

COMING UP IN FRIENDS CHURCH MID AMERICA

Family Camp: September 3-5, CQH

SCAMP: October 3-5, CQH

Friends Women Retreat: October 14-16, Kansas City, MO

Missional-Incarnational Network Church Plant Training:
November 12-14

Youth Pastor's Roundtable: November 18-21, Windermere
Conference Center in MO

Friends Student Conference: December 28-January 1, Hyatt
Regency Wichita, KS

FRIENDS WOMEN RETREAT

The 2011 Friends Women Retreat will be October 14-16 at the Airport Hilton in Kansas City, Missouri. This year's theme is "Fountains of Delight". Conference speaker is Rita Morrow. See friendswomen.com for more details. Registrations and payment will be due September 19.

MINISTRY CONFERENCE



Pastor Donnie Hinshaw from Haviland Friends Church (pictured left) was Recorded at the Ministry Conference in July.

CD's are available of Ministry Conference Celebration sessions which were held at the Friends University auditorium. If you would like some or all the sessions, please contact the Ministry Center to order. They will cost \$2.50 per CD, plus shipping. A list of the CD's are posted at efcmaym.org.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Kevin Mortimer (Professor, Barclay College) will teach the course, "Old Testament Studies" at the September 12 and October 3 Church Leadership Institute for Ministry sessions. The live video session will begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:00 p.m. A time of fellowship and refreshments at the sites will begin at 6:30 p.m. Contact Dave Kingrey with questions: dkingrey@efcmaym.org.

Insights loves to celebrate the local church. Please submit news of special activities and reports from your local church to efcmaym@efcmaym.org.

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Friends Ministry Center
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Evangelical Friends Church
MID AMERICA

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Evangelical Friends Church
MID AMERICA

INSIGHTS

September 2011

A PUBLICATION OF EVANGELICAL FRIENDS CHURCH MID AMERICA

REFLECTIONS ON 'NEW' THINGS

Our daily paper contains advertising inserts for the "Greatest Sale Ever" and when you look at them, it seems like the same stuff, at the same price, week after week. Nothing new there.

I get emails from "friends" telling me that if I don't forward it to at least 10 people, the wrath of God will strike me – or something like that. Nothing new there.

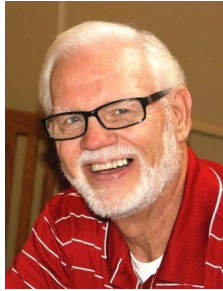
I hear the same complaints about church: the music was too loud, the pastor was too boring, the hymns were too slow, the announcements were too long, and on and on. Nothing new there.

Is the writer of Ecclesiastes correct when he says, "there is nothing new under the sun"? Do we go through the same old routines in the same way, hearing the same things and feeling the same ways? Is there really nothing new?

But then I read notes from missionaries about how Hindus and Muslims are coming to Christ, how new churches are springing up, people being delivered and healed. And then I hear from our churches about people being called to plant new churches and about some people in the church being called to live missional and incarnational lifestyles to bring people to Christ. I see a new enthusiasm springing up among the Evangelical Friends of Mid America about planting churches, and how our churches are committing to support these new churches. It looks like something new may be springing up.

Perhaps the Lord has a message for us; the one He gave to Isaiah: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland" (Isa 43:19). Just when you feel like you are stuck in the rut of sameness, wandering in the wilderness and thirsting in the wasteland, God has a message for us. There is something new after all. What a great time to be alive!

David J. Robinson,
General Superintendent



MISSION MOBILIZERS NEWS:

- The Mission Mobilizers will soon release Missions Month 2011 materials. These materials, including four full-color two-sided bulletin inserts, are undated and can be used at any time this year. Make plans now to highlight and promote missions in your church! This year's theme is "Holding Up Their Arms" based on the story of Moses and the ways we can 'hold up the arms' through prayer and support of the Friends Missions and missionaries that we love.
- EFM Rwanda Missionary Molly Black is available to speak in Mid America churches between October 8 – 20th.
- A DVD highlighting the Discipleship for Development work in Rwanda was sent out to all churches earlier this year. Sponsored by the EFC-NA Education Commission, this DVD highlights the work of Discipleship for Development in Rwanda.

Contact missions@efcmaym.org for more information.

RUN FOR MISSIONS

The fourth annual Run for Missions 100 mile fundraiser run will take place on October 29-30, 2011. The fundraising goal for 2011 is to raise \$25,000 to support the EFC-MAYM Missions Scholarship Fund. Would you and/or your church be willing to sponsor \$1.00/mile or more for Missions Scholarships? The second annual Run for Missions 5K/10K/Half-Marathon will take place in Haviland, Kansas on Saturday, October 29th. See details for all of these events, including how to register and how to sponsor at www.runformissions.org.

Please contact Adam Monaghan adam@efcmaym.org to make your pledge. You can make your tax-deductible donation by sending a check to "EFC-MAYM", memo: "Run for Missions" to the Ministry Center by November 15th.



NINE MYTHS ABOUT CHURCH PLANTING

MYTH #1: PLANTING WILL HURT THE PARENT CHURCH.

FACTS:

- Seldom true – in fact, most parenting churches find a new season of vitality after parenting.
- God honors the giving, brings in new leaders, and raises up those who have been waiting for an opportunity to serve.
- We are blessed when we are a blessing.
- Statistics show that churches that plant grow 3 times faster than those who don't.

Our Home Missions Board has printed one myth at a time in the Insights over nine editions. To see all nine myths go to efcmaym.org. Remember that churches successfully plant churches (rather than yearly meetings planting churches)! This is adapted from an article recently published by the Evangelical Covenant Church of America. If you are interested in Church Planting or know someone who you think might make a good church planter, please contact the Ministry Center.

CHURCH PLANTING NEWS:

- The Grand Opening of Friendly Grounds, a new missional ministry outreach center, in Oyster Creek, TX will be held on October 1, 2011. Their aim is to take the gospel outside the reach of those of the conventional church.
- Western Area Ministry Celebration will be held in Liberal, KS at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 18 at the Friends Church of Liberal. Gerald & Deloras Mendenhall will be installed as the planting pastor for the church restart in Dodge City, KS.
- A Partner Advisory Team (PAT) is currently mobilizing to help support the new Wichita Area missional-incarnational project. Representatives from Crossroads Friends and Northridge Friends have committed to serving on the PAT, and they are hoping for other Area churches to participate.
- Filiberto & Pillar Dominguez returned to San Antonio after their summer internship at Oklahoma City Friends. The Central Oklahoma Area is mobilizing a PAT to help support a new Oklahoma City Hispanic plant with the return of the Dominguez family in January 2012.
- David Byrne is working closely with the new Hispanic plant in San Antonio, TX. With the closest Friends Churches in the Houston area, mobilizing a PAT is more difficult. However, it is possible for churches to partner with a new plant, even when geographically removed.

The Holy Spirit is moving among Mid-America Friends. Please be in prayer for all of our church planting projects.

VISION TRIP

Ben & Denise Staley will host a trip from October 3 - October 20, 2011. This trip will include visits to Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo. Participants will be able to adjust time in each of these countries depending on interests. The group will plan to encourage our missionaries and national leaders, gain first hand experiences with our missionaries and national leaders that will encourage support for EFM ministries and missionaries back home (as individuals, home churches, and EFC-MAYM) and to learn from our brothers and sisters in Africa about their effective ministries. For more information, contact benstaley@sbcglobal.net or 316-617-3445.

OTHER NEWS:

- University Friends Church is helping sponsor a "Leadership & Clerk Workshop" at their church on November 4-5, 2011. The speaker/facilitator will be Arthur Larrabee. Contact Cliff Loesch at University Friends for more info.
- New Superintendent of Northwest Yearly Meeting: Becky Thomas Ankeny has been appointed as the General Superintendent of NWYM beginning January 1, 2012. Becky is the daughter of George and Dorothy Thomas, former missionaries to Burundi and Rwanda. Northwest Yearly Meeting is a partner with us in Evangelical Friends Church - North America.
- The bi-annual Quaker Women's Conference on Faith & Spirituality, that a few of our EFC-MAYM women participate in, will meet November 10-13 near Tahlequah, Oklahoma.
- Special Note: *To my many friends, thanks for all your gracious well-wishes on my 90th birthday. Love to all,* Betty Robinson

CARING HEARTS

The Caring Hearts program was started about 17 years ago to bring praying people together with our pastors in need of prayer. Right now we have several pastors who need a "Caring Heart". Would you be willing to give a few minutes of your time each day to pray for one of our EFC-MAYM pastors? So many of our Caring Hearts have shared what a blessing it has been to get acquainted with their pastor and his family. Would you like to be a part of this exciting ministry? If so, please contact Lu Ann McCurley at 620-435-6722 or at lmccurley@havilandtelco.com.

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