



THIRD HAVEN FRIENDS MEETING

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November, 2025 Newsletter

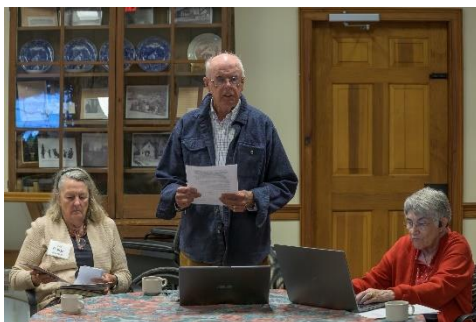
Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Twelfth Day, Tenth Month, 2025

Opening Silent Reflection at 11:37 a.m. clerk Ben Tilghman opened the Meeting.

Attendance: Jim Altman, Mike Berry, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Damian Hanrahan, Kristen Hawkinson, Marsie Hawkinson, Katherine Johnson, Amy Kozak, Katherine Koustmer, Bill Lane, Marie Leonard, Beverly Martin, Tom McCall, Delphine Peck, Clinton Pettus, Kathryn Pettus, Gant Redmon, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, Bill Schauer, Ellen Schecter, Priscilla Sener, Jonathan Slocum, Paige Tilghman

Comments on the Tenth Query-Witnessing in the World: Ministry of Outreach-none

Approval of Minutes from Ninth Month- Approved



Clerk's Desk- Privacy Concerns-Ben Tilghman

In our annual report to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting we published scholarship recipients and amounts. Per PYM we should not publish young people's information on a public site. They suggest redacting the report. The scholarship committee intends to be open with the Meeting. **Report will be edited and resubmitted to PYM; website version of minutes will be edited and reposted. Approved**



Property & Grounds Annual Report- *Larny Claggett- Accepted*

Committee members: Bill Lane, Robert Gladney, Nancy Robbins, Mary Yancey, Amy Kimball, Sally Claggett, Sam Steffens, Drew Gundlach, Dan Sweeney, Priscilla Bond Sener, Clay Owens, Ben Tilghman, Winslow Womack (emeritus), and Larny Claggett, clerk.

Activities from 10/24 to 10/25:

- A. The property and grounds committee provides hands-on care and oversight of our campus. We work to maintain our buildings in good repair; plain, pleasing, and unpretentious; with quality materials; open and safe. The meeting, through the property and grounds committee, provides for our caretaker and pays the utility bills. The property and grounds committee oversees about half the monthly meeting's annual budget and the property and grounds expenses were generally within budget.
- B. The property and grounds committee conducted clean-up days in the spring and late fall with the usual efforts to mulch the beds and tree roots, weed and vine pruning, mowing and leaf raking, and general cleaning of buildings. These are times for the entire meeting to pitch in and all effort is appreciated. It is recognized that some persons can't make the clean-up days, but are able to come at other days. There is always much to do.
- C. We contracted out some of the heavy pruning and tree removal, the vine control, major mulching, and lawn mowing.
- D. A big challenge the meeting and the property and grounds committee faced this year was the surgery and subsequent recovery our caretaker has undergone. The committee and the meeting as a whole stepped up and provided the caretaking of our buildings and grounds as well as the caretaker. We are glad the caretaker is recovering well.



Southern Quarterly Meeting – *Marie Leonard Accepted*

- Third Haven Friends hosted the most recent Southern Quarterly Meeting on September 21st, 2025. Members & attenders were present from 4 Meetings in the Southern Quarter: Camden Friends, Chester River Friends, Third Haven Friends, Wicomico River Friends, as well as Appoquinimink Preparative Meeting in Odessa, DE
- Meeting for Worship was held in the Old Meeting House, with approximately 40 adults and 11 children in attendance. First Day School was provided. Several messages on community were shared. At the rise of Meeting, we sang “Let It Be” (by Paul McCartney) accompanied by three guitars. We then gathered in the Common Room for a short activity for all ages, with the theme of Friends. A Potluck Luncheon followed, as we welcomed the First Day School families back, after summer, and allowing us fellowship time with other Southern Quarter Friends.
- The next Southern Quarterly Meeting will be the third Sunday in January, the 18th, hosted by Wicomico River Friends Meeting. This will be the Quarterly Business Meeting where all

Meetings will read their State of the Meeting Report. More details will be shared closer to that time.



Planning Committee Update- *Tom Corl* Clerk of Planning Committee- Accepted

Susan Claggett, Clerk of First Day School (FDS), reported that most all the work remodeling the 2nd floor of the brick meetinghouse (BMH2) for FDS and other uses is done. Furniture and other items cannot be move back until after the Town of Easton (ToE) has completed its final inspection and issued a certificate of occupancy.

Tom reported that a summary, from Harper and Sons dated 9.23, of items to be completed shows that – BMH2 landing door work, roofing, gutters, flooring, attic and knee wall insulation, countertop and cabinets, parking lot flood lights – are done or will be soon. The remodeling of the BMH1 bathroom will be last. The next Harper and Sons update to the Planning Committee will be on 10.17.25.

The original Harper and Sons contract was for around \$224,000. Additional design and construction work to address ToE concerns about drainage (runnels, gutters, grading, etc.) moved the sum to about \$266,000. Problems encountered in working on the 1880 BMH (leaking pipes, sewer pipe cracked, inadequate insulation, heating system repairs, roof replacement, additional electrical work, HVAC, flood lights, etc.) moved the price to \$369,000. With the August payment made, the “Balance to Finish Including [10%] Retainage” is about \$52,000.

With a generous \$170,000 contribution from the Trustees, we have enough in the Meeting Building Fund to complete and pay for the Phase 1 priority projects – BMH external stairway, BMH access ramp, remodeling BMH2 for FDS and other uses, and Tree Succession Plan (TSP). We are nearly done.



**Testimonies and Concerns –*Paige Tilghman, Jim Altman*
Status on T&C efforts to support Immigrant Populations in our communities**

1. As you are aware, T&C has been working on concerns for our immigrant populations in our community and how we might assist. We learned that two major ways to be useful. They are with food donations and support for citizenship. We explored ways we might provide food purchase and distribution for those afraid to leave their homes. We discovered we could be placing our ourselves and our partners at risk by aiding directly. At our last T&C meeting we proposed: a) ramping up our efforts to supply the Neighborhood Service Center and volunteering on Mondays from 9 to 11 to help distribute food; b) donating \$\$ at the grocery store when you check out; and c) stocking the little mini–Food Stations around town.

2. We visited with Robin Strickoff, a leader of the Immigration Task Force, on 9th month 20 for an update. She informed us that the Immigration Task Force continues to work with the Multi-Cultural Center and is focusing all their efforts on Citizenship Classes. They have offered 4 successfully and just started two new sessions. They have teachers and materials. She reminds us that the path to citizenship in this country is long and requires not only passing the Citizenship test, but also being conversant in English, demonstrating comprehension (including answers to misleading question) and then waiting up to 1 year for the Naturalization Hearing before they are sworn in as citizens.

Robin is embarking on an additional project: "Humanity for Immigrants: Turning Caring into Action," a volunteer nonpartisan group taking action to support the needs of immigrants; to learn, seek and share facts about immigration matters in our community, and to advocate for immigration reform. Robin has requested Third Haven/Testimonies and Concerns join her to receive periodic updates with news of immigration, suggestions for individual and group actions, and to share news of the work of other groups on behalf of immigrants. She is identifying designated members from local faith based organizations to participate. These member groups will inform their communities and be encouraged to submit articles to local publications and to provide. The Humanity for Immigration project requires a gathering place for occasional educational forums for the group. Humanity for Immigrants is requesting the Common Room as a place to host infrequent meetings (with proper notification and reservation and T&C present). **Approved**

We present this matter for your consideration and acknowledge the work of T&C as a partner and host for Humanity for Immigrants.

3. James Altman has this recommendation to share from Philadelphia Meeting suggesting Monthly Meetings seek the following steps to be prepared in the event of ICE enforcement activities affecting them. See the PYM document "What to Do If ICE Shows Up at Your Quaker Meeting," written February 12, 2025.

Third Haven is "protected" by the preliminary injunction the Philadelphia Meeting and others obtained this past winter against some sorts of ICE enforcement on or near Quaker places of worship. However, the Philadelphia Meeting provides guidance for Monthly Meetings to prepare for a potential visit from ICE by taking certain actions.

These include: (1) designating a person or persons to be in charge of interfacing with ICE when ICE enforcers present themselves; (2) understanding how to respond to ICE enforcers and the documents they may present; (3) having a lawyer ready to assist as needed; and (4) understanding and designating which places are "private" and, therefore, off limits to ICE unless it presents a judicial search warrant.

We recommend Third Haven should address these suggestions, in order to be prepared if ICE presents itself at Third Haven.

James has identified and met with Ramon Gras, a local lawyer who specializes in immigration, and Mr. Gras is willing to meet with the appropriate people to assist in determining what spaces Third Haven can designate as "private." He is willing to do so at no charge.

T&C Recommends that James Altman facilitates such a meeting with the Clerk of Meeting, Assistant Clerk/Property and Grounds, custodian, representative of Trustees, and Clerk of T&C

at Third Haven and that we report back to you with about Mr. Gras' findings and invite him to speak to our Third Haven Community about this topic. **Approved**
People shared their experiences with folks seeking citizenship the hurdles they face and our concerns around the immigration issue.

New Business-none

Closing Silent Reflection 12:35 Recording Clerk, D. Rein

Fall Bonfire



The Claggett family hosted a Fall bonfire and quite a few members from Third Haven made the trip! The fire didn't disappoint- it was big and roaring and we enjoyed fellowship and s'mores with the kids during the evening. Thanks to all who came
Susan Claggett



Meredith Watters greets us from her Camino pilgrimage in Spain

The Camino is a network of pilgrimage routes culminating at the Cathedral of Santiago, Spain, where the remains of the apostle ST. James are buried. Historically a Christian pilgrimage began approximately 850 AD, a journey made by millions of people. In 2019 Meredith began walking in Ley Puy en Velely, France and then in Spain on the Frances Route for a total of over 500 miles. This time she chose to begin 4 days past Lisbon on the Central Route to Porto, 2 days on the Coastal Route and then back to Pontevedra, Spain for the Spiritual Route. The Camino provides a strong sense of camaraderie among the many walkers along the way. Carrying a pack and a positive attitude, Meredith is walking 20 miles of rolling countryside per day.



Care Basket thought: Can you get along without toothbrush, toothpaste, band aids, soap, shampoo, or hand sanitizer for a few days? What about a few snacks after school or a warm meal for your family? Every item we donate in the Care Basket at Third Haven is promptly taken to the Neighborhood Service Center and distributed. They understand peoples' needs, and our donations help. Suggested offerings are nonperishable foods and the small necessities of life.



The Worship and Ministry Committee is offering a religious education program on "Faith and Practice at Third Haven Friends Meeting." This 6-session program follows on Quakerism 101 offerings, from time to time in the past. This is a shorter more condensed program, more focused on the life of Third Haven. It may be of interest to more recent members and attenders. The schedule is confirmed:

- Testimonies and witness — Molly Brian, 11.16
- Community — Clinton & Kathryn Pettus, 12.7
- Future of Third Haven Friends Meeting — Clinton Pettus & Tom Corl, 1.4.26

Silent Worship



On October 19th Molly Brian presented a well attended session on silent worship. Employing activities often used to teach our children about silent worship, she elicited participation from those in attendance. This led to heart felt discussion about experiences with silent worship and its importance to us individually and as a community.



Interfaith Thanksgiving Dinner Coalition Last year the Interfaith Coalition delivered 327 meals to Easton area community members. 10 churches, including Third Haven, provide turkey, green beans, sweet potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy and pie to those in need. We need volunteers from Third Haven to sign up to help in a variety of ways: donate prepared food, help serve dinners, and drive to deliver dinners to recipients on Thanksgiving Day. Your continued help is vital to our success. Please sign up in the Common Room or with Amy Kimball.



Thanksgiving Dinner Guidelines

Food should be delivered to **Asbury Methodist Church** (18 S. Higgins St., Easton – **Left rear entrance**) on Thanksgiving morning per your church's time:

8-8:20 a.m.- Bethel AME, Christ Church, Grace Lutheran, Third Haven

8:20-8:40 a.m.- Asbury UM, Trinity Cathedral, Unitarian Universalist

8:40-9 a.m.-Church of Brethren, Scotts UM, St. Marks UM

Servers and Runners are asked to be at this location at 7:30 a.m.

Delivery people should report to the same location at 9:00 a.m.

Sweet Potatoes, String Beans and Stuffing: Fill a **12" x 16" x 3"** (approx size) disposable lasagna type pan with canned/ cooked frozen or your own recipe. **NO NUTS, BACON OR ONIONS, PLEASE.** Food must have been cooked and may be brought either hot or cold. Simple is OK. For stuffing, some people prepare from packaged mix.

Turkeys: Slice all of the meat off of a **cooked 20 lb.** Turkey and place the slices in a 12" x 16" x 3" (approx size) disposable roasting pan.

Pies: Sweet Potato or Pumpkin **large 9"** pies.