. G. White and his entire congregation were most hospitable during our last stay and have invited us to return. United Way has a huge list of needy addresses in Columbus, IN.

*Submitted by Lane Sims*

### Bread for the World 2009

You are invited to attend BREAD/Indiana's 2009 Offering of Letters Workshop from 10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 14. The event will be at North United Methodist Church in Indianapolis (NW corner of 38<sup>th</sup> & Meridian Streets). This is planned by BREAD's Midwest staff and promises to provide everything your congregation or organization will need to put together an Offering of Letters this year. The keynote address will be provided by Jim Morris, currently the president of the Indiana Pacers Sports and Entertainment Group and former Executive Director of the World Food Program; national Board Chair and Hoosier Dave Miner will address the question, "Why Advocacy?" These general sessions will be followed by two breakouts: one for churches new to planning an Offering of Letters and another for churches that are old hands at it--special emphasis will be placed on the 2009 Bread for the World Theme---"Reforming Foreign Assistance."

While planning and putting on an Offering of Letters is not the most difficult task you will ever do on behalf of hungry people, the phrase "many hands make light work" holds true just the same. The Workshop is FREE and includes lunch! Go to the link to register for the event by 3/11: <http://ga4.org/bread/events/indianapolis2009/details.tcl> or call: (317) 594-9355.

*Submitted by Della Stanley-Green*

### Huge Thanks!!!

As of February 10, we had \$14,368.73 for our 2008 Special Project: Belize. Thanks to all who continued to send their money in even after the end of the year. On December 31, we only had \$7,600, so all the additional giving has been very much appreciated!

*Submitted by Candi McDonald*

### New Special Outreach Project

As we step into 2009 we are kicking off a new Special Project.

### **2009 Special Project Cuba: Hurricane Damage Repair Goal: \$10,000**

We will have new Special Project bulletin inserts and a new Power Point program available at March Administrative Council meeting. Dale Graves, Jim Crew, Connie Robertson, and Ron Talbert. They will be providing a workshop at WYM sessions where you can hear about their trip and the needs in Cuba. Keep them in your prayers as they travel.

## Friends United Meeting

### Kaimosi Hospital

The Kaimosi Hospital continues to report progress on the renovation of their property. They have currently purchased a new ambulance and have signed an agreement for Friends United Meeting to continue management of the Kaimosi Hospital. If you are looking for a worthy project to support they are currently looking for Friends to contribute to their Adopt-a-Nurse program (\$200 a month pays for a salary for one nurse), and the continue renovation of the hospital (we still need to raise \$100,000).

### Barber Family to Belize

Please continue to pray for Sam & Becky Barber and their children as they plan to begin ministry in Belize with the Friends Boys School in mid-April. They continue to seek financial support of \$15,000 before they leave. "Bikes for Boys in Belize" is the VBS project for this year with the goal of \$6,000. You are encouraged to visit their website: [www.belizebarbers.org](http://www.belizebarbers.org).

## Statistical Report

### Deaths

**A. Waldo Seawall** d. 2-11-2009

Waldo was a pastor in Western Yearly Meeting, Indiana Yearly Meeting and Eastern Region. His home was in Windfall, Indiana, until this past year when he moved to his daughter's home in Missouri.

## Christian Education Opportunities

### Youth Cabinet

WYM Youth Cabinet is on the road and coming to a Meeting near you. Don't miss it as we continue to explore ways to "Let Your Light Shine!" Upcoming Road Shows:  
 March 29<sup>th</sup> @ Russiaville Friends  
 April 18 @ Newberry Friends

### WYM CE Board Meeting Date Change

Because Katy will be in Kenya during the May WYM Board Meetings the WYM CE Board has changed their May Board Meeting to May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9 a.m. at the WYM Building. Please make sure to note this change.

### QUAKER HAVEN CAMP

Pioneer (Grades 5 & 6) - June 7-12  
 Young at Heart Camp - June 8-11  
 Jr. High (Grades 7 & 8) - June 14-19  
 Sr. High I (Grades 9 - 12) - June 21-26  
 Beginner (Grades K - 2 with parent/guardian) - June 26-28  
 George Fox (Grades 3 & 4) - July 5-8  
 Sr. High II (Grades 9 - 12) - July 12-17

### Summer Ministry Internships

WYM is again offering Ministry Internships this summer for Young Adults in WYM who are interested in exploring their leadership skills in ministry throughout WYM. Intern Applications are due NOW! If you, or someone you know, are interested in being an Intern, please contact Katy ASAP! If your Meeting is interested in having an Intern work alongside you in ministry this summer, please contact Katy or Steve for an application. Meeting applications are due to the WYM Office by April 1<sup>st</sup>. We know how quickly Meetings move so please plan now. Contact the WYM office with any questions about the Summer Internship Program.

### 2009 Quaker Haven Camp

Camp Brochures have been mailed out to all Summer 2008 Campers. Additional brochures will be available for local Meetings at the March Admin. Council as well as a Camp Promo DVD. Now's the time to start planning for summer camp! Early Bird Rates apply until May 25<sup>th</sup> so get those registrations in before then.

Take some time to think about people in your Meeting who would be gifted at camp counseling (regardless of their age...right Florence Emma Peery?!). Approach them and ask if they have ever considered being a counselor at camp and ask them to pray about it. Approach them again later and see what they think about that possibility. Have them contact Katy at [katypwym@sbcglobal.net](mailto:katypwym@sbcglobal.net) or 317-839-2789 if they think that might be something God would like them to consider.

### May Young Adult Kenya Trip

This May, WYM is sending four people on an overseas trip to visit our Friends in Kenya. The team members include: Mariya Jones - Plainfield Friends, Sarah White - Sandcreek-Azalia Friends, Georgie Amonett - Bethel Friends, and Katy Palmer - WYM Staff. And the dates of our trip are: May 10<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. This team was formed last fall and has been meeting monthly for prayer and preparation and has successfully raised all our financial support for our trip! Thank you to all who have partnered with us by supporting us financially and prayerfully! We continue to covet your prayers as our departure gets closer.

### WYM Sessions Family Programming

This summer the WYM CE Board has approved and encouraged a more intentional effort to boost our children and youth programming at WYM Sessions. We are planning more than just babysitting for your children and youth this year so get your calendars out and plan on bringing the whole family to WYM Sessions July 31<sup>st</sup>- Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>. This year all children and youth must be pre-registered in order to participate in the planned programming.

### The State of Church 2009 Articles

This issue of *Western Work* includes a special inserts concerning the "State of Family Ministry" and "State of Youth Ministry" which we hope you will take time to read. How are we communicating our message to a new generation of parents and kids.

### Lift Up This Summer's Camping Ministry in Prayer

Our theme this summer is:

**MADE; becoming who God made us to be!**

*Lord, you are our Father.*

*We are the clay. You are the potter.*

*Your hands made all of us.*

*Isa. 64:8*

## **Resource Corner**

### Quaker Hill Conference Center Retreat

You are invited to join Howard and Nate Macy for a weekend of music, worship, story and fellowship in the Spirit, "Singing the Songs of our Lives," on Friday, March 13 to Saturday, March 14, 2009 at the Quaker Hill Conference Center in Richmond, Indiana. Howard teaches at George Fox University and Nate currently serves as pastor at a new church in Tigard, Oregon. For more information and to register, visit the QGCC website: [www.qhcc.org](http://www.qhcc.org).

### Western Yearly Meeting Work Crew

Western Yearly Meeting Property Trustees recently repaired the leaking plumbing and mold concern in the WYM Office. The next step is to have the office painted and re-carpeted. This will be a major effort since the office is home to the WYM Library. If you are willing and able to help clear out the office for this project, please let the WYM Office know, (317) 839-2789. This will probably happen the week of March 27 - April 3.

### Pastoral Ministry Excellence Grants

Western Yearly Meeting is offering a grant to your pastor for their health savings account or retirement fund. If you are interested, please contact Marlene Pedigo. This year's grant deadline for the Pastoral Ministry Excellence Grants will be March 31, 2009.

### Financial Peace University

If you or your meeting is interested in receiving training about Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, the WYM Office has the DVD small group training materials. Please call the WYM Office if you are interested in having someone provide training for your church.

### Annual Report Deadline

Friends are reminded to submit their State of Society, financial reports and other annual reports to the WYM Office by March 31, 2009.



Western Yearly Meeting of

**FRIENDS CHURCH**

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**Address Correction Requested**

**MATERIALS DEADLINE  
FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER:**

**3/17/09, 9:00 a.m.**

Our Purpose Statement

*Seeking the guidance of the Holy  
Spirit,*

*Western Yearly Meeting equips  
Friends Meetings*

*in the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
by exercising mutual care and  
extending cooperative ministries.*

*Through various expressions of our  
Christian faith,*

*we strive to inspire ministry and  
the release of gifts of leadership.*

Office Hours:

9:00-12:00; 1:00-3:00;

Monday-Thursday

**Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church Calendar**

**Third Month**

**Fourth Month**

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| <p>8 Vermilion Grove Friends Peanut Day<br/>West Central Area Mtg., 4:30 p.m. at<br/>Amo Friends</p> <p>9 North Central Pastors' Meeting,<br/>Westfield Friends, 9:00 a.m.<br/>WYM Nominating Committee, 2:00<br/>p.m.</p> <p>13-14 Quaker Haven Camp Board Retreat</p> <p>14 Southern Area Pastors' Meeting,<br/>Orleans' Maple Street Restaurant, 12<br/>noon</p> <p>16 Central Area Pastors' Mtg., 12:15 p.m.</p> <p>17 West Central Pastors' Mtg. 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>19 Western Area Pastors Meeting at<br/>Vermilion Grove, 9:00 a.m. (Central<br/>Time)</p> <p>21 Administrative Council at Ridge Farm<br/>Friends</p> <p>23 Northern Area Pastors' Meeting, 12<br/>noon</p> <p>29 Road Show at Russiaville Friends</p> <p>31 WYM Annual Reports &amp; Pastor Grant<br/>Applications are due to WYM Office</p> | <p>18 Executive Committee, 9:00 a.m.<br/>WYM Road Show at Newberry Friends</p> <p>24-25 Training &amp; Recording Class, "Old Testament"</p> |
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