



Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington Street

Easton, Maryland 21601

(410) 822-0293

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March 2009 NEWSLETTER

A Shelter Story Or Food for the Soul

An overnight guest arrived at the shelter a cold night in January to be greeted by the redolent aroma of the hot dinner prepared by Easton Church of the Brethren folks. Sitting at the table she was quiet. And then, “I think that food must be love”, she said. People feed us every night, she went on, I feed my cats and the mother cat feeds her young. “And it’s all done in love”.

Story reported by Gwen Beegle

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Business Minutes for the 2nd Month, 2009

1. Call to order: John Schreiner, Clerk of Meeting, called to order the meeting for business at 11:35AM after a brief period of silent worship. The Clerk made note that 32 people were in attendance for business meeting and 70 people were in attendance at worship.
2. Attending: Monimia Barker, Leonard Baynham, Paige Bethke, Denny Bliss, Molly Burgoyne, Lorraine Claggett, Tom Corl, Mary Cotton, Leigh Anne Dodge, Jamie duHoffman, Robert Gladney, Doreen Getsinger, Marsie Hawkinson, Connie Lewis, Lila Line, Joyce Macijeski, Bob Marshall, Nancy Mullen, Clay Owens, Jim Paul, Peggy Paul, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck, Cathy Thompson, Norval Thompson, Sally Vermilye, Peggy Walbert, Meredith Watters, Rob Wieland, Ann Williams, John Winterbottom, Winslow Womack.
3. Minutes: After adding Monimia Barker’s name to the list of attending, the minutes were approved from the 1st month.
4. Query: The Query “Spiritual Nurture, Ministry and Religious Education” was read during meeting for worship.
5. SQM: SQM will be hosted by THFM on May 17th, 2009. Mary Cotton presented ideas for a program centering on a kickoff celebration for the 325th anniversary. Suggestions included music, art, a timeline, a program for First Day children as well as a “Faith in Play” presentation. All of these good ideas were discussed with enthusiasm. Mary will plan on holding a meeting for those interested in helping her formulate these many thoughts into a doable program. Please email her at maryfcotton@gmail.com if you would like to participate.

6. P & G: Clay Owens presented his report on our sound system. For those who were unaware, we have four microphones on the walls which transmit sound to those with hearing difficulties through special headsets. It seems that a mouse has chewed through our power supply and the power supply must be replaced. Although not an item of great expense, the replacement unit has been difficult to find. Once the part is found however, Clay assures us that getting the system back in working order will not be too difficult and we should be able to use it for those who have a difficult time hearing all vocal ministries given.

7. Recorder's Annual Report: (see attached report) Candace Shattuck along with Marsie Hawkinson have been trying to update our records. They will be going through our membership to update each file. As the report reflects, our membership grew last year. From earlier records of PYM we know the following; in 1989 we had 131 members, in 1998 we had 123 members and in 2008 we have 140 members. A Friend remarked that the records held in Annapolis need to be placed on disks. Records from each individual meeting are published each year by PYM.

8. Clerk's Correspondence: A transfer of membership letter from the Dillsburg, PA Meeting for John Winterbottom was read and given to the Recorder for proper transference. The Recorder will write a letter back to the Dillsburg Meeting. A welcoming committee is being formed and will include John Schreiner, Ralph Young and Paige Bethke.

9. SQM for business: Peggy Walbert reported on the recent SQM for business on January 18th. Five members of THFM attended. This meeting covers the health of the 4 Meetings comprising the SQM: Third Haven, Camden, Chester River and Wicomico Friends Meetings. Camden has two meetings for worship on First Day; one at Camden, another at Cadbury. THFM discussed Quaker Quest and Camden Meeting expressed interest in this. Wicomico, Camden and THFM are participating in homeless shelter activities this winter and shared experiences and concerns. PYM has sent out a survey asking various meetings what topics are of importance to them. Homelessness, racial equity and justice and simplicity were topics discussed that are of interest to all in SQM. A Friend requested contact names of those in other meetings dealing with the homeless shelters so that more ideas may be shared.

10. T & C: a) Racial equality and injustice will be addressed in the near future by a special speaker at THFM. The time for this will be announced in the newsletter and members of SQM invited. b) All is going well with the AVP. Participants again thanked the Meeting for its support. c) After a request for community donations was made at last month's meeting for business, the T&C committee convened to decide disbursement of the funds. Each of the community soup kitchens; Ashbury United Methodist, Scotts Methodist and Bethel AME churches received \$200. Talbot Interfaith Shelter received \$400. Some of this money has already been used to pay for a family of four to live at the Comfort Inn. The Neighborhood Service Center received \$2000. A request was made to T&C to keep up with these organizations to find out how the money has been spent. The committee was congratulated on their prompt work during hard economic times. d) The shelter for the homeless was housed at THFM for one week during January. We had 2 guests. We have been asked to host for another week in March beginning March 15th. Our Meeting had approved hosting two weeks at an earlier meeting. Schedulers were asked to make sure there is no conflict with the new members and attenders

luncheon held around that time. Extended hours for the shelter are being held at THFM during the cold weather. We have volunteers present in the Common Room from 7-10AM and 3-6PM. A combination lock is now on the Common Room. Friends needing access to the Common Room are asked to call the Websters, John Schreiner or members of P&G. e) A guest will speak next First Day at rise of meeting on his recent experience in the Middle East. Please check details in the newsletter. F) Friends will also be working on letters to the legislature for abolishment of the death penalty.

11. Quaker Quest: A Consultation Day regarding Quaker Quest will be held from 9:30 to 3:30 on April 11th at THFM for preparation and discussion of future activities. Those who have previously been to such a workshop said that it is very valuable and encouraged all members and attenders to come and participate.

12. Agenda next meeting: a) A request was made to add something to the newsletter to keep all informed on what's happening to people's children as they grow up and go out of "the nest". A suggested title for these entries was "Have You Heard?" b) W&M members will be contacting members to get input on what the committee can do to help nurture the spiritual journey of all who attend THFM.

Meeting for business was adjourned at 12:50PM after a brief silence.

Respectfully submitted, Molly Burgoyne

Journey of Faith

Ralph Young joined members at the Rise of Meeting on First Day to share his faith journey, part of the continuing series presented by members under the auspices of Worship and Ministry Committee.





Lunch, Talk and Fellowship on the Palestinian/Israeli conflict sponsored by the Testimonies and Concerns Committee.

Third Haven Monthly Meeting Announcements for week of March 1, 2009

Meetings for Worship

Friends are reminded that Meeting begins with the first person to arrive.

Please join in the silence.

First Days 10am Fourth Days 5:30pm

March 4

March 8

March 11

March 15

March 18

- March 7 (Saturday) 10am - All clerks meeting in the common room.

March 8 (the second Sunday) Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 am. Meeting for business will follow meeting for worship.

March 11 (Wednesday) 1 pm, THE GARDEN CLUB OF THE EASTERN SHORE presents DR. ROBERT SHEDLOCK, U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologist in a slide and lecture presentation entitled "THE HEALTH OF AQUIFERS ON THE EASTERN SHORE". This presentation will be at the Academy Art Museum in Easton, and is free and open to the public.

For Information call: Posey Boicourt 410-476-3645

Joe Davis writes, " For those of you who don't know, Lila turned 85 yesterday. Envoy nursing home called today to let me know that Lila is being moved to room 517, "a little bit more cheerier room" according to the lady who called." New address for Lila is 420 Colonial Drive, Denton, MD.

March 8 (Sunday) TALBOT COUNTY EMPTY BOWLS PROJECT

Please join us for the first Talbot County Empty Bowls fundraiser. This event, combining good food and local artists, will raise both awareness of and money for Talbot County food pantries. This community meal will be held on Sunday, March 8 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Easton (on the westbound lane of Rt. 50, west of the Maryland State Police barrack).

In exchange for your \$20, you will receive a meal of home-cooked soup and the handmade bowl in which it is served. Every penny raised by the Empty Bowls event will be donated to local food pantries. During the meal, a representative from a local food pantry will talk about how these social service organizations are being challenged to meet the increasing need for food.

To reserve your place at the Empty Bowls table, mail a check for \$20 per person to the Mid-Shore Community Foundation, 102 E. Dover St., Easton, MD 21601. Make checks payable to Mid-Shore/Empty Bowls and please include your phone number. For ticket availability, call Jane Johnson at 410-820-5115, or Lori Wadsworth at 410-463-0027.

HOW ELSE CAN I HELP?

Make a tax deductible donation. Since seating at the Empty Bowls meal is limited to 100, anyone who cannot attend is invited to send a tax deductible donation for the cause to the Mid-Shore Community Foundation, payable to Mid Shore/Empty Bowls.

- March 15 to 21. A great thanks to all those who participated during the first week Third Haven hosted the Talbot Interfaith Shelter. We will be hosting for our second week in March from the 15th through the 21st. I will be working on scheduling volunteers for that week. Jobs range from overnight hosts, meal prep, intake/greeters and various others. Please contact me if you can contribute in any way. Blessings, Jamie du Hoffmann - 410-713-4082
jduhoffmann2@washcoll.edu

March 22 (Sunday) **Annual New Members and Attenders Luncheon** honoring as our guests all new members and all attenders follows meeting for worship in the common room; please bring a vegetable, salad, or dessert. Join the celebration!

April 11 (Saturday) **Quaker Quest Consultation Day** at Third Haven. A five hour workshop on how to reach seekers in a genuine and effective way. 9:30 am to 3:30 pm (including lunch) in the common room, led by experienced hands from PYM. This will be our chance to experience how Quaker Quest can work and to determine which direction we as a meeting want to head. A must-make event for dedicated members and attenders.

Each Thursday evening from 5 to 5:30, there join us for a Silent Peace Vigil in front of the courthouse on Washington St. Weather conditions have not interfered with the vigil. Many signs are available or bring your own. Join this protest to support the cause of non-violence in the world.

Volunteers are needed to continue the library program at the Talbot County Detention Center. Contact Leigh Ann Dodge: 410-822-5998

PYM Interim Meeting will now be held on the second Saturday of each month from 9:30am - 1pm. The next meeting will be on Saturday, March 14, 2009. If anyone is interested in going along, please contact one of the Third Haven representatives, Marsie Hawkinson, or Cathy and Norval Thompson.

The primary food pantry in Easton at the Neighborhood Service Center is in need. In the past year, the growing number of families served each week by the pantry has doubled to 150. Several faith communities in Easton are regularly collecting non-perishables for this pantry. On a bench along the east side of the common room is a plastic container marked "Third Haven Food Bank for the Neighborhood Service Center". It is hoped that members and attenders will bring at least one non-perishable each time they attend a Meeting for Worship.

- Announcements and text for the newsletter may be sent by e-mail to hawkjm@goeaston.net Please let us know if you have moved: e-mail and other address changes are always welcome at this address.

- <http://www.thirdhaven.org/> is your website - what would you like added that is not there? -Do you have a message that should be included?

REMINDERS

To contribute to our meeting please address your contribution to Third Haven Monthly Meeting, and mail to Third Haven Treasurer, PO Box 2379, Easton, MD 21601

To contribute to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Annual Fund (mention Third Haven) mail to PYM Development Office, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

- DATES FOR 2009

March 27 to 29, 2009 for the March sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to be held at the Arch Street Meeting House

May 17, 2009 - Third Haven Monthly Meeting will host Southern Quarterly Meeting as part of the celebration of our 325th anniversary.

July 29 to August 2, 2009 for the PYM summer sessions at DeSales University.

June 27-July 4, 2009 - Friends General Conference "Wings of Joy. Fire of Love" is the theme for the 2009 held in Blacksburg, VA. If you are interested in attending, please speak to Susan Claggett about early sign ups and financial aid. She plans to drive there this summer.

- COMPLETE TEXT MATERIAL - updated February 15, 2009 features coming events listed by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and other major Quaker organizations which may be found on the Third Haven Website, <http://www.thirdhaven.org/> click on Complete Text Material on the home page. Find more information at www.pym.org

Third Haven Friends Meeting -Library and Outreach Committee 2008 Report to the Meeting for Business First Month, Eleventh Day

The Library and Outreach Committee as been active on several fronts in 2008. First, as part of a request from the Clerk of Monthly Meeting, the Committee has been reviewing the large amount of print materials being sent to the Meeting and various committees. It is observed that multiple copies of announcements and other materials appear to be addressed to Third Haven, and the process for distribution is not clear on consistent. In addition, the Committee is considering ways to reduce redundant materials through having duplicate addresses removed from mailing lists, and working with Committee clerks to determine a better distribution system of incoming materials.

On a related issue, the Committee is reviewing options for the display of information related to Committees and other topics of interest to members and attenders, that could make more efficient use of Common Room space and encourage both the reading and refreshing of information being posted. Options and costs are now being reviewed.

In service of the members and attenders, the Committee has also discussed several additional ideas for consideration, including an annual Third Haven Book Event – with members and attenders, including First Day School, all reading the same book, and then sponsor several opportunities in which to discuss it. This may be enfolded into the Quaker Quest plans.

The Committee through Frank Zeigler's efforts, was able to have addition shelving installed in the Common Room coatroom, and as a result moved much of the 'older' materials that had been on the northern side of the Brick Meetinghouse bookshelves, freeing up space for other uses. The Committee reminds the Meeting that it has already been in touch with other libraries and institutions regarding housing these books, and that what remains in our collection are those that are not in 'demand'.

Several Outreach activities were undertaken this year including our annual open-house on Waterfowl Festival weekend. This year attendance by visitors was down, and plans for next year include approaching the Waterfowl Festival planners to include mention of Third Haven, the possibility of advertising in Festival publications, designing outdoor signage and posters [for multiple uses beyond open house].

The Committee is very excited by the opportunities that the Quaker Quest program will offer the Meeting - an opportunity for Outreach and "Inreach" in the coming year. Members of the Committee have attended several of the workshops and presentations, and look forward to supporting the Meeting's involvement this year.

Third Haven's 325th Anniversary [2009], will be an aspect of cross-committee collaboration, and we expect be bringing forward ideas for consideration of the Meeting as a whole shortly.

The Committee looks forward to 2009 for renewed energy and activities. The Clerk thanks the members of the Committee who have volunteered their time this year.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Cotton, Clerk, Library and Outreach.

Third Haven Friends Meeting- Membership Recorder's Annual Report for 2008

Background The function of the Membership Recorder is to record membership information for the Monthly Meeting and to serve as a conduit for that information to the Yearly Meeting. Although the titles are similar, the Recorder has a different function from that of the Recording Clerk, who keeps minutes of our business meetings.

The information we keep track of is straightforward: names, birthdates and places, spouse's and children's names, birthdates and birthplaces; marriage information; when the individual joined our meeting and via what path (transfer, application, birth). We also record when and how an individual leaves membership: death, resignation, or release by the Meeting. The main vehicle for keeping this information is the Membership Records book, which uses a standard format for all PYM meetings. The records are kept on acid-free paper for archival purposes, and periodically forwarded to the Maryland Hall of Records in Annapolis. All other PYM meetings archive their records at Swarthmore, PA, where they are kept for use by historians and genealogists.

2008 Activities The Membership Records Book was given to me in early 2008, with the request to bring it up to date and in synch with PYM's records. This is a painstaking task. Although records are not automated and integrated with one another, an improvement was made over the summer when a PYM staff member created a computer template, which makes it possible to create individual forms on the computer. The product is cleaner, easier-to-read documents, and enables us to store a copy of our records on computer so there is backup to the main book. With the help of Marsie Hawkinson, we are reviewing each and every file. Our goal is to complete this task by summer.

2008 Statistics We began 2008 with 133 members, including 16 minors. Over the course of the year, we added 8 new members (including one reinstatement) and lost one through resignation, for a net gain of 7 members. New total: 140 members. This is an unusually large gain, a very encouraging sign.

To put our meeting in context, at year-end 2007 (the most recent year we have available) the Southern Quarter, by far the smallest of PYM's 13 quarters, had 244 members. Third Haven accounted for over half the Quarter's members, with Camden and Chester River each adding 18% (44 and 45 members, respectively) and Wicomico 9% (23 members).

The Future While the overall decline in membership in recent years and the high proportion of older members remain a concern, we are experiencing welcome signs of healthy growth.

With thanks to all members for your help, *Candace Shattuck, Membership Records Recorder*



Selected as Maryland's 1st Place Winner for Grade 6 in the National Garden Clubs, Inc. 2008 "Nature's Song" Youth Poetry Contest. This poem by Katie Claggett has been sent on to compete for the National Garden Club's Central Atlantic Region Divisional Winner for Grade 6.

NATURE'S SONG

Four are the seasons, round and round they go
As a circle has no beginning, a friend can help a foe

Summer, strong and helpful, you help the plants grow
Yet the warm temperatures are, anywhere from low

Autumn, bold and bright, colors fill the air
Leaves fill the ground, making the trees bare

Winter, cold and chilly, you put snow on the ground
Maybe you'll see Santa Claus, if you look around

Spring brings new life, and many happy things
Like flowers, rain and sunshine, the weather makes me sing

Four are the seasons, loved by everyone
Each season brings wonder, each season brings fun

Katie Claggett

Report to Southern Quarterly Meeting, January 18, 2009

Our Worship and Ministry committee continues its effective work to raise the spiritual quality of our meeting and just a few months ago it began a series of after-meeting sessions where selected members relate, in some detail, their own spiritual journeys. These sessions have been well attended and provided vivid insights for the participants.

Property & Grounds continues its work in monitoring and maintaining our buildings and seven acre plot in the midst of Easton while keeping our "old meeting house" (1684) open for visitation by tourists and passers by. [incidentally, this makes us 325 years old this year!...and we plan to celebrate some-how] This past summer Property & Grounds supervised putting a new roof on our Common Room structure plus a new fridge inside.

Overseers have been busy tending to a number of shut-ins and aging members and attenders as well as setting up clearance committees for over a half dozen new members plus a couple of weddings and funerals in 2008.

A meeting-wide "Carriage Shed Sale" was carried out last fall involving our first day school children and many participants who raised about \$6,800 net which was divided up for use on three projects: Our new scholarship fund; mine detectors for war-torn areas; and "2nd Chance" a new local organization designed to help those coming out of drug & alcohol treatment.

The topic of same gender union under the care of the meeting remains a concern of many and an issue to be re-visited.

The Meeting is joining with other organizations in the community in outreach to offer a week's shelter in our Common Room for a few homeless folks. PEACE vigils are held weekly with members from other churches in front of the Talbot County Court House.

Friends fully enjoyed a Christmas pageant with song and music from our First Day school children followed by pot luck dinner. First Day school earlier in the year also put on a "Hunger Banquet" which proved dramatic and effective for the adults as well as our children.

This might be evidenced by Third Haven having diverted \$6,000 from our budget to help the needy and hungry this winter in Talbot County; most of the funds being put to use by the Neighborhood Service Center and three neighborhood churches in Easton.

Some six members traveled to PYM to attend a day-long seminar on the new Quaker Quest process and have brought three PYM representatives to put on a Saturday morning introductory session past week. A steering committee is being assembled to evaluate and bring a proposal for Quaker Quest employment here once we schedule a day-long workshop here in April.

Officially in this past year we have added eight new members, and lost one to a resignation and suffered no deaths of members. First Day attendance averages around 50 adults....while first day School attendance runs about a dozen.

Capital Punishment from The Star Democrat Easton, MD Thursday, February 12, 2009

Third Haven Meeting calls for an end to use of the death penalty in Maryland

Recently the Maryland Commission on Capital Punishment issued a readable, full report recommending abolition of the death sentence. A bill to abolish capital punishment has passed the House of Delegates but is bottled up in a Senate committee by the activity of a few of its members.

The members of Third Haven Friends Meeting, in unity with other churches, believe that the deliberate killing of another, even if sanctioned by the state, violates the widely shared belief of many faiths that there is that of God in all persons and the teachings of Jesus. Independent of those religious grounds, we believe the Report of the Maryland Commission on Capital Punishment (found at www.goccp.org/capital-punishment/index.php) deserves the attention of all thoughtful citizens of our state.

The commission, chaired by former U.S. Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, included local and state law enforcement officers, prosecutors, legislators, religious leaders and members of the families of murder victims. After months of hearings, the commission published a persuasive report.

It found that there is no sound evidence to support the belief that capital punishment lowers homicide rates. A New York Times survey in 2000 showed that during the last 20 years, the homicide rate in states with the death penalty has been 48 to 101 percent higher than in states without the death penalty.

The FBI agrees; its data from 2006 shows that 11 of the 12 states without capital punishment have homicide rates below the national average. The reality is that the threat of execution at some future date is unlikely to enter the mind of those acting under the influence of drugs, alcohol, in the grips of fear or rage, or suffering from mental illness or mental retardation and unable to fully understand the gravity of their actions. Life in prison with no possibility of parole takes those who have proven themselves willing to murder out of society and protects the rest of us without the taking of another life.

Courts require adherence to special procedures and strict standards before a death sentence can be imposed. For example, a defendant must (usually at the state's expense) be represented by "competent" counsel, which means a lawyer especially qualified by dint of experience in such cases.

The selection of jurors must adhere to particular standards and there must be a separate hearing on the issue of whether to impose the death penalty. These stringent requirements result in endless appeals, frequent reversals, long delays and higher costs to the state.

For these reasons and more, the cost of pursuing a capital case is estimated conservatively to be almost three times the costs of a non-death penalty homicide prosecution (\$1.1 million to \$2.9 million) This money is diverted from the costs of prisons and administration of the criminal justice system.

The commission emphasized the "unfair and arbitrary" application of death sentences. Compelling evidence shows that the decision to execute varies greatly depending on in which county the case is brought and is influenced by the racial and socio-economic states of the defendant, prosecutorial and jury discretion and other factors.

This inconsistent application of capital cases renders the process; non-uniform, capricious and thereby unjust. We simply cannot say that all capital cases will reflect equal justice to all.

The most frequent responses to these points center on the demands of some for retribution. Certainly brutal murders anger and shock most of us, and arouse demands for vengeance from some of us, including bereaved families. Yet retribution — "an eye for an eye" — is a problematic principle of justice. When is it justified? Who are qualified to order the cold-blooded execution of another human being? Jesus, who repudiated the law of his time which prescribed "an eye for an eye," taught love, compassion, forgiveness and the sanctity of human life. While more than two-thirds of the countries in the world have now abolished the death penalty in law or in practice, our country keeps company with North Korea, China, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan in the continued use of state-sanctioned execution. All truly democratic countries that profess a respect for universal human rights have abolished capital punishment as a violation of the right to life because killing by the state is seen as a form of deliberate murder which truly serves no social purpose.

In a nation that many consider the standard bearer of human rights, the U.S. now has more than 3,500 men and women on death row. Nearly all of them are poor. Many suffer from mental illness or mental retardation. A disproportionate number are people of color. And some are innocent of the crimes for which they have been condemned to die.

For all of these reasons we ask thoughtful people to give careful consideration to this issue and, then, to contact their legislators and ask them to work to bring this issue out of the Senate committee where it is now stymied by a minority of senators.

It is time for the whole Senate to debate and decide this crucial issue in a democratic manner.

Leigh Anne Dodge, Jamie DuHoffman, Gwen Beegle, Norman Hackland, Tatiana Harrison, Lorraine Claggett, Nancy Mullen, Cindy Browne, Chris Polk, Joyce Macijeski, Sarah Sayre and Susan Dabney