



Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington Street

Easton, Maryland 21601

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JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

Our doors say, "welcome;" do we?

"For the Lord showed me that ... my words should be few and savoury, seasoned with grace"
George Fox, 1635

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Ninth Day Twelfth Month 2018



Opening Silent Worship Molly Brian, Clerk of the Meeting, gathered together the meeting for worship with attention to business at 11:35 a.m. with a brief period of silence

Attending: 25 attended: Mark Beck, Gwen Beegle, Molly Brian, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Connie Crow, Robert Day, Jeanne Halpin, Sandra Herbert, Katherine Johnson, Bill Lane, Steven Meixner, Cynthia Quast, Carolyn Regan, Bob Regan, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, Adrienne Rudge,

Candace Shattuck, Dona Sorce, Anny Williams, Winslow Womack, Ralph Young, Harvey Zendt.

Comments on Twelfth Query:

Witnessing in the World: Witness and Civic Responsibility

One member found parsing the sentences in the query and discussing with others useful.

It was noted that family activity was not mentioned. One friend noted the Query is especially long.

Approval of minutes from Eleventh Month business meeting -Accepted

Clerks Desk

WiFi- Following multiple requests, let us revisit Wi-Fi availability for the Common Room using previous research and considering current availability and costs.- Approved to refer to Property and Grounds.

Prescription Drug Affordability Initiative received from Baltimore Yearly Meeting passed to Testimony and Concerns for study. –Approved

Facilities Planning: the clerk initiated the discussion with the following statement: “I want to briefly address and summarize where we are with what we are currently calling Long Range Planning.

Please note the copies of our Operating Guidelines (see attached) written about 2 years ago. These state our values and how we plan to approach matters of substance that affect our community. We chose this title rather than “Strategic Plan,” as this title seems more Quakerly.

To summarize, two years ago, while working on the Operating Guidelines and the Common Room Updates, a member voiced concerns about the safety of the Brick Meetinghouse (BMH) 2nd floor egress. This concern resonated with many of us. The Property and Grounds Committee (P&G) looked into possibilities of correcting the problem and presented options in a called meeting this past year. Once P&G narrowed down the costs of fixing the fire escape, the high price of fixing this egress led many in the Meeting to ask, “if we are going to spend that much money, shouldn’t we have a structure that would serve more purpose?” Based on these concerns, an informal group of people has met numerous times to brainstorm ideas and options. This informal group, currently called the Long Range Planning Group (LRP) group, has discussed needs, ways to approach these needs, listened to many comments and tried to understand the best way forward. Put simply, this group has asked a lot of questions leaning heavily on the Operating Guidelines and their assessment of Third Haven Friends Meeting (THMM) needs. The group proposes the following for the Meeting’s consideration.

- The safety of our grounds for our children and people of all ages is our highest priority.
- Facilities capable of multiple uses and meeting spaces should be considered.
- A committee focusing on these issues should be formed.
- The LRP group should be laid down.
- The new committee will rely heavily on Meeting input, called meetings when needed, and an outside facilitator and PYM resources when appropriate.
- Keeping visions alive for the long range is important but the scope and purpose of the new committee will be primarily to work with all other committees and Third Haven Friends to address immediate improve safety concerns and space needs as soon as feasibly possible.”

During discussion members cited the November meeting’s approved plan for a called meeting to be held preferably in January and desired to follow that plan.

Safety concerns and financial considerations were raised. We are managing the risk. This called meeting would result in a review of what has already been done in research and design by the long range planning group, and a list of facility ideas with resultant establishment of an appropriate committee for the process. The clerk will determine a Quaker facilitator for the called meeting, perhaps with a Philadelphia Yearly Meeting facilitator.-Approved

Nominating Committee Final Report – *Dona Sorce* Approved

The Nominating Committee presented the final Committee List for 2019 which was distributed with Announcements and is now available on our website: www.3rdhaven.org

Worship & Ministry Annual Report - *Gwen Beegle*-Accepted

Purpose

The purpose of the Worship and Ministry Committee (WMC) was approved at the 10.3.11 meeting for business. The (abbreviated) purpose is:

- **Meeting for Worship** – The WMC cares for the meeting for worship.
- **Spiritual Nurture** – The WMC nurtures and supports the Spiritual life of the meeting, and the Spiritual journeys of members and attenders.
- **Adult Religious Education** – The WMC provides opportunities for the Meeting community to learn about our *Faith and Practice*, the Religious Society of Friends, and Quaker and other Spiritual practices. The Committee offers teaching and learning opportunities to support the meeting for worship, and the Spiritual journeys of members and attenders.

In addition, the WMC is charged with thoughtful consideration of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) *Faith and Practice* Queries, related to our purpose: (1) Deepening Our Faith: Meeting for Worship, (2) Deepening Our Faith: Spiritual Nurture, and (5) Nurturing Our Community: Religious Education in the Home and Meeting.

Worship and Ministry Committee

The participating members of the WMC for 2018 were: Mark Beck, Gwen Beegle, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Connie Crow, Catherine Cripps, Susan Dickinson, Jeanne Halpin, Katherine Johnson, John Turner, and Jonathan Slocum. In addition, for the WMC, Peg Walbert cares for the midweek meeting for worship. Mike Pullen and Nancy Robbins facilitate the *Course in Miracles* (see below). Gwen Beegle clerked the WMC this year. The WMC met monthly at the rise of meeting for worship on fourth day after the first First Day, except for the 7th and 8th months. Members attended WMC meetings regularly and actively supported many WMC programs and activities.

Meeting for Worship

All the members of the WMC attend the meeting for worship as regularly as possible, listen, experience and appreciate the meeting for worship, silence and vocal ministry. We regularly and thoughtfully consider the quality of meeting for worship, vocal ministry, silence, afterthoughts and the rise of meeting for worship. We believe that members, attenders, newcomers, and visitors find meetings for worship meaningful and spiritually rejuvenating.

WMC provides greeters for each week's meeting for worship, who read the 12 topical queries from Faith and Practice monthly. Greeters also replenish brochures and are careful to reach out to newcomers and visitors. This year, WMC experimented with having greeters also announce their availability to receive and answer questions, with mixed response. An informal rather than formal method seemed most acceptable to the committee and meeting members.

The attendance at meeting for worship on First Day varies from week to week and month to month. Based on estimated counts, attendance averages 40-50, with as many as 60 at times. Midweek meeting attendance is estimated from 5-10 people weekly. Both meeting times regularly attract visitors.

Worship and Ministry Programs

The WMC offered a variety of adult religious education opportunities, programs and activities in 2018, listed and described below. First are the regularly scheduled programs, followed by the religious education events and activities of 2018.

First Day Conversations: These 50-minute opportunities for topical discussions are held before meeting for Worship on the first and third First Days, except during the summer months. Susan Dickinson facilitates and supports these meetings, also providing coffee and breakfast pastries. The committee thanks Susan for her initiative to start and to continue these regular conversation opportunities, which draw from 3-8 participants each time. Topics have included loving kindness, gratitude, and mystical experience in Quaker faith.

Spiritual Journeys: Mark Beck organized this series of events, (approximately) monthly opportunities for Third Haven Friends Meeting members to share their lifelong experiences with and reflections on Spirituality. The following persons shared their experiences this year: Susan Dickinson (January), John Turner (February), Katherine Johnson (April), Heidi Wetzel (May), Paige Tilghman (June), Connie Crow (July), Mary Coady (August), Jeanne Halpin (October), Catherine Cripps (November) and John Schreiner (December). Approximately 20 people, or more, routinely attend these sessions, showing the Meeting's support and appreciation, to hear about the Spiritual lives of our members. The WMC thanks each person who shared and Mark Beck for inviting each speaker.

Inward Bound Quiet Days: Facilitated by Katherine Johnson and Candace Shattuck, these silent retreats were held on March 22, June 21, Sept 20, and (planned) December 20, 2018. Each day (10:00 am – 3:00 pm) offers a day of listening for the Light within, contemplation, reading, walking the grounds, writing, and self-chosen art activities. Participants share a silent potluck lunch and end each session with a short sharing session. The WMC is grateful to Katherine Johnson and Candace Shattuck for organizing these silent retreats.

Course in Miracles: *A Course in Miracles* is an individualized, self-study curriculum. The group typically includes 4-8 members and usually takes summers off. The weekly discussion group meets Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm in the common room following silent worship and includes persons from the community. Topics of the course are peace, forgiveness and acceptance of ourselves and each other as brothers and sisters. Mike Pullen and Nancy Robbins co-facilitated the group in 2018, and the WMC thanks them.

Jung Dream Group: Catherine Cripps organized and facilitated the Jung Dream Group, under the care of the WMC. The group studies and reflects on texts by Carl Jung and works inspired by him. The group meets the second Tuesday each month at 6:00pm in the common room and uses readings, DVD's, workshops and outside speakers. The WMC appreciates Catherine's work to organize and facilitate the Jung Group, both an addition to WMC programs and serving the wider local community. Three members attended the Hayden Dream Conference in the summer.

Additional Religious Education Activities

Spiritual Formation and Spiritual Formation Retreat: As a result of the Spiritual Formation program in 2017, reading groups continue to meet. In addition, Katherine Johnson has joined the Spiritual Formation Collaborative at PYM. Through her efforts, 7 members and attenders of Third Haven attended the Spiritual Formation Retreat at Kenwood Retreat Center in Lebanon, PA, on October 12-14. The committee thanks Katherine for her leadership in these valuable efforts.

Quaker Spirituality: Bob Denison, from Chester River Friends Meeting provided a session on Quaker Spirituality and meditation, on February 25. Bob studied at Pendle Hill with Rex Ambler, author of the book, *Light to Live By: An Exploration of Quaker Spirituality*. Bob shared his use of meditation and its value as a Quaker practice.

Clearness Committee Education: As a collaborative effort with the Pastoral Care Committee, a reading and study group met from March through September to learn about Clearness Committees and their use in Friends Meetings. The result was that on September 23, at the rise of meeting, WMC and Pastoral Care facilitated a one-hour discussion on key characteristics of the clearness process, which include spiritual leading, searching questions, silence, listening, and discernment. A follow up session included a clearness committee demonstration on September 30. Both sessions were well attended and meaningful for participants and for WMC members involved. In addition, a short paper and list of resources were developed as part of the study.

Faith and Practice. Jonathan Slocum helped disseminate the 2018 PYM *Faith and Practice* to members and attenders. He took responsibility for both acquiring the copies and for ensuring a continuing supply for the Meeting's use. Many members have contributed toward the cost of the books. The WMC thanks Jonathan for this work on behalf of the Meeting.

Closing Comment

This week, the WMC has reviewed this report and discussed the new Queries related to our worship, ministry, Spiritual nurture, and religious education roles and responsibilities in the Meeting. The practice of regularly discussing the quality of meeting for worship, including the vocal ministry and our collective Spiritual experience, should continue, with loving acceptance of difference and guided by the search for unity through inquiry. Regularly occurring programs, like First Day Conversations and Spiritual Journeys, provide opportunities for members and attenders to nurture and discuss their spiritual experiences with each other, to build community. Looking ahead, WMC anticipates that upcoming religious education will focus on *Faith and Practice*, Quaker processes, and Spiritual development and discernment. Finally, the WMC appreciates the opportunity to meet, to work, and to grow in our own spiritual journey as a part of our service to the Meeting.

Treasurer's Report- Cynthia Quast-Accepted

Half way through fiscal year, July 1, 2018-December 8, 2018, member contributions are \$5,970 (39% less than last year); total income is \$11,868; and total regular expenses are \$25,213, resulting in a net income of -\$13,375. The bank account is sufficient to manage this imbalance. Contributions tend to be heavier at year end, hopefully the case for this year.

Please consider making a tax deductible contribution in support of our annual budget to:
Treasurer, Third Haven Monthly Meeting, P.O. Box 2379, Easton, Md 21601

New Business

The First Day School Outreach program for children ages 3 and 4, Tiny Spices from Rivers Edge Forest School, a nonprofit organization, www.riversedgeforestplay.com, is run by Kaitlin Frase, who has Quaker history in her family. The program is nature based spirituality, conducted outdoors. Parents expressed appreciation for the program, which is expanding and drawing more families. A program for 5-12 year olds is under consideration. Support by the meeting for continued programming using Third Haven's property was Approved.

The First Day School Christmas program will occur December 23 at the rise of meeting.

The meeting closed with silent worship at 1:09 p.m.

D. Rein

Recorder

Third Haven Announcements

January 6 (Sunday)

Spiritual Journeys

On January 6, 2019, Lorraine Claggett will discuss her own personal spiritual journey at 11:30 AM in the Common Room. The presentation will last about 20 minutes including some time for questions. This program is offered by Worship & Ministry, monthly.

January 13 (Sunday)

Meeting for Business follows Meeting for Worship

January 21 (Monday)

Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast

This year's NAACP MLK Breakfast will be on Monday January 21, 2019 at Temple B'Nai Israel, at 8 a.m. For tickets please contact Joan Brooks on 410-924-0792. Talbot Association of Clergy and Laity

Sue Browning, Chairperson, Dartanyon Hines, Vice Chairperson

Naomi Hyman, Secretary, Jeanne Halpin, Treasurer

February 23 (Saturday)

"Growing a Quaker Voice in Annapolis"

Dear Maryland Monthly Meeting Clerks:

Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting, a gathering of Quaker meetings in Central Maryland, is sponsoring a forum entitled "Growing a Quaker Voice in Annapolis" on February 23, 2019 at Homewood Friends Meeting in Baltimore. We are hoping that representatives from all local Maryland meetings (from both Philadelphia and Baltimore Yearly Meetings) will attend. The attached flyer provides details of the meeting.

We hope that this gathering of all Maryland Quakers will create a mechanism to enhance Quaker advocacy in Maryland for the 2019 legislative session and beyond. We are planting a seed and will see if and how it grows.

We ask that you take this invitation to your next two monthly meetings for business and identify a representative (or a group of representatives) to attend the forum. Please RSVP by Feb 9 to

homewoodfriends@gmail.com to let us know who will be coming. We are happy to provide child care and overnight accommodations. Just let us know what you will need. If there is a major snowstorm the forum will be held on March 9. Please make sure we know the best way to notify you if the event is postponed because of weather.

In a relatively small state like Maryland it is possible for spirit-led voices to have a big impact. Please contact us with any questions, comments or concerns. We are excited about gathering together and growing our voice!

Janet Abrams jmabrams1@gmail.com and Sarah Bur sarahbur2@gmail.com
Co-Clerks, Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting

Outreach

Friends 2019 Film/Discussion Series

The Outreach Committee is considering themes and films to present in 2019 as part of our film and discussion series on an issue of social justice relevant to our Mid-Shore community. We believe our best ideas come from you, so take a moment to reflect on what you've seen, heard, or experienced and let us know your thoughts on what good ways we can shine a light on something that needs more attention. Send your ideas to Pete Howell at piratepete@goeaston.net or call him at (410) 924-5752.

First Day School

First Day School spent December joyfully anticipating and celebrating Christmas. Lessons included a Faith and Play story of Christmas with Susan Claggett, music with Jonathan Williams, and nature's gifts with Cherie Baron (one of our summer camp teachers). Several families also explored Advent with little story kits used at home to infuse more meaning into the Christmas season with our children (see article here: <https://www.pym.org/families-sharing-stories-in-the-christmas-season/>) All this fun and learning culminated in a lovely Meeting-wide brunch on 12/23 at the rise of Meeting – the music and fellowship from the songs and food together will warm our hearts through the pending chilly winter weather.





Looking toward January, First Day School is putting the final touches on the spring schedule which will continue our Faith and Play stories, Quaker in Nature lessons, and social action opportunities. We are also hoping to add a new monthly “Philosophy Club” where the kids can explore with members of our Meeting the big important, enduring themes of life – love, friendship, freedom, justice, etc. We’re looking to a lovely curriculum provided in the book *Little Big Minds* (see here: <https://www.amazon.com/Little-Big-Minds-Sharing-Philosophy/dp/158542515X>)



Finally, we are continuing this spring the Friday morning Tiny Spices program for toddlers and caregivers, focused on mindfulness and nature. Concurrently we are exploring expansion of this program with older kids on Friday afternoons, as well as thinking ahead to our potential summer camps when the weather warms again.

News of Friends

Cecily Sharp-Whitehill writes, “Greetings to the Friends of Third Haven Meeting: In early December of the [very!] recently passed year, I attended Third Haven Meeting for Worship. This was by no means my first visit, as my marriage had taken place there and our children attended First Day School there for many years. (Both children also attended Westtown School and each was also married under the auspices of a Friends Meeting.)

Still, this past December, I can say it was refreshing and stimulating to be part of Meeting for Worship that day! Along with members who were new to me were several who had attended my marriage, and others who had known my parents, Linda and Robert Sharp, as well as my sister, Lucinda, and my father’s sister, Sydney Mahendra. I am grateful for the welcome I received, and for the seamlessness of inclusion I felt throughout the time I was there that day.

I am sure that anyone who is curious about Quakerism, or who is searching for spirituality, or for a place to worship on a particular First Day, will feel as welcomed and embraced as I was last month.

Thank you for a beautifully memorable coming together!

Warmly and sincerely from Cecily Sharp-Whitehill

Mobile: 1.941.350.9626 cecily@alliance4discoverycoaching.com

Requesting Membership

Membership with Third Haven Monthly Meeting is an open process, meaning that any regular attender may request membership at any time throughout the year. Attached is a link for a video that provides a general overview of the membership process for the Religious Society of Friends. <http://quakerspeak.com/how-to-become-a-member-of-a-quaker-meeting/>

Attendees who would like to discuss membership are encouraged to reach out to a member of the Pastoral Committee.

Submitted by Dona Sorce

dyesorce@yahoo.com

Friends connecting



Declaration of Intentions

Friends are reminded that it is our responsibility to make clear our intentions for memorial services and other necessities with which our families and friends must cope upon our death. Below is a copy of the Declaration of Intentions which can be a great help to those who will miss us when we are gone. Please ease their burden by printing page 10 and filling out the form if you have not yet done so, returning it to a Pastoral Care committee member. It will be placed in a confidential file until it is needed.

**THIRD HAVEN FRIENDS MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
Declaration of Intentions**

Full Name _____ **Sex** _____ **Birthdate** _____

Address _____ **Birthplace** _____

_____ **Social Security Number** _____

Military Service # _____ **Railroad Employment?** _____

Branch of Service _____ **Date of Discharge** _____

Spouse, Next of Kin or other person I have directed to carry out my wishes:

I hereby direct that the following disposition be made of my body after my death:

Memorial Service Directions:

I would like the following undertaker to aid in carrying out these arrangements, and have filed a copy of this declaration with him:

Name: _____ **Address:** _____

Send a notice of my death to the following newspapers and journals:

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts in my name may be sent to:

I understand that this Declaration of Intentions is not legally binding, and that Third Haven Monthly Meeting has no duty to fulfill any of the above requests, but shall act as a depository and advisor for this expression of personal wishes for procedures at the time of my death. I have executed this document for the purpose of guiding my family and the members of Third Haven Monthly Meeting at the time of my death.

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Witness: _____ **Witness** _____

Copies of this Declaration are on file with:

