



THIRD HAVEN FRIENDS MEETING

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January, 2024 Newsletter

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Business 12th Month, 10th Day, 2023

Opening silent worship: Clerk Tom Corl opened the Meeting with silent worship at 11:40 a.m.

Attending: (hybrid) Mia Brown-Echerd, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Stephanie French, Marsie Hawkinson, John Hawkinson, Bill Lane, Steven Meixner, Beth Mufson, Christopher Niles, Terry-Thomas Primer, Cynthia Quast, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, Bill Schauer, John Schreiner, Priscilla Sener, Jonathan Slocum, Nancy Stanford, Ben Tilghman, Paige Tilghman, John Turner, Joan Wetmore, Mary Yancey

Comments on 12th Query: Witnessing in the World: Witness & Civic Responsibility
A member commented on concerns for the coming election and the effect of their actions on their business.

Approval of minutes from 11th Month 12th meeting for business **Approved**
In the Giving Guide from Testimonies and Concerns, Westtown school listed.



Clerk's items – *Tom Corl*

Request for membership from Beverly Martin referred to Pastoral Care.

Membership transfer of Sandra Steffens – *Tom Corl for Dona Sorce* **Approved**

Floyd, Va. Meeting, Sam's former meeting, corresponded and Pastoral Care recommends acceptance for membership.
Welcoming committee: Nancy Robbins, convener, Susan Claggett and Mary Yancey.

Treasurer's report – Ben Tilghman

As of November 30, the building fund had \$156,522.16 after paying Milner \$7,681.00 for the first installment of the design work on the BMH stairs. On December we transferred \$120,000 to a 7-month CD at an annual rate of 4.95%, leaving a working balance in the fund of approximately \$36,000. This should cover the rest of the Milner work on the stairs.

Gifts run from \$25.00 to \$50,000. We have received two gifts at \$5,000, and one at \$7,000 and \$10,000 from varied sources, but the majority are from current members and attenders, particularly the larger donations.

Also, we have been accruing interest payments monthly on the Checking account, which prior to the transfer of \$120,000 to a CD, came to about \$380.00 per month. The interest on the CD (approximately \$495.00/month) will not be realized until the maturity date of June 30, 2024.

Operating fund income and expenses are tracking at normal levels. We anticipate an increased activity in donations to both the operating fund and the building fund as Friends closeout the year for tax purposes. Since we are on a fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) this does not affect our annual giving. Our balance sheet remains strong, with no long-term debt, and short-term debt consisting only of accounts payable for payroll tax liabilities and credit card monthly statements.

Nominating Committee Final Report – Marsie Hawkinson Approved. The nominating committee report was circulated with announcements, giving all a chance to see. Suggestions: Add Lisa Kluepfel, Sarah Claggett to First Day School, which could use more help. Campaign committee needs a clerk to join Nancy Robbins, who is willing to serve as co-clerk for recording purposes. Add Sam Steffens to Worship and Ministry. Nominating Committee 2024: Steven Meixner, clerk, Janet Kemp, Paige Tilghman (newly appointed by clerks).



Worship and Ministry Committee 2023 Annual Report – Jonathan Slocum Accepted

Worship and Ministry provides greeters for Meeting for Worship, evaluates the experience of that worship and coordinates adult religious education. Suggestions for this work are welcome.

Attendance at Meeting for Worship has been increasing at Third Haven Monthly Meeting as concerns about the Covid pandemic have eased. Often, we have more than 30 participants in person with more on holidays as family members return to the area. Two to 10 attend Meeting for Worship on Zoom. Visitors join our worship frequently.

Vocal ministry is variable as Friends wait on the Spirit to be moved to speak. Reading the Query each month, one of the few programmed practices of our community, often inspires ministry.

Our mid-week Meeting for Worship is small but attracts a dedicated group of participants, usually four to seven, with a few attending on Zoom. The silent worship is profound but vocal ministry is rare during the Wednesday meeting. Stephanie French anchors this Meeting in person and on Zoom.

Worship and Ministry is sponsoring a Quakerism 101 Program. This was launched in September by a visit from Christie Duncan-Tessmer, General Secretary of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM). She held an information gathering session to learn how we feel about our connection to PYM after a potluck dinner in the Common Room. She gave a presentation about perspective the following day after hospitality. Both events were well-attended. Gratitude to the Claggetts for hosting Christie and Meeting members for hospitality.

The committee is planning to ask a representative from PYM to visit to discuss the ways Third Haven and other meetings in the Southern Quarter can improve the connection to, and be supported by, the yearly meeting.

We had two additional sessions of Quakerism 101 this Fall. In October we held a program on Silent Worship and Spiritual Practices facilitated by Katherine Johnson and Jonathan Slocum using Worship Sharing. In November the topic was hat of God. Materials for That of God included “Essence of Our Quaker Faith,” a summary approved by Third Haven in 2010, and an updated version of “That of God and So On,” written by Tom Corl for Quakerism 101 in 2012. Tom also used queries to guide the discussion. Quakerism 101 will continue this Spring with Quaker Testimonies, Community and Decision Making in the Manner of Friends.

Terry-Thomas Primer is facilitating discussions on Reading the Gospels as Friends. Meetings started last Spring and are held monthly with approximately nine members and attenders participating. After initial discussions on each of the four Gospels the group is focusing on shorter sections as led.

Apparently, we have run through the members and attenders who are willing to discuss their Spiritual Journeys, with some having spoken more than once for this popular program. Harvey Zendt has coordinated the Journeys this year and his own presentation was inspiring. Please contact a member of the committee if you would like to share your story. A Friendly and attentive audience is guaranteed.

Mary Yancey will talk about the importance of nature to her Spiritual Journey this Spring, which seems an appropriate time. Also, she will facilitate discussions about the month’s query next year on the 4th Sunday of the month in the Common Room before Meeting for Worship.

Janet Kemp and Tom Corl updated materials for Third Haven’s website this year. Katherine Johnson updated the section on Spiritual Formation. In September Matthew Moore took pinhole photographs during Meeting for Worship twice. This captured the historic Third Haven Meetinghouse using early photographic technology.

We have a few groups that meet independently in the Meeting’s facilities in ways that nurture spiritual growth. These include a journaling and creative writing support group and a Jungian dream group.

I’m grateful for the efforts of members who served on Worship and Ministry in 2023. They are: Tom Corl, Kristina Herold, Janet Kemp, Steven Meixner, Nancy Robbins and Harvey Zendt. Tom and Harvey, now telecommuting from Rhode Island, have agreed to serve for another year and we will be joined by John Schreiner and Clinton Pettus.

2023 State of the Meeting Report – Tom Corl Approved

This report has been circulated repeatedly with announcements. Approved with the addition: “Our beloved Friend, Helen Womack, died recently.”

The 2023 State of the Meeting Report will go to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and will be presented at Southern Quarterly Meeting at Third Haven Feb. 4th.

Planning Committee update – Tom Corl

Progress continues in the design of the external back stairway and the ramp to the brick meetinghouse (BMH). These 2 Phase 1 projects have been combined. Joshua Kiehl and William Morris of John Milner Architects (JMA) have been working on the design and construction drawings, which can be used in permitting and getting cost estimates. Joshua Kiehl and William Morris will present stairway design to the Dec. 20th planning committee zoom meeting.

Mary reported that the tree succession team has submitted a grant application to the Chesapeake Bay Trust for \$15,000. The grant will be used to support the development of the tree succession plan, with Jonathan Ceci Landscape Architects (JCLA). The Building Fund will provide \$5000, and the Trustees will provide \$5000. There is an allowance for administrative expenses or overhead. Shore Rivers assisted in the development of the grant proposal. Shore Rivers will assist the Meeting in developing partnerships in tree succession planning and implementation. The grant decision will be made in April. The project could start in May. The CC appreciates the all the work that went into the grant proposal. future expenses will include ongoing property maintenance.



Art Show 2023 and sale report – Dee Rein for Marie Leonard

A big thanks to everyone who participated in the Art Show on Saturday, December 2nd. With the help & generosity of eighteen talented artists, First Day School families and the Third Haven community, we were able to raise \$1,424 for Third Haven this year! Quaker dogs that don't bite lived on at the Art Show. Members expressed thanks to Marie for organizing and the donation to the Meeting.

New business



Music proposal- *Jonathan Williams* Music has united humans through the ages. It is suggested we incorporate congregation singing in transition periods, for instance between Meeting for Worship and Hospitality. Perhaps this could occur after after thoughts in Meeting for Worship. The Worship and Ministry committee, having received this suggestion, requests thinking about it over the next month, adding as an agenda item at next Meeting with Attention to Business.

Closing silent worship 12:35 p.m.

D. Rein, Recording Clerk

Condolences



Our condolences go to Winslow Womack and his entire family on the passing of his wife Helen on Friday, December 1st. Helen was a huge contributor to the life of Third Haven Friends Meeting both spiritually and actively. She is missed. Cards may be sent to 7049 Pea Neck Rd., St. Michaels, Md 21663 410-745-9589 winwomack@gmail.com

Helen and Winslow grill Quaker dogs that don't bite

First Day School Christmas Celebration

On December 17th at the rise of Meeting for Worship, First Day School students and teachers joined the members and attenders present in the brick meeting house and on zoom for a Christmas activity. Susan Claggett described how the children had heard the nativity story during First Day School time. They had all then made Christmas wishes and written them on snow men. Each young person stood and shared his Christmas wish. Some were personal, for time with family and other ideas. Some were more global, wishing for world peace, for example. Then paper snow men and writing implements were distributed to all present who were asked to write their Christmas wishes while Jonathan Williams played Christmas carols on guitar. These wishes continue to be on exhibit in the common room. Of course, a Christmas celebration requires a pot luck lunch, and we were not disappointed as the First Day School parents organized and everyone contributed to an amazing array of foods and delicious desserts. First Day School has just resumed for January. We look forward to more fun times together learning about Quaker values.

Aging as Friends Third Haven Friends Meeting Pastoral Care Committee invites you to join us for a series of conversations designed to assist Friends as we walk the path of aging together.

January 21 5 Wishes and Advanced Medical Directives following hospitality, hosted by Terry Thomas-Primer and Tom Corl

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. Additional articles of interest to the Third Haven community are always welcome.

Announcements with calendar events circulate Monday and Friday each week. Please submit ready to post announcements by the preceding day.

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>

Weekly Thursdays PEACE Vigil – Come join us Thursdays in front of the Talbot County Courthouse at 5PM. Third Haven sponsors this vigil and we welcome more participation from the community. Come and go whenever you like. Peace is our testimony all the time.

Weekly Fridays Zoom Happier Hour 7 PM

Zoom happier hour conversation is scheduled on Fridays at 7:00 pm. Typically, about 5-6 people use the hour to reconnect, share news and again, offer fellowship. *Please consider joining our group.*

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Weekly News and Events

Get news from PYM and keep up with interesting events.

[Subscribe by adding your name and email address.](#)

Quaker Earthcare Witness We hope you enjoy our latest *BeFriending Creation*.

You can also [download the PDF version](#) or [browse the online version](#).