



THIRD HAVEN FRIENDS MEETING

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Easton, Maryland 21601
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December, 2025 Newsletter

“...the mystery of God’s presence is at the heart of Meeting for Worship.”

Faith and Practice 1997 p. 127

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Ninth Day, Eleventh Month, 2025

Opening Silent Worship at 11:30 a.m. clerk Ben Tilghman opened the Meeting.

Attendance: Jim Altman, Molly Brian, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Nell Folmar, Robert Gladney, Whitley Gray, Kristen Hawkinson, Marsie Hawkinson, Katherine Johnson, Janet Kemp, Amy Kimball, Amy Kozak, Marie Leonard, Tom McCall, Beth Mufson, Clinton Pettus, Kathryn Pettus, Terry-Thomas Primer, Cynthia Quast, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, Bill Schauer, Ellen Schecter, John Schreiner, Priscilla Sener, Jonathan Slocum, Sheryl Southwick, Paige Tilghman, Joan Wetmore, Heidi Wetzels, Jonathan Williams,

Comments on Eleventh Query, Stewardship of Resources

None

Approval of minutes from Tenth Month business meeting -Approved

Clerks’ Desk- Ben Tilghman

As we approach the political cycle, Friends are reminded that candidate and party names are not part of the Meeting’s business.



Testimonies & Concerns Annual Report-Paige Tilghman Approved

T&C has been busy supporting our meeting information and action items as a response to the tumultuous times in which we find ourselves. The committee operated with no budget and the work of members: Mary Yancy, Beth Mufson, Loraine Claggett and Jonathan William in the beginning of the year and joined by Sheryl Southwick, Molly Brian, Steve Meixner, Thom Sinnott, James Altman and Ellen Shecter.

Our 2024 Giving Guide was updated and distributed at the 11th month 2024 Business Meeting to serve as a guide for those making contributions to nonprofits in keeping with our Quaker testimonies. T&C recommended that THFM dedicate \$3,000 set aside in the budget for charitable contributions to the American Friends Service Committee to provide aid and food to the Palestine Refugees .

The year saw two long time projects laid down: the Talbot County Detention Center Library Project, after many, many years of T&C support and the Peace Vigil. The Detention Center Library project grew out of efforts begun by Kristin Hawkinson, before she moved to California, to offer GED training to those detained. The TCD Library was organized by Ralph Young to demonstrate TH's interest in literacy and was supported by: Ralph and Mary Young, Jeannie Halprin, John and Heidi Schreiner, Molly Brian, Paige Tilghman, Beth Mufson, Beth Thompson, Stephanie French, Amy Kimball, Janet Kemp, and others with assistance from the Talbot County Free Library. The Detention Center informed us of their desire to manage the library, as an internal resource, and we bequeathed all 5,000 books and the software to them. The Peace Vigil was laid down with John Turner's departure. We remain open to working with a representative should that be of interest to any of our TH community. Peace Vigils continue to be held on Thursdays at 5 pm in front of the Talbot County Court House and several members continue to participate when they are called, including Angus Ford, Mia Brown-Echerd and Jonathan Williams, who provided a poignant and thoughtful testimony on the Peace Vigil that will be attached to announcements.

Worship & Ministries called session, 2nd month, 23, 2025 Concerning the uncertainty in our community due to recently announced federal budget cuts and the overall political unrest, prompted a request to T&C to organize follow up so that Meeting could learn more from those service organizations impacted. T&C's oversight for Outreach and Witness in the World, prompted the creation of "A Connection Plan for THFM Community". The proposal was presented to 3rd month business meeting to provide guidance for actions by individual members and/or and Meeting as a whole. The plan identified five organizations in our community with whom we have had relationships that may be in the greatest need: Chesapeake Multi Cultural Resource Center; Neighborhood Service Center; Talbot Interfaith Shelter; Mid Shore Council on Family Violence; and Green Hands (as an environmental impact effort). T&C offered to host these organization for information sharing sessions in our Common Room at the rise of Meeting to provided thoughtful dialogue and suggestions for involvement. We formatted questions to learn more about the status of their organization and what we might contribute that would be useful. Our first session was held on May 18th with approximately 70 members from TH and the wider community on the topic of Immigration. We invited the Multicultural Center, the

Immigration Task Force and James Altman, who spoke on the legal defining of the right for a fair trial. We learned the closing of the Snow Hill Detention Center, located in Snow Hill, Md, where many T&C members had donated volunteer hours, was closed, and now those detained by ICE in our area were being transported to a holding facility in Baltimore and then to detention facilities in other states, resulting in hardship. We outlined 2 initiatives for THFM as a result of this presentation:

1. We were advised to send a letter of support to the Episcopal Diocese of Easton thanking them for their stand against President Trump's initiative to bring Afrikaner farmers into this country ahead of so many already waiting for asylum. The letter was drafted for consideration at 6th month Business Meeting, approved and sent.

2. We agreed to host a letter writing campaign to express our concerns about the current immigration policy but, after further study, we were advised to call 5 Calls Civic Action, a phone application that provides access to elected officials on a list of current topics. Members made their calls independently,

We scheduled subsequent sessions in June and July with the Neighborhood Service Center; For All Seasons (in place of MidShore Council on Family Violence); and Talbot Interfaith Shelter. We worked on sharing information about these organizations and their resources requirements on a Google Doc platform but were not able to further this communication. NSC asked for help on Monday mornings to distribute food and support for their Fuel Fund which had been dramatically reduced. 4 all Seasons was looking for volunteers to assemble back to school backpacks. The TIS had regular contact form T&C members who volunteered by Sarah Sayre. We also worked on offering a composting initiative from Green Hands to our TH community asking members to bring compost material in lidded containers to add to our compost collection so that we can begin to produce useable compost for the community garden projects of Green Hands. These efforts continue.

The input received from these organizations prompted our T&C member Beth Mufson to serve as chairman and rally us all for a Carriage Shed Sale on October 04 to raise funds for the NSC Fuel Program and the World Central Kitchen. Marion Murphy offered to serve as co-chair but moved to California to be closer to family and Mary Yancy stepped in to support. The sale was a big success in raising over \$6,000 in funds and many useful donations were made to the TIS. We thank Beth Mufson and Mary Yancy for their leadership

We were approached in September by Robin Strickoff of the Immigration Task to work on a new project, Humanity for Immigration. The proposal was to work with groups in our community to create an information sharing platform for topics on the status of immigrants and immigration policy in our community and to work on improving the path to citizenship nationally. We took this matter to 10th month business meeting to request agreement for Meeting to support T&C and the work on Humanity for Immigrants. T&C member, James Altman included a request from PYM to adopt an initiative to prepare our meeting: "What to do if ICE Shows Up at our Quaker Meeting"; a PYM initiative. Business meeting agreed that T&C should pursue both these interests. James identified Ramon Gras, ESQ. Immigration Attorney in Easton to meet with members from TH on November 04 and to report back to 11th month Business Meeting.

T&C and our Quaker community will benefit this coming year with a renewed interest in reorganizing the Talbot Alliance of Cleric and Laity (TACL) to support many on our Quaker led

initiatives as allies with the wider community. The TACL participation is being provided by T&C members Molly Brian and Mary Yancey.

2025 Charitable Recommendation from the committee is \$2500 to American Friends Service Committee and \$500 to PYM Legal Fund. Updated 2025 Giving Guide will be attached to announcements.



Nominating Committee, Status Report – Janet Kemp **2026 Committees of Third Haven Friends Meeting:**

Clerk of the Meeting Ben Tilghman

Assistant Clerk Larny Claggett

Recording Clerks Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins

Treasurers Kristen Hawkinson, Janet Kemp

Membership Records Marsie Hawkinson, Janet Kemp

Caretaker Clay Owens

COMMITTEES:

Budget & Finance Bill Lane, Clerk, Bill Schauer, Steven Meixner, Kristin Hawkinson (treasurer), Janet Kemp (treasurer)

Burials & Memorial Ben Tilghman (Clerk), Larny Claggett(P&G), Katherine Johnson & Amy Kimball (Past. Care), Marie Leonard

Communications Dee Rein (tech support, newsletter, announcements), Clerk, Tania Harrison (website), Marie Leonard (Directory & Graphic Design), Kathryn Pettus (phone), Jim Altman, Clinton Pettus, Molly Brian, Mary Yancey (Tech Support)

Facilities Use Larissa Kitenko, Clerk

First Day School Paige Tilghman & Katie Claggett – clerks, Sarah Claggett, Susan Claggett, Sarah Hildebrand, Kulveen Virdee

Hospitality Paige Tilghman, clerk, *Whitley Gray*, Amy Kimball, Beth Mufson, Terry-Thomas Primer, Bill Schauer, Sheryl Southwick, Jonathan Williams, *James Womack*

Library Lorraine Claggett, Janet Kemp, Ellen Schechter, Paige Tilghman

Nominating Committee Paige Tilghman, Mary Yancey, + 1

Pastoral Care Katherine Johnson & Amy Kimball, clerks, Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Marsie Hawkinson, *Beverly Martin*, Beth Mufson, Joan Wetmore

Planning Committee Steve Meixner, Clerk, Molly Brian, Larny Claggett, Susan Claggett, Sarah T. Claggett, Tom Corl, Sarah Hildebrand, Bill Lane, Marie Leonard, Nancy Robbins, Priscilla Sener, Mary Yancey

Property & Grounds Larny Claggett - Clerk, Robert Gladney – Assistant Clerk, Angus Ford, Drew Gundlach, Amy Kimball, Bill Lane, Clay Owens, Nancy Robbins, Priscilla Sener, Sam Steffens, Dan Sweeney, Mary Yancey, Winslow Womack (emeritus)

Scholarship Bill Schauer (Clerk & Treasurer), Marsie Hawkinson, Kristen Hawkinson, Paige Tilghman, Lorraine Claggett, Marie Leonard, Tom McCall

Testimonies & Concerns Mary Yancey, clerk, Jim Altman, Lorraine Claggett, Beth Inabinet, Tom McCall, Steve Meixner, Beth Mufson, Ellen Schechter, Tom Sinott, Sheryl Southwick, Sam Steffens, Paige Tilghman, Jonathan Williams

- **American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)** – Lorraine Claggett
- **Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)** – Sarah Sayre

- **Chesapeake Multicultural Research Center (ChesMRC)** – Katie Claggett
- **Food Link** – John Schreiner and Heidi Weitzel
- **Humanity for Immigrants**
- **NAACP, Talbot County**
- **P.E.A.C.E.**
- **Quaker voice of Maryland** – Beth Mufson
- **Talbot Association of Clergy and Laity (TACL)** – Molly Brian, Tom Synnott, Mary Yancey
- **Talbot Green Hands** – Jonathan Williams, Mary Yancy
- **Talbot Interfaith Shelter (TIS)** – Mary Yancey, Coordinator, Lorraine Claggett, Kristen Hawkinson, Beth Inabinette, Phil Sayre

Worship & Ministry Clinton Pettus, clerk, Jim Altman, Molly Brian, Beth Mufson, Nancy Robbins, Jonathan Slocum, John Schreiner, Sheryl Southwick, Sam Steffens

Liaisons & Representatives:

- **Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM)** Nancy Robbins, Susan Claggett
- **Southern Quarterly Meeting** - Susan Claggett – Recording Secretary



Planning Committee Update - Tom Corl

The Harper and Sons, and their subcontractors, work on the Phase 1 brick meetinghouse (BMH) projects is mostly but not finally and officially done. The access ramp to and the external stairway to the brick meetinghouse (BMH) are completed, inspected, well done and in use. The Harper and Sons remodeling of the 2nd floor of the BMH for First Day School (FDS) and other uses are completed, inspected, well done and in use. Furniture and other items have been moved back to the 2nd floor. The remodeling of the bathroom on the 1st floor has not started.

Somehow, the heat in the meeting room of the BMH was not functioning properly, so the First Day meeting for worship has been held in the common room for 2 weeks. Thanks to the persistent effort of Larny Claggett, the heat has been restored.

Larny Claggett, Susan Claggett, and Steve Meixner developed a “punch list” of final items to be completed or fixed for all Phase 1 BMH projects. They will meet with Ron Markey of Harper and Sons to insure that all the remaining items are fully addressed, and all of the work properly completed and functioning well.

The next, likely final, Planning Committee meeting with Harper and Sons is Friday 11.21. That should be the official conclusion with required documentation. Only then will we make final payment, release the 10% “retainage,” and close the contract with Harper and Sons.

Carriage Shed Sale Summary-Beth Mufson

The totals on the Carriage Shed Sale are:

Total Income = \$ 6,378.76

Total Expenses = \$ 327.74 (tent rental & delivery \$275) (hot dogs \$52.74)

Net Income = \$ 6,051.02

Many thanks to all who worked and/or donated to make the Carriage Shed Sale such a success.

We will be sending \$3025 to each of our two charities:

World Central Kitchen and Neighborhood Service Center Winter Fuel Fund

New Business

Clean Up Day November 22, 2025. Bring outdoor tools and dress appropriately.

Yearly Meeting Interim session- Green Street Meeting has committee on Fun, good idea.

Closing Silent Worship 11:53 a.m.

D. Rein, Recording Clerk

Brick Meeting House Renovations

First Day School is pleased to return to upstairs to a beautified, more practical space for our children. Renovations include an exit door to the outside access staircase, fresh paint, carpet, a craft sink in the room and bathroom upgrade. For a quick tour of renovations in the Brick Meeting House second floor, click on the link below.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/127dBnXw5QKSwwlWf_0YgZgf8NPIdlkQsN/view?usp=drive_link

Interfaith Thanksgiving Dinner Coalition

Third Haven was again an active participant in this effort to provide free Thanksgiving dinners to members of our community. Dee Rein served as lead organizer for the ten participating churches. At Third Haven Amy Kimball coordinated signing up volunteers, including food donations from: Bobbi Wells, Cynthia Quast, Sheryl Southwick, Lee Walker, Lorraine Claggett, Beth Mufson, Mary Yancey, Molly Brian, Paige Tilghman and Amy Kozac; Runners: Brett, Oliver and Elizabeth Kimball; servers: Priscilla Sener, Sara Flynn, and Ben Tilghman; packers: Moe Moore and Cynthia Quast; and delivery people: the Claggett clan, John Schreiner and Heidi Wetzell, Bobbie Wells, Joe Davis and Karin Stoker, and Kelly Lane with Annabelle and Alice and traffic management with Jonathan Williams. If someone was missed on this list, know your efforts were appreciated.

Dozens of members of local religious organizations served Thanksgiving dinner to seniors and others in need for the 16th year. This year over 358 dinners were served and delivered.

Participants included members of Asbury UMC, Bethel AME, Christ Church Episcopal, Church of the Brethren, Grace Lutheran Church, Scotts UMC, St. Marks UMC, Third Haven Friends Meeting, Trinity Episcopal Church, and Unitarian Universalists. Coordinators included Cynthia Cooper-Smothers and Loretta Collins of Asbury; Trina Gardner and Marjorie Murray of Bethel; Susan and John Itell of Christ Church; Anne Harvey of Church of the Brethren; Vicki Zobel of Grace Lutheran; Yvonne Freeman, Linda Wilson of Scotts UMC; Frank Gunsallus of St Marks UMC; Amy Kimball, Priscilla Sener, Dee Rein and Cynthia Quast of Third Haven; Sally Crane of Trinity, and Mike Hammett of the Unitarians.

The Talbot Interfaith Thanksgiving dinner is an outgrowth of a project begun in 2009 that delivered lunch each Wednesday to seniors and others in need. That initiative was halted during Covid, but recipients were linked with a Meals on Wheels program, and the annual dinner now includes many MoW recipients as well as people in the community referred by the churches. Dinners follow a menu developed by the initial participants. It includes turkey accompanied by green beans, sweet potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy, and pie, cooked and provided by members of the participating religious organizations.

Volunteers from each congregation take the turkey meat, side dishes and pies produced by its volunteers to Asbury on Thanksgiving morning. The dinners are packed at Asbury and delivered to recipients by a cadre of additional volunteers. On Thanksgiving Day 2025 saw approximately 28 delivery drivers, 5 runners, 5 kitchen workers, 4 packers, 4 pie servers, 12 dinner servers, and 4 outside traffic managers. The day before, 5 people came to help set up and dish up 350 cranberry sauce servings. Approximately 135 faith community members donated prepared food. This was an amazing show of community support and solidarity! Recipient children spoke with the most beautiful smiles. A grateful senior citizen responded to her delivery, "Thank you, now I feel loved!"



More pictures may be seen in the Interfaith Thanksgiving Dinner photo album at:
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/kV4msd6tjMBLmPeTA>

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.

Future of Third Haven Friends Meeting — Clinton Pettus & Tom Corl, 1.4.26



On November 16th Molly Brian shared on Silent Worship structured by the Quaker Testimonies: “SPICES”- Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Stewardship. Her handout on Quaker Testimonies was distributed with announcements the following week and may be requested by emailing 3rdhaven@gmail.com

Clean Up Day November 22nd was also a great success, caring for the property and building community as we worked together.



DONATE to the many aspects of Third Haven:

Financial contributions to Third Haven Friends Meeting from members and attenders are essential to our Faith and Practice, the work of the Meeting's committees, maintenance of property and grounds, and support for our parent organization, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) The expectation is that all will prayerfully discern what they consider to be an appropriate contribution and act accordingly. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Meeting Operations: The Meeting's annual fiscal year budget, July 1 – June 30, estimates income and expenses. The annual operating budget is open for all to review and may be found on our website. Annual operating expenses are paid from the Operating Fund. There is a contributions box in the lobby of the brick meeting house. Checks for our annual "Operating Fund" may be sent to: Treasurer, Third Haven Monthly Meeting, Operating Fund P.O. Box 2379, Easton, MD 21601

Meeting Building Fund: OR: Third Haven Friends Meeting is carrying out a long-term master planning process, and capital campaign, to implement a building program and land use improvements, over the next several years, through the Meeting "Building Fund". To support the Building Fund, send checks to: Treasurer, Third Haven Friends Meeting, Building Fund P.O. Box 2379, Easton, MD 21601 Additionally, contributions may be made through Donor Advised Funds or direct donations of stocks or other securities. Please contact Third Haven's treasurer directly at thmmtreasurer@gmail.com for assistance.

Scholarship Fund Contributions may also be specifically designated to our Scholarship Fund. Please indicate "Scholarship Fund" with your gift and send to: Scholarship Fund, Third Haven Monthly Meeting PO Box 2379, Easton, MD 21601

Trustees of Third Haven Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends Inc. The Trustees of Third Haven Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends Inc. and Third Haven Friends Meeting are two separate nonprofit entities. The Trustees of Third Haven Monthly Meeting owns the Third Haven property and receives donations to support historic preservation, often involving major capital expenditures. The Trustees assist the Meeting substantially each year with capital projects and related expenses. All may consider a planned legacy gift or bequest, as well as an annual contribution. Gifts may be designated for the Trustees General Fund or the 1684 Meetinghouse Maintenance Fund. Contributions can be made to: Trustees of Third Haven Meeting, Treasurer, Diana Rein, 9249 High Banks Drive, Easton MD 21601