

**FRIDAY
NIGHT
BIG BOOK**



ST. BONIFACE RECTORY

FRIDAY NIGHT BIG BOOK MEETING

The first meeting was held on January 22, 1982. Six members attended.

Members beginning the meeting were: Lamont D., Dave L., Bob T. Others who attended in the first six months were: Ernie K., Tom D., Jack D., Jim E., Bill K., And Kelly P.

The group was started to meet the need for a Big Book meeting in Williamsport. At that time, there were no meetings of that type. Today, however, three additional Big Book meetings exist in Williamsport.

The group originated as a closed meeting in which the Big Book was read in its entirety, paragraph by paragraph. Members were free to comment at any time on the reading, and often the reading did not go far, due to the lively discussion! The meeting format has remained the same through the years.

The group meets weekly at the St. Boniface Church rectory at 7:30 P.M. on Friday. Originally, the meeting was held in a small room in the rectory, but as attendance grew, it was moved to a large room in the rectory basement. Other than now being a non-smoking meeting, that has been the only change made.

The group has grown considerably since its origin. From the original 6-12 members in the early years of the group, as many as 50 have been in attendance in recent years.

It is interesting to note that of the early members and founders of this group, all are still sober today, although only a few continue to make this their home group and attend on a regular basis.

The Friday Night Big Book Meeting is a member of District 48.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilynn P., January, 1997

History of the Friday Night Big Book Meeting

The first meeting of the Friday Night Big Book group was held on January 22, 1982 with six members in attendance .The originating members were Lamont D., Dave L., and Bob T. Other members included Ernie K., Tom D. Jack D. Jim E., Bill K. and Kelly P.

The group was started to satisfy the need for Big Book meeting which was not in existence at that time. Originally the group met as a closed meeting, in which the Big Book was read in it's entirety, paragraph by paragraph. Members were free to comment at any time during the reading and often the reading did not go far due to lively discussion. It is not clear when the tradition evolved into each chapter/story being read in its entirety, and discussion followed

The last Friday of each month, the reading is from the book "Experience, Strength and Hope" A complete collection of stories from the first three editions of the Big Book.

The group meets weekly on Friday night at the St. Boniface Church rectory at 7:30 PM. Originally, the meeting was held in a small room in the rectory, but as attendance grew, it was moved to a larger room in the rectory basement. The meeting is now a non smokers meeting.

The group has grown considerably since its origin from the original 6-12 members in the early years to as many as 50 in one meeting in recent years.

*Respectfully submitted,
Bob M., May 2006*

FRIDAY NIGHT BIG BOOK MEETING

District 48

March 30, 2007

The first meeting of the Friday Night Big Book was held on January 22, 1982.

The first members that attended this meeting were:

Lamont D., Dave L., Bob T.

During the first six months the following members also attended:

Ernie K., Tom D., Jack D., Jim E., Bill K., and Kelly P.

This group was started to meet the need for a Big Book meeting in Williamsport. This was the first meeting of this type in Williamsport.

The first meetings were held in the Rectory of Saint Boniface church in a small room. As the attendance grew the meeting was moved to its current location, which is the basement of the Rectory. The group has always met at 7:30 P.M. on Friday night.

The group originated as a closed meeting, in which the Big Book was read paragraph by paragraph. Members were free to comment at anytime during the reading. The current format is to read a chapter of the Big Book, then open the meeting for discussion. The last Friday of each month a chapter for the book "Experience, Strength and Hope" is read and discussed. The only other change is that the meeting is now non-smoking.

The group has grown from the original six to twelve members to a regular attendance of thirty five to fifty members.

Sincere Regards,

Jeff W.

Friday Night Big Book Meeting

District 48

The first meeting of the Friday Night Big Book meeting was held on January 22, 1982.

The first members that attended this meeting were:

Lamont D., Dave I. and Bob T.

During the first six months the following members also attended:

Ernie K., Tom D., Jack D., Bill K., and Kelly P.

This group was started to meet the need for a Big Book meeting in Williamsport. This was the first meeting of this type in Williamsport.

The first meetings were held in the Rectory of Saint Boniface Church in a small room. As the attendance grew the meeting was moved to the basement of the Rectory. The group originated as and remains closed meeting. Originally the Big Book was read paragraph by paragraph. Members were free to comment at any time during the reading. The current format is to read a chapter or story from the Big Book and then open the meeting for discussion. The last Friday of each month a story from the book "Experience, Strength and Hope" is read and discussed. The only other change in the meeting is that it is now a nonsmoking meeting.

The group has grown from its original six to twelve members to a regular attendance of thirty to forty members.

In April, 2011 the group moved from St. Boniface to Faxon-Kenmar United Methodist church at 1225 Clayton Avenue where it continues to meet at this writing.

David B. (November, 2013)

Friday Night Big Book Meeting

Update – October, 2021

As has been the case with most District meetings in District 48, our meeting attendance has suffered since early 2020 due the worldwide pandemic of Corvid 19 virus, a plague that has taken the lives of 5,000,000 people worldwide, including 726,000 Americans, 31,000 Pennsylvanians and 341 residents of Lycoming County to date.

Some of our number (in the county) have undertaken to keep meetings alive via internet online meetings; most notably Liz F., Annie W., Brian S., George H., Laraine C., Kelly F., and Rhianna S.

While our group was not able to host such an online option, many of us were grateful to be able to take advantage of the dedication and industry to those listed above.

Our host church has been very supportive of us while being mindful of CDC (Center for Disease Control) guidelines and masking and vaccination mandates. We do our best to follow the wishes of our hosts regarding masking and social distancing.

Our attendance now averages 10 – 18; roughly half of that of the period before the pandemic. We're hopeful that we will recover as the virus eventually responds to efforts to bring it under control. David B. 10/20/2021

In the summer of 2024 the Faxon Kenmar church merged with the Pine Street United Methodist church. Because of that merger the Big Book meeting lost its home. The decision was made to move the meeting to 409 East Main Street in South Williamsport. The church in South Williamsport welcomed us with open arms. The first meeting at the new location was July 5, 2024.