



Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington Street
Easton, Maryland 21601
(410) 822-0293
Info@thirdhaven.org

DECEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

“Lamenting the existence of institutional racism is not the presence of a plan to actually dismantle it.”

Cornell Brooks

THIRD HAVEN FRIENDS MEETING

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Eighth Day Eleventh Month 2015

After a brief period of silent worship, the Clerk, Candace Shattuck, gathered the meeting for worship with attention to business at 11:30 AM.

Attending: Twenty-nine people attended. Paige Bethke, Molly Burgoyne, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Jen Coleman, Benita Cooper, Leigh Anne Dodge, Doreen Getsinger, Jeanne Halpin, John Hawkinson, Martha Holthausen, Katherine Johnson, Larissa Kitenko, Connie Lewis, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, Adrienne Rudge, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck, Robert Shattuck, John Turner, Sally Vermilye, Robert Wieland, Anny Williams, Winslow Womack, Ralph Young, Frank Zeigler, Joyce Zeigler.

Query: A Friend asked if we could find the time to examine how, as a Meeting, we are answering the questions posed in our queries. He proposed doing this during our meetings for business. Several present thought this idea could be useful; others thought we are already invited to do this when the query is read at Meeting for Worship, or that committees should be asked to respond to each query. The Clerk requested time to mull this suggestion over and figure out a way to best make this fit in.

Minutes: The Meeting approved the minutes from the Tenth Month as written.

Clerk's Desk: The Clerk will schedule an All Clerk's meeting after the first of the year, when new clerks and officers are in place, to begin discussing Long Range Planning.

Testimonies & Concerns Annual Report: The complete annual report is as follows:

The purpose of Third Haven Friends' Testimonies & Concerns committee is to help members and attendees of our Meeting intentionally enact the major testimony of Friends' practice of "letting one's life speak" one's spiritual belief. The Committee's work, therefore, relates to Friends' testimonies of simplicity, peace, integrity, community and equality, especially as they pertain to

social justice concerns in today's world. Quaker values sit at the heart of what we try to accomplish in T&C.

2015 began with the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Minute on Racism. This minute came from a meeting held January 10, at the Arch Street Meeting House. Nearly 400 Friends from over 80 monthly meetings, yearly meetings and other religious organizations attended this Called Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business to discern how we, as a faith community, are being led to address racism.

At the conclusion of the meeting a “Minute of Action” was approved, which reads, in part: (We) “Commit to increase our consciousness as Friends about the intersection of privilege and race in our culture and spiritual community. We know our knowledge is often limited by our own experiences and that we have much to learn from each other and from outside resources.”

This minute became part of each of our T&C meetings as we discussed our understanding of the intent of the minute and its implications to us as Third Haven Quakers and as individuals. As we discussed different ways to bring our concerns to the entire meeting, it was suggested that in place of trying to arrange for a workshop on racism or white privilege, we might be better off trying to directly engage with local communities who have been impacted this racism and privilege. To this end, we approached friends at Asbury United Methodist Church to share ideas of how our two faith communities might become closer in this work. In the past six months, a small group of Friends met regularly over soup together with a small group of Asbury AME members.

Other work that the Testimonies and Concerns committee has undertaken, to “increase our consciousness” and “move forward with our entire community”:

- Some Friends have become involved with the Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform: a bipartisan, statewide alliance seeking legislative changes in Maryland’s correctional policies to support alternatives to incarceration, address inequities, and aid citizens returning from prison to lead productive lives, thus, strengthening families and communities.

- The committee has also followed, with interest, the creation of the Talbot Conversation on Race, which began through the Talbot Association of Clergy and Laity. Planning sessions for this conversation were held over the summer and public dialogue facilitation trainings were held in the fall. The first “conversation” will be held in St. Michaels on 8 November. Second is planned for early December to be held in Easton.

- In the aftermath of the mass murder of black parishioners at Emmanuel African Methodist Church in Charleston, S.C. in June of this year, we learned of several black churches intentionally burnt down. We then became aware of an effort led by Christ Church Cathedral in St. Louis, MO to raise money to rebuild these churches. T&C announced this effort and our meeting responded generously.

- In September, with the help and encouragement of American Friends Service Committee, Testimonies & Concerns arranged for what was billed as an “interactive art installation” to be shown at Third Haven. This piece of art, called 39 Questions for White People, was displayed and a group of about twenty gathered together for a worship sharing, inspired by these questions.

Looking forward, along with Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's committee on Undoing Racism, we will continue to follow and help promote the 17th annual White Privilege Conference, to be held in April 2016 in Philadelphia. From their website: "The WPC is a conference that examines challenging concepts of privilege and oppression and offers solutions and team building strategies to work toward a more equitable world." This conference is designed to examine issues of privilege that go beyond skin color, as we all experience some form of privilege, whether it is gender, sexuality, class, disability or skin color, or some intersection of these —and that we're all affected by that privilege.

Also this year:

- The committee arranged for five Faith In Action Events, where we invited the meeting to gather, over a simple meal, and listen to individuals who are doing work that reflect our Quaker values.
- Ralph Young created and led a reading and study group on the subject of peace. Along with the local P.E.A.C.E. organization (Peace Education and Community Effort) and first inspired by Coleman McCarthy's book "Peace is Possible", Ralph leads this monthly meeting and works with a different essay on peace and non-violence. After a two month hiatus, this group will begin again in December, first Tuesday of the month.
- Members of T&C (with some help from their spouses) continue to operate the lending library at the Talbot County Detention Center. This lending library has been in existence for over 13 years, and now houses over 5,000 volumes.
- A member of T&C in absence, Katie Claggett, is currently enrolled as a freshman at Guilford College in North Carolina. She reports to us that, along with American Friends Service Center, and through the Young Quaker Leadership Program, Katie is working on an immigrants' rights project. Part of this project is the creation of a video documenting her work and her thoughts, which was shared with T&C.

Some other Interfaith Efforts led by T&C members include:

- Marilla's Lunches/ Interfaith Coalition against Hunger - nine faith groups gather every Wednesday to make and deliver lunches to people who need them in Easton. One week a month this is done at THFM with the help of usually about 6 Friends. These same groups are also responsible for providing six daily lunches to the Ridgeway House, the homeless shelter run by the Neighborhood Service Ctr. Four Friends work one day each week to help this effort. This adds up to about 5,000 Wednesday lunches and 1,500 Ridgeway lunches.
- This same "Interfaith Coalition against Hunger" is responsible for coordinating the annual Thanksgiving dinners prepared at Asbury UME. We are aiming for 150 meals cooked and delivered this year, with close to 30 Third Haven Friends involved.
- Christmas gifts for children through the Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center and help for them in creating nutritious food baskets for their Thanksgiving celebration.

- Preparing food for and being present at the overnight homeless shelter, the Talbot Interfaith Shelter, (TIS) on the 17th of each month.
- Supporting P.E.A.C.E. demonstrations each Thursday at 5, in front of the Talbot County courthouse. This vigil has been going on for about 14 years now.
- Easton Multicultural Festival (held yearly in early May) this year with the help of the Outreach Committee, we had 3 tables, arts and crafts and Quaker literature to hand out.

The T&C Committee is also charged with distributing funds from the Shoffner International Education Fund. This fund began in 2010 with a loving donation following the death of member John Shoffner. 5% of this fund is donated yearly to organizations that support our Quaker testimonies. In 2015 the fund gave \$960 to Aguayuda, an organization that began locally, to support their work to improve life and health in poor rural communities through clean water and education.

Additions to this report include noting there is a PEACE vigil in Centreville every Tuesday as well as recognition of Kristen Hawkinson's initial work setting up a GED program in the Talbot County Detention Center that led to our current library program. The Clerk of T&C also explained that more information on the WPC would be forthcoming over the next few months. The Meeting accepted this report. We all are impressed by the hard work of this committee and the involvement of many in the Meeting.

Nominating Committee: The Clerk of Nominating Committee gave their preliminary report for 2016. The complete preliminary report will be available online and as an announcement. The committee has filled all slots and no corrections or additions were added at this time. The Clerk asked for consideration to be given to putting the "skills bank" or "special offerings" in a different place such as online. Next month, the Meeting will need to approve this report. Any additional corrections or additions should be given to Robert Wieland, Adrienne Rudge or Katherine Johnson before next month.

Overseers- Approval of membership for John Turner: A Clearness committee composed of John Schreiner, Adrienne Rudge and Joan Wetmore met with John Turner recently. Overseers heartily endorsed John for membership in THFM. The Meeting approved his membership. A welcoming committee of Susan Claggett (convener), Ralph Young and Adrienne Rudge will contact John in the near future.



Request from Communications: John Hawkinson, Clerk of Communications, read a letter from member Tania Harrison, who has managed our website for 5 years now. She has done this admirably as her gift to our Meeting, resulting in an excellent website that is checked and updated frequently. She estimates she spends approximately 3 hours per month on our site. Over the course of a year, she would bill her regular clients \$1620 for similar services. Because this is her business and because she and her husband live off one income, she is respectfully requesting the Meeting to consider paying her and suggests \$800 per year, roughly half her usual billing amount.

Many Friends weighed in on this discussion, virtually all agreeing that Tania's excellent work and specialized service warrants the Meeting paying this modest sum. Those present agreed we should pay her \$200 each quarter and approve the expense for this year. If the matter is approved for this year, Budget & Finance would decide what category the funds would come from in the next year's budget. The Clerk noted that Clerk of Budget & Finance, Bill Lane, was consulted concerning this question. He is in favor of paying her, says we have money in our contingency funds to cover this amount and adds that we could also provide a letter affirming her donation of in-kind service in the amount of \$800.

A Friend thought we should let this matter 'season' for a month before approval, as this procedure would break with our tradition of generally not paying members for their services to the Meeting and because Friends not present may want to weigh in on the matter. This issue was thus laid over until the next meeting for business.

Report from PYM Continuing Sessions: As part of planned restructuring, PYM has changed from 6 "interim meetings" per year to 2 "continuing sessions." Three Third Haven members were among the 350 Friends who attended the first of these continuing sessions yesterday at Westtown School, West Chester, PA. The morning was spent engaging with questions dealing with white privilege, sometimes referred to as "white supremacy", in a worship-sharing format. Small groups were used for this work. No clear direction was discerned.

The afternoon session was taken with topics relating to organization. PYMs finances are now in good order. Standing committees and working groups were all laid down as of September 30. Apparently there will be an application process for re-forming committees. It was not clear what the future looks like.

Minutes of these continuing sessions of PYM may be found at this link:
http://www.pym.org/continuing-sessions/files/2015/10/Approved-Minutes_with-attachments_color.pdf

THFM attendees thought the session had energy and promise.

The meeting concluded after a brief silent worship at 12:50 PM.

Molly Burgoyne

IMPORTANT POINTS:

- T&C Annual Report accepted
- Nominations Committee preliminary report given
- John Turner membership approved and welcoming committee formed
- Communications request to pay for web services discussed, with decision laid over until next month
- New format for PYM Continuing Sessions presented.

News from Friends



Adrienne Rudge writes, “About a week ago, Maury Schneider planted one magnolia grandiflora "Little Gem" on behalf of the Garden Club of the Eastern Shore and two more on behalf of me in memory of my mother. They are located as you make the turn from the driveway to enter the parking lot.

Katie Claggett writes, “Through my community problem solving course, I was partnered with the American Friends Service Community to work on an immigrant rights program. The project has included me going around into the community, mainly to events, to gather surveys from individuals who either know someone who has been arrested or detained or if they personally have experiences with police. As a class assignment I had to record myself sharing some of my thoughts and personal connections so far this semester through my work at this community site. Please feel free to check out my video. Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kA3Y0MIUaRU&feature=youtu.be> I wish I could be helping my local hometown in some ways but distance always seems to be in the way. I look forward to see you all around Christmas.”

In response to the questions of the meeting about her work for the Communications Committee, **Tatiana Harrison writes,** “All website work is done through editing HTML directly. This averages out to be about 3 hours a month minimum.

- Weekly, I update the Announcements page, which includes adding new announcements, deleting outdated news, etc.
- As-needed, though usually monthly: I add any committee reports that are included in the minutes/newsletters. Each report has its own page on our website; a full list of reports is kept up-to-date on the Reports page.
- As-needed: each committee has their own section/pages on our website. These pages are up-dated by committee request.
- As-needed: the Directory is updated as contact information changes.

I hope this clarifies what the website work I do. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any other information.”

Just Arrived!

Sweet miss Riley Jane Ewing was born on the late afternoon of 11/22 - a healthy 7+ pounds and 21 inches long. We are all settling in happily together, with a big brother Liam and sister Finlay, who are super stars. I am so grateful for the love and support from the Meeting. It means the world to me and our family. With love and thanks, Amy Owsley and Ryan Ewing



First Day School Events



Hi Everyone

Just wanted to put out the schedule for classes thru the holidays

Dec- Kids will receive name and age of child from Multicultural center for wrapped gift giving.

Dec 6- All Hands needed- wreath making in Common room, please bring extra greenery, pinecones, berries and decorations, wire if you have some

Dec 13- Susan/Katie-Jesus and other spiritual leaders- deadline for gifts

Dec 20- Holy Family Story and Holiday program at rise of Meeting-- Characters needed including animals, Shepherds, Wisemen and angels. Also FDS hosts Christmas cookies and hot cocoa in the common room afterwards. Caroling with John Turner starts at 915-945 that morning

Dec 27- Cathy sharing Faith and Play "George Fox's Big Discovery"

Jan 3- FDS committee meeting- lessons/ideas for 2016- 9am

Jan 3. Amahl and the Night Visitors (Does anyone have a copy?)

Its an exciting time of year!! We will try to put back a little silence in "Silent Night." Hope to see you all at First Day School. *Susan Claggett*, FDS Clerk

Sharing Thanksgiving

Dear Friends,

The Thanksgiving meal, cooked, served up and delivered by you, was a great success this year. We had about 150 meals all ready to go out the door at Asbury in under an hour; hard to believe, but true.

Third Haven friends stepped right in and slopped, sliced and then washed and mopped with much good energy and fellowship. Then came the deliverers, right on time, and the stacks of meals were out the door with no fuss.

We have an abundance of riches at Third Haven and are so privileged to be able to continue to gather together for work like this when very much of our world seems filled with chaos and darkness. Many thanks to each of you for the part you played in this.

Leigh Anne and Ralph



Pancake Breakfast

First Day School would like to thank the following families for helping serve the pancake breakfast on Nov 15. They were: the Eshram family, Fritz and Alyssa, Becke and Anya; Ryan Ewing, Liam and Finlay; Beth Mufson and Maeve; Dona Sorce and Alisha and Jen Coleman, Mom of Giuseppe Coulborne. Other Meeting members who helped prepare were Susan Dickinson, Heidi Wetzell, Leigh Anne Dodge, Lorraine Claggett. And a big Thank you to all the Meeting family who showed up to enjoy fellowship and support the First Day School. Many, many thanks, *Susan Claggett*, FDS Clerk.



Asbury Breakfast To Benefit All



Planning lunch deliveries

Ralph Young writes, "We have been working on the Wednesday (Marilla's) lunches with our friends from Asbury Methodist for years. Their church is in need of extensive rehab and they are having a benefit breakfast on Saturday Dec. 12th for this purpose. The huge breakfast will be served from about 8 to 11 a.m. and the cost is \$8 per person. Asbury Methodist Church is located at 18 So. Higgins St."

Announcements

<http://www.thirdhaven.org/announcements.php>

Calendar of Activities <http://www.thirdhaven.org/calendar.php>

Online directory <http://www.thirdhaven.org/members/dir.php>

December 6 (Sunday) Spiritual journey: Susan Dickinson

December 6 (Sunday) Wreath Making: Please bring in greenery.

December 15 (Tuesday) Inward Bound Quiet Day

December 20 (Sunday) 9:15 am Carol Singing in common room

2016 Friendly Eights: Please sign up in the common Room.

No Leaf Left Behind!



Friends Meeting



