

A PUBLICATION OF EVANGELICAL FRIENDS CHURCH MID AMERICA

DENOMINATION, MOVEMENT, FAMILY, UH....

Here's a question for you: Is the Friends Church a denomination? Or more particularly, is the Friends Church of Mid America a denomination? The ever trusted (?) Wikipedia defines a denomination this way: "A Christian denomination is an identifiable religious body under a common name, structure, and doctrine within Christianity." Using this as a framework, you might make the case that the wider Friends Church could never be a denomination because, even though it has a generally common name, it does not have a common structure or a doctrine. We might come closer with the Evangelical Friends Church North America. We have a common constitution, and doctrine. However, our structures are significantly different. This means that, in theory, the Evangelical Friends Church of Mid America can be thought of as a denomination itself, by means of the above definition.



I, personally, have a strong aversion to denominationalism, which I consider to be a sin. (Anything with an 'ism' attached to it is to be avoided.) But I really do like being attached to a group of churches with degrees of commonality, ways of working together, enabling one another to be better and to reach higher. I would hate to think about having to be all alone out there.

The Friends Church did not start out to be a denomination. They started out as a movement to extend the power of the Lord, to help the oppressed and to bring the light of Truth (Christ) to a sin-darkened world. They found that by sharing common life and ministry, they discovered things they could do so much better together than they could do separately. This movement became a family as they drew closer together, eventually branching out as the family expanded and differences arose.

I don't know how you define us. I hope it is more a description than a definition. After all, you are the ones who make up that description. You are the ones who model Christ's life to our world. In great sense, the ministry center is only here to help facilitate YOUR ministry.

Congregations down the road need your encouragement and they need your friendship. You are not alone; neither are they. We are in this together, doing what our name implies: being Friends.

David J. Robinson,
General Superintendent



LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE-NORTH

The April session of the Leadership Institute-North will be Monday, April 5, 2010 at University Friends Church. Tony Wheeler will teach the track 2 course, "Spiritual Direction/Spiritual Formation," with emphasis on Spirituality in the Family. David Kingrey will teach the track 1 course, "Friends Faith and Practice."

SPRING INVASION

Please pray for our youth and adults on Spring Invasion to Coahuila, Mexico, a short-term entry-level missions experience designed especially for High School students during their spring break. Week 1 is March 13-20 and Week 2 is March 20-27. We have just short of 200 persons from these Friends churches serving this year: Argonia, Chandler, Crossroads, Derby, Friendswood, Haviland, Hutchinson, Miami, Middle River (Iowa), Northridge, Pratt, Riverton, and Rose Hill. Youth Groups are grouped into teams to serve twelve different church and mission sites through VBS, construction projects, community ministry and church ministry.

MEN & BOYS RETREAT

This year's Men & Boys Retreat at Camp Quaker Haven is April 30-May 2 at CQH. The guest speaker will be Kevin Saunders, a World Champion Paralympics athlete, actor, author, fitness promoter and world renowned inspirational speaker. Kevin's powerful message is to never lose your faith in God and never give up! All kinds of fun and fellowship are planned. Bring sons, grandsons, nephews, or that special little guy you mentor, and join us for a "guys" weekend to be remembered! Retreat brochures and registration forms will be arriving soon. Contact Pastor Rich Miller at Glen Elder Friends Church with questions: ksmillers@nckcn.com or 785-545-6332.

AFRICA MISSION TRIP THIS SUMMER

Friendswood Friends Church is excited to have assembled a team consisting of high school students, college students and adults for an exciting opportunity to serve and encourage missionaries of many denominations serving in Rwanda and central Africa. Their ministry will include providing Vacation Bible School and youth ministry for the annual regional missionary conference and retreat held at Lake Kivu.

YOUNG ADULT YOUTH GATHERING, 2010

University Friends Church is hosting a gathering of Young Adults Friends, May 28-31, 2010. The event is planned by persons from a wide variety of Friends backgrounds across the U.S. It will feature times for worship, fellowship and learning. You may get more information at yaf2010.wordpress.com/.

COMING UP IN FRIENDS CHURCH MID AMERICA

Spring Invasion: March 13-20 & 20-27, Coahuila, Mexico

Jr. High Bible Quiz: March 27 at Haviland Friends Church

Pastor's Sabbath Retreat: April 16-19 at Windermere Conference Center,
Lake of the Ozarks, MO

Jr. High Bible Quiz Finals: April 24 at Friendswood Friends Church

Men & Boys Retreat: April 30-May 2 at CQH

EFC-MAYM Camps at CQH: Kids May 29-June 1, Junior June 1-4,
Senior High June 4-8, Junior High June 8-12

Ministry Conference: July 22-24 on the Friends University Campus

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