



The Iowa Friend

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

April 2006

A Publication of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches

Vol. 61 - No. 4



Ackworth Friends Church...Our location for Spring Body.

Spring Body 2006 Report

What a wonderful day March 25, 2006 turned out to be. We gathered together at Ackworth Friends Church to hold the Spring Body of Representatives. Just under 100 people were served a delightful noon lunch by the members of Ackworth.

Some highlights of the business before us was updating the Discipline. Some additions have been accumulating for ten years now and we are in need of a new printing, as well as wording changes and new guidelines. One particular new guideline we worked through was the section for the laying down or discontinuance of a monthly meeting. Making sure that our Discipline reflects the current structure of FUM and the actual Quarterly Meeting structure within Iowa Yearly Meeting were also over due. We will now have until August to finalize language and have our first reading during our Annual Session, August 2-5, 2006.

An exciting possibility is the establishment of a new board to oversee changes to the Mesquakie Friends Center. Pending the outcome of the ACFA annual meeting April 1, 2006 in North Carolina we will be ready to respond to their request for our cooperation in the event Mesquakie will become a part of Iowa Yearly Meeting.

We heard many positive reports which will all be available to the representatives in a few days. We hope that everyone will take the time to familiarize themselves with the reports of the Lord's work in our midst.

Ron Bryan, General Superintendent



Sylvia Graves Named Interim FUM General Secretary

Sylvia Graves has answered the call as Interim General Secretary of Friends United Meeting beginning March 6, 2006. She follows Retha McCutchen who retired February 28, 2006 after 11 years of service. Sylvia was recorded as a Minister of the Gospel by Western Yearly Meeting in 1997 and has led retreats and workshops as well as filled the pulpit in many meetings of Western Yearly Meeting. For many years she has been the Director of the 5th and 6th grade camp at Quaker Haven near Syracuse, Indiana.

An elementary school principal for many years, she retired in June 2005, which allows her the freedom to pursue new interests. She and her husband Dale have recently returned from serving on an FUM workteam to Belize. She has attended all but one FUM Triennial in the past 25 years, including the 2002 Triennial in Kenya.

Several of Sylvia's relatives have been active in FUM mission work through the years and West Newton Friends, where she is a member, is very mission minded. Her main responsibility will be to maintain communication and support for field staff and their projects.

Her vision during her tenure would be "to join hands across theological and journey differences to do the work of the church rather than doing the work for the organization. The organization needs to support the ministries of our believers."

Married 38 years to Dale Graves, they are the parents of two grown children: a son, Eric and a daughter, Maria.

Friendly Flashes

“And we labor, working with our own hands” 1 Cor.4:12

I hope a large number of you were able to attend both Spring Body and the U.S.F.W. Spring Fling. This winter has been a strange one for us here, we have only had snow about 4 times and then only 2-3”. Of course this didn’t last long. Now the rains have started and the earth is replenishing the moisture it needs and being refreshed for another season. Our Spring meetings have hopefully replenished and refreshed our spirits and souls for another season laboring in God’s fields.

There is great need in Cuba, Africa and the Mid East. The need is there to sow seeds of hope and peace. In the Philippines, as in our southern coastal areas, the seeds of hope and rebirth need to be sown. As long as one child is without a home, without food, without protection, and most importantly with the hope that comes from Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, we should not fold our hands and cease our labors. There is work to be done!!

We ourselves need the seeds of peace within, that time to “Be still and Know that I am God”. Melody Carlson wrote a book called TAKE TIME . In it she says we need to “take time to lift our spirit and to refresh our hearts”. The Japanese have respect for the most basic elements of nature. They make beautiful floral arrangements for just a few items using things we might never consider, like stones, wood, leaves as well as a single flower. When we stop to take time to see the small pieces that make up the whole of Gods’ creation, our heart swells with awe at the miracle of His touch. In this moment I am always reassured of His infinite love and care for all of us.

Each day brings us new opportunities to serve Him with our hands and hearts. It also some times bring the close of a mission field. This is the case of A.B.C. Quilts. It was with great sadness and much discussion and prayer that the decision was made to close this field. Corporate support was no longer there. Millions of lives were touched during the 18 years of this organization. We personally here in Earlham are going to continue making quilts “ no label” to supply the Des Moines hospitals. You are invited to join us or to search out a new mission field right in you own back yard. Project Linus can use quilts, Kids knitting for Kids can use knit and crocheted sweaters. I have the Pattern and you can download it from Guideposts.com.

When one door closes another one opens. How better to celebrate the gift of the risen Lord then to continue to labor in the fields of His father. Spring is here and the fields are ready to be planted so gather up your seed and off to work we go singing Gods praises all the time.

See you in the field, Linda B.

Mission's Update

BELIZE OFFERING UPDATE:

ACCORDING TO BOB WATSON, THE IOWA YEARLY MEETINGS MISSION'S TREASURER, \$4351.05 WAS FORWARDED TO BELIZE, AND \$2330.00 OF THIS AMOUNT WAS EARMARKED FOR NEW UNIFORMS AND BOOKS FOR THE CHILDREN.

FDS SILENT AUCTION A SUCCESS!

From birdhouses to baby blankets, the items came for the Friends Disaster Service Silent Auction. The auction was held in conjunction with the Iowa Quaker Men’s Banquet, February 18, at Vennard College. Proceeds from the auction will be directed to Friends Disaster Service for expenses in travel to disaster projects and needed supplies. The auction proceeds totaled \$689. The FDS Board would like to express appreciation for the enthusiastic participation of those who contributed items as well as those who purchased items.

Yearly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee invite you to participate in....

Legislative Day

@ the Capital Building in Des Moines

On April 10th at 12:30 P.M.

If you would like to attend you can e-mail
pkdelivery@yahoo.com

We plan to meet in front of the doors on the West side or inside the doors depending on the weather. We will be discussing two issues with our political representatives. The first issue we would like to discuss is the call that has been taking place to renew the death penalty in Iowa. As Friends we will be taking a stand for life and believe that all people are loved by God and have the possibility of redemption and forgiveness. The second issue that we would like to discuss with our representatives is the new sex offender laws. We will be advocating rational classifications of sex offenders.



MEETING MOMENTS



Bear Creek Friends Church....

Fall and winter passed quickly, and spring fever is now arriving at Bear Creek Friends! Beginning on Sept. 21, our pastor Dallas Gilreath joined with local historian Herbert Standing to present 5 Wednesday night meetings on "What Quakers Believe".

In early October, our pastor and wife attended Pastors' retreat at CQH. Oct. 7 brought the final "anniversary dinner" of the year...a monthly gathering when the Gilreaths treated church members to dinner at their home in honor of each month's wedding anniversaries. This final date was a celebration for the "singles"!

We were saddened at the passing of Otha Cook, 90 years old, on Oct. 24. Otha's obituary appeared in an earlier issue, and his presence has been greatly missed.

We enjoyed our annual USFW Missionary Guest Day on Nov. 7, when former pastor Michael Ginn and family joined us for the morning service and a noon potluck. On Nov. 20, our church joined with other area churches for a Thanksgiving service and soup supper at Early Chapel. The first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27, was the date for decorating our church for Christmas and enjoying a chili lunch afterwards.

Throughout the month of December, and again in February, our congregation brought weekly donations for the Earlham Food Pantry. USFW worked hard on two different fundraisers before Christmas....hymnbook angels and cookies in a jar. Our annual Christmas Eve candlelight service was combined with our children's program for a lovely night on Dec. 24.

Bear Creek joined with all of FUM on Jan. 29 to participate in the 2006 Chain of Prayer. The rest of the winter brought serious health issues for several members, but overall safekeeping. Mar. 25 found some of our members traveling to Ackworth Friends for Spring Body. We now look forward to Easter and the new beginnings of spring, as we plan ahead for our 150th anniversary celebration on July 16!!

Honey Creek - New Providence youth spent the evening of February 15 working on a missions project in Union. Floyd Hammer with his Outreach Africa project made packaged meals to sent to Tanzania. Two assembly lines of kids were formed to fill plastic bags with rice, chicken bouillon, dried vegetables and protein. The filled bags were carefully weighed, excess air was removed and each was heat sealed. To prepare the meal, which is intended to serve a family of six, water will be added. In one hour the group of twenty-one prepared 5,832 meals!!

West Branch Friends is having its 1st annual Library Tea, on May 6th at 2 in the afternoon. They have asked their congregation members to sponsor a table setting of 4 for the tea. The church will provide the tablecloths and books for the centerpiece. The proceeds from the ticket sales will go to the Library Fund for the purchase of new books.

Motor Friends are going Roller Skating in Knoxville on April 2nd. They will have a potluck at the church following Sunday School then heading out for skating in the afternoon.

Deaths

Marian M. Vokoun, 78, died Sunday, March 5, 2006.

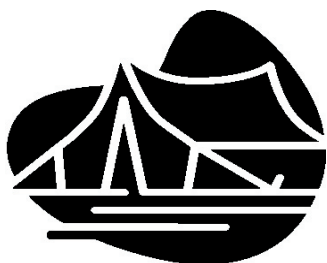
Marian was a lifetime resident of LeGrand, Iowa where she was also a member of LeGrand Friends Church. Services were held at the church with burial in LeGrand Friends Cemetery. Her friends and family remember her as an energetic, fast worker who loved sewing and knitting. During their retirement years, Claude and Marian enjoyed spending the winters in Tucson, AZ. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Claude, of LeGrand; daughter Sharon Forbes of Plainfield, Illinois; son Richard of S. Milwaukee, Wisconsin; four grandchildren; and, eight great-grandchildren.

Letha Merrill, 94, died Monday, February 27, 2006.

Letha was born in Mahaska County to Fred and Lita Rogers Briggs. She graduated from New Sharon High School and from William Penn College in Oskaloosa. Letha was a school teacher for most of her life, having taught at Lacey, Ottumwa and in the New Sharon area. She was a birthright member of the New Sharon Friends Church and enjoyed giving music lessons. She is survived by a step-son, Joe Merrill of Ridgeville, IN and a step-daughter, Elizabeth Nielander, of Kokomo, IN; a nephew, Bill Patterson and wife Patty of Montezuma. Services were held at the New Sharon Friends church with burial at the Friends Cemetery.

Hilda S. Grossklaus, 91, died March 4, 2006. Services were held at the Bloomington-Muscatine Friends Church. Hilda was born in Muscatine to Louis A. and Sophia M. Bohling Thieker. She married Walter A. Grossklaus in 1934. He died in 2003. She was a member of the Bloomington-Muscatine Friends Church and was a Sunday school teacher and youth director. Survivors include 2 sons, Gary W. (Becky) of Arlington, TX, and David P. (Deborah) of Muscatine; one daughter, Mrs. Esther J. (William) Griggs of Clinton; 7 grandchildren; and 9 great-grandchildren.

Walter Grossklaus, 90, died August 8, 2003. He was born in Muscatine to Paul A. and Mary C. Samuels Grossklaus. He married Hilda Thieker in 1934. Walter was a member of the Bloomington-Muscatine Friends Church where he was active as a Youth Director, a Sunday School teacher, and church organist for 40 years. He also served as a Board member of William Penn College. He enjoyed golfing. Walter was a self-employed mason and cement contractor for over 40 years. Walter and Hilda are buried at the Muscatine Memorial Park Cemetery.



WHAT'S HAPPENING.... AT CAMP QUAKER HEIGHTS

UPDATE ON TALL OAKS LODGE AS OF MONDAY MARCH 27, 2006

WORKDAYS FOR CAMP

**Friday, April 21, 2-6 pm
and Saturday April 22, 9am-3pm**

Workdays are a time for Iowa Yearly Meeting to prepare camp for the summer of ministry. We will serve supper Friday as well as breakfast (served at 8 am) and lunch Saturday. Cabins are available for lodging.

There is LOTS of work to do, so we have extended our work day to **2 days!** A detailed list of jobs to do was sent out to all churches. There are jobs available for ANY skill level!! Can't make it to a planned day, let Chip or I know and we will help you with a list of items that can be done before hand.

Ric Garrison, Camp Director

2006 Camp Quaker Heights Schedule

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Little Fry (Grades K-1) | April 29-30 |
| Tweeners (Grade 2) | May 6-7 |
| Fry (Grades 3-4) | June 8-10 |
| Fox (Grades 5-6) | June 10-14 |
| Weekender (Grades 9-12) | June 16-18 |
| Jr. High (Grades 7-8) | June 18-22 |
| Sr. High (Grades 9-12) | June 25-30 |

All Churches have received their promotional material, so please be sure to register soon!!

You can contact our camp as follows:

email: campqhi@adiis.net

**phone: Ric Garrison - (641)751-4400
Camp office - (641)939-5977**

The floors are all but completed in the upstairs, all the laminate wood flooring and bathroom vinyl have been completed. We are short a small amount of stripping to put on the seams. This will arrive this week and complete the floors upstairs! Praise God! Beds for this level are in the rooms, we are currently waiting for the headboards for the queens and 2 more tables. These will be delivered April 5th.

Keith Mardock has worked diligently on the stairway from main floor to basement. As soon as carpet is selected it will be complete.

The basement is coming along slowly, but we continue to see production. We are currently waiting for some plumbing as well as hot water heaters. Tom and Marlene McDonald (New Providence Hardware) are doing a great job of putting the ac/heat, plumbing and electrical work together for us.

Thanks again for your support of this new ministry resource that Iowa Yearly Meeting has embraced. Without the help of each individual, family, and church group, this project would look bleak. If anyone would like to take a day and help with sheet rock, mudding, and other work in the basement. Please Let Chip Daleske or myself know. We welcome your help. God Bless, Ric



Work is being done to finish the basement of the Tall Oaks Lodge

“Working Together with Christ”

~2 Corinthians 6:1-7~

Ministry Conference 2006

August 2 – 5

Keynote Speaker: Wes Davis, of Riverton, KS

Worship Leaders: Brockie Follette

Ministry Forums:

This year's forums are being sponsored by different IAYM committees

World Ministry Reports:

There will be a time of sharing with short-term mission's teams from our Yearly Meeting

Children's Yearly Meeting ...Young Friends Meeting

Mark your calendars and join us for.....

Transforming Worship...Spirit Led Business

Lively Children's Program

Meaningful Youth Events

Fellowship time with “Friends”

Is your church doing an outreach or missions trip?

Would you like to get to know Friends from other churches that are concerned about missions too?

You have 2 good ways to let others know about your church's missions trip plans (as much ahead as possible). This way someone from another meeting could join you and gain the experience of sharing Jesus with others away from their home community.

- 1) Submit a small paragraph or two in the Iowa Friend via iaym@mahaska.org or 422 West College Ave., Oskaloosa, IA 52577

AND

- 2) Contact Wilma Kaldenberg who, on the request of the Iowa Yearly Meeting Missions Board, has agreed to put the same information in an e-mail listing called “In Touch”. This should get to all the churches and help tell of these opportunities to minister outside the local environment. Use either wlkald@netins.net or send to Box 38, Lynnville, IA 50153

In Him, Donna Hoeksema, Mission's Recorder

Subscription Price (individual)...\$10.00 per year (group)...\$9.50 per year

Published monthly except August

THE IOWA FRIEND (USPS 582-120)

P.O. Box 657

Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Periodical Postage Paid

Not for Profit

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