

# Communicator

**Riley Friends** is celebrating their one-year anniversary on Saturday, February 9, 2019, at 5:00 pm. Rob Schwarze, pastor at Hemlock Friends, will be the speaker along with special music. An invitation is extended to the IYM family to celebrate this milestone with them. A fun fact: one-third of all those who have attended Riley Friends have decided to stay, not including visitors who were from out of town and/or IYM Friends who were being an encouragement! Also, 21 Friends ministers have visited.

**Van Wert First Friends** will host Charles and Brenda Jarvis on Palm Sunday (10:30). They will present ministry in word and song. They are available to minister at other churches.

**Wabash Friends** is hosting a local live-streaming of "If: Gathering," a two-day event bringing women together from all over the world, February 8-9. Several outstanding women will speak. The registration is open online at [wabash.iflocal.com](http://wabash.iflocal.com). Also, Wabash Friends will hold their 19th Annual Marriage Retreat, February 22 & 23. For more information go to [rachel@wabashfriends.org](mailto:rachel@wabashfriends.org).

**IYM Sunday (April 28)** is an annual day set aside for each IYM congregation to feature the value of being connected to other Friends with whom we are in unity. Planning packets will be mailed to each congregation in early March. Add this to your calendars now.

**Representative Council** will be held at Danville Friends on Saturday, April 13. An effort is being made to use our Representative Council meetings to thresh out issues needing discussion, allowing us to focus on inspiration and celebration during yearly meeting sessions. Make plans

now to be sure your church is represented at Danville this spring as we hear encouraging reports and discuss important issues.

**Yearly Meeting Sessions** will be held July 25-27 at Quaker Haven Camp. In addition to lodging at Quaker Haven, we have reserved a block of rooms at Brooke Pointe Inn, just four miles north of camp. It's not too early to reserve your room at Brook Pointe by calling 574-457-4466 and requesting the Indiana Yearly Meeting discount.

**Fund-Raising Report:** Our goal is to raise \$135,000 for the 2020 budget by yearly meeting sessions. Thank you very much to many who have already made a pledge or contribution to this effort. So far, we have raised \$37,500, nearly 28% of our goal!

**Communications & Publications Committee** has worked hard to update the recent revisions to *Faith & Practice*. These have been sent to the printer and we hope to have a new version ready for distribution soon.

**Evangelism & Outreach Committee** has approved a grant to Sycamore Friends to fund a student intern. This matching grant will benefit both the ministry of Sycamore Friends and the development of a young emerging leader.

**Leadership Training** for members of the African Friends Church of Louisville will be provided by IYM staff on Saturday, January 26. Sand Creek-Azalia Friends Church and pastor Peggy Caldwell will be hosting this one-day training event.

**IYM Missions Clerk, Eric Dale**, will be traveling to Tanzania again this month. In consultation with FUM he will be investigating how IYM can best partner with the exciting Friends missionary movement emerging in this country.

**2018 Statistical Reports** have been sent to each meeting. We request they be completed and returned to the yearly meeting office by January 31.

**The IRS announced** December 14 that for 2019, **standard mileage rates** for the use of cars (also vans, pickups, or panel trucks) will be 58 cents per mile driven for business use, up from 54.5 cents in 2018.



## Spotlight on Youth:

The annual youth retreat, *Winter Sneak*, will be held at Quaker Haven from February 1-3. The weekend event is for 7th through 12th grades and the cost is \$100. Dave Phillips, Wabash Friends, will speak. Go to [qhc-youth-programming.com](http://qhc-youth-programming.com) to register. **The recently held, Youth Invasion** at the Hoosier Gym in Knightstown, brought approximately 120-130 youth and adults where they enjoyed a great evening of music, fellowship, pizza, and an inspiring message from Kent Benson, former IU and NBA basketball star.

**Quaker Men's Groundhog Retreat** will be held, January 25 & 26 at Quaker Haven. Lodging and meals are \$30. Speaker will be Greg Albert, pastor at Danville Friends.

**The Indiana USFW** would like to close the financial books for 2018 as soon as possible, so they would like to hear from all USFWs and Members At Large. If you need the 2018 transmittal form, it is available on the IYM.org website under USFW tab. If you need a paper copy sent to you, please contact Andrea Long, treasurer, either by e-mail at [indusfwtreas@gmail.com](mailto:indusfwtreas@gmail.com) or through Jericho Friends Meeting.

Good Morning!

An old Peanuts comic strip depicted Lucy writing an essay on the first day of the new school year. She wrote "Vacations are nice, but it's good to get back to school. There is nothing more satisfying or challenging than education, and I look forward to a year of expanding knowledge." In the final frame, Lucy whispers to Charlie Brown, "After a while you learn what sells."

As Friends, we propret to value what's true over what sells. But even Quakers struggle at times to tell it like it is rather than how we would like it to be. Our culture adds pressure to promote images rather than realities.

In 2016 the Oxford Dictionary named "post-truth" its word of the year and the cover of a 2017 *Time Magazine* asked, "Is Truth Dead?" Curiously in a 2018 interview with Chuck Todd, Rudi Giuliani claimed, "truth isn't truth." When did truth become relative? When did it become legitimate to suggest that what's true for you may not be my truth?

In Romans 12, we are cautioned to not be conformed to this world's mold. I hope that as Friends we still

are known for our integrity and authenticity, not for exaggeration or a propensity to say what sells. We don't often use "thee" and "thou," but I hope we are still known for plain speech where yes means yes and no means no. I hope we are a people who have faced the truth about our lives and our churches and found the grace of God that cleanses internally, instead of applying external layers of whitewash. God's grace is what really sells, not fake news. *-Doug Shoemaker*

## Communicator

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### IYM Upcoming Calendar

2/1-3 *Winter Sneak, Quaker Haven*  
2/4 *Task Force on Pastoral Ministry, IYM office, 1 pm*  
2/11 *Advancement Committee, IYM office, 4 pm*  
2/15-17 *Pastors Mid-Winter Retreat, Hueston Woods Lodge*  
2/19 *Program Committee, IYM office, 6:30 pm*  
3/2 *Committee Day, South Marion Friends, 9 am*  
3/4 *Executive Committee, IYM office, 6:30 pm*  
3/14 *Pastors Toolkit, Riley Friends, 10 am*  
4/13 *Representative Council, Danville Friends, 9:30 am*  
4/28 *IYM Sunday*