



November 2015

# THE IOWA FRIEND

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends

## Remember

**Nehemiah 4:14 (NIV)**

*Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome...*

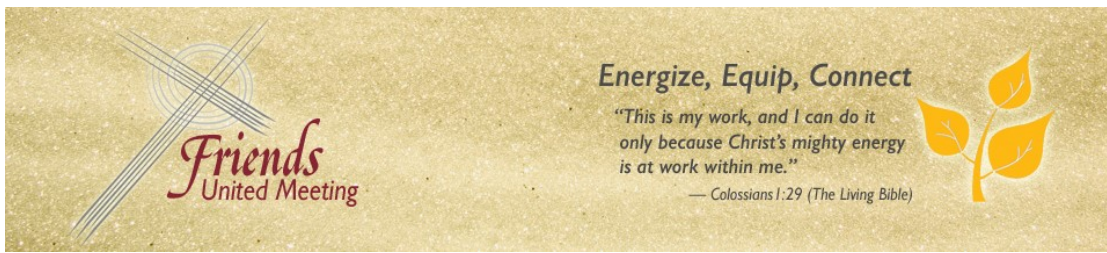
Closely tied to our ability to give thanks is our ability to remember. When we take time to remember the things that God has done in our lives, we are prone to pause in amazement at all His workings. Even when those memories are tough, difficult, or challenging, God has a plan and we can trust Him.

In this month of Thanksgiving, may we “remember the Lord, who is great and awesome” (Nehemiah 4:14, NIV). So far in my brief service to Iowa Yearly Meeting, I have acquired a list of things for which I am thankful. I have had the opportunity to witness the servant hearts of those who have helped our family unload a large moving truck. I have seen the inner workings of and have met some great people at a William Penn Board meeting. Upon traveling to Richmond, Indiana, for FUM board, I enjoyed hearing the heart of that organization (not to mention, driving with Ron Bryan and Katy Palmer, who went as far as Indianapolis with us). I spent some relaxing time at camp with the Pastors and heard good teaching from Chuck Orwiler, Friends pastor in Denver. I was able to take part in the Mesquakie Board meeting and hear the excitement of what is happening there. Last on the list, I have especially enjoyed the time I have spent with Ron Bryan as he helped me to transition into the role I now serve as General Superintendent of Iowa Yearly Meeting. In the midst of encountering people, we see the love of God displayed, and for that we can be thankful. I would encourage you, as we approach Thanksgiving, to compile your own list of “things for which to be thankful.”

The future is bright because God has a plan and His plan includes us. For which part will you allow God to use you? Ephesians 2:10, “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (NIV).

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

*~Tom Showalter, General Superintendent~*



## FUM Expands Presence in Belize And Seeks Pastoral Minister

God is opening the way for Friends to expand our ministry in Belize! At its recent meeting in Richmond, IN, the FUM General Board (North America/Caribbean) approved the following mission statement for Belize Friends Ministries:

*“Building on the existing Belize Friends School ministry, Friends United Meeting will engage in a holistic Christian Quaker ministry that is deeply grounded in the discernment of God’s direction in Belize. We seek to witness to the transforming power of Jesus Christ and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit through our witness, including worship, discipleship, education, leadership development, alternatives to violence, community building and economic empowerment.”*

The new program plan has three main components – gathering a worshipping body of Friends on the Southside of Belize City, expanding the Belize Friends School to serve more teens and adults, and organizing community-based ministries aimed at reducing violence, poverty and hopelessness.

In conjunction with this expansion, FUM has opened a search for a **Pastoral Minister** who is called to incarnational and relational evangelism in Belize. This position will be as a Field Staff.



### NOVEMBER 2015

11/13-14 7th-12th grade retreat @ Fairfield

### DECEMBER 2015

12/27-31 Urbana for young adults (16-25)

### February 2016

2/5-8 Young Adult Retreat

TBD Blizzard Blast

2/27 QuakerMen’s Family Banquet

### March 2016

3/5 BOC @LeGrand

3/19 Spring Body of Representatives @ Mt. Pleasant

### Young Friends Camps 2016

6/10—13 Little Fry

6/12-18 Jr/Sr high camp

6/17-20 Young Adult Weekender

6/19-24 Elementary Camp

### JULY 2016

7/7-10 USFW/Quakermen Triennial in Cedar Rapids

7/27-30 Annual Yearly Meeting Conference @ WPU



## USFW Fall Retreat

Photos from USFW Fall Retreat held at Honey Creek/New Providence on October 3. Our guest speaker was Kathleen Evenhouse, author of the book *"Less Than A Widow."* It is an historical novel based on the life of Ruth. We enjoyed a delicious luncheon prepared by the HC/NP USFW ladies. Thank you so much! We then had an auction of a variety of gift baskets, quilts, and other items led by our mother/daughter team (Fearless Pres. Kerry Hadley and maybe an even bit more Fearless VP Deanna Ankrum). We were successful in adding to our 2016 Triennial Fund. A great time was had by all.



# MESQUAKIE FRIENDS

Things here at Mesquakie Friends are a constant 'go-go-go'! I am happy to share with you some new & exciting updates.

Our Saturday night worship services continue to slowly grow. Saturday night worship allow Berny & myself to travel to other meetings, within Iowa Yearly Meeting to share in person the ministry of Mesquakie Friends. Or you could join us on a Saturday, see for yourself and worship with us that evening.

Our residence is a 'walk-out' ranch home. The lower lever is ready to accept guests to meet and/or retreat. As a 'retreat center', we currently have a queen size bed & a double bed in one room. We would like to divide it into 2 rooms in the near future. We have another room that we envision having 2 sets of bunk-beds.

Our youth program is back up & running. We have a High School group, Friends Youth Group, that meets Monday evenings, 6:00-8:00, in our home. Three young ladies have been coming faithfully since the start. Our younger youth program, Friendly Kidz meets on Thursday evenings, 6:00 - 8:00, at the church. This has grown from 11 kids (K-6th) to 23, most recently, and continues to grow. If your church or youth group would like to provide the meal or help out, it would be very much appreciated, just give us a call.

**An upcoming event is the Chain Saw Party, Nov 7<sup>th</sup>. Chain saws & log splitter (for camp fires, wood stoves & to give to the needy) (Individuals and/or work team to operate chain saws & log splitter)**

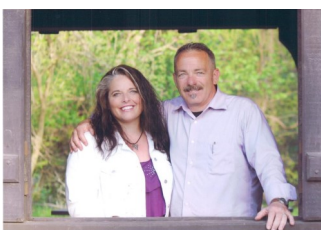


With Christmas just around the corner we would like to provide our youth with a shoe box full of gifts at Christmas, comparable to *Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child*. We would need to come up with a list of boys/girls and ages. I will continue to iron out the details.

As I mentioned before, we have a wonderful ministry here and we believe that so many of our Friends are unaware of it and it's full potential. We would love for people to visit us or come & worship with us on a Saturday evening and discover what a beautiful property God has provided.

## Here is a short list of Prayer Requests:

- Pray for our need for a 'worship team.'
- Pray for open hearts & open minds on the settlement.
- Pray for Berny & I to develop 'friendship' & relationships' in our area.
- Pray for our 'benevolent fund' (we are in a very impoverished area & receive frequent request).
- Pray for the people ( all races) who will come fill the empty seats at our worship services



**Pastor, Mac McDonald & Berny McDonald**  
**Co-Directors of Mesquakie Friends**

**Email Address:** Mesquakiefriends@gmail.com  
**Home/Church Phone:** 641-484-2329  
**Pastor's Cell Phone:** 515-339-1423



## Obituaries



**Wilma L. Kaldenberg**, passed away October 14, 2015. She was born April 6, 1930 the third daughter of Hubert and Dora (Van Ommen) Van Gilst in Mahaska County. She attended Pleasant View and Pleasant Grove Elementary Schools in Mahaska County and graduated from Pella High School in 1947.

Wilma married Gilbert Steenhoek in October 1950, in her family's home, and they lived on a farm near Galesburg. In December 1950, Gilbert entered the military and was sent to Ft. Benning, Georgia. During this time, his parents moved to the farm to carry on with the farming operation. Lila was born during this time in Georgia, and Kyle was born after the family returned to the farm in Iowa. Gilbert died tragically in 1955, when a building he was helping to raze collapsed on him. During her time in Pella, Wilma did secretary work in both 3rd Reformed Church and Central College. She married Alfred Vander Werff in December 1961, and with the children moved and enjoyed life on his family farm on the Marion/Jasper County line along the Skunk River. About this time, Wilma graduated from Central College and started teaching in Pella and then Lynnville-Sully. In early 1974, Alfred passed away from cancer. On April 6 of that year Wilma had her first date with Cleo Brush. In October they were married at the Little Brown Church. Sadly, on her 45th birthday in 1975, he passed away, also from cancer after barely completing the new home in Lynnville that they were building.

Wilma attended Drake University summers and

some evenings to earn her Masters degree in special education in 1977. Shortly before this, Wilma married Leon Kaldenberg in 1976. They were married 27 years until his death in 2003. During this time, Wilma enjoyed having "Books Etcetera," a home-based Christian Book and Gift business in the lower level of her home. Leon and Wilma set up their business at the State Fair for several years, more as a mission than a business.

Wilma accepted Christ as her Savior at an early age and, as a teenager, made a public confession of her faith in Third Reformed Church in Pella. In 1975 she transferred her membership to the Friends Church in Lynnville, embracing the Friends belief in the simplicity of life. At both churches she was very involved in church ministries, including women's groups and teaching Sunday School. She also directed the senior citizen's group and made food for the church quilting group. After her retirement in 1995, she spent time writing, including three weekly columns in local newspapers.

After Leon's death, she was recorded as a minister in the Friends Church, not because of her wish to be a church pastor, but because it was a goal she felt God wanted her to reach.

Wilma was happiest when she was sharing the faith that had carried her throughout her life, with others, in any way she could. What an example this is for all of us who are left to follow.

Those left to cherish her memory are her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and step children and their families. Wilma is also survived by her sisters: Tana Mae (Mrs. Bernie) Van Roekel, Dorothy Vander Linden, and Bernice Dodge, sisters-in-law: Pauline De Cook and Helen Steenhoek, and a host of relatives and friends.



**Erwin Stewart Cook**, 84, who passed away Friday, September 18, 2015. Erwin was a minister for 54 years. He began his pastoral service in Kansas and Oklahoma before coming to Iowa in 1982 to Middle River Friends Church. He subsequently served at several other locations in the Iowa Yearly Meeting, including Motor and Ackworth, until being called to Smyrna in the late '80's where he served as pastor for 25 years.

After his retirement in 2012 Erwin and his family returned to Middle River as their church home. Erwin and Ardith often attended the senior Sojourners fellowship group as well as remained very faithful in attendance at Sunday morning worship services even as Erwin's health failed. Erwin was a pleasant, quiet man, who brought joy to those around him. All have been enriched by having Erwin and his family in the Middle River Church family.

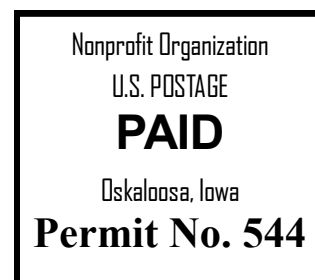
Erwin is survived by his wife of nearly 63 years, Ardith; daughters, Trina (Jeff) Kenney, Darla (Mike) Hildreth; son, Sherwin (Mary) Cook; and eight grandchildren. His family and serving the Lord were Erwin's greatest joys in life.

Ardith said of the Celebration of Life services held for Erwin at Middle River, "It was fitting that the first church he pastored in Iowa should be the final place he would go from here to heaven."

**THE IOWA FRIEND**  
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IAYM Missions Board's  
**THANKSGIVING OFFERING**  
**Solar Panels ~ for Friends Theological College**

We are asked over and over to be as green as possible; light bulbs, new appliances, more insulation, etc, etc, etc. What if you could help somebody else be green and help them be more self-sufficient?

During the Spring and Summer of 2016 I will be taking a sabbatical leave from WPU and working at the Friends Theological College (FTC) in Kaimosi, Kenya. Their primary objective is for me to install as much solar electric capacity as they can afford. This is due to the extremely unreliable electric grid and high cost of electricity in Kenya. I estimate that to meet the needs of the entire campus would cost \$80,000 - \$100,000. Friends United Meeting is currently attempting to raise the money. At this time they have approximately \$5,000. There are around 800,000 Quakers in Kenya. FTC is the only Friends school that trains Kenyans to be pastors, youth workers, and missionaries. The students who attend are poor and struggle to pay their school fees. That in turn makes it difficult for FTC to pay salaries. The solar electric systems will help reduce operating expenses and make it more likely that salaries can be paid on a regular basis.

The electric grid in Kenya is very unreliable. The electricity goes off multiple times most days and is off completely for days or even weeks at a time. FTC is attempting to embrace computer technology, but that is difficult to do with sporadic electricity. The solar electric systems will provide 24/7 electricity.

For me personally, this will provide considerable experience designing and installing a large photovoltaic system. This will help make me more authentic in teaching my Alternate Energy course. For the most part though, this sabbatical is not about what I can gain, but what I can give. Hopefully this will provide a good example for our students. When I return I hope I can give a presentation at Penn which would fit under the Heritage & Culture committee objectives. Finally, working in Kenya is just plain enjoyable for me. I am looking forward very much to the slower and simpler lifestyle. ~Jim Hoeksema~

**Gifts for this project can be sent to the Mission's Treasurer—**

**Dorothy Taylor**  
**1121 Parkway Dr. Apt 1,**  
**Boone, IA 50036**

**Memo "Solar Panels" on your donation**