

Pastor Appreciation

FUM's pastoral meetings were invited to express appreciation for their pastors in this issue of *Quaker Life*. The entries that follow illuminate the varied roles that Friends pastors fill, from delivering Christ-centered sermons that speak to one's condition to flipping pancakes that inspire the community to fellowship together. From weddings and funerals, to Bible studies and leading the youth, for all that you do, pastors we thank you!



Arlen Daleske
Honey Creek-New Providence
Friends, Iowa

While many pastors deservedly take Mondays off, Arlen Daleske, pastor of Honey Creek-New Providence Friends Meeting in New Providence, Iowa, is up early. When the only restaurant in our small town closed, Arlen recognized the need people still had to gather for fellowship. He and his wife, Jean, began serving a freewill pancake breakfast one Monday morning a month in our church fellowship hall. A small group gathered, but Arlen soon decided that it might become more of an outreach tool if he moved the breakfast outside the church walls to an available building on Main Street.

From its humble beginnings, the concept grew significantly. The monthly event became weekly. Every Monday morning, regardless of the weather, from 6:30-9:30 a.m., Arlen and Jean, along with nearly 30 volunteers, serve omelets, biscuits and gravy, home-baked rolls and breads, sausage, pancakes and fruit. It is not uncommon to have over 100 people attend. The caring and concern that have arisen out of the relationships developed there have been tremendous. Through the years the breakfasts have continued on a freewill donation basis. With donations far exceeding

expenses, the remaining money has been turned into scholarships for community youth.

Submitted by Diane Nelson

Mike and Nancy McCormick
Chester Friends, Ohio

Mike and Nancy, pastors of Chester Friends in Wilmington, Ohio, are role models for outreach to the wider community. The funeral directors of Clinton County know that if a family experiencing a loss does not have a faith community, Mike or Nancy can be called upon to conduct a service.

Mike, a horse lover, is the owner of large work horses and often volunteers to give wagon rides to school, church and camping groups. His work with horses has attracted many folks to meeting.

Nancy uses her God-given talent of music to bring peace to the ill, aged and other folks who might be experiencing distress in their lives. She serves on the board of the local homeless shelter, and is its current president.

Mike and Nancy have served Wilmington Yearly Meeting on many committees, as well as the Quaker Hill Conference Center board in Richmond, Indiana. Nancy was a member of the Executive Committee of the United Society of Friends Women International (USFWI) for many years.

They have both spent many, many hours volunteering with Friends Disaster Service, as well as helping out a neighbor whenever they can. Mike and Nancy have traveled to Kenya, Cuba and Burundi, and returned home to share how Christ was working in these different parts of the world.

Submitted by Lois Hackney



Bill Wagoner
Friends Memorial, Indiana

Bill Wagoner, pastor of Friends Memorial Church in Muncie, Indiana, has been around the block. Soon to be 75, he has served as a missionary, worked with Friends United Meeting where he had a Richmond office but traveled widely, went back to school at the Earlham School of Religion (ESR) and has pastored Friends' churches — all during a period of 50-some years. It could be said he has done it all. Most pastors at this point might say it's time to slow down and relax a bit.

Yet, you would never believe that if you saw Bill at Friends Memorial. He teaches a youth class. He conducts Bible study groups. He works at the food pantry. He attends committee meetings. He advises ESR interns. He serves on yearly meeting committees. He visits the ill and shut-ins. He does all the other things that pastors do, too — weddings, funerals, counseling (particularly if it means coffee at Starbucks or MT Cup). Of course, he preaches, and very well. Positive comments about his Christ-centered sermons are numerous and frequent.

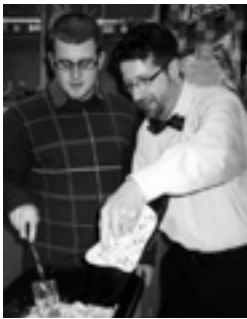
Friends Memorial members tell each other frequently how fortunate we are to have Bill and Joyce Wagoner. Keep it up, Bill and Joyce!

Submitted by Earl Conn

Cliff Loesch and David Kingrey University Friends, Kansas

University Friends is blessed to have two wonderful pastors, Dr. Cliff Loesch and Dr. David Kingrey. Both Cliff and David go above and beyond to carry out loving pastoral care that meets the needs of the members. Cliff is highly involved with mid-week children's ministry and the children highly enjoy interacting with him. David leads our youth group and his nurturance of youth from a variety of backgrounds has a large impact on their lives. Both Cliff and David make a strong impact on University Friends and our Quaker community in Wichita and beyond.

Submitted by Liz Wine



Cliff Loesch and Dave Kingrey, our pastors at University Friends in Wichita, Kansas, live out *1 Corinthians 10:31b*, "Whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God." These two may be found singing in the choir, cleaning egg off the front doors, driving the van to pick up youth across the city, coordinating volunteers and paid staff, sweeping the meetinghouse steps or removing ice in the winter, playing with children in the gym, picking up the slack when a Sunday school teacher is unable to be present, setting up for or cleaning up after events, providing information needed to committee clerks, overseeing the tutoring program and so much more. All this while preaching the Word of God, teaching, counseling and enabling the membership to fulfill God's will for their lives, visiting the ill and shut-ins and generally encouraging growth and vision for the meeting as a whole and

for each member personally. University Friends Meeting is very blessed by the ministries of Cliff and Dave and we thank God that they live out their call from the Lord among us.

Submitted by Ann Fuqua



Nathan McCracken Bangor Liberty Friends, Iowa

Nathan is a new, young pastor at Bangor Liberty Friends Church in central Iowa. He has been obedient to the Lord's call to come here. Nathan honors his wife, Shandra, and she is a wonderful support to his ministry. She organized a pictorial church directory which has brought the church membership into focus. Nathan is a great dad to his two young sons. The Lord has blessed him with wisdom beyond his years, extreme musical talent and a sense of humor. Nathan has a heart for the youth, encouraging them to use their gifts. He tore a wall out of the Sunday school area to increase the size for the youth. The youth see Nathan as a person who is up on current issues. Nathan has shown compassion to people, including those with disabilities. He organized a fall party that invited people in from the community, and his family had an open house for the congregation to visit in their home. Nathan brings unity to the church's mission and is led by the Holy Spirit in the morning worship service. It will be exciting to see how God continues to use this pastor.

Submitted by Rick Bachman

Tony Tompkins Hardins Creek Friends, Ohio

Despite a full-time occupation in the newspaper business, Tony Tompkins brings weekly messages from the Lord to the rural congregation of Hardins Creek Friends in the Wilmington Yearly Meeting, Ohio. His work disallows the mid-week meetings that took place earlier in his ministry when he was self-employed. Nevertheless, Tompkins' congregation appreciates his biblical insight and his care for the ill and bereaved. His leadership has promoted community unity through the decades-long tradition of an ice cream social. Funds raised are directed to needs brought forth from the congregation.

In addition, Tompkins encourages support of and participation in the yearly meeting camp, Quaker Knoll. Besides the local meeting, Pastor Tompkins and his congregation are part of the Fairfield Ministerial Association, which unites the various churches in the community.

Submitted by Nellida Friend



Keith Huffman Dewart Lake Community Friends, Indiana

Activities at Dewart Lake Community Friends Church in Syracuse, Indiana, have multiplied since the arrival in July of Pastor Keith Huffman and his family. Keith has a love for Quaker Haven Camp, where the church is active in a camp setting, since he spent weeks as a youth at the camp.

Keith, Robin and their daughter, Bethany, bring life to the worship ser-

vices with their musical talents. God has gifted Keith with teaching skills demonstrated at monthly spiritual leadership groups held in the Huffman home, and a recent full-day "Family Life" seminar. His "Pasta with the Pastor" evenings have been a fun way to get to know the families. Within a month he wrote a grant proposal for audio/visual equipment that was accepted, and the equipment is now in use.

Under Keith's direction, a meaningful Christmas program written by Keith's father, Max Huffman, was presented at the church on Christmas Eve. Most notable has been Keith's gentle, loving spirit that comes through as he shares his deep love of God while ministering to the congregation, camp guests that attend summer boat-in and meetinghouse worship services and everyone with whom he makes contact.

Submitted by Karyl Smith



Larry Fowler
Friendsville Friends, Tennessee

Larry is a practicing Christian and a convinced Quaker who sees the Friends tenets as a way of life. He came to the Friendsville Friends Meeting at the insistence of his wife's uncle and upon arriving found that he was "home." Previously Larry was active in the Baptist and Methodist churches and taught Sunday school in each church of which he was a member. Larry presents the Word, as God provides him, during worship three Sundays each month. His messages are Scripture-based and speak to the condition and needs of meeting members.

Larry is dedicated to the meeting, members and community needs, both

spiritual and physical. He is sensitive to the membership needs and concerns and brings them to the attention of others as needed. He actively works within the community for Christian action and witness.

Larry is dedicated to his family. Larry is married and lives with his wife, Karol; daughter, Jamie; and mother-in-law, June Koontz. He also has two daughters and two sons living in the area.

Larry is a member of the Tennessee Air National Guard and a coach of the Alcoa High School girls' soccer team. He also serves as assistant coach of the Alcoa High School boys' soccer team.

Larry has served as pastor of the Friendsville Friends Meeting since 2004. During this time he has completed his bachelor's degree in Ministry Leadership at Toccoa Falls College in Toccoa Falls, Georgia. He is presently studying for recording by the Wilmington Yearly Meeting.

Submitted by Sam Chapman



Ruthie Tippin
West Branch Friends, Iowa

Pastor Ruthie (Hadley) Tippin has just begun serving her fifth year of ministry at West Branch (Iowa Yearly Meeting) Friends Church. She truly personifies the Psalmist's metaphor of a tree planted by streams of water. Her roots run deep, her branches are strong and the fruits of her work are bountiful. Raised in a Quaker family, she has a life-long appreciation of Quaker faith and practice. She met her loving husband while a student at George Fox University and their family provides an excellent witness of how

God not only equips the called, but also calls the equipped.

Ruthie's ministry began in the field of music performance and education. She continues in that work with our hand bell choir and as the director of our local community chorus, bringing people together from a wide range of backgrounds. Her pastoral ministry is enthusiastic, yet tempered by humility. She's deeply intellectual, yet remains easily accessible. Her sermons are thought-provoking, grounded in the Word and provide spiritual nourishment for our congregation.

Ruthie's faithfulness to call on the sick and shut-in is more evidence of how her ministry reaches beyond the meetinghouse. We are thrilled that she's pursuing her recording under the guidance of Iowa Yearly Meeting, as well as her continuing coursework through the Earlham School of Religion. Our meeting is blessed to call her our pastor.

Submitted by M. Edward English

H. Scott Latimer
Fall Creek Friends, Ohio

Scott Latimer has been our part-time pastor for over four years and, although each year we acknowledge our appreciation of his ministry on Pastor's Appreciation Sunday, we are happy to share that appreciation in a wider sense to other meetings. Pastor Scott brings a lively enthusiasm in an outgoing and friendly manner. He is a prolific Bible scholar and his messages hold attention while presenting the Gospel with a weekly challenge to a closer walk with God and to be a witness of God's love to others. He loves to sing and this encourages the congregation to sing as well.

Even though he is only part-time, Scott also helps with Vacation Bible School, hosts Bible study, visits and has prayer with the sick, occasionally uses his puppets in programs, officiates at weddings and funerals and attends class meetings when he can. Giving

has increased and we have been able to increase our benevolent ministry as well as do some needed refurbishing of the meetinghouse, parsonage and grounds. One problem might be that he can easily take on too much and overextend himself, but we feel grateful and blessed to have Scott as our pastor at this time.

Submitted by Betty Bobb

Mark Herbkersman Knightstown Friends, Indiana

By sharing his faith, Pastor Mark Herbkersman has strengthened the Knightstown (Indiana) Friends Meeting. Better than any anecdote, the following poem, by Mable A. Wolfe, will help you to understand. This seems to be Mark's prayer:

CHRIST IN ME

Oh, Christ, live out Thy life in me
In all I do or say;
In all I think, where'er I go,
In office, home or play.

If in the office, Lord, I am,
May my work ever be
Of such a nature, Lord, that all
May see my Christ in me.

May I be quick to speak, and point
My neighbor unto Thee,
That he may have eternal life
Through Christ, who lives in me.

Anoint my lips with holy oil,
And speak, oh Lord, through me
To those on beds of pain or death,
And point them unto Thee.

And in the hour of pleasure, Lord,
May others ever see,
That though in merry, jovial mood,
Christ living then in me.

Oh, Christ, so dwell with me each day,
That I'll a lighthouse be,
And others, Lord, be drawn thereby,
By seeing Christ in me.

Submitted by Rachel Bettag



Frank Massey Jamestown Friends, North Carolina

Frank Massey is a graduate of North Carolina State University and the Earlham School of Religion. Formerly members of Jamestown Meeting, Frank and his wife, Beth, spent 18 years in Baltimore Yearly Meeting where Frank was Yearly Meeting General Secretary.

In calling Frank as our pastoral minister, Ministry and Counsel led us to engage in a different model of pastoral leadership, built upon Quaker testimony that everyone has a ministry to offer. Therefore, Frank's role is not just to bring a prepared message himself every week, but to enable and coordinate various participants into a team ministry. Open worship is always important.

Frank gives oversight to our part-time youth minister, Wendy Mattocks, in developing programs and activities. Pastoral care is a shared responsibility, especially with Ministry and Counsel. Frank identifies leadership for our lively Adult Issues Forum, which meets each first-day morning, and teaches weekly Bible study. Beth Massey serves as our music director.

From this summary you can see the concept of shared or team ministry has become very important to Jamestown Meeting. Frank's solid grounding in the Quaker testimonies, his depth of Spirit, knowledge of biblical literature and the history of Friends serves us well.

We very much appreciate Frank and Beth Massey and Wendy Mattocks for their leadership roles in the meeting. We are much blessed.

*Submitted by Jamestown Friends
Monthly Meeting for Business*



Kevin Mortimer Middle River Friends, Iowa

Kevin and his wife, Gayle, have patiently shepherded our body for the past six years in obedience to the Holy Spirit. They continue to remind us that we are to be Spirit-led while biblically informed.

Gayle has been drawing us back to our Quaker roots through the practice of listening prayer. As humans, we tend to live out our lives without being immersed in daily words from our Father, so we are attempting to counteract that.

Kevin has a sincere gift in being present with those who are not yet a part of our community. While at first glance it may not appear that he is doing anything profound with those in need, it becomes quite apparent over time that God is at work. This is not accidental; Kevin merely wants to be available to the work of the Holy Spirit. He does not want to get in the way of God's work, which is more important than any one person's agenda. God is using Kevin to lay a clear foundation in the lives that he touches.

Kevin and Gayle are authentically committed to the call of the Spirit on their lives and are drawing our community into a life of intimacy with God.

*Submitted by Middle River Friends
Ministry and Counsel*

Jack Kessler Jamestown Friends, Ohio

Jamestown Friends Meeting is blessed to have Jack Kessler as our pastor, with the help of his wife Mindy. Jack has been with us for five years and is an extremely caring person. He makes

hospital and home visits to the sick and homebound. With the youth, he has initiated cooking and serving a meal to meeting and community members for Valentine's Day and Mothers Day. Jack has also worked with youth on service projects, taking a group to help with the hurricane-stricken south on two different occasions. He has willingly transported youth to camp, lock-ins, Bible studies and other outings. Jack initiated the meeting members hosting a meal for senior citizens of the community. He was kept busy pouring iced tea and coffee, passing out smiles and welcoming each and every person. Jack is a good communicator as he shares his many talents.

Submitted by Sue Cavender



Ron and Pam Ferguson
Winchester Friends, Indiana

We are blessed beyond words that God sent Ron and Pam our way. Ron is continually challenging us to live Christ-like lives, reminding us that each one of our ministries is where we live, outside the doors of our meeting. Pam is active in our Winchester USFW. She has organized our church library, our history and a Web site for all to see what is going on and what has happened at Winchester Friends.

Hospitals, nursing homes, work places and homes are on their daily schedules. Also, you might find Ron chasing a small white ball on a golf course, with Pam picking up trash, weekday evenings, often with a church member or two. Wednesday mornings

they have a jail ministry at the Randolph County Jail. Some have attended Sunday morning worship after being released.

Pam is an excellent cook. She regularly prepares a Sunday lunch for several extra people. Ron teaches a high-school/college age Sunday school class every Sunday in the parsonage. The church parsonage is also a regular place for many of our committees to meet, as the Fergusons share their home with us.

Being witness to their lives and their ministry, as they serve instead of being served, is what teaches us most of all.

Submitted by Linda Sipe

John Fitzgerald
Leesburg Friends, Ohio

John Fitzgerald is the full-time pastor of the Leesburg Friends Meeting in Wilmington Yearly Meeting, Ohio. He is much appreciated in the Leesburg community for his diligent concern for the ill and bereaved and is consistent in his visiting and ministry to many every week.

John's interest in history has led to the publishing of a book about the early settlers' spread of faith. The book emphasizes the Quaker influence, but also adds input from the Methodist and Church of Christ denominations. The renovation of the early Fairfield Quarter meetinghouse has been a favored project. Additionally, his historical interest led him to become involved with the Freedom project in Cincinnati of which the Underground Railroad Museum is a part.

Presently John is the president of the Fairfield Ministerial Association, a group which promotes programs that unite area churches.

Submitted by Nellda Friend

Keith Smith
Motor Friends, Iowa

A little more than 15 years ago, Motor Friends Meeting was looking for a pastor. The names given to us by Iowa Yearly

Meeting included Keith and Nancy Smith. Keith grew up at Motor and had been called to the ministry some years before. Our first reaction was that it would never work; ministering in one's home church would be too hard. One member of the Ministry and Counsel asked why. No one could give a good answer. Keith's name was considered and, after much prayer, a unanimous decision was reached to offer a call.

Much has happened at Motor in these 15 years. The biggest measure of success is the attendance. We can boast of doubling from 40 attendees to 80. And we discovered that coming home has its advantages. Keith knew everyone, so involvement in community affairs was almost automatic. He is a member of the fire department and was designated Chaplain. He returned to his old school as a volunteer assistant coach for football and wrestling. He became involved with Lions, and was elected township clerk. Numerous times he has been asked by the school to be an on-site counselor when traumatic events have happened involving students. Many doors have opened for community outreach.

His ministry has been blessed at Motor Friends. Keith always has challenging messages. He has risen to new heights on many occasions. One tragic event has consumed six years of his time and is still ongoing. Another, his father passed away leaving the request that Keith is, "my pastor," so should do the funeral. Keith made an excellent tribute to his father. Just recently, a member at Motor accepted a call to minister to another church. More evidence of effective ministry.

Nancy deserves much of the credit as well. She is an important part of their ministry at Motor. We have been happy to have Keith and Nancy as our spiritual leaders. I believe these blessings are evidence that the Lord is pleased.

Submitted by Jay Mosher