



THIRD HAVEN FRIENDS MEETING

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March, 2024 Newsletter

“I believe in the sun even when I cannot see it,
I believe in love even when I cannot feel it,
I believe in God even when God is silent.”

Stephen Cary

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Eleventh Day, Second Month, 2024

Opening silent worship: Clerk Molly Brian opened the Meeting with silent worship at 11:33 a.m.

Attending: (hybrid) Byron Belitsos, Molly Brian, Mia Brown-Echerd, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Minga Claggett-Borne, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Marsie Hawkinson, Kristina Herold, Katherine Johnson, Marie Leonard, Connie Lewis, Clinton Pettus, Dee Rein, Bill Schauer, John Schreiner, Priscilla Sener, Jonathan Slocum, Nancy Stanford, Paige Tilghman, Ben Tilghman, John Turner, Jonathan Vogel-Bourne, Joan Wetmore, Heidi Wetzal, Jonathan Williams, Winslow Womack

Comments on Second Query (Deepening our Faith: Meeting for Business)

The idea of personal transformation leads one to expect it to be part of the spiritual part of meeting, but it's part of business meeting.

The transformation part leading to the “sense of the meeting” for Quaker decision making is in some ways mystical.

The complexity of people's lives exists but can be put to rest so we deal with the business of the Meeting effectively.

On Feb. 25th Testimonies and Concerns will host a discussion of this query at 8:45 a.m.

On March 24th there will be a religious education meeting on decision making in the manner of Friends.

Faith and Practice notes characteristics of early Friends living their testimonies, bearing witness to their truths, an outward, visible manifestation of the inward transformation. “Faith and Practice” p. 153.

Approval of minutes for January business meeting **Approved**

Clerk's Desk- Molly Brian

Southern Quarterly Meeting February 4th went well. Thanks to the organizers!

All Clerks Meeting will be February 24th 9:30 a.m. This will be a threshing session: Where have we been? Where are we now? Where are we going?

New Members- Recommended by Pastoral Care and approved

Amy Kimball welcoming committee: Susan (convener), Marie, Priscilla

Beverly Martin welcoming committee: Katherine (convener), Molly, Paige

Thank you letter from Talbot Interfaith Shelter "You've changed lives."

Thank you letter from Neighborhood Service Center "You help us provide services."

Testimonies and Concerns has received other thank you letters from organizations to which Third Haven donated.

Planning Committee Update- Tom Corl

External stairway and ramp design

The PC decided that we want:

- No roof over the south side doorway on the BMH,
- To restore the windows in the transoms above the north and south side doors. We do not know what is behind the plywood.

Contractors & permitting

Steve Meixner recommended identifying several contractors and interviewing each. The PC discussed potential contractors. When we have complete building drawings, we can contact these companies and begin to arrange interviews. Contractors will be able to give us cost estimates.

We plan preliminary meetings with the Easton building department and the Historic District Commission (HDC) before going for permits with a contractor. It may be advisable to have Joshua Kiehl join us for such meetings:

Next Steps

As we proceed with the design, cost estimates and permitting for the BMH back stairway and the ramp to the BMH, we need to develop and integrate the renovation plan for the 2nd floor of the BMH for First Day School (FDS), to include the 1st and 2nd floor bathrooms. There followed some discussion of what might be done. Susan will convene a meeting of FDS parents and the PC to walk through the 2nd floor of the BMH and develop a plan for renovations.

We have assumed from the outset that improvements in the safety and amenities of the FDS would help attract and retain families and encourage new memberships. This has worked well in the past, but the current environment is more difficult. There is no direct or immediate financial return on investment from the 4 Phase 1 projects. That will depend on membership growth and increasing financial contributions.

When we have better cost estimates for the 4 Phase 1 projects - BMH back stairway, BMH ramp, FDS renovations and tree succession planning - we can re-assess our financial situation. We will need the Building Fund (now at about \$180,000), financial contributions from the Trustees and additional fundraising to proceed. All construction projects and financing will go to the meeting for business for approval.

As we continue to talk to the Milner architects, we are also in contact with Jonathan Ceci, landscape architect, to deal with grading, drainage, tree management, materials and permitting. This integrates design and landscaping.



Treasurer's Report (end of 2021)- Ben Tilghman

As of February 1, we have 58% of the fiscal year behind us, with income at 56% of budget, and expenses running at slightly over 61%. This trend of spending a bit more than we are taking in is consistent with historical performance, and, if prior year's performance holds true, will not present a problem at year end. In past years we have been able to cover any potential shortfall with extra fiscal year end donations and expect to finish the year very close to budget of \$72,250, notwithstanding the General and Administration budget, as discussed below.

Our operating cash account remains robust with over 6 months reserve available. Our balance sheet also remains strong, with liabilities consisting only of invoices and credit card bills payable - around \$500.00 a month.

One area, however, requires some discussion. We budgeted \$2,400 for G&A (General and Administrative), occasioned by a shift by QuickBooks from local, desktop programs to completely online. This considerably increased our licensing cost, last July - more than we anticipated and after the budget was prepared. Although it simplified our payroll and withholding tax procedures it is more expensive than doing the work by hand.

Moreover, the online QuickBooks is a highly sophisticated tool designed for use by trained accountants and book keepers. Not retired printing salesmen, however. Accordingly, we have had to engage the services of an accounting firm in Centreville to assist us with yearend tax matters (1099's, W2, W3's and so on), and while we expect the charges to be modest, I project that the \$2,400 budgeted for G&A will likely be exceeded by some \$500.00, for a total of \$2,900.

Membership Recorder's Annual Report – Marsie Hawkinson Accepted

Currently the Membership of Third Haven is **122 adult** members. This includes 17 Friends who grew up as members (children of members who were active in the Meeting – the children through First Day School). In many cases they received Scholarship Aid from the Meeting's Scholarship Committee.

The Meeting gained one member by transfer – Sam Steffens.

In this past year we lost two members by death – Adrienne Wheeler Rudge and Helen Womack. Adrienne grew up in this Meeting, lived elsewhere for a number of years, but returned later and was an active part of the Meeting. On December 1, 2023, we lost another longtime member – Helen Etter Womack. Over the years Helen was an active part of the Meeting helping with First Day School and the general life of the Meeting. She will be remembered for her inspired messages given during Meeting for Worship.

Outreach Annual Report 2023- Joan Wetmore Accepted

The committee operated without a leader for much of the year. One former co-chair had become very busy with her job plus another Meeting project, while the other former co-chair concluded that she no longer wanted to be on this committee.

Outreach does not have a budget. Instead, to encourage couples with young children to attend, the members asked that their previous allocation be given to the First Day School to pay for consistent childcare during Meeting for Worship.

Despite the lack of leadership and budget, the group

- participated in the Multicultural Festival for the second year,
- designed and received approval for individual sign riders featuring four of the Testimonies, and
- produced a Skybox Ad (below) that appeared on the front page of Star Democrat in December 2023, which was paid for by a personal donation.

By the end of January 2024, the committee membership had grown, and a new co-chair was appointed. The committee now consists of Nancy Robbins, co-chair, and Joan Wetmore, temporary co-chair. Members are Lorraine Claggett, Jonathan Williams, and Lisa Kluepfel.

New Business



AFSC proposed minute- Paige Tilghman

Minute of Support in recognition of the International Court of Justice's order to Israel to take all actions to prevent the violation of the Genocide Convention and to provide immediate measures to ensure humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza.

The Third Haven Friends Meeting, located at 405 S Washington Street in Easton, Maryland, 21617, did gather for a Monthly Meeting for Business on 02 11 2024 and did provide unity on the following minute:

To stand with South Africa and the America Friends Service Committee in support of South Africa's charges of plausible genocide by Israel of the Palestinians as a result of the deliberate killing, physical destruction and lack of humanitarian aid they have delivered against the people of Gaza since October 07, 2023.

Third Haven Friends supports the recognition of the International Court of Justice, who has jurisdiction over South Africa, and South Africa's charges that Israel's actions, since October 07, 2023, are plausibly genocidal in violation of the Genocide Convention. We stand with the measures demanded by the International Court of Justice, on February 08, 2024, to Israel that cannot be realized without an immediate ceasefire:

To refrain from acts under the genocide Convention

To prevent and punish the direct and public incitement of genocide.

Take immediate and effective measures to ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance to civilians of Gaza.

And, that the United States must collaborate with other members of the United Nations Security Council to call for and enforce the implementation of an immediate ceasefire; that the Biden

Administration and United States Congress must call for an immediate ceasefire and impose an arms embargo on Israel, or they themselves will be guilty of complicity in genocide.

We firmly stand in full solidarity and support with South Africa and the American Friends Service Committee for bringing this charge to the International Court of Justice, in order to bring an end to the suffering and oppression of Palestinians.

Third Haven Friends has approximately 100 members who meet regularly for worship in the manner of the Society of Friends and have long supported the American Friends Service Committee and their international witness to peace, equality and the respect for the dignity of human life.

Clerks, Third Haven Friends Meeting
Tom Corl / Mary Brian

Comments included multiple views of the nature of the conflict in question, the proposed minute, our place in making such a statement, and the history of the situation. Our Meeting did not reach unity to accept this minute. Many feel deeply disturbed by the violence and disruption of the peace in Israel and Gaza. We understand little about the complexity of the situation. We agree it would be helpful if some of us could study this further and perhaps create our own Meeting response.



Music- Jonathan Williams Approved

I would like to propose that we include an inspirational song at the end of Announcements and/or whenever we are making a transition. I would be happy to lead the chorus of a song such as Gift to Be Simple, If I had a hammer, Amazing Grace, Imagine, We Shall Overcome, How Can I Keep from Singing, Look for the Good, Let There Be Peace on Earth, (Oh Come) Angel Band, This Little Light of Mine, etc. Ideally the songs would be well-enough known not to require lyric sheets. The purpose of the singing would be to engage everyone in a sharing of inspirational music. Referred to Worship and Ministry for implementation.



Trustees Old Meeting House Restoration- Priscilla Sener

Extensive restoration of the Old Meeting House continues. The sill repair work will begin soon, most likely the first week of March. Sill repair involves some precision lifting to replace the rotted material. The sill work will likely exceed the grant funds. We are fortunate to have qualified professionals for this work under Bill's watchful care. It is important to note that the building should not be accessed during the sill and step replacement phase. Friends are asked to avoid the area. It was suggested "closed for repairs" signs be posted.

Spiritual State of the Meeting Report Requested by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting- Corl Tom Approved

Due to the duplication of effort required, it was proposed, as other Meetings have done, to resend the State of Meeting Report previously reviewed and approved.

Closing Silent Worship 12:35 p.m. D. Rein, Recording Clerk

Condolences to the family of Deborah Lloyd Cox



Deborah Rossiter Lloyd Cox 83, passed away after a long battle with Alzheimer's Disease on February 16th, 2024, at Talbot Hospice in Easton. She was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on Aug 1st, 1940, to the late Harry and Dorothea Rossiter.

Deborah has been a professional nurse since completing the diploma program at Macqueen Gibbs Willis Nursing School in 1977, having obtained a BSN at Wesley College. Masters at the University of MD and post graduate degrees. She was certified as a family nurse practitioner, STD Clinician and in the Principals of Epidemiology. Deborah has spent her career providing patient care as a Community Health Nurse at Caroline and Dorchester Health Departments; a clinical nurse specialist at the Eastern Shore Hospital Center; D.O.N. at Deer's Head Hospital, a N.P. at Caroline Nursing Home, a member and officer of Maryland Nurses Association.

Her love has been for the less fortunate with the most challenging health care needs. Deborah is survived by her daughter; Brittain Shaw, son; John Shaw, and her four grandchildren, her aunt Janine, and many cousins. Also, Stepson David Cox and step-granddaughter Jamie Cox, plus husband Doyle.

A memorial service will be held at Third Haven Friends Meeting House in the near future. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Talbot Hospice, 586 Cynwood Dr., Easton, MD or the Alzheimer's Association, www.alz.org.



Frederick Douglass Award for Lorraine Claggett

Friends and family celebrated with Lorraine Claggett as she received an award for her lifetime of community advocacy at the 206th birthday celebration of Fredrick Douglas. Her many contributions are recounted in the following article. Use the link to view. <https://talbotspy.org/legacy-of-service->

Announcements

Our newsletter circulates during the first week of each month to enable readers to review the minutes of the most recent meeting for worship with attention to business.

Full list of announcements may be found at <http://www.thirdhaven.org/announcements.php>

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

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

Join us for a day of peace and inward renewal!

Inward Bound Quiet Day

March 19, 2024; 10am to 3pm (pot-luck lunch at 12 noon)

Common Room and grounds of Third Haven Friends Meeting

Join Third Haven Friends in a silent retreat that offers a day of listening for the Light within, contemplation, reading, walking the grounds, writing, and self-chosen art activities. We enjoy a shared, silent potluck lunch, and end our session with a short sharing session. Come for all or part of the retreat. For information see Inward Bound flyer and/or RSVP: Katherine Johnson katherinekai@goeaston.net or 410-820-5103.

Annual Spiritual Formation Retreat

April 19-21, 2024

Listening One Another Into Wholeness

Nurture your spirit with a weekend retreat designed to uplift your sense of hope and interconnectedness through listening deeply to self, others and to nature. We will have the opportunity for loving conversations and activities with fellow travelers on the Spiritual Journey. We are pleased to provide an opportunity to gather with, O, a member of the Central Philadelphia Meeting and a seasoned facilitator of workshops focused on Quaker values rooted in love, peace, and social justice. Additionally, we will be joined by Molly Hicks, a member of Old Haverford Meeting, who will share her creative music and songs that express her spiritual relationship with God and with others."

We will meet at Pendle Hill in Wallingford, Pennsylvania, a beautiful Quaker Retreat Center on 24 acres. Enjoy comfortable accommodations and delicious homemade meals, made with local organic ingredients. See flyer attached for registration and information.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Spring Continuing Sessions

March 8-10, 2024

Click link below for schedule

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/PYMEEvents/event/springsessions24/>

Saturday will take place onsite at six regional locations and on Zoom Arch Street Meeting House, Camden (DE) Meeting, Lancaster Meeting, Millville Meeting, Princeton Meeting, PYM Zoom

**We are Called to Healing —
healing ourselves, our local communities, and our world.**

At Spring Continuing Sessions, we will begin a year-long exploration of what healing means to us as Friends. March 8 – 10 we will attend to the continuing business of the yearly meeting and enjoy fellowship across generations.

Quakerism 101 Community Testimony Sponsored by Worship and Ministry

This past Sunday with Molly Brian as facilitator we discussed "Community" which constitutes the "C" in our testimonies mnemonic, SPICES. We used the Pendle Hill Pamphlet, "Spiritual Gifts, Beloved Community and Covenant, by Emily Provance. As we talked about what makes Quaker worship unique, we began to explore how each of us contribute our gifts to our community and how we join in covenant with the Divine to bring the Kingdom of God to Earth. Our discussion of this topic felt rich, deep and useful to our Meeting. All who are interested in delving deeply into this topic may find this pamphlet online as Pendle Hill is trying to make their work more visible in the world.



First Day School

Cherie Baron shares that on First Day, “We talked about community. There are more and more instances of communities in need of water. One remedy we talked about was using pipelines. We discussed the pros and cons of pipelines as well.

Our challenge today was to work as a group, talk and plan the community’s need for water. Your children had to engineer a pipeline using the materials set out for them that would successfully carry water from their gravity tank down to the reservoir.”

Use the link to see all the youngsters at work. More pictures are available at the Facebook Third Haven Nature Camp site.

[Community water works video](#)

Old Meeting House Restoration Progress

February 13, 2024 a shipment of cypress siding and two new Oak sills for replacement of rotten sills arrived. David Weir, our restoration expert carpenter, rented the truck for the delivery from Virginia. Drew Gundlach and Bill Lane helped David unload the siding over at the carriage shed. Then we had to get the two 750 lb. sills off the truck. David had a plan but needed help. The Hilderbrand family (Greg, Sarah, and Jackson) arrived in force to help. Our local civic engineer, Matt Lane, also answered the call. No one was hurt, and the heavy lumber moved on rollers after

some short lifting. Jackson supervised from the Crepe Myrtle. (Can you find Jackson? Look closely)

