



# The Iowa Friend

*Iowa Yearly Meeting: Spreading Like Prairie Grass to Make the Love of Jesus Christ Known in the Heartland and Beyond*

January 2003

A Publication of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches

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## **Q** 350 Years of Quakerism Now What?

by Kelly Kellum, Pastor - College Avenue Friends

This fall *Quaker Life Magazine* featured a series of articles addressing the question: "350 Years of Quakerism—Now What?" In the articles, leading Quaker thinkers offered wisdom and vision as they pondered the future of Friends. *The Iowa Friend* has invited columnists from our Yearly Meeting to wrestle with the same question. These articles will appear on the front page of our publication this spring.

"350 Years of Quakerism—Now What?"

Recently I have been suffering from what might be considered an identity crisis. The crisis started while I was attending an ecumenical conference with people from other Christian denominations. During the break as informal groups visited, I was asked the question, "What church do you attend?" I told the group that I was the pastor of the Friends Church in Oskaloosa, Iowa. Then came the follow-up question, "Is it an independent church or part of a denomination." At first I was offended by their ignorance. They were clueless about the Religious Society of Friends. I answered politely, "No, we are part of a larger group, better known as Quakers." There was a pause, then the "aha" moment. A fellow attendee retorted, "Like the guy on the oatmeal box."

I cringed. I came away from the conversation feeling insecure about my Quaker identity. Why is it that the man on the oatmeal box, clothed in 17<sup>th</sup> century garb, remains the most popular icon of Quakerism?

Perhaps I am not alone. Sometimes I get the sense that Friends (i.e. Quakers—or whatever we like to call ourselves) have an identity problem. While we are a small religious society, this crisis is not the result of our size. In my opinion it is the result of the past being the dominant influence which shapes our present identity. Certainly a rich heritage is an important factor for Friends, but it must not be the defining factor which shapes our identity.

Now please do not misunderstand my point. I am not "slamming" the revered Quaker tradition. I am a "birthright" Quaker. I am an avid student of Friends history. I quote George Fox often. I tell the stories of the great Quaker

heroes and heroines. Therefore, it is with love that I offer this observation.

Too often Quakers hold on to the past too tightly. This results in two noticeable outcomes: (1) Our ministry stance becomes increasingly defensive. We expend a great deal of energy in resisting the forces of change. We view any paradigm change as a threat. (2) Over time the message of Friends becomes muddled. When we cling to what "was," we gradually find we are unable to speak the language of modern culture. Thus making it more difficult to relate the gospel in relevant terms.

When the past is the main force which shapes our Quaker identity, the natural outcome is crisis. We see this in the orbital nature of our history. In the insightful book, *The Quakers of Iowa*, published in 1914 by the State Historical Society, the question arises about the decline of membership among Friends in Iowa. The author observes that between 1866 and 1912 the number of Friends in Iowa dropped by over 2500 members. In the opinion of the author the true source of the problem is Quakers "inability to early adapt itself to new and changed environments (pg. 90)." During these early years, Friends in Iowa dealt with the forces of change by migrating westward or by "disowning" members who advocated progressive ideas which were deemed "unQuakerly."

Last year our Society celebrated its 350<sup>th</sup> birthday. We Friends have much to celebrate. Our faith heritage in Quakerism roots us and lends us wisdom. An important lesson we learn from our history is that the corporate identity of Friends was formed in relationship with Jesus Christ. The possibility of unmediated kinship with Christ ignited George Fox's vision of a gathered people called Friends. In John 15:14-15, we read the Biblical basis of our identity. Jesus said to his disciples, "**You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know the master's business. Instead I call you friends, for everything that I have learned from the Father I have made known to you.**"

We are Friends of Christ; this is our identity. We are Friends, not because of our history, but because of the new relationship offered in Jesus Christ. May our personal and corporate identities be formed afresh in this life-giving relationship.



## Friendly Flashes

Colossians 3:1 – Since you have been raised to new life.....

New Life – New resolutions – that is how we start each new year with a list like this.

1. Get up and go – be more active
2. Make a difference – do something important
3. Kick a bad habit – cigarettes, overeating....
4. Eat healthy – more fresh fruits and vegetables, less chocolate
5. Laugh....at life, at yourself....at The Three Stooges.

Does all of this sound like where your head was as we entered 2003? January always offers us the chance to start fresh, leave old mistakes behind and start with a clean slate. Good intentions that usually fall by the way side sometime in February.

The media tells us we will be happy and fulfilled if only we become toned and tanned on a diet of healthy, organic fruits, vegetables, nuts and berries. We will then have the energy to do something BIG and make a DIFFERENCE. No wonder by February we all begin to feel like failures and fall back into our comfortable ruts. We are listening to worldly advice, pursuing self-improvement with the emphasis on self, - maybe!

Colossians 2:8 “Don’t let anyone lead you astray with empty philosophy and high sounding nonsense that comes from human thinking....and not from Christ.”

Earlham and Bear Creek Friends churches have just celebrated the lives of two cousins, Carol Thomas 102 years, 5 months and Mildred Standing 102 years and 11 months. These ladies heeded only that which comes from Christ. They made a difference. Their legacy stretches across Iowa Yearly Meeting in the lives of relatives, friends and ministers who were blessed by knowing these two dear souls.

What was their secret? They lived most of their lives on farms, raising families, tending gardens, serving in their churches and communities. Mildred was active at Bear Creek Church and Meeting, a regular at USFW and Sunshine Circle quilting group providing warm comforters for those in need. Carol was active at Earlham Friends in USFW and as church organist, giving a concert on her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday – playing her own composition. The secret was their deep abiding love for Jesus Christ. A love so strong that it flowed into everything they did, touched everyone they knew. They lived lives not pursuing SELF – improvement – but a closer walk with the Lord.

They were the living example of Ephesians 5: 1-2a “Follow God’s example in everything you do, because you are His dear children. Live a life filled with love for others following the example of Christ”.

Who will fill the hole left in the fabric of our lives by their passing? All who knew them, all who choose to pursue the example of Christ.

May you too, become a blessing  
Linda Burnett



## MEETING MOMENTS

**New Pastor** - Bear Creek Friends would like to welcome their new pastor and his wife, Dallas and Eleanor Gilreath.

Dallas grew up in western Oklahoma and was sent by the Air Force to Kirksville, MO and met Eleanor there. Dallas and Eleanor have been married 49 years, have two grown children and 2 grown grandchildren.



Dallas taught school 32 years and Eleanor 35 years. After their journey as teachers, they became real estate agents. The Gilreaths have been members of the Maple United Methodist Church for 25 years where Dallas served as a Lay Leader. During that time, Dallas was called to serve as a minister and received the training and selection to become a Local Pastor. Dallas attended the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary last summer for the Local Pastor School.

**"Angel Tree"** - On Saturday, December 15, Riverside Friends were blessed to host the "Angel Tree" ministry party for the 3rd straight Christmas. Our building was chosen because it is not a fancy building. Our vision is to keep it this way, but do more to attract people that need Jesus.

"Angel Tree" is an outreach of Prison Fellowship to children who have a parent in prison. We assisted a ministry (On Common Ground) that administrates the buying of the gifts, and help to get the families here. We just open our doors, assist in making cookies, buy a few gifts, and do what we can to play and connect with the kids that show up. They play games with our kids, and eat with our kids. Then we go into the sanctuary and sing some loud Christmas songs together with a band



made up of our own young people. We invited the rest of the kids to join us up front singing "Silent Night."

There was a gospel presentation by Todd Leet, (in the recording process) and Lori Wander who spoke of the hope that Jesus gives to live without crack cocaine. But of course the thing they enjoy the most is receiving gifts bought by many others and us.

We have seen some fruit from the effort, but the blessing of being a blessing, and being known as a church that can walk with those of poor reputation is beyond words for us.



## What's in Store For the New Year?

As we look toward the new year of 2003, the question which is upon everybody's mind is, "What does 2003 hold in store for us?" Dr. Norman Vincent Peale tells of the time when the year 1910 was drawing to a close. He was a young boy and he asked his father, "Dad, what do you suppose 1911 will be like?" His father turned around and said, "Nineteen hundred and eleven, Norman, will be just what you and I and God make of it." That was a long time ago, but the same principle applies.

That statement tells us that persons shape events. Historians have long argued over whether men shape events, or events shaped men. I believe the influence of men upon events is important in history. Some have radically changed the course the whole world was taking. Persons like Jesus, St. Paul, Hitler, Luther, Franklin Roosevelt, Moses, and Muhammad have changed the world dramatically, for better or worse. All of our lives have been influenced by them.

It seems sensible to say that we will get out of the new year just what we put into it. Jesus' axiom is true that you reap what you sow. Your life is in your own hands to make of it what you will. Some persons cannot figure why their lives are such muddled messes. It is because they are messes inside. They have a lot of trouble because they get themselves into it. They associate with the wrong people in the wrong places, and then wonder why things turn out wrong for them.

But what about unexpected adversity? Some forms of sickness come regardless of care taken to prevent them. What about adversity which comes our way uncaused by us? The question is, what do we do with the adversity? Do we overcome it, or do we allow it to overcome us? The quality of our lives depend upon how we deal with problem situations.

A "Pogo" comic strip once showed one of the characters taking all of the junk out of a desk drawer marked "The Old Year" and putting it into a desk drawer marked "The New Year." That was the comic character's way of cleaning his desk. Is that what we will be putting into the new year-our old junk? Or will we get rid of the junk and fill the new year with new experiences and better attitudes? Jesus said, "I am making everything new!

I will give to everyone according to what he has done. Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life. Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life" (Revelation 21 :5; 22:12, 14, 17).  
- submitted by Del Coppinger



### ATTENTION QUAKER MEN!!

**Who:** All Quaker Men  
**What:** Banquet  
**When:** February 22, 2003 - Noon  
**Where:** Memorial Hall on the Vennard College Campus, University Park  
**Cost:** \$10.00 per person.

Please make your reservations by calling either Sam Barber at (641) 672-1450 or Keith Mardock at (563) 382-3121 by February 13th.

**Don't Wait - Make your reservations right away!**



## ARISE AND SHINE "Rekindle The Gift"

March 7 - 8, 2003

*"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, and of self discipline." 2 Timothy 1:6-7*

A Gathering of men of the Society of Friends for powerful worship and fellowship! We pray we might rekindle a passion for Christ Jesus among men who are Quaker and excite them to be: Reconciled to God, Re-Centered in Christ, Empowered by God in their Christian lives and Committed to actively serve God at home, at church, and in the community.

### THEMES

**Friday p.m.** - "Fan into Flame the Gift of God" - Steve Pedigo, Western Yearly Meeting

**Saturday 9:00 a.m.** - "The Spirit of Power" - Eric Woods, North Carolina Yearly Meeting

**Saturday 2:00 p.m.** - "The Spirit of Love" - Tom Palmer, Iowa Yearly Meeting

**Saturday 7:00 p.m.** - "The Spirit of Self-Discipline" - Justin Weber, Western Yearly Meeting

**Worship Band** - Kyle Shoemaker

**Organist** - Lee Edmunds

**Worship Leader** - Jesse Vore

March 7- 8, 2003

**Western Yearly Meetinghouse  
Plainfield, Indiana**

### Registration Information & Instructions

**INSTRUCTIONS:** If you are registering for more than one person, PLEASE PRINT, the names of the additional people on another sheet of paper. A check in the proper amount MUST accompany this form in the same envelope in order for you to register. (no phone or credit card registrations)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Registration cost: \$40.00 per person.  
Make check payable and mail to:

Conferences, Inc.  
PO Box 100  
Wheaton, IL 60189.

**Hotel Information:** Copy this off before you mail your registration. Remember, hotel and meals are on your own. Call the Days Inn Plainfield, (317) 839-5000. Tell them you are coming to "Arise and Shine" and make sure they give you the special rate of \$50.00 per room/per night (1-4 per room). Continental breakfast is included.



# Spreading the Light

In reading commentaries from Larry Burkett the past 2 months, I've been led of the Lord to raise up the issue of "Christmas Indulgence" for our church family.

Each Christmas season we in the community of faith remind ourselves "Jesus is the Reason" and "Christ is the Light of the world..." and hope that the world too may see this truth. Many of us then proceed to get caught up in our cultural Christmas. Burkett says, "a law suit attempted to stop the government from sponsoring a legal holiday at Christmas. The suit argued that the government was, in effect, endorsing a 'religion.' However, the suit was defeated after overwhelming evidence was presented to show that Christmas in America is celebrated as a 'traditional,' rather than religious holiday. What an indictment of American Christianity that our Lord's birth has become a commercial tradition!"

Burkett has hit a nerve with me and with the American Christian community. He is right on target and it is a lot like he is meddling, but, I need to take a breath and look again and the light and truth of Jesus my Lord speaks out. There is nothing wrong with gift giving at Christmas, except our tendency to indulge in it. When this happens, we are buying into our cultural Christmas (traditional holiday) concept and perhaps getting ourselves caught in the credit crunch that enslaves.

Celebrating Christ's birth and lordship has everything to do with freedom from enslavements, with fellowship, joy, and love. These qualities of life come from time spent with one another in building loving relationships and not from an overspending, debt burdening, traditional holiday celebration. This overspending sends us into slavery to the banks, credit card companies, etc. who then have the ownership rights to our lives instead of our Lord.

Burkett and Pastor Phil advise:

1. Put Christ first. Don't allow anything to take away the place of honor of Christ in your homes.
2. Husbands and wives should agree on a reasonable amount of gift-giving. A good way to honor Christ is to build into your family gift giving a plan of giving an equal amount of money to meeting real needs in the lives of others (clothing, food, shelter) such as with our church's mission (local & foreign) opportunities. By doing this, you are teaching your children the purpose and value of sacrificing to meet other's needs.
3. Stamp out credit. As bad as commercialized Christmas is, commercialized Christmas on credit cards is even worse' Yes, when I allow Christ's light to shine on this subject I see that is isn't meddling. It still hurts and now I have to do something because doing nothing is in fact rebelling against the "light."

*"Everyone being enlightened with the light which comes from Christ Jesus, every one of you taking heed to the Light, here is our way to Salvation. ..that is the Light which shows you sin and evil." (George Fox)*

*- submitted by Phil King, pastor - Marshalltown Friends*

*Dear Friends In Ministry,*

*On January 1, 2003, Kevin Mortimer began his ministry as pastor of Middle River Friends Church. We will miss Kevin as our superintendent, however we are grateful for the many ways he served our Yearly Meeting. In Kevin's absence, the following interim plan went into effect on January 1, 2003:*



**1. Iowa Friend Publication** – Kelly Kellum and Norval Smith will work with Daneta Lopez in publishing the January through August issues of the Iowa Friend. Columnists and other contributions will be solicited from throughout the Yearly Meeting.

**2. Spring Body Preparations** – Most of the preparation work of Spring Body is being made by the Winnesheik Quarterly Meeting. All major plans for this event should be in place.

**3. CQH and YM Finance Assimilation** – Bob Watson will assist Daneta Lopez in setting up the books. Scanners can relay bills, etc. to the IAYM office. Ric Garrison will make camp deposits.

**4. Conflict Resolution** – This will be the function of the IAYM M&C Board. The Listening Committee is available to address these concerns. All inquiries or requests for these services should be made through the clerks of M&C, Dale Dorrell or Kathleen Kellum.

**5. Pastoral Transitions** – This will also will fall under the care of M&C. An Eldering Team will be named to help a church or pastor through the transition. Pastoral resumes and church profiles are to be sent to the IAYM office.

**6. Pastoral Enrichment Groups** – The Pastor's Association, under the leadership of Dave Elmore, will support and encourage the continuation of these support groups.

**7. Natural Church Development** – Kevin Mortimer will continue to coach churches and implement the Natural Church Development process as his time allows. Churches are to make arrangements with him for these services.

**8. Yearly Meeting Planning** – The planning flowchart is well organized and most tasks are already delegated to other members of the committee.

**9. Short and Long Term Calendar** – This is a helpful tool outlining ministry related events and responsibilities for the incoming superintendent. Kevin completed this before he left.

**10. Staff Meetings** – Ric Garrison and Daneta Lopez will continue to hold monthly staff meetings. They will call in others for consultation as necessary.

*The clerk of the Yearly Meeting, Margaret Stoltzfus, will represent the Yearly Meeting in all other business or ministry related matters. This plan will remain in effect until a new superintendent is on site. During this interim period we strongly encourage the Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting to maintain support and contact with the Yearly Meeting.*

*In Christian Care, Kelly Kellum - BOC Presider*



## SPRING BODY OF REPRESENTATIVES

STURGEON BAY FRIENDS, WISCONSIN  
APRIL 25-27, 2003

*Friday, April 25*

Hawkeye Stages 54 Passenger Bus Departs:  
7:00 a.m. Marshalltown Friends  
7:45 a.m. Grinnell Friends  
9:30 a.m. West Branch Friends  
6:00 p.m. Motel & Dinner at Sturgeon Bay  
7:30 p.m. Worship with Steve Pedigo

*Saturday, April 26*

8:00 a.m. – noon Spring Body Session  
Noon Self made sack lunch, cafeteria style  
12:30 p.m. Bus to see Door County sights/Free time  
4:00 p.m. Spring Body continues if necessary  
6:00 p.m. Dinner at Sturgeon Bay  
7:30 p.m. Worship with Steve Pedigo

*Sunday, April 27*

8:30 a.m. Worship with new Superintendent (?)  
10:00 a.m. Worship with Steve Pedigo  
Sturgeon Bay's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary recognition  
11:30 a.m. Lunch followed by departure

**Theme: Experiencing Christ Jesus**  
**Speaker: Steve Pedigo**

Iowa Yearly Meetings' Priorities Update:

- \*Strong Pastoral Leadership
- \*Missions & Outreach
- \* Camp Quaker Heights

New Superintendent possibility  
Worship & Fellowship  
Scenic Door County Wisconsin

**COSTS:** Round trip bus fare - \$60 per person  
Best Western Motel - \$90 for two nights,  
pool, hot tub, continental breakfast  
Winneshiek Quarter provides lunches  
Evening meals on own  
RV Parks available in area

*Pastors Association requests that Churches do what they can to release their pastor for the weekend!*

*Allen Bowman is the president of the Superintendent's Search Committee. Other faithful members include; Ric Garrison, Chuck Nichols, Dale Dorrell, Sallie Wolff and Daneta Lopez. Please pray for these leaders as they seek God's direction.*



## SPRING BODY REGISTRATION

Please detach and return by February 10, 2003 to:  
Iowa Yearly Meeting, PO Box 657, Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Names & addresses of Representatives/attenders:

Number of bus fares requested:

(54 seat capacity with rest rooms-send money to office by April 10, 2003)

Number of Best Western Motel rooms requested:

(\$90 per room for both nights, whether 1 or 4 to room-pay at the motel)

Your questions that isn't covered above:

We encourage each monthly meeting to provide the financial support necessary to allow your church to be represented at this important Spring Body gathering!

**"Caring for Your Pastor:  
The future depends upon it!"**

*by Kevin Mortimer, pastor - Middle River Friends*

Chronic fatigue and apathy develop from being overly involved in our work. There is only so much ambiguous life change that we can endure without necessary breaks.

For your pastor to cope they must remove themselves from a constantly changing environment and take time for themselves. The members of the Ministry & Council must insure that their pastor knows when they have "done enough" and insist that they take time away.

Rhythms of rest are very necessary for the pastor and people. Every person has a different rhythm but all need some form of regular time on a daily basis, weekly basis, quarterly basis, yearly basis and sabbatical basis.

For most of us, each day requires that we build in something for our selves at the front end. Ministry and family cut into the schedule and often times it is personal time that gets cut out. To stave off the inevitable energy crunch, pastors must build in healthy self-care practices each day.

Just as it is essential to have Sabbath rest for each Christian on Sunday, the pastor must find complete Sabbath rest one day during the week. This is more than a "day off"; it is a day of play & worship for the pastor and God. Saturdays are the pastor's spiritual prep time for the body. The church needs pastors that can make the church come alive without sacrificing their bodies, their families or their souls. When the pastor overworks the body can deteriorate because there is no time for rest, exercise or healthy diet, relationships can become superficial because of no quality time with significant others, and the spiritual life suffers because there is no free

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## The Iowa Friend (USPS 582-120)

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## VITAL SIGNS

**DEATHS – Stella Ruth Settle, 85**, passed away on December 3, 2002 at Villa de Sol Health Center in Marshalltown, Iowa. Stella was born in Marshall County and was a member of the Marshalltown Friends Church. She is survived by 3 sons, Dean of Lincoln, Nebraska; Don of Melbourne, Iowa; and Paul of Minneapolis.

**Kenneth Hoover, Sr., 89**, died January 6, 2003. Funeral services and a celebration of his life were held at LeGrand Friends Church with Pastors Ron Bryan and Phil Does officiating. Kenny is survived by his wife of 65 years, Shirley, and his sister, Esther Stoner of LeGrand, as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was a life-time member of LeGrand Friends Church, having been born and raised in the church, and spent his life serving on many church committees, including the building committee for the current church building. He was the main motivator behind the stained glass picture currently in the church.

**Leon Kaldenberg, 77**, died December 29, 2002 at Pella Regional Health Center. Funeral services were held January 2, 2003 at the Lynnville Friends Church with pastors Peter Schuler and Cindy Norman officiating. Leon is survived by his wife, Wilma; two step-children, Kyle Steenhoek and Lila Turnbull both of Pella; six step-grandchildren and 3 step-great-grandchildren; his sister Emma Louise Dennis of Columbus Ohio and many nieces, nephews and friends.



## TRUSTEES SCHOLARSHIP

Several years ago IAYM received a generous gift making it possible for a student to receive a \$500 scholarship to assist in their education. The donor providing these funds had a great concern for our Christian young people and their education. The income from this gift is available from year-to-year to the student selected by the Trustees Scholarship Committee.

Applications may be submitted by any Christian student who is planning to attend a recognized college; all other things being equal, special consideration will be given to those planning to attend William Penn University. Those applying must have a recommendation from their local church and fulfill other requirements asked for in the Scholarship Application. Last year's recipient was Susie Gray, daughter of Robin and Nancy Gray of Grinnell Friends Church.

**Those wishing to apply should write to Iowa Yearly Meeting Scholarship Fund, PO Box 657, Oskaloosa, IA 52577 for an application. Deadline this year is March 31, 2003.**

- *Caring for Your Pastor continued from page 3*

time to read, journal, walk, think and pray. A day of Sabbath rest following Sunday is essential.

Most people benefit from periodic/quarterly two or three day experiences. Escaping to a monastery or a conference will always be beneficial. Growing congregations reveal that they support their pastor in outside spiritual enrichment and learning opportunities. The reward for the annual review should be time away for the pastor to receive enrichment in the areas that reveal their growing edge.

Few lay people are aware of the constant pressure that necessitates the need for the pastor to be away annually on vacation. It is not caring when an influential parishioner dies and give them little time away, generally have more problems. Iowa Yearly Meeting recommends two weeks for pastors having served 1-4 years in ministry, three weeks for 5-9 years, and four weeks for 10 or more years. These are consecutive years spent in ministry.

Financially and emotionally caring for your pastor will be the greatest statement to the spouse and offspring that you really care for their loved one. It's unfair to expect the pastor to financially take from the family the money necessary to fulfill the role of pastor.



*Kevin,  
On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting, we want to extend our love and appreciation for your service as our Superintendent.*

Periodical Postage Paid at Oskaloosa, Iowa