



Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington Street

Easton, Maryland 21601

(410) 822-0293

FEBRUARY 2004 NEWSLETTER

Friends are united in stressing that an inward, immediate, and transforming experience of God is central to their faith. They turn to an inner guide or teacher for continuing revelation and direction. Many Friends identify this "Inner Light", "Seed Within," or "Christ Within" (as it has been variously called) with the historic Jesus. Many affirm their acceptance of Jesus Christ is their personal Savior. Others conceive of the inward guide as a universal spirit which was in Jesus in abundant measure and is in everyone to some degree - "that of God in everyone," as George Fox put it, "the light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world." (John 1:9)

Thank You Friends @ Newtown MM

What's New?



At 8:48pm on Friday February 13, 2004, Janet, Hannah, Sarah, and I were joined by a baby boy named Malcolm Whitehill Russell-Hunter. Mother and baby are both doing well. Thank you for your kind thoughts and good wishes. *Perry*

Janet props Malcolm up for a better view of his new world.

Recorder's Report for 2003

As of December 31, 2003 Third Haven has 117 adults, including one who turned 21 during the year. We have 16 minors and no associate members, for a total of 133. We had one death and one resignation. One member transferred in from another meeting and seven became members by application. At year's end in 2002 we had 127 members. So, with a net gain of six the total for this year is 133. The resignation was Marilla McCarthy and the death was Alice Bartlett Lane. The new member by transfer is Jenny Van West. The new members by application are Candace Shattuck, Kate Richards, Nancy and Mike Mullen and their three boys, Jacob, Sam, and Nathan. *Submitted by Janet Whitehill Russell-Hunter, recorder*

Susan Liebman is in need of a small couch and easy chair. If you have or know of one please contact Susan.

Announcements

Clear the basements, attics and garages! A Carriage Sale is being planned by the First-day School. It's a chance to donate all those unused but usable household items, bake a cherry pie, or come shop for some great bargains to the benefit of the First Day School. Contact the clerks of the First Day School to see how you can help out or drop off your donations prior to the sale. See you there.



Lorraine Claggett shops the plant table at a previous Carriage Sale

First day school is still collecting food for the Neighborhood Service Center: staples are preferred, like tuna, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, or canned fruit. We plan a continual response to an ongoing need.

Please remember to make your financial commitment by sending checks to the organizations that work to sustain Quaker vitality:

- 1) Third Haven Monthly Meeting
P.O. 2379, Easton MD 21601
 - 2) The Annual Fund (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting)
1515 Cherry St., Philadelphia PA 19102
 - 3) Friends General Conference
1216 Arch St.#2B, Philadelphia PA 19102
-

Dates to Remember

March 3, 2004 (fourth day) Testimonies & Concerns meets at 4:30 pm

March 7, 2004 (first day) First-day School Committee to follow meeting for worship. All parents and interested parties are welcome.

March 10, 2004 (fourth day) Property and Grounds meets 5pm-6:30 in the Common Room

March 14, 2004 (first day) Meeting for business follows meeting for worship

March 14, 2004 A memorial service for all military and civilians killed in the Invasion of Afganistan and Iraq to be held at Camden Meeting with a vigil to follow at Dover AFB. Time to be announced soon.

March 20, 2004 (sixth day) A protest against the violence of war will be held in Washington, DC. More information will be announced. Camden Meeting is organizing the protest.

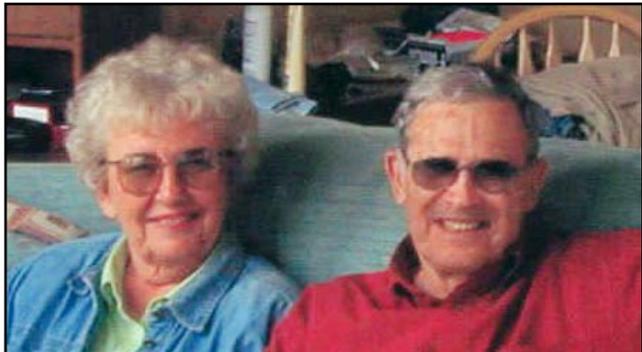
March 21, 2004 Church of the Brethren is having a Peace Sunday, Worship begins at 10 am. The vision of Peace as guided by the teaching of Jesus will be emphasized.

March 25-28. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions. The agenda and registration materials will be mailed around February 24, and are available online at www.pym.org. Registration forms (with a check) should be returned by March 8 to reserve hotel rooms and meal tickets and to allow staff for the Children's and Youth Programs to prepare for the anticipated turnout. There is a Volunteering Form for offering to help out at Sessions.

April 21, 2004 (fourth day) 7-9pm, at the United Unitarian Fellowship in Easton. Guest speaker, Fahima Vorgetts will speak about her native Afghanistan. She will be selling Afgan crafts and objects. Sponsored by the UUFE, Church of the Brethren and Third Haven.

April 24, 2004 (seventh day) 9 am Annual Friends Spruce Up Day (Property & Grounds)

Getting to know a Friend - *Frank and Joyce Zeigler*



Joyce became a member of Third Haven M.M. in 1969, the same year she married her husband, Frank – combining their two families. A native of Queen Anne's County, MD, she was the youngest child in a church-oriented, musical farm family, deeply rooted in the Church of the Brethren. A stay-at-home Mom for many years, she has worked in banking, for the Board of Education, then later in Frank's insurance office.

Always interested in art, Joyce took her first lesson in her late 20's and has a professional career in oil painting with a specialty in nature, animals, birds, seascapes and

landscapes, often painting plein air. She is a member of Traveling Brushes and Oil Painters of America. She loves traveling, birding, canoeing, and exhibiting at art shows with helper Frank. After many years as Third Haven's newsletter editor, she now serves on Property & Grounds and Overseers Committees.

One of a few active senior members (over 50 years) of Third Haven Monthly Meeting, Frank is an Eastern Shore native and a transplant from the Church of the Brethren. As a new member, he had the Clerkship of the M.M. thrust upon him which necessitated quick learning in the ways and organizations of Friends early on. Always fascinated with Friends Committee National Legislation and now also with Quaker Earthcare Witness as ways to let your life speak, he has for the past few years been an active member of the Library and Outreach Committee. He has broad lifetime interests as portrayed by previous occupations – marine engineer, public school teacher, farmer, insurance broker, bed & breakfast innkeeper and his devotion to his oil painting wife Joyce's work and presence. *By Frank & Joyce Zeigler*

Third Haven Friends Meeting Newsletter is printed and/or emailed monthly.

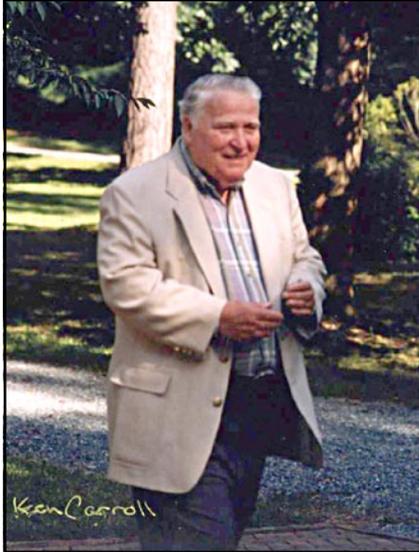
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Ken Carroll's Anglo Irish Quaker Relationships

Although Ken Carroll has visited Quakers on five continents, his favorite Groups are those in Ireland and England. Since his first visit in 1959, he has been to see them more than fifty times –giving lectures, workshops, conducting worship-sharing sessions and family visits etc. The October issue of the Friends House Meeting (London) Newsletter carries a two page “portrait” of Ken. In January, at the request of Irish Friends, he



completed reading and commenting on the current draft of their new Christian Experience (Faith and Practice). On June 24th he will give the lecture sponsored by the Historical Committee of Ireland Yearly Meeting, which will celebrate the 350th anniversary of the coming of Quakerism to Ireland. His topic

will be “William Edmondson Ireland’s First Quaker.” Edmondson came to America twice in the 1670s, and on his 2nd visit (1675-76) was the first to write against slave holding, calling upon those Quakers who held slaves to free them. Ken is president of Friends Historical Association, and past president of Friends Historical Society (UK).

Submitted by Ken Carroll

Thank You Friends:

- John and Heidi Schreiner for hospitality.
- Overseers and Friends for the welcoming luncheon.
- Kate Richards and Rich Yacopino for hospitality.
- John Hawkinson for the Directory.
- Ralph Young for all the wonderful photos.
- John Damm and Nancy Mullen for Newsletter work.
- Anne Williams for Common Room operations.

Have you ever?

continued from last Issue:

- ... invited your friends into your home for an evening of discussion on the ethical, philosophical and religious values of today?
- ... thought through your own beliefs so that you can articulate them if asked?
- ... shared appropriate Quaker literature with a friend in a life crisis?
- ... opened and shared your Quaker quarters for community activities?
- ... sensitized yourself to become aware of the needs and act on that awareness towards the readiness of attenders to become members of meeting?

Submitted by Joyce Zeigler

The Relationship of Legal Marriage to Religious Ceremony

From Annapolis Friends Meeting- Continued from Last Issue:

The Importance Of Obtaining Legal Advice Prior To The Marriage Ceremony;

Although the criteria for legal marriage are simple and straight-forward, the legal implications of marital status so achieved are serious, complicated, arcane, and socially controversial. The legal implications of marriage - I also should note - are evolving and, therefore, somewhat uncertain. Persons contemplating marriage are well-advised to seek competent legal advice.

The caveat to first seek legal advice applies more than equally to same sex couples who wish to enter into

"committed," "permanent" relationships. Some of the legal underpinnings of marriage are available to long-term, same sex relationships. Nevertheless, the legal disabilities confronted by same sex couples, as such, are profound.

Marriages & Same Sex Relationships "Under The Care Of The Meeting": Some Initial Comments.

Recalling the legal history of marriage tends to evoke a sense of God's mystery, irony and humor. I must admit that my initial reaction to the idea of adapting the Quaker marriage ceremony to celebrate the commitment

of same sex couples was: God's will does work in mysterious ways. There is, after all, some irony in God's using an unprogrammed meeting of the Religious Society of Friends to act as legally-authorized "official" clergy of the State of Maryland in ceremonies which legalize heterosexual relationships.

This sense of irony is compounded when one considers that Friends, who generally disavow oaths, sacramental rights and military systems, joyfully participate in marriage ceremonies which, as we have seen, were adopted by the legal systems of our culture from a sacramental rite of medieval Catholicism - a sacramental rite which, in turn, was the early church's adaptation of a Roman military oath in order to better enforce an ancient Judaic code governing acceptable heterosexual activity.

Upon further reflection, however, I came to realize that these small ironies were largely superficial - unexpected twists and adaptations in the form of things, not in the substance. At a deeper level, by reflecting upon the subject of marriage, we are offered important insights into the relationship between social order and personal love: the relationship between the ceremony which creates legally recognized marital status and the resulting marital relationship "under the care of the Meeting".

Most persons who marry are in love, but the legal institution of marriage does not require love and is concerned, primarily, with duty and with the social order. Nevertheless, the law's articulation and enforcement of duty, and the security derived from the legal order, are important foundations upon which legally married couples may build and maintain loving family relationships.

When the Religious Society of Friends takes a marriage "under the care of the meeting", the Meeting is helping to establish the legal foundation for the marriage. The Meeting is also operating in the spiritual context of a higher and quite different system - a system of ideas and personal relationships which seeks to solve (not merely to resolve) the problems of life through loving acknowledgment of that of God in every person.

Since Friends are denied the legal authority to provide same sex couples with the public acknowledgment and legally enforceable security of marital status, it is the ideals, support and personal relationships available "under the care of the Meeting" which Friends may

contribute to the long-term success of same sex relationships.

Marriages & Same Sex Relationships "Under The Care Of Meeting: " Contrasting Legal Situations

For the last three decades, the traditional law of marriage and the family has been under siege. The legal institution of marriage has been transformed. The resulting legal structure offers greater liberty and fairness for the affluent, less security for the less affluent, and less predictability and order for all married people.

During the same three decades, gay and lesbian citizens have achieved some geographic pockets of public acknowledgment (primarily in urban areas), antidiscrimination laws in some areas (e.g., employment), and some transformation in public attitudes (especially among better educated heterosexuals). Nevertheless, when compared to the foundation which the law offers married couples, same sex couples labor under profound and pervasive legal disabilities.

For example, by the simple public act of marrying, men and women achieve a substantial package of rights and duties which, collectively, provide support and predictability to their marital relationship:

- (1) legal recognition of their sexual union,
- (2) legal enforcement of their mutual obligation to financially support each other,
- (3) automatic guardianship and custody of the children of that union,
- (4) improved ability to adopt the children of others,
- (5) legal enforcement of their mutual obligation to support their children,
- (6) legal recognition of the confidentiality and the constitutional sanctity and importance of their marriage,
- (7) insurable interests in each other's lives,
- (8) next-of-kin status in the event of medical emergencies, and,
- (9) in the event of a death, the right to one-half of each other's estate.

In the event that marital discord develops, the law makes it difficult to terminate the marital union, provides - where needed - for continuing financial support during a period of readjustment, adjusts inequities in the parties' wealth, allocates the parties' rights and duties with respect to children of the marriage, and retains legal jurisdiction

over the custody, care and financial support of those children until they attain the age of majority.

In comparison, by the simple mechanism of denying the legal validity of same sex marriages, the law of Maryland denies to same sex couples all of the automatic stability and legal support I have noted.

For same sex couples, legal toleration of their private sexual behavior is not the same thing as legal support for and acknowledgment of their public relationships. Although the law may respect the constitutional privacy of their homes, when same sex couples come out into the daylight, the couple is legally invisible.

As individuals, same sex partners may lawfully contract, establish joint trust bank accounts for their mutual security and benefit, jointly purchase and hold real estate with mutual rights of survivorship, appoint each other their respective medical agents with authority to grant or withhold informed consent, provide for each other's well-being by gift or deed or will, and undertake most of the legal strategies which heterosexual lovers utilize. Therefore, when I assert that the same sex couple is "legally invisible", I am emphasizing the fact that it is the same sex relationship which is denied legal recognition, not the same sex partners as individuals.

Married couples increasingly utilize these legal tools, in part, because they have concluded that the security and support provided by marital status is inadequate, uncertain, or both. The increased utilization of prenuptial agreements, for example, recalls the utilization of marriage contracts in ancient Rome prior to the institution of sacramental marriage.

Unmarried couples committed to a permanent, loving relationship can and should consider these legal tools because the security of legal marriage is unavailable. In fact, except in those instances where each person is financially self-sufficient, the unmarried couple's failure to consider and implement a plan of mutual financial security may indicate that their commitment to a "permanent" relationship is less than total.

In this context, I should note that the law provides assurance that basic, contractual (civil) rights will be enforced between same sex couples only by avoiding any formal recognition that an intimate, physical relationship of the parties is the cause of their agreement. Plainly stated, an otherwise lawful agreement is not

made unenforceable simply because the parties are not heterosexual; nor is that agreement made unenforceable simply because the parties are engaged in a same sex relationship involving physical intimacy. In contrast, however, an agreement in which one person is promised financial benefit in exchange for or because of legally proscribed physical intimacy is not legally enforceable.

In the terms of the law, marriage (with its inherent legal duties and its implicit sexual element) is valid "consideration" for legally enforceable agreements. Sex outside of marriage, is not legally recognized consideration for anyone's contracts in this state. In Maryland, an agreement conditioned upon a sexual relationship outside of marriage would be held by our courts to be "void as against public policy."

"Don't ask, don't tell" is not merely the position of the United States military establishment, it is the position of Maryland contractual law.

Marriages & Same Sex Relationships "Under The Care Of The Meeting"

Friends approve, in principle, ceremonies of commitment for same sex couples. We affirm the goodness of committed loving relationships and offer recognition and support to those who share this ideal and desire to enter into a permanent relationship based upon it. We still need to clarify what "under the care of meeting" means for marriage and ceremonies of commitment.

Faith and Practice (BYM, 1988) declares that "Members or non-members may marry under the care of a Monthly Meeting, if applicable law permits. The couple should be aware that the loving concern of the Meeting continues beyond the wedding itself." (F&P, 62).

For a couple permitted by law to marry, the procedure includes: consideration of the questions set forth in Appendix F.1 (F&P, 77) prior to application to the Monthly Meeting for marriage under its care. The written application, signed by both, requesting the Meeting's oversight of the marriage (F&P, 62).

Creation of a clearness committee by the Overseers (Pastoral Care Committee) to meet with the couple and inquire into their clearness for marriage in accordance with the committee's duties set forth in Appendix F.2 (F&P, 79). The report of the clearness committee to

the Pastoral Care Committee, which brings a recommendation to the Monthly Meeting for Business (F&P, 62).

If the Monthly Meeting approves the marriage, a special committee of oversight is appointed to arrange and oversee the wedding. "Those appointed also accept personal responsibility for representing the Meeting's continuing concern for the marriage and, as far as possible, remaining in touch with the couple following the wedding." (F&P, 62, 80-84).

The care of the Meeting, it seems, includes the process by which the couple finally determines to marry, includes the Meeting's approval of the marriage and the ceremony itself, and continues throughout the married life of the couple.

Marriage

As this short review of the law of marriage has revealed, Maryland law delegates to the Meeting the authority to transform the marital status of persons eligible to marry. The civil law reserves to our legislative authorities the determination of who is eligible to marry. By custom and statute, that civil determination limits legally valid marriage to a relationship between a man and a woman. There are technical licensing and recording requirements which the parties and the Meeting are legally obligated to follow, but it is the marriage ceremony which is the fundamental, legally enabling act by which persons may attain marital status under the law.

The rules and customs of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, as set forth in Faith and Practice, are legally sufficient to assure compliance with Maryland law. Faith and Practice accepts the reservation of civil authority to determine eligibility for marriage by its declaration:

"Members or non-members may marry under the care of a Monthly Meeting, if applicable law permits...."

Although Annapolis Monthly Meeting may marry any persons legally eligible to enter marital status, the Meeting is not required to marry anyone.

On a situation by situation basis, the Meeting, acting at a Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, must achieve unity that the Meeting is called to take the requested marriage "under the care of the Meeting".

In those situations where the Meeting does find unity in

"approving" a requested marriage, the Meeting is entering into two commitments, one legal and the other spiritual in nature. The legal commitment is to oversee the ceremony by which the celebrants will achieve the legal status of marriage. The spiritual commitment is to offer the Meeting's "continuing concern" for the marriage in the future.

This spiritual commitment of the Meeting to a marriage is requested by the marrying couple and accepted by the Meeting. The commitment includes mutual obligations on the part of the couple and the Meeting; but these "obligations" are not a legally binding contract. Rather, they seem to constitute a form of spiritual bond between the couple and the Meeting. As I have contrasted the two different levels of the Meeting's commitment: when the Religious Society of Friends takes a marriage "under the care of the meeting", the Meeting is helping to establish the legal foundation for the marriage. The Meeting is also operating in the spiritual context of a higher and quite different system - a system of ideas and personal relationships which seeks to solve (not merely to resolve) the problems of life through loving acknowledgment of that of God in every person. The Meeting is now considering how better to fulfill its spiritual role in marriage.

Same Sex Relationships Of Commitment

As I have noted, the Maryland Legislature has acted to expressly limit the legal status of marriage to relationships between men and women. Same sex couples are not legally eligible to marry, and Annapolis Monthly Meeting is not legally authorized to perform "marriage" ceremonies for them. Since the Clerk of Court will not issue a marriage license to same sex couples (FL, 2-405(f)), and since it is a misdemeanor in Maryland to "...perform a marriage ceremony without a license..." (FL, 2-406(e)), Ceremonies of Commitment should not even purport to "marry" same sex couples.

I have also noted that, since Friends are denied the legal authority to provide same sex couples with the public acknowledgment and legally enforceable security of marital status, it is the ideals, support and personal relationships available "under the care of the Meeting" which Friends may contribute to the long-term success of same sex relationships. This is not to suggest, however, that the absence of a predetermined legal structure for same sex relationships should be ignored by the couple,

or by the Meeting, when the Meeting is considering whether to take a same sex relationship of commitment "under the care of the meeting". To the contrary, the absence of the mutual security structure provided by the law to married couples will present major practical concerns for a same sex couple and, indirectly, for the Meeting which takes their relationship under its continuing care and concern. The couple should be strongly counseled to create such a structure for themselves.

Contractual measures of mutual security and support are available to same sex couples, although they may not utilize their physical relationship as a precondition to or basis for those agreements. Because the law denies same sex couples the legal security of marriage (such as it is), and because same sex couples are likely to face societal resistance to their relationships, contractual measures of mutual security may be more important for same sex couples than for married couples.

A same sex couple's consideration and implementation of a regime of mutual, contractual security would be a tangible manifestation of their loving commitment to a permanent loving relationship. Since love seems to grow better in a garden of mutual security, contractual measures of mutual security further the relationship by compensating, in part, for the law's failure to provide marital security. In those circumstances where, despite the couple's best initial intentions and subsequent effort, a parting becomes necessary, a contractual regime of mutual security between them would also further the Friendly advice that the couple "...should work for an amicable parting, avoiding if possible adversarial proceedings." (F&P, 20).

The Meeting should not attempt to give the couples legal advice but, rather, to identify qualified legal counsel willing to assist same sex couples on an ability-to-pay basis.

Faith and Practice does not consider Ceremonies of Commitment for same sex couples. It does have something to say, however, about the Meeting's attitude toward atypical family relationships (F&P, 18-19):

Friends have a loving concern for the varieties of supportive relationships that exist. We realize that the range of long-term mutual commitments is now wider than traditionally accepted. Our Meeting communities now include persons living alone, two-parent families,

married and unmarried couples, homosexual and heterosexual couples, single adults or extended families sharing a household, and larger communal groups. At present [1988] Friends are divided on the wisdom or rightness of some of these relationships. Nevertheless, we recognize that there are many kinds of living situations in which individuals have made long-term commitments to each other and in which a caring, sharing, supportive relationship can grow. We are all called to make our primary relationships responsible, loving, mutually enabling, and spiritually enriching....

Our Meetings and communities are composed of persons who live in many kinds of home situations. All of us as individuals, as well as our Meetings collectively, need to create an atmosphere that is accepting, supportive and caring toward all the persons in our midst, whatever their domestic groupings, enabling all of us to grow and share with each other.

By the statement of principles set forth in its March 5th minutes, Annapolis Monthly Meeting affirmed that committed, loving, and permanent same sex relationships are "good," and began a process of creating an atmosphere which is accepting, loving and caring toward same sex partners. The same minutes recognized that same sex relationships are not "marriage" in the legal sense of the term. Nevertheless, the Meeting also recognized that some same sex relationships should involve the Meeting, through a process of clearness and unity...

Also implicit in this recognition, however, is that same sex couples confront a social and legal reality which is different from that enjoyed by married couples. As a result, the "care of the Meeting" appropriate to same sex relationships of commitment may differ, somewhat, from that accorded marriages.

I hope that this legal analysis, general though it is, will help the Pastoral Care Committee as it works to fulfill its assignment. I am willing to provide further consultation if requested to do so. In peace, Michael A. Christianson.

*By Michael A. Christianson of Annapolis Friends Meeting
Presented by Marcia Ormsby. -Submitted by the Editor*

A Friend has presented an article about the affect of same gender marriage on Scandinavian families after ten years of legalization. It is under review.

Third Haven Friends Meeting - Minutes of the Meeting for Business 2nd Month 8th, 2004

Attending – Ken Carroll, Larny Claggett, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Mary Cotton, Peter Curtis, Joe Davis, Doreen Getsinger, John Hawkinson, Marsie Hawkinson, Ginger Howell, Cathy Marvel, Bob Marshall, Valerie Mazur, Mike Mullen, Nancy Mullen, Sumner Parker, Peggy Paul, Dee Rein, Anne Rouse, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck, Norval Thompson, Ebo Thorbas, Jennifer Van West, Peggy Walbert, Meredith Watters, Heidi Wetzell, Ann Williams and Ralph Young. The Meeting opened with a period of silent worship. Marsie Hawkinson clerked the meeting for business.

2nd query -- During meeting for worship, Bob Marshall read an introduction to the queries and the 2nd query on the meeting for business. A Friend said that the query reminded him that the opportunity for personal transformation can help the Meeting overcome institutional inertia and make needed changes. Another Friend suggested that decision making in the manner of Friends, seeking clearness and unity as led by the Spirit, is a gift from the Religious Society of Friends to those who learn it. This Friend spoke of working with Friends and others from different faith traditions on the Sidwell Friends School Board of Trustees, who shared a commitment to and continue to learn from decision making in the manner of Friends.

Minutes of the 1st month 10th meeting for business

– with the addition of names of people attending, the Meeting APPROVED the minutes of the 1st month 10th meeting for business.

Clerk's items – Clerk Marsie Hawkinson proposed that the annual report to the Meeting from Overseers be move from 12th month to 1st month. 12th month has the annual report from the Worship and Ministry Committee and the final Nominating Committee report. The Meeting APPROVED moving the annual report from Overseers to 1st month.

The Philadelphia Yearly Meeting annual sessions will be 3rd month 25th – 28th at 4th and Arch Street Meetinghouse. PYM would like to have volunteers from Third Haven to assist in the in the dining room and serve as ushers on the 27th. Friends should contact Marsie Hawkinson to volunteer. On 2nd month 22nd, Overseers will host the annual new members and attenders lunch. That same day the Southern Quarterly Meeting planning Committee will meet at Third Haven. The Clerk encouraged better coordination on scheduling, to avoid such double bookings. On 4th month 25th, 2 outreach staff from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting will come to visit Third Haven. On 8th month 13th, a family and Friends from Friends Meeting of Washington (Florida Avenue) has asked to hold a meeting for worship at 4:00 pm in the old meetinghouse at Third Haven. This meeting for worship is related to a wedding that will take place elsewhere. The Meeting APPROVED this meeting for worship.

Treasurer's report -- Treasurer Joe Davis reported that in 1st month, the Meeting received income of \$240 and had expenses of \$3,470 for net income of negative \$3231. Such is customary for 1st month. The new heat pump for the common room cost \$1747 paid in 1st month. For the 7 months' year to date, the Meeting had income of \$33,089 and expenses of \$23,293, for a net income of \$9796. The total current financial assets are \$66,455, with liabilities of \$4557. The Meeting has \$total equity of 61,898. The Treasurer purchased a \$40,000 certificate of deposit (CD) from Queenstown Bank, which can be cashed without penalty. This will produce about \$1200 in income. The present account produced only \$285 in interest this year. The Meeting APPROVED the Treasurer's report and thanked him for his good work. A Friend thanked the Treasurer for all of his help.

Finance – Larny Claggett, Clerk of the Budget and Finance Committee asked committees and clerks to plan ahead and report to the Committee if expenses will exceed the budget in any substantial way.

Recorder's annual report – Janet Russell Hunter submitted the Recorder's annual report for 2003 to Clerk Marsie Hawkinson. The Recorder's report is attached and will be published in the *Newsletter*. The Meeting will approve the 2003 Recorder's annual report at the next meeting for business. Clerk Marsie Hawkinson announced that Pinney Claggett will serve as the Third Haven Recorder for 2004.

Worship and Ministry – Bob Marshall, Clerk of the Worship and Ministry Committee reported that he had met with Overseers and the 2 committee are exploring opportunities for a jointly sponsored worship sharing on love. The 2 committees are also considering arrangements for greeting visitors and addressing their questions about Third Haven and the Religious Society of Friends. They will coordinate with the Library and Outreach Committee. Worship and Ministry Committee is considering further adult religious education and will coordinate with the First-day School Committee on program content and childcare. The Committee is discussing the survey questionnaire from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting for Meeting use; this continues under consideration. The Communications Committee offered to e-mail the instrument to members and attends for information only, not for response at this point. Finally, the Worship and Ministry Committee will continue to consider how the Committee's roles, functions and work can best serve Third Haven. The Committee will review the guidance in PYM *Faith and Practice* and assess eldering at Third Haven.

Overseers – Anne Rouse reported that Overseers will sponsor the annual lunch for new members and attenders on 2nd month 22nd. J. O. K. Walsh of the Caroline Historical Society will speak. Overseers will call Friends about what to bring. Overseers will meet next on 2nd month 29th

Anne Rouse reported a clearness committee had met with the couple and approved the wedding of Nora Caldwell, the granddaughter of Jane Caldwell, and Greg Wojcikewych, under the care of the Meeting at Third Haven on 4th month 10th. Susan Claggett and Irene Williams will serve as Overseers for this wedding. The Meeting APPROVED this wedding under the care of the Meeting.

Clerk Marsie Hawkinson read a report from Joyce Zeigler, stating that the clearness committee for membership consisting of Monimia Barker, Nancy Mullen and Joyce Zeigler had met with Cathy Marvel, on 2nd month 4th. The clearness committee strongly recommended and the Meeting APPROVED Cathy Marvel for membership in Third Haven Friends Meeting. The Meeting welcomed her with enthusiasm. Paige Bethke (convenor), Valerie Mazur and Candace Shattuck will serve as the welcoming committee.

Anne Rouse reported that the clearness committee for membership consisting of Doreen Getsinger, Anne Rouse, and Norval Thompson had met with Ginger Howell. The clearness committee strongly recommended and the Meeting APPROVED Ginger Howell for membership in Third Haven Friends Meeting. The Meeting welcomed her with enthusiasm as well. Meredith Watters (convenor), Mary Cotton, Paige Bethke and Tom Corl will serve as the welcoming committee. The Meeting noted its joy in welcoming new members to Third Haven.

Property and Grounds – John Schreiner, Clerk of the Property and Grounds Committee reported that the heat pump in the common room had been replaced and the water heater repaired. He noted Laura Bode will donate a tractor mower to the Meeting. This replacement is much needed and a significant contribution to and savings for the Meeting. The outdoor lighting will be repaired. Beginning at 9:00 am on 4th month 24th, the Meeting will hold its annual spring clean up day. The Property and Grounds Committee will meet next 3rd month 10th, at 5:00 pm.

First-day School – Candace Shattuck Co-Clerk of the Committee reported that the First Day School is using a new curriculum, “Growing in the Light: Understanding Quakerism Today”. The Committee is making changes to accommodate the availability of certain teachers. At the last meeting, the Committee discussed how to teach our children about outreach and service to others in need. The Committee feels the lessons should be more about outreach and service than fund-raising. The Committee offered to involve the children and lead the work for the next carriage shed sale. There followed considerable favorable discussion about this proposal and about how the proceeds may be distributed. Some Friends noted the experience of past sales and how proceeds were used. The First-day School Committee proposed and the Meeting then APPROVED the following minute:

The First Day School Committee will involve the

children and lead the work on the next carriage shed sale, scheduled for 5th month 22nd. The Committee will bring a proposal to the meeting for business about how the proceeds should be distributed, prior to the sale. The Committee will invite the children to participate in discernment about the distribution of the proceeds, and welcomes the suggestions of other committees and Third Haven Friends about the distribution of proceeds.

The Committee may bring guidance to the Meeting about the goods to be accepted and the conduct of the sale, consistent with the forthcoming date and the effort involved with the children in the carriage shed sale.

***Though to be led by the First-day School Committee, the carriage shed sale is a Meeting project and all Friends will need to help out as they can. The Meeting noted its appreciation to the First-day School for this undertaking, leadership by example and what this can teach our children.

Library and Outreach – Valerie Mazur reported for Frank Zeigler, Clerk of the Library and Outreach Committee. The Committee would like to show a film on nuclear disarmament. The Committee will determine as date and time for the viewing.

Testimonies and Concerns – Valerie Mazur reported for the Testimonies and Concerns Committee. Third Haven and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will jointly sponsor an Afghan speaker, Fahima Vorgetts, on 4th month 21st at 7:00 pm, with Afghan crafts for sale. The Committee is encouraging members and attenders to provide brief biographical sketches for inclusion in the *Newsletter*, which will enable members of our community to get to know one another better. Examples appear in the *Newsletter*. Friends should give their profiles to the Communications Committee.

Hospitality – Ann Williams reminded Friends to record all meetings and planned uses of the common room on the calendar to avoid conflicts in scheduling.

Other business -- Southern Quarterly Meeting met on 1st month 18th at Chester River Friends Meeting, with 5 Third Haven Friends attending.

Ralph Young has taken a number of excellent photographs of the meetinghouse and grounds, which he will enlarge and print for Friends. He will make a portfolio available for viewing. Friends who request photos would in turn make some charitable contribution. A Friend noted that these photos can be used for outreach and to represent the Meeting beyond the area.

The final date for additions and corrections to the Meeting directory will be 2nd month 15th. Friends can make changes on the yellow board in the common rooms or contact John Hawkinson.

Closing -- The meeting for business closed in silent worship.

*Respectfully submitted, Tom Corl, Recording Clerk,
Third Haven Friends Meeting*



Meeting for Worship
Sundays 10-11 AM
Wednesdays 5:30 - 6:00 PM
Everyone Welcome
