



Third Haven Friends Meeting

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February 2016 Newsletter

“A concern is God-initiated, often surprising, always holy, for the life of God is breaking through into the world. Its execution is in peace and power and astounding faith and joy, for in unhurried serenity the Eternal is at work in the midst of time, triumphantly bringing all things up unto Himself.”

Thos. R. Kelley 1941

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Tenth Day First Month 2016



Molly Burgoyne, Co-Clerk of the Meeting, gathered together the meeting for worship with attention to business at 11:30 a.m. after a brief period of silence.

Attending: Twenty-four people attended: Dawn Atwater, Molly Burgoyne, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Debbie Danser, Ed Danser, Tom Corl, Doreen Getsinger, Marsie Hawkinson, Larissa Kitenko, Bill Lane, Connie Lewis, Joyce Macijeski, Beth Mufson, Cynthia Quast, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck, Robert Shattuck, John Turner, Sally Vermilye, Robert Wieland, Anny Williams, Mary Yancey, Ralph Young, Frank Zeigler, Joyce Zeigler.

Comments on First Query (Meeting for Worship)

Conversation revolved around uncertainty about addressing “inappropriate vocal ministry.” It is recommended one refer such incidents to Worship and Ministry, which addresses disruptive behavior only following careful discernment. The Clerk of the Meeting may also address behavior in the moment. We generally don’t censor other people’s sharing. Lobby pamphlets include a Pendle Hill pamphlet on vocal ministry.

Minutes for December 2015 Meeting for Business were **approved** as previously published in the newsletter.

Clerk's Desk

This year we have co-clerks in Candace Shattuck and Molly Burgoyne. They are splitting the year with Candace clerking even numbered months and Molly the odd numbered months. Both seek for all to meet with open hearts and minds, seeking God given Unity in our decision process. Beyond Consensus provides information on Quaker process. An all clerks meeting is being arranged for long range planning.

Third Haven Friends Meeting 2015 Annual Report as follows was **accepted** as presented by *Tom Corl*.

Third Haven Friends Meeting 2015 Annual Report



Worship & Spiritual Life – Meeting for worship was well attended in 2015, with an average of 65 on most First Days, in the late summer months about 50. Attendance was slightly less than in 2014. Meeting for worship on 4th day has a regular attendance 5-7, occasionally more. Meetings for worship were consistently spiritual, rich and nourishing, occasionally deeply gathered. The Third Haven meeting for worship is meaningful and vital. Worship is followed by afterthought, joys and concerns, greeting visitors and announcements. Third Haven has many visitors, who acknowledge the power of silent Quaker worship. The Worship Ministry Committee (W&M) cares for meeting for worship thoughtfully and tenderly. W&M provides

greeters before meeting for worship, welcoming visitors and providing information. W&M reads a Query each month on the First Day of meeting for business and reads the 4 Advices over the course of the year. In 2015, WMC offered the Course in Miracles, 4 silent retreats, 4 opportunities for singing, facilitated 11 monthly discussions on Spiritual topics and held monthly meetings of the Carl Jung Study group.

Testimonies – The Testimonies and Concerns Committee (T&C) is very active locally, effectively articulating our Quaker testimonies and demonstrating witness in the wider community. T&C engaged the Meeting community and other local organizations, working on Quaker testimonies in a wide variety of projects. T&C has addressed and worked this year on racism, white privilege, mass incarceration, and justice reform, among other things. T&C offered 5 Faith in Action events in 2015, presenting programs with local individuals whose work reflects Quaker values. T&C supported a monthly Peace Study Group, reading and discussing important writing on peace and non-violence. T&C worked within the Talbot Association of Clergy and Laity, the Talbot Interfaith Homeless Shelter, the Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center and others, helping to further their work locally. Projects of long duration included weekly work with Talbot County Detention Center lending library and the local Coalition Against Hunger's Wednesday "Marilla's lunches." This coalition, led by Third Haven, also cooked and delivered 150 Thanksgiving dinners to elderly and shut-in community members this year. With PEACE (Peace Education and Community Effort), T&C has participated in weekly peace vigils for 14 years and been an active presence in the local Multicultural Festival held each 5th month for a decade. T&C also allocates and administers the proceeds from the Shoffner International Education Fund on a yearly basis. The most recent recipient from this fund has been Aguayuda, which improves life and health in poor rural communities, through clean water, sanitation and education.

Community – 2015 was another year of growth at Third Haven, with 12 new members. There are 138 adult members and 26 members under the age of 21 for a total of 164 members. In addition, there are 87 attenders in the Meeting directory. There were 2 member deaths in the Meeting community in 2015. Third Haven is 1 of the larger meetings in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM). The Meeting cares for its young and old members with consideration and tenderness.

The First Day School (FDS) continues to thrive. Although our numbers are smaller than 10 years ago, FDS has 4-5 committed families with regular attendance. After a period of silence with the Meeting each First Day, FDS meets together in classrooms. FDS follows PYM curriculum, Godly Play and Faith and Play storytelling. The Scholarship Committee built up its endowment fund, held by Friends Fiduciary, to \$98,777. The operating fund is \$4,919. The Scholarship Committee awarded \$5500 to 2 Third Haven students in Quaker schools and 7 in colleges.

Overseers care for the wellbeing of members and attenders with pastoral care. During 2015, the Overseers helped guide 11 attenders through the membership process. Overseers facilitated memorial services for Betty Jean Wheeler and Molly Bond. Overseers were delighted to play a role in the marriage of Overseer Paige Bethke to regular attender Ben Tilghman. Overseers sponsored 2 Meeting community luncheons this year: the annual new member luncheon on a snowy First Day in 3rd month and a luncheon in 9th month that featured several members discussing their path to Third Haven.

The Hospitality Committee seeks to welcome and engage members and attenders by offering fellowship after the meeting for worship each First Day. Hospitality partnered with First Day School on an annual picnic lunch and the Christmas holiday celebration; and with Overseers on 2 more lunches. Hospitality membership and participation are fluid and responsive to the needs of the Third Haven community as various activities and events unfold during the year. Hospitality supports plans to upgrade the kitchen and serving areas.

Business and Communications – The Clerk of the Meeting and Recording Clerk served and led the Meeting community very well. Meetings for business are conducted in the good order used among us, with all difficulties handled with tender care. The minutes are carefully recorded, approved and kept in very good order.

The Communications Committee produces an excellent and informative monthly newsletter, with the minutes of each meeting for business and fine photographs, distributing it each month by email, or post if needed. Communications provides frequent announcements, Meeting calendar updates and other information by email. Communications maintains and continually updates the very valuable and useful Third Haven Friends Meeting website and directory at – <http://www.thirdhaven.org> . The Meeting maintains a very useful library.

The Outreach Committee expanded its membership and developed a new outreach program – the George Fox Forum (GFF) – to extend an understanding of Quaker testimonies to the wider community; create a quality, learning environment; and provide a forum for a dialogue on meaningful contemporary issues. Quaker Quest inspired the GFF. GFF will help Third Haven Friends share their personal faith experience and spiritual journeys. The 4 GFF sessions, 1.22-4.22.16, will address Community, Equality, Integrity and Peace. GFF seeks to attract others from the wider community. Outreach worked with the Third Haven website manager to develop the first Meeting Face Book page.

Property and Grounds Committee (P&G) maintains our lovely grounds and historic buildings in good repair. P&G made improvements in our buildings and facilities and managed

the plantings well. P&G has an ambitious program for the year ahead. There is broad participation in seasonal clean up days. The committee secured approvals from the owners of Third Haven's historic easement for an access ramp to the 1684 meetinghouse. P&G made progress on making the common room facilities fully handicapped accessible. P&G has begun to consider the northern portion of the property with respect to water quality, a healthy and rich ecosystem, and the prospect of bordering a public bike path.

The *Trustees* of Third Haven Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is a separate entity with financial assets that are used to support specific Third Haven property and grounds projects. In 2015, the Trustees covered the cost of a new gas burner for the brick meetinghouse, half the cost of resurfacing the driveway and parking areas, masonry work on the brick meetinghouse and new heating and air-conditioning units for the common room. The maintenance and the character of the historic Third Haven buildings and grounds owe a great deal to P&G and the Trustees.

The Meeting is in good financial condition. The fiscal year 2014-15 ended on 6th month 30th, 2015, with operating expenses of \$53,782 and income of \$59,932. The Meeting tries to keep one year's operating expenses in reserve. The Meeting financial reserves, as of the end of 2015, are expected to be around \$90,000.

Conclusion – Third Haven Friends is a vital and growing Friends community, nurturing and supporting young and old members and attenders, nourishing the corporate and individual Quaker Spiritual journey in the Meeting community.

Tom Corl

Overseers Annual Report – *Marsie Hawkinson* presented the annual report prepared by clerk, Adrienne Rudge, which was **accepted**.

Third Haven Friends Meeting

Overseers Committee Annual Report for 2015

The role of the Overseers Committee is to help maintain a caring community within Third Haven Friends Meeting, with a special emphasis on pastoral care and counseling. We embrace that role while recognizing that each member and attender of THFM plays a part in the well being of our faith community. Since much of the work of Overseers is one-on-one or in small clearness committees, this annual report can only highlight some of our activities.



In 2015, these members of Third Haven Friends Meeting served as Overseers: Paige Bethke Tilghman, Molly Burgoyne, Larny Claggett, Marsie Hawkinson, Connie Lewis, John Schreiner, Dona Sorce, Joan Wetmore, Winslow Womack and Adrienne Rudge, clerk. As before, I begin my report with thanks to all of the committee members for their constructive suggestions, their timely actions, their senses of humor and their devotion to pastoral care. And I bid farewell to Molly and Winslow, who retired from the committee at the end of December.

The Committee met monthly with the exception of June, July and December. We kept in touch with the Third Haven Friends Meeting community through a calling tree by dividing members and attenders alphabetically. We spoke with, wrote to and visited with individuals as the year progressed, with special attention to those facing challenges.

One of the most rewarding aspects of Overseers Committee work is participation in clearness committees for new members. In meeting with nine prospective new members this year, we got to discuss their spiritual journeys as well as their understanding of Quaker beliefs and practices. Any clearness committee meeting with a prospective member also includes a discussion of the responsibilities of membership. In 2015, we welcomed to membership Jack Coady, Amy Owsley and Ryan Ewing and their children Liam and Finley, Jennifer Coleman and her son Giuseppe Colburn, Christine Brooks and Ted Corbett, John C. Turner, Susan Dickinson and Bill Schauer.

A great aid to the membership process has been the leaflet called **A Pathway to Membership** at Third Haven Friends Meeting, which was written chiefly by John Schreiner after input from both the Overseers and the Outreach Committees. Can it be only a coincidence that after its publication in 2014, THFM had a record number of attenders who applied for membership?

Overseers are responsible for responding to requests for marriage under the care of the meeting. This year, it was a privilege and joy to take the lead in the marriage of Paige Bethke and Ben Tilghman, who were married on November 28th.

The committee also assisted in the memorial services of longtime members, Betty Jean Wheeler and Molly Bond. Our ongoing mission is to encourage each member to fill out a Memorial Intentions Form and have it on file with the Overseers. For those who wish to have a plaque added to the THFM memorial wall, there is also an opportunity to reserve a spot. We continued in our discussions of creating a scatter garden for ashes in the graveyard and will pursue that potential project in 2016.

The annual new member and attender recognition luncheon was held on March 1st as a steady snow fell outside. Although attendance was hurt by the weather, a hardy group enjoyed fellowship and the ample offerings of the buffet table. We sponsored another lunch in September with a focus on storytelling. It was well attended and the stories (mostly about the journey to Third Haven) were wonderful. The Hospitality Committee was our partner in each case.

In 2015, members of the Overseers Committee attended an informational meeting of the Exploratory Committee for Helping Citizens Age in Place in Talbot County. That exploratory committee has become Talbot Village Connections. Our committee continues to consider ways to help members of the THFM community age in place successfully.

Adrienne Rudge, Clerk

Treasurers Report – *Cynthia Quast* presented the following report summary, which was **accepted**. Detailed financial statements may be viewed on the Third Haven website.

Treasurers Summary Report

For the first half of our 2015/16 fiscal year we have the following results:

Our member contributions total just over \$29,000 which is almost 57% of our annual Member contributions budget. Our Attender contributions total just over \$5,800 giving us over 100% of our Attender contributions budget. Our total income totals just over \$36,000 which is almost 60% of our total income budget. Our expenses total almost \$25,000 which is about 42% of our expense budget. This gives us a net income year-to-date of just over \$11,000.

On Balance Sheet as of 12/31/15, we had almost \$46,900 in our operating checking account and almost \$51,000 in our Invested operating funds at Friends Fiduciary. We have renamed this account from Operating Reserve to Investments since there was some confusion over what constitutes our reserve funds. According to our CPA this money is not reserved for anything it is just cash that we have invested and he suggested this change. The Total Equity figure at the bottom of the Balance Sheet gives you our reserve funds. You can also see the unrealized gains and losses on the investment account under Equity. As of 12/31 we had an unrealized gain of almost \$1,000. This figure will fluctuate with the investment market.

In comparing the first half of our 2015/16 fiscal year to the prior fiscal year, our Member contributions are down by over \$3,800 and our total income is down by just over \$3,000. Our expenses are higher for the first half of our fiscal year by almost \$2,000 and our net income is down by over \$5,000 over the prior year.

Testimonies and Concerns Recommendation- *Nancy Robbins* presented Testimonies and Concerns recommendation that a *refugee crisis letter*, which they had composed be sent by Third Haven Friends Meeting to various politicians at all levels of government encouraging compassionate responses to refugees. The letter reads as follows:

“Dear (differing people with differing introductions suitable for the position of the recipient). As we witness the misery of thousands huddled in camps along Europe’s borders, fleeing from war and terrorism for safety somewhere else, our abundance of place and wealth here in beautiful Talbot County is in stark contrast. Can we stand aside and refuse help to those who are seeking what our country holds as the promise for everyone - a life of freedom from oppression in health and dignity?

Our national commitment to the refugee crisis is inadequate and disproportionately small compared to the burden that European and Middle Eastern countries are shouldering. But for decades local faith groups have successfully partnered with officials to welcome, support and sponsor refugees. It is a fair and just response to sharing the earth’s abundance and riches in our time.

Where fear and xenophobia are present, there is no evidence of increased safety in insularity, but rather increased suspicion, exclusion, and hostility.

Let us see Talbot County be a welcoming community, building cohesion and inclusion among people that will stand as a foundation for peace in the future.

In this one way - welcoming strangers into our midst, viewing them as more similar to us than they are different - we can be advocates for world peace and attentive to the ancient words in the *Book of Hebrews*: “Be not inhospitable to strangers lest they be Angels in disguise.”

The signature will be Molly Burgoyne, Clerk, and members of Third Haven Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

The Meeting **approved** such a letter with Testimonies and Concerns refining the wording per suggestions to be offered by those in attendance. This is the first step of action of this issue. All are invited to T&C Meetings, held the First First Day of the month following Meeting for Worship and Hospitality.

New Business

May 12 an Eastern Shore Land Conservancy tea and tour will take place at Third Haven. Help may be needed. Hold the date; more details will follow in the newsletter.

Meeting closed at 12:30 p.m. with Silent Worship
D. Rein, Recorder

Important Points:

Annual Reports of Overseers and Third Haven Friends Meeting for 2015
Testimonies and Concerns refugee crisis letter recommended and approved
Treasurers Report

Approve or Accept?

Friends approve decisions and minutes. Friends receive or accept reports (the group not deciding anything). To maintain this distinction, the clerk can refrain from asking for approval of a report, and minutes can record that the meeting received or accepted the report. It helps to present reports from a committee separately from items brought by the committee for decision.

From Quaker Process by Mathilda Navias, page 194

Announcements

Announcements <http://www.thirdhaven.org/announcements.php>
Calendar of Activities <http://www.thirdhaven.org/calendar.php>
Online directory <http://www.thirdhaven.org/members/dir.php>

February 9, Tuesday Pancake Supper

You are invited to help Asbury UMC raise money to restore their historic church on “The Hill” by attending a Pancake Supper (\$7) on Tuesday, February 9, 2016. Come anytime between 4pm-7pm. Asbury United Methodist Church, 18 South Higgins, Turn South from East Dover

February 28 Sunday Empty Bowls The 8th annual Empty Bowls community dinner to benefit Talbot County food pantries will be held on Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016 with two seatings: 5 to 6 PM and 6:30 to 7:30 PM. Location: Immanuel Lutheran Church Hall, 7215 Ocean Gateway, Easton, MD 21601 (on the westbound lane of Rt. 50, west of the Maryland State Police barracks). . The bowl selection process is a very special part of the event. Tickets: <https://mscf.givezooks.com/events/talbot-empty-bowls-2016> or by mail Mid-Shore Community Foundation 102 East Dover Street, Easton, MD 21601. Contact: Connie Crow conniecrow@gmail.com

March 6, Sunday New Members and Attenders Luncheon

The annual Third Haven Friends Meeting New Members and Attenders Luncheon will be held on March 6 at the rise of meeting. All are welcome as are contributions of side dishes, bread and desserts for the buffet table. Questions: Adrienne Rudge at 410 822-4959 or adriennerudge@gmail.com

Bolivian Trip

Katie Claggett writes, "I am able to practice Spanish and making connections with Quakers from all over the world at this FWCC conference. I have made connections with the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund (BQEF) that Third Haven helped to support through the Shoffner Education Fund. My new friend is Sara, whose brother graduated from the BQEF. It is hot and windy here and I got a sunburn when I went hiking."



History Matters-Ken Carroll

Bob Marshall writes, "When Ken Carroll was in the Pines a few months ago I went over to check on him. I asked if he was considering moving out of his house given the vertigo episodes. He told me that as long as he was still writing papers he felt he should stay at his house. So, I asked what papers he was writing. He then started to talk about the Warren Commission report, the mention of his name in it, and his relationship to Ruth Paine. I found the story concerning. I asked him some questions -- enough to be able to track down if his story made any sense. Ken is in both Ruth Paine's address book as well as on her calendar.

See http://www.history-matters.com/archive/contents/wc/contents_wh17.htm

Items CE 401, 402

<http://www.swarthmore.edu/Library/friends/ead/5287carr.xml#boxfolder1> Swarthmore has in its Ken Carroll collection the *Correspondence discussing the Kennedy assassination, Ruth Paine, and collections for Marina Oswald and her children.*

Briefly, the story is as follows. Ruth Paine was a Quaker (there is a small side story about her husband being Unitarian), and this is in part how Ken came to know her. Ruth Paine had an interest in learning the Russian language and took in a boarder at her home -- Marina Oswald and children. Marina was the estranged wife of Lee Harvey Oswald. Lee Harvey Oswald would

occasionally come by to visit Marina and the children, but apparently he was an odd person as described by Ruth Paine. The best description I have found of Ruth Paine's interaction with and thoughts regarding the Oswalds after the Kennedy assassination are in CE460 at the first website above which is an article Ruth wrote for Look Magazine that was apparently never published except in the Warren Commission report. Two very striking components of that story are (i) Lee Harvey Oswald was having a very difficult time finding work in Dallas but it was Ruth Paine who learned of an opening at the Texas Book Depository, and she got him the interview that led to the job -- it was from the Book Depository that Oswald took the shots at Kennedy. The second concerns the rifle used by Oswald -- unknown to Ruth Paine but known to Marina, Oswald had stored the rifle at Ruth's home (apparently Marina had no idea what he was going to do with the rifle).

As a consequence of Ken's friendship with Ruth, and the explicit mention of his name in her address book and calendar, he was interviewed by the FBI regarding what he knew about Ruth Paine and the Oswalds. He still gets calls from conspiracy types about the matter. After the assassination, Ken and Ruth tried to raise money to help Marina and her children (see Swarthmore reference above). When Ken mentioned this issue at the meeting yesterday I found it hard to believe that anyone in the room, except me, had a clue what he was talking about.”

Southern Quarter

Connie Lewis reports, “Southern Quarter was held at Chester River Meeting on First Day, January 17, 2016. Nine people from Third Haven attended. Meeting was held from 11 - 12 noon. A delicious lunch was provided.

Melissa Rycroft, a member of Pensdale, was with us. She is the PYM Nominating Clerk. Melissa was wanting to meet people from the different quarters and ask if we knew anyone with special talents that would like to serve on this committee. The two committees are Quaker Life Committee and Administrative Committee. They would meet a few times a year and have conference calls monthly.

Southern Quarter is looking for a new Recording Clerk. A discussion followed on whether to have one person or have the clerk hosting the southern quarter record.

January is usually our business meeting with annual reports read from each quarter. Updated contact information was requested from each quarter, and this information will be included in the Minutes the Recording Secretary sends out to each quarter. One note of interest is Wicomico River has installed solar panels and are saving quite a bit on their electric. Peace Team packets were handed out by Dean Hoover to each quarter. Chester River will be having a "threshing session" to determine the direction of their meeting. Right now 2/3 of their budget is spent on the building and grounds.

Quarterly meetings are always on the third First Day of the quarter. The next one will be at Cadbury at Lewes on May 15, 2016, then Third Haven on October 16, 2016, and Wicomico will host the next business meeting in January 2017. If for any reason there is a conflict and a quarter cannot host as scheduled, they may switch with another meeting as long as there is ample time to make those arrangements.

We adjourned at 1:30. The Recording Clerk will be sending out the minutes to each quarter.”

George Fox Forums

The first of four George Fox forums was held on February 29th at Third Haven. Members of the community have been invited to learn more about Quakers and their commitment to the SPICES: Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Stewardship. Following a soup and dessert supper, which was varied and fulfilling in itself, the 60 attendees heard a brief TED talk about The Danger of a Single Story by writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Panelists John Schreiner, Larny Claggett and Dawn Atwater shared their stories of Quaker Community and growth in Quaker spirituality. An opportunity to discuss two questions about one's own developing spiritual experience was provided at the dining tables, and the evening concluded with fellowship. Support services setting up for this event, preparing food and lighting the drive were provided by numerous members. Members and Attenders willing to help future forums by providing soup, bread or desserts or helping set up, clean up or light the drive would be most welcome. Please contact Dawn and Dona Sorce, who are coordinating these efforts. Our letterhead this month shows the lighted luminaries, leading attendees "in the light."

Future George Fox Forums:

February 26th 6 p.m. Topic: Equality

March 18th 6 p.m. Topic: Integrity

April 22nd 6 p.m. Topic: Peace

Reservations may be made at the Third Haven Friends Meeting Facebook page or by calling Dawn Atwater at 410-714-3371.



Around Third Haven



Bill Schauer shares his spiritual journey

Testimonies and Concerns meets



Members and Attenders meet and greet

