



Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington Street

Easton, Maryland 21601

(410) 822-0293

Info@thirdhaven.org

OCTOBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

"The Quaker way of trying to invite and be open to divine guidance is to begin with a time of silence. This is not the 'moment of silence' which is a mere nod in passing to the Divine. Nor is it a time for organizing one's thoughts. This is a time for what has been called recollection: for an intentional return to the Center to give over one's own firm views, to place the outcome in the hands of God, to ask for a mind and heart as truly sensitive to and accepting of nuanced intimations of God's will as of overwhelming evidences of it. It is possible that someone designated or undesignated may offer vocal prayer for the joint undertaking. Spoken or not, it is understood that each person present will be holding the undertaking in the Light in his own way." *Patricia Loring 1992 in Faith and Practice*

Two Acclaimed Speakers Highlighted Celebration of Third Haven's 325th Anniversary

Third Haven Friends Meeting in Easton, Maryland celebrated the 325th anniversary of the completion of its Old Meeting House, which has been in continuous use since 1684, with very special events October 3 and 4, 2009.

On Saturday, October 3, James A. Turrell, Quaker artist with an interest in architecture, spoke on "Plato's Cave and the Light Inside" at 3 pm. Mr. Turrell, a birthright Friend whose artwork is an exploration of light as a form, will touch on the relationship between that which is inside and that which is outside, between the life lived and the Inner Ideal. Tours of the property were available from 2 pm on, and light refreshments will follow his presentation.

On Sunday, October 4, Arthur Larrabee, General Secretary of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, spoke at Rise of Meeting on carrying the Light of Quakerism into the future.

Both events were open to all and were well attended by members and guests.

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Business Minutes for the 9th Month, 13, 2009

1. Call to order: John Schreiner called to order the meeting for business at 11:30 after a brief period of silent worship.
2. Attending: Monimia Barker, Mark Beck, Paige Bethke, Denny Bliss, Cynthia Browne, Molly Burgoyne, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Tom Corl, Mary Cotton, Leigh Anne Dodge, Tania Harrison, Marsie Hawkinson, Peter Howell, Katherine Johnson, Steve Kanstoroom, Susan Leibman, Connie Lewis, Joyce Macijeski, Susan Mize, Beth Mufson, Nancy Mullen, Peggy Paul, Connie Pullen, Mike Pullen, Peregrine Russell-Hunter, Phil Sayre, Sarah Sayre, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck, Cathy Thompson, Norval Thompson, Peggy Walbert, Joan Wetmore, Heidi Wetzel, Chloe Wieland, Rob Wieland, Irene Williams, John Winterbottom, Helen Womack, Winslow Womack, Ralph Young. In total, 42 people took part in this meeting.
3. Minutes: The minutes were approved from the 6th month.
4. Query: The 9th Query, "Ministry of Outreach" was read during meeting for worship.
5. Scholarship Committee: (for text see September newsletter). The committee has awarded 5 scholarships so far. It is hoped that with an upcoming campaign, more funds can be raised. The goal in the future is to award 10 scholarships per year of \$1000 each. The question was raised regarding how scholarships are approved. It was suggested that since the financing of the scholarship committee is currently under the care of the Meeting, that scholarship awards be approved by the Meeting as a whole during worship with attention to business. We agreed to put this on the agenda next month for further discussion.
6. 325th Anniversary: Orlando Rideout's session was well attended. Much of the meeting house history was reviewed. Mary Cotton asked those who came to consider stepping forward as volunteers to be docent/guides and host tours of our grounds perhaps one Saturday per month. Again, festivities for the anniversary celebration will take place the first weekend in October. Announcements regarding events will be posted in the newsletter. We hope to hold an open house the Saturday of waterfowl festival November 14th.
7. Treasurer's Report: There are three sheets to review. The first sheet is titled "Balance Sheet". Note that the total equity is \$59,723.38 down from \$65,296 a year ago. The second sheet is titled "Income and Expenses Budget vs. Actual YTD". The important figures here are noting that our equity is down more than \$5,000 from the prior year. The third sheet is titled "Income and Expenses July through August 2009". Please note that our expenses thus far total \$8,343 while our income is only \$3,227. A Friend asked if the figure listed in Property and Grounds line item of \$89,675 is correct. The Treasurer asked if he could double check that amount and report back to us next meeting for business. Another Friend asked to discuss how memorial contributions are handled. Some concern was expressed that families may not be made aware of all memorial contributions and contributors. Nancy Mullen and Leigh Anne Dodge have agreed to take on the task of notifying families when contributions are made and writing thank you notes from the Meeting. Rob Wieland will continue to send letters of donations to the contributors before the year of each year that can be used for tax purposes.
8. Nominating Committee: Paige Bethke, Ralph Young and Candace Shattuck are just beginning to speak to the Clerks of all committees to get input regarding those committee members whose terms are finishing and what the needs are for each committee. Individuals will be contacted after this is completed. Members and attenders were encouraged to examine the committee structure, talk with others, and to step forward to participate on one, if not two,

committees by contacting a member of the nomination committee. We were reminded that we do not have a pastor or minister and are, as a consequence, a do it yourself organization that works only through wide-spread participation. A report of recommendations of members of committees will be presented to the Meeting in November.

9. New Minute Reading regarding Same-Sex Marriage under the care of the Meeting: The Clerk of Meeting preambled this agenda item by reading aloud the advice II on page 83 of Faith and Practice. The proposed minute including the background information regarding the committee's work was read aloud (for text see September newsletter) and discussion was opened to the floor. Over 35 different comments were made during the hour given for discussion. The session was thoughtful, respectful and heartfelt. The following is a summary of these comments which convey the statements of those present and participating so that the "sense of the Meeting" can begin to take shape. There were three members who indicated opposition to the proposed minute. One Friend expressed her feelings using the words of Moses Shepherd that "we should avoid compromising ourselves with those whose motives we don't understand". This Friend expressed difficulty understanding the controversy regarding this subject. She has had several gay friends in the past and the subject of marriage was not an issue. A letter was read expressing concern that the minute reflected more of "old-fashion Jesuit casuistry than Quaker speaking to the truth". This Friend felt that Maryland laws protect us from potential problems such as bigamist and incestuous weddings and without this we are left without any bars. A Friend discussed sadness over the minute. He felt that the minute approved in 2005 had already gone "too far" and the fact that this concern keeps coming up gives him the feeling that THFM is not a safe place for him to come to. He feels that this minute is not appropriate outreach. He suggested that if we want more diversity and wider outreach, we should be sending Friends down to Port Street to find them. He expressed the view that this minute does not live up to the testimony of simplicity and integrity. He did not feel as though his views represent any intolerance and felt that he had been unfairly represented as such in the past. The balance of the comments however was overwhelmingly positive and supportive. Many thanked the committee for their hard work and bringing the issue to light again as it has bothered so many members and attenders for some time. The issue in many members' eyes has lain uncomfortably unresolved. Several expressed concern that we have failed as a Meeting to take a stand for the equality of others. Some mourned the loss of members and attenders over this issue and spoke to the problem of our Meeting being perceived as not welcoming by others in our community. Tolerance of the "light of God in all of us" was referred to by many Friends. Some spoke of being drawn to the Quaker faith because of the principle of tolerance and equality. Many feel that homosexuality is not a lifestyle choice but an integral part of who someone is from birth and failing to respond to a person as a whole is not what the Quaker faith is about. Others expressed the feelings that we are not in a position to judge another person. Stories were shared regarding one's own experiences with loved ones and family members and the opinion that "love is love" in whatever form it may take. One Friend said that we needed to affirm love and that if we believed there was that of God in each of us (including those with homosexual tendencies) then we owe them spiritual equality in our midst. Many shared their difficulty with the terms spiritual marriage and legal marriage and there was a sense that each individual may have a different way to interpret these terms. Some cited the Quaker history of following God's laws rather than state laws and queried why we don't do more to advocate the changing of our state laws. A Friend from the committee wanted it noted that he still objects to the use of the word marriage in the proposed minute.

Since so many of these feelings were so heartfelt and spirited guided, those participating have come from this discussion with a renewed sense of Quaker process. All are grateful that we can discuss a difficult topic with respect yet renewed vigor. Many Friends are grateful that this issue has been brought into the light again and have much hope that with some “time to season”; we can pick up the discussion again and resolve to move forward. The ending questions posed give us thought for the coming month- “what would it cost you to be able to support same gender marriage” and, “if you think about your ideal Meeting- what would it be? How much diversity would you be willing to accept?” There was genuine interest expressed in understanding the opinions of all in Meeting and a genuine sense of purpose in moving forward with the proposed minute during next meeting for worship with attention to business.

10. Ping-Pong Tournament: Pete Howell presented the idea of a ping-pong tournament as a fund raiser for the Talbot Interfaith Shelter. All churches involved with the shelter have been willing to have a fund raiser for the needs of this coming winter. We have learned that the schedule for the ping-pong tournament is Saturday November 21st. It may help generate funds for our Meeting part. \$300 was approved to help pay for publicity and trophies. There will be a need to help with publicity, perhaps move some tables and for volunteers on the day of the tournament. Pete will keep us informed.

Meeting for business was adjourned at 1:55pm after a period of silence.

Respectfully submitted, *Molly Burgoyne*

Friends Learn More about Old Meeting House

As part of our 325th anniversary celebration and an early phase of Quaker Quest, many Friends have expressed interest in learning more about the Old Meetinghouse. As a result, Orlando Ridout V, an architectural historian who works for the Maryland Historical Trust, and who was closely involved with the 1990 renovation, was invited to visit Third Haven on September 10th to speak on this subject. The more than 35 people who came to hear him were rewarded with a thorough – and thoroughly entertaining -- tour in and around the building.

Mr. Ridout described the building, constructed 1682-84, as the earliest positively dated building in Maryland, and an extraordinarily well preserved example of 17th and 18th century building practice. He then proceeded to show how an architectural historian traces the history of a building, based on clues remaining in the building itself. Among the facts were:



When built, the Meeting House was accessible only by water (Tred Avon), which was much closer than it is now. It was built on 3 acres purchased from John Edmondson, large landowner and Quaker who lived at Cedar Point. There was no lane at that time. The population of Talbot County at that time was about 1500-2000.



The original building was a 60' x 22' rectangle, with an addition on each side, of different sizes, making for an asymmetrical cruciform shape. The larger addition, on the west side, was the entrance for both the men's and the women's sides of the MH (2 doors) and in addition contained a stairway to the second floor. The addition on the east side was small in size, perhaps a storage area.

In 1797, when the building was over a century old, it underwent a major renovation. More worship space was needed. The two wings were taken off, and the western side of the building was extended by 12' all along the length of the building, resulting in the asymmetrical shed shape we have today. New entrance created at south end, where it remains today. Window on right (east side) lowered to make it match the new one to the left of the door. Two doors created on west side. Stairway to second floor moved to NE corner.

The siding was "weatherboard" hewn on premises using a 2-man saw pit saw, probably using slave labor or possibly indentured workers. The original windows were leaded casement windows, hinged inward, probably with diamond-shaped panes. The double hung windows are dated much later. The interior of the old Meeting House has never been painted or whitewashed. Its flooring is pit-sawn yellow pine at least an inch thick. There were built-in benches along the walls.



A major restoration of the old Meeting House was carried out in 1990 because of the need for a solid foundation to replace the many individual brick supporting piles and the abundant evidence of wood decay and termite damage in many structural timbers. Mr. Ridout outlined the findings in 1990 and described the techniques used in repair.

by Candace Shattuck

Third Haven Monthly Meeting Announcements

Meetings for Worship

First Days 10am	Fourth Days 5:30pm
	October 7
October 11	October 14
October 18	October 21
October 25	October 28

October 1 – 30, 2009 Clothing drive for Neighborhood Service Center: collecting clean, gently used clothing, sizes from infant to adult. Coats – sweaters – slacks – shirts - sweatshirts - jackets - business clothes (for job interviews) - boots - hats - mittens – scarves. CONTACT: deliver for sorting and bagging to Mariann Stackpole - 8762 Mulberry Drive, Easton, MD 21601 410-770-5742 mariann64@msn.com

October 17 (Saturday) Practice biking cheerfully across the Talbot landscape and support a new organization dedicated to improving the health of our Mid-Shore rivers by riding in the Tour de Trappe, 11, 40 and 100 mile routes to accommodate the needs of the full range of riders. The longer routes will include a ride on the Oxford-Bellevue ferry (ticket included in the registration fee). The century ride will start at 8:30 AM (registration at 8 AM) and the shorter rides at 10 AM (registration at 9 AM). The registration fee is \$30 and includes, along with the ferry ticket, a T-shirt, water bottle and a one year membership to the Choptank River and Eastern Bay Conservancy (CREB). Sponsorship for additional funding support is encouraged and all proceeds will benefit CREB in their efforts to restore and maintain water quality in Talbot's rivers. For further information or to register, go to: <http://www.tourdetrappe.com/index.html> or, call Robert Wieland, 410 822 5998.

October 17 (Saturday) 1 pm NAACP banquet at Easton High School Cafeteria. Speaker is Thomas LaViest. Tickets \$30. Contact: Doreen Getsinger 410-745-3485 or dcgets@atlanticbb.net

October 18 (Sunday) Southern Quarterly Meeting
Third Haven website ... <http://www.thirdhaven.org/>
New addresses: Robert Gladney robertgladney@yahoo.com
Laura Bode laurabode1@gmail.com
Greg Leibman gregoryleibman@yahoo.com

REMINDERS

Worship and Ministry would like to remind all members and attenders of the list of recommended reading material on the web site.

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.
or 410-924-5752.

To donate to the Third Haven Scholarship Fund or to learn more about planned giving, contact Mark Beck at mb4833@aol.com or 410-822-6481.

Please send new announcements to hawkjm@goeaston.net thank you

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Interim Meeting Report Sept. 12, 2009

General Secretary Report: Arthur Larrabee quoted a Middle School Friend saying, "I feel stronger and our light shines brighter when we are all together." He then made the following announcements:

- The Friends Center project is now complete.
- The PYM's Middle School Friends coordinator Elizabeth Wombly has resigned.
- The Tax Refusal Review Group is being organized.

Articulating What Is Common to Us at the Core of Our Faith: Arthur said he believes "the time has come for us to undertake to discern and write down, in a simple and concise way, a statement that addresses who we are and what we believe."

His hope is that, as a result of a seasoning /discernment process we will arrive at a simple statement that facilitates the following:

- We will be passionate about who we are.
- We will have given up our self-directed negativity.
- We will be able to articulate the shared beliefs at the center of our faith experience.
- We will enjoy the work of making ourselves known to the world.

He sited the metaphor of a solar system. At the center is the sun with its orbiting planets, each different in shape and size. The metaphor works for our Yearly Meeting as well, in that our faith and practices, our core beliefs, are at the center. Though we may not all subscribe to everything at the center, it does not mean we can't describe it. It is hoped that all will participate. Friends Approved.

General Services Standing Committee: Friends Center project requested PYM's backing for an \$800,000 line of credit to pay contractors for work already done. It will be repaid within a year after the outstanding grants are received from the Government. Approved.

PYM delegation to meet with President Obama: Approved - a delegation of 5 Friends convened by Jonathon Snipes to meet with the Obama administration to voice our concerns over "the intersection of economic policy and the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gases and to address other ecological damages." It is recommended that Monthly Meetings and wider bodies might engage their Senators to help sustain focus on the urgency of now. Climate change legislation might be delayed before the President's Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen on November 15th. See delving@fcnl.org

Respectfully, *Norval Thompson, THMM- IM Representative*

For the first time in more than a decade, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has published an Annual Report, highlighting the many programs and services PYM provides to Quaker Meetings and their members and attenders. This report may be opened at:

http://www.pym.org/pm/more.php?id=5974_0_6_0_M

Overseers Commitment to Care

The Overseers Committee provides leadership in maintaining a caring community and helping members find their right roles as nurturers of others. While each committee member provides oversight for part of our directory, all Overseers welcome questions and requests for assistance from any member or attendee.

- If your last name begins with: **A to Cl** - Doreen Getsinger is your overseer. You may reach her at 410-745-3485 or by e-mail at dcgets@atlanticbb.net
 - **Co to Fi** - Marsie Hawkinson 410-822-0589 or hawkjm@goeaston.net
 - **Fl to Gr** - Betty Jean Wheeler 410-822-2126
 - **Ha to Jo** - Norval Thompson 410-745-6837 or norval@goeaston.net
 - **K to Me** - Nancy Mullen 410-822-1616 or ncrm32@hotmail.com
 - **Mi to Ow** - Helen Womack 410-745-9589 or wwomack@bluecrab.org
 - **Pa to Sh** - Dee Rein 410-819-0529 or dmr49@verizon.net
(Clerk of Overseers, also monitors the answering machine)
 - **Si to Wa** - Irene Williams 410-819-3355 or winds2@verizon.net
 - **We to Z** - Ann Williams 410-770-3237
- Candace Shattuck Assistant Clerk of THFM 410-226-5787 Candace.Shattuck@gmail.com

Family Life

Harriet Heath, the Parenting Initiative Coordinator of PYM's Education Standing Committee conducted a workshop on Using Your Values to Raise Your Child to be an Adult You Admire



This is a continuing program and all are welcome to attend all or any of the sessions.

Exploring Quaker Faith and Family Life has a revised schedule in order for members of our Meeting to attend Quarterly Meeting at Camden on Oct 18th.

The following are our new dates: September 27th, October 25th, November 1st, and November 22nd.

If you are going to attend any of these sessions please fill out the attached questionnaire and e-mail it to Harriet:

harriet_heath@hotmail.com

Exploring Quaker Faith and Family Life

INTRODUCING YOURSELF

In order for me to get to know you a little before we meet, would you please complete the following and return it to me, Harriet_Heath@hotmail.com. Thank you and see you soon, Harriet

Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing address _____

E-mail _____ Fax # _____

Family information (Who lives in your house: other adult(s), children (names, ages and grades), pets, etc.)

What Quaker activities do you participate in?

Career (Past- Current- How and where do you spend your "working" day?)

What else? Interests, avocations

Something of what you hope to gain during our time together.

Bake Sale and sweet company

