

Plainfield Friends Meeting
Newsletter

*Thee lift me
and I'll lift thee,
and we'll ascend together.*
(Quaker Proverb)

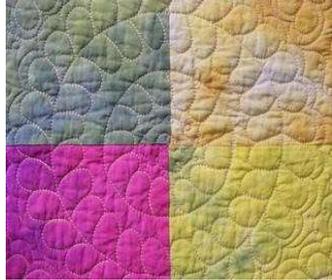
105 S. East St.
Plainfield, IN 46168

(317)839-6490

www.PlainfieldFriends.org

Thee and Me

March 2020



An Experimental Faith

A few weeks ago, for the children's message during worship, Clark Hadley and Wayne Carter demonstrated a science experiment.

They took a 2-liter bottle, filled it with water, and attached a short hose to it. As they began the experiment, they placed a bucket

on the floor and Wayne turned the 2-liter bottle upside-down and held it in the air that way.

Meanwhile, Clark was talking with the children about air – we can't see it, but we know it's there, and we use it – need it – every day to breathe. Clark went on to tell the children that even though we can't see God, we trust and know that God is here and present with us – even though we can't see him, we can experience God every day.

As Clark spoke with the children, we all watched as the 2-liter bottle that Wayne was holding, lost all of its water. Clark explained that the air in the room was pulling all of the water out of the bottle. As we watched, not only did the 2-liter bottle lose all of its water, the air crushed the bottle!

An experiment – as you know – is taking certain ingredients – like the 2-liter bottle, water, air, hose, and bucket – and mixing them together under particular conditions, and then observing the results.

Early Friends/Quakers talked about - having an experimental faith – about knowing God “experimentally”.

For these early Friends, having an experimental faith meant seeking to live with an openness and a willingness to follow the way of Jesus – to experience

and to know him personally – allowing Jesus to provide the results.

And like a science experiment, we combine certain ingredients under particular circumstances and observe the results of an experimental faith – seeking to have an openness and a willingness to follow the way of Jesus – and allowing Jesus to provide the results.

The result is that we not only HAVE an experimental faith (to know God experimentally – to experience God personally in our lives) – we will also LIVE experimentally – to live from God's power as a way of life.

As a Meeting, we are seeking to have an openness and a willingness to follow the way of Jesus, and for me, this is quite an exciting adventure in faith as we allow Jesus to provide the results!

Love, Cathy

“There is one — even Christ Jesus — who can speak to thy condition! And when I heard it, my heart leapt for joy. ... And I knew this experimentally through my experiences.” – George Fox

Love,
Cathy

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If you would like to have our pastor, Cathy, visit you at home, please call, text, or email her at cathy.plainfieldfriends@yahoo.com or 765-465-0994. If you are having surgery or find yourself in the hospital, please let Cathy know so she can come visit and pray with you. Cathy would also enjoy meeting folks for coffee, breakfast or lunch, or even to take a walk and visit.

Cathy Harris
Pastor
Plainfield Friends Meeting/Church
105 S. East St.
Plainfield, IN 46168
Cell: 765-465-0994
Church: 317-839-6490
<http://www.plainfieldfriends.org>

Ministry & Counsel Notes

A LENTEN MEDITATION

Today is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season, a season in our Christian lives which calls us to take a look at the depth and breadth of commitment to Christ and our willingness to take seriously how well we are living up to being like Him. We are blessed that we are created with a mind to consider and a heart to accept boundaries as we consider what we want out of these blessed lives that the Lord God has

given us. His gift of Free Will and the guidelines for our decision making are both a blessing and a responsibility. Take a moment to consider how you are using your gift of Free Will. (Meditate for a moment before continuing.)

I have a pile of papers on the left end of my desk which I need to go through and decide which to discard and which to keep. You know how that works, though this is late February and not spring cleaning time. Some are papers from Yearly Meeting in 2010. Three pages are a description of the origin of the Quaker Meeting in an area in which I formerly lived. Some are instructions from my dermatologist seven years ago. Most are shredded and a few I keep. What if I did a self inventory this pre-Easter season of my "be like Jesus" intentions and see what helps and what hinders. (Try another moment to consider how you are progressing in your own life journey, what to keep and what to discard.)

On a scrap of paper from a forgotten source, I find some notes identifying "Four Principles we must embrace." I think this may have come from my North Carolina days.

1. "Reach up to God." So often I find words of a meaningful hymn learned long ago even now speaking to me. "How Great Thou Art" reminds me of the awesomeness of God's creation

and the wonders of His love, which reaches out to all of us, even in our thoughtless moments. What a mind blowing thought! Think about it!

2. "Reach down for our roots." "My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments: for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare will they give you." (Prov, 3:1) There are some things we have learned which keep us steady and strong that we must hold onto, and there may be other things which undermine and weaken us that we should cast away. (Take a moment to consider.)
3. "Reach out to others." How lonely our lives would be if we didn't have our family and friends to reach out to and to provide strength and hope when we need it. Could we also consider that there might be others we need to reach out to who need our encouragement and support? Do you also find that reaching out is life giving?
4. "Take time for our inward growth." Don't you find it interesting that God took the seventh day for rest and renewal? That He wants us to take time also for inward renewal, that feeding the soul is what gives life real meaning.

Take a quiet moment to consider how you are giving some priority time to feeding the soul.

Yes, I also must take time to consider those "Four principles we must embrace."

Wayne Carter

Dwell on this Hymn from Quaker poet John Greenleaf Whittier:

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways!

Re clothe us in our rightful mind: In
purer lives Thy service find.

In deeper reverence, praise.

**Plainfield Friends
Monthly Meeting for Business Minutes
February 16, 2020**

Opening Minute: Plainfield Friends Monthly Meeting for Business convened the Second Month, 16th day, 2020 following Meeting for Worship and a Fellowship Meal with 17 in attendance.

**Bill Heald, Clerk, read Faith & Practice
pg. 28**

**Query #2 Meeting for Worship and
Business—**

1. Are all meetings for worship and for business duly held, and are you regular and punctual in attending them?
2. Do you come with heart and mind prepared for communion with God and fellowship with one another?

3. Do you individually assume your rightful share in the responsibility of the work and worship of the meeting?
4. Are your meetings for business times of spiritual concern and prayerful search for the way of truth?

**Devotions – Diana Hadley – Don't Let
What's Happening in the World Shake
Your Faith**

(Feb. 2, 2020) [by rightfromtheheart.org/devotion](http://rightfromtheheart.org/devotion)

***Matthew 6:13 ~ "...do not lead us into
temptation, but deliver us from evil."***

George Barna, the well-known public-opinion pollster, conducted a national survey: "If you could ask God one question, what would it be?" The Number one answer was, "Why is there so much pain & suffering?"

In light of all of the unrest in the world, ...Questions like these can shake our faith & grip us with fear, anger & bewilderment...As Christians, we know that God is powerful & loving, but sometimes it feels like He doesn't care, or that we are all alone. Two things to keep in mind:

1. **God gets blamed for a lot of man's evil**

2. God has given man a free will

Ironically, the more victimized people are by man's evil, the more they tend to blame God. But we are not computers programmed to simply do good or evil. Like God, we can make choices & those choices have consequences.

...God wants us to TRUST Him to bring good out of evil. If He did it when mankind murdered His innocent Son (Jesus Christ), then He can do it with all of the suffering & unrest in 2020.

**Minutes of January 19, 2020 Correc-
tions: APPROVED**

1. Pg. 2, Minute 7, #2a: delete "will" to read "Clark Hadley, Diana Hadley & Brenda Jackson **are...**"
2. Pg. 3, Minute 8, #8: delete "Financial Trustees" change to "Stewardship & Finance Committee"

Correspondence: Bill Heald

May 1st ~ "Cultivating Generous Congregations". Presented by: Colin Saxton at Quaker Hill Conference Center, 10 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond, IN 47374, Phone: (765) 962-5741. Email: INFO@QHCC.ORG

**Pastor's Report – Pastor Cathy Harris –
APPROVED**

Highlights:

1. Pastor Cathy – 21 visits & several phone calls and notes.
2. Scout Sunday was fun. Thanks to Michelle Earl & Bill & Kathy Clendineng for decorations & refreshments.
3. We hosted WYM Listening session, January 25. Brenda & Phil Jackson helped Cathy make & serve lunch.
4. Attended Chamber of Commerce with Jim Wilson. Made a new Plainfield Friends Brochure & had Susie Heald order Chip Clips w/ PFM info on it for inserting in the Chamber welcome bags. On Wed Feb 5th Pastor Cathy helped assemble and distribute Welcome Bags.
5. Led worship at Sugar Grove Nursing Facility along with Marilyn Tucker – Feb 9th
6. We received the grant money for “Godly Play” junior worship & the website program. The CE Committee has been preparing rooms for Jr. Worship and materials will be ordered soon.

7. Our Insurance for PFM which is shared with WYM increased significantly. Della Stanley-Green, Jay Newlin & Marilyn Tucker are working on new estimates and Della has arranged for quarterly rather than annual payments.
8. Susie Heald and Pastor Cathy met with Main St. Plainfield group January 27 to share ideas and discuss community events for 2020.
 - a. The National Road Yard Sale will be Saturday May 30th.
 - b. Quaker Day Festival will be September 19th.

Ministry & Counsel Report Diana Hadley - APPROVED

1. Bill Clendineng presented a request from Scott & Sue Walton to initiate a Healing Ministry at PFM. Susann Estle-Cronau may possibly join these 3 in this ministry.
2. With new apartments to open across the street, M & C is starting a New Neighbor Task Force and seeking those willing to participate in this ministry and visit our new neighbors.

3. M & C has set the 1st Sunday of the month for coffee hour. Teresa Mer-shon has volunteered to lead this ministry, so will work with M & C on it.
4. **APPROVED** - Diana Hadley has prepared a “Predatory Pay Day Lending” Minute for M & C which she will present to legislators Tuesday February 18, in an effort to keep interest rates no more than 36%. She will follow Senate Bill 395 carefully through legislation as items are frequently amended in unsatisfactory ways before approval.
 - a. There are many areas of concern, IFCL tries to choose issues that will not divide Friends.

**Treasurer's Report – Marilyn Tucker -
APPROVED**

1. Stocks are up for the year (2019) from January 1, 2019 by \$65,083.18.
 - a) Opened at \$466,295.98.
 - b) Closed at \$ 460,638.24. (Investment was back up by \$6,000 by 2/7/2020)

- c) Dividends received and put into general fund: \$269.96.
- 2. Treasurer's Report:
 - a) January beginning balance \$9,627.83.
 - b) January ending register balance \$3,849.03.
 - c) January Offerings: \$ 6,167.06.
 - d) January Income (offerings & misc.): \$9,780.71.
 - e) Parsonage Account Opening Balance: \$ 30,525.26.
 - f) Parsonage Expense (rent) \$873.50.
 - g) Parsonage Account Closing Balance: \$29,651.76.
 - h) Parsonage Edward Jones CD: \$106,183.49. (Growth \$3,392.84)
- 3. WYM rent for Parsonage is \$950/mo.
- 4. Special Future Offerings:
 - a) March 8, 2020 – IFCL. (Indiana Friends Counsel on Legislation)
 - b) May Retired Minister's Offering.

- 5. **APPROVED** in December– Recommended to take \$2,000 from the Quaker Day Fund to offset the Spring Insurance expense. This was spent in January.
- 6. MOPS Balance = \$1,384.18.
- 7. Quaker Day Balance = \$1,385.31.
- 8. Division of cost between WYM & PFM for insurance has been WYM 40% & PFM 60%. This seems unbalanced and it is being explored on how to make it more equitable.
 - a) Insurance will also be updated to ensure more or less coverage where needed.
- 9. The Grant for Godly Play if for Godly Play needs/Website update/& PFM Library. This will not be a budget item but a "Set aside".
- 10. **APPROVED** The Chip Clips for Outreach will come out of restrictive funds line item 508.00 "Summer Outreach Program".

Stewardship & Finance Committee – Reported with the Treasurer's Report

Trustees Report – Jim Wilson APPROVED

- 1. No Report at this time.

Christian Education – Teresa Mershon for, CE Co-Clerks ~ **APPROVED**

- 1. The CE Committee will meet on February 23, 2020. Let Laura Brizendine, Michelle Earl or Teresa Mershon know of any ideas or suggestions you may have for the CE Committee.
 - a) Junior SS Class is memorizing scripture and then applying it to their lives.
 - b) CE is making preparations for Godly Play and hope to begin this in April.
 - c) CE is concerned that there needs to be a "Kid's Area" in view of adults and overseen by at least two adults at times before, between and following services & activities, for safety of children & to guide children into appropriate indoor behaviors. This is in the planning stage.

MOPS – Kay Carter & Diana Hadley ~

1. The committee is preparing for the Hwy 40 Yard Sale May 30th.
2. Vendor application/ applications for spaces will be available on the PFM website.

Visitation – No Report

Church Federation –

1. No meeting until March.

Old Business –

1. Coordinating Committee met.
 - a) Graduation Sunday tentatively May 17th.
 - a) Natalie Heald, Anna Pedigo are graduates. Let CE know of others. Morgan will be 2023.
 - b) Hwy 40 Yard Sale May 30th.
 - c) Q-Day Planning Meeting Feb 19th & August 26th.

All who are interested are encouraged to attend.
2. PFM Brochure suggestions.
 - a) Insert a bookmark with a list of all PFM events for that year.

3. Donations of clothing are still being received for Central Elementary School through March.
4. Remind members we continually collect cereal for the Food Pantry at St Marks. Just leave it in the box in the Lobby.
5. Following the WYM Listening Sessions, there will now be:
 - a) Regional “Revisioning” Meetings.
 - b) Members, especially those under 50 are encouraged to help revision our future a Friends in WYM.

New Business –

1. There are concerns that the PFM doors are not being locked up after all meetings.
 - a) Remind WYM that they are responsible to check that ALL doors are locked following WYM programs & meetings.
 - b) M & C will ensure that a system is arranged for everyone using the building to lock up following use.

2. Western Yearly Meeting has been asked to host. Triennials 2023: If approved at Administrative Council in March, Plainfield Meeting, USFW, Quaker Men & other area churches need to start planning toward this and their responsibilities in hosting these sessions.

- a) Needs as Host are: Housing, Transportation, ??not sure what else.
- b) Bill Clendineng will participate in Kiwanis International here in Plainfield, March 14th, and it will be held at the Embassy Suites. He will, therefore, evaluate this location as a possibility for reserving for Triennial Housing.
- c) FUM will be responsible for Programming.
- d) This will be discussed March 21st at Administrative Council at Shiloh Friends, 12987 N 500 W, Alexandria, IN, just Northeast of Elwood.

Statistics – Kay Carter – No Report

Joys & Concerns –

Pray for:

1. Susie Mathis & Maggie Jackson who have pneumonia, Laura Brizendine – recovery from surgery, Pastor Cathy – traveling. Joys: Nadine Kemp is ok after her fall, Pastor Cathy's son Chris and his wife and her family as they celebrate the marriage of Chris and his wife; Jim Wilson & Cindy Simmons better health.

Closing Minute: Plainfield Friends Monthly Meeting for Business adjourns to meet Third month, 17th day, 2020 or on the call of the clerk.

Wayne Carter closed the meeting with prayer.

Quaker Haven Camp Dates 2020

Registration for camp is done online: at <http://www.quakerhaven.com> (click on "youth camps", then click on "register here").

Our Meeting pays for half the cost of each student to attend camp. Other scholarship funds may be available - see Cathy Harris. Transportation - if you need transportation or want to carpool, please see Cathy.

BEGINNERS CAMP: Ages 5-7 Grades K-2 - JUNE 12-14 (\$168-Early bird; \$218 after). Registration starts on Friday 6pm and camp will end after lunch on Sunday. Beginners Camp is our introductory camp that is

meant to teach campers what camp is all about. It is the only camp that we require a parent or guardian with each camper.

ADVENTURE CAMP: Ages 9-11 Grades 4-6 - JUNE 21-26 (\$320-Early Bird; \$370 after). Registration starts on Sunday at 3pm and Pickup is noon on Friday.

SR. HIGH CAMP 1 & 2: Ages 13-18 Grades 9-Graduate - JUNE 14-19; JULY 5-10 (\$320-Early Bird; \$370 after). Registration starts on Sunday at 3pm and Pickup is noon on Friday.

LITTLE FRIENDS CAMP: Ages 7-9 Grades 2-4 - JULY 12-15 (\$212-Early Bird; \$262 after). Registration starts on Sunday at 3pm and Pickup is noon on Wednesday.

JR. HIGH CAMP: Ages 11-13 Grades 7-8 - JUNE 7-12 (\$320-Early Bird; \$370 after). Registration starts on Sunday at 3pm and Pickup is noon on Friday.

YOUNG ADULT CAMP: Ages 20-35 – JUNE 5-7 (\$62). Registration starts on Friday 6pm and camp will end after lunch on Sunday. Young Adult camp is intended for young adults from college aged students to age 35. It is a camp dedicated on making leaders in our churches and our community.

March Events



03/02	7pm Pack 429 Den Mtg.
03/05	7pm Choir Practice
03/08	9am CE Mtg. 2pm Worship at Sugar Grove Sr. Living Center
03/09	7pm Ministry & Counsel 7pm Pack 429 Den Mtg.
03/10	7pm Cub Scout Parent Planning Mtg.
03/12	6pm Stewardship & Finance 7pm Choir Practice
03/14	WYM Retreat at 1 st Friends 5pm Blue & Gold Banquet Pack 429
03/15	11:30am Fellowship Meal 12:30 Meeting for Business
03/16	7pm Pack 429 Den Mtg.
03/19	7pm Choir Practice
03/21	9am Administrative Council @ Shiloh Friends
03/23	7pm Pack 429 Den Mtg.
03/26	7pm Choir Practice
03/28	7:30am Quaker Men Breakfast at Goody's

March Birthday's



- 03/01 **Larry Ryan**
- 03/02 **Sharon Gibbs**
- 03/04 **Caroline Asava**
Laura Hoage
- 03/08 **Jeff Mace**
Rachel Mosier
- 03/10 **Lori Gilbert**
Charlie Hubbard
- 03/13 **Jill Hutchens**
Donna Kissick
- 03/17 **Michael Budd**
- 03/18 **Melissa Hackett**
- 03/23 **Laura Borcharding**
- 03/26 **Carolyn Moore**
- 03/30 **David Swann**

April Events



- 04/02 7pm Choir Practice
- 04/05 **9am CE Mtg.**
- 04/06 7pm Pack 429
- 04/09 **6pm Stewardship & Finance**
7pm Choir Practice

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|-------------|---|-------|--|
| 04/10 | 12pm Good Friday Service @ PFM | 04/15 | Mari Hutchens |
| 04/12 | Sunrise Service @ Sugar Grove Meeting House
Breakfast | 04/19 | Kay Carter
Dennis Asava
Matt Newlin |
| | 2pm Worship at Sugar Grove Sr. Living Center | 04/22 | John Hadley |
| 04/13 | 7pm Ministry & Counsel | 04/24 | Alexa Hampton |
| | 7pm Pack 429 | 04/25 | Justin Carpenter |
| 04/14 | 7pm Cub Scout Parent Planning Mtg. | 04/27 | Michelle Earl |
| 04/16 | 7pm Choir Practice | 04/28 | Lloyd Lindley
Howard Maxwell |
| 04/19 | 11:30 Fellowship Meal
12:30 Meeting for Business | 04/30 | Logan Allen |
| 04/23-04/26 | USFWI Conference – basement | | |
| 04/23 | 7pm Choir Practice | | |
| 04/27 | 7pm Pack 429 | | |
| 04/30 | 7pm Choir Practice | | |

April Birthday's



- 04/02 **Zachary Allen**
- 04/04 **Ethel Moon**
John Nease
Janet Pritchett
- 04/06 **Beth Henry**
- 04/08 **Diana Hadley**
- 04/09 **Tim Newlin**
- 04/10 **Anna Pedigo**
- 04/11 **Debbie Dick**