



Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington Street

Easton, Maryland 21601

(410) 822-0293

Info@thirdhaven.org

NOVEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

Am I clear that I am the steward, not the owner, of property in my care?

Query 11 Stewardship of Resources

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Eighth Day Tenth Month 2017

Meeting convened at 11:30 with opening silent worship. Adrienne Rudge, assistant co-clerk, led the meeting in Molly Brian's absence.



Present: Dawn Atwater, Gwen Beegle, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Benita Cooper, Tom Corl, Doreen Getsinger, Marsie Hawkinson, Martha Holthausen, Bill Lane, Marie Leonard, Connie Lewis, Joyce Macijeski, Sumner Parker, Cynthia Quast, Nancy Robbins, Adrienne Rudge, Candace Shattuck, Dona Sorce, Paige Tilghman, Bob Wack, Joan Wetmore

Comments on the 10th Query. Stewardship of the Environment: none.

Approval of minutes for 9th month were ACCEPTED with no changes.

Clerk's desk:

The clerk's mail included a letter from the Talbot County Council thanking the Meeting for the nomination of Winslow Womack to the County's Beautiful People award. There will be a ceremony honoring the 21 nominees on Tuesday 10/17/17 at 5:30 in the Talbot County library.

There was a letter from the Friends Meeting of Austin, TX approving the transfer of membership of Marie Leonard to Third Haven. There was an enthusiastic welcome from those gathered. A committee of Marsie Hawkinson, Nancy Robbins and Joan Wetmore will convene to welcome her.

Traveling minute: Rob Wieland and Leigh Anne Dodge – written by Clerk Molly Brian. This letter holds them in the light and recommends them to any meetings they may attend in their travels. The meeting ACCEPTED the minute.

Treasurer's Report: *Cynthia Quast*

A quarter of the way into the fiscal year, we are having a bit of a slow start. Contributions are at about 8% while expenses are at 25% at this point. Noted was the amount spent over and above the budgeted amount for the Common Room renovation which was offset by a special donation and a contribution by the Trustees. We have about \$30K in the bank. The Friends Fiduciary balance is approximately \$61K. The scholarship fund received memorial contributions in honor of Frank Zeigler. In comparison to prior year, member contributions are down significantly; we normally expect contributions to pick up at the end of the calendar year.

Budget and Finance: *Bill Lane* further explained the Common Room renovation expenses. Third Haven Monthly Meeting approved an estimated budget for the project of about \$22000 to \$24000. The Trustees of the Meeting were asked to help and they generously contributed \$11000. We were also very fortunate to receive donated labor, time, and materials plus very kind monetary donations of over \$10000. The total cost of the project to date is \$25400. There is still some work to be done but because of prudent cost saving measures and the generous donations, our net cost to THMM and the 2017-18 budget has been about \$4220. The project has achieved its main goals of kitchen renovation, sound abatement, and general improvement in usefulness.

A Friend explained that there are some small expenses still to be done such as new seating and carpet cleaning.

There was a question about the projected budget for the Common Room as it relates to the annual budget; it was not a line item but rather a budget in itself to be managed by the committee, which will be eventually laid down. A Friend mentioned that there remain open questions going forward regarding changes to the common room; perhaps the committee could remain standing but quiet until needed. The treasurer asked for clarification about guidance as to whether there will be budgetary parameters going forward. A Friend suggested that the current CR committee be laid down; longer-term items could be addressed in the future.

The Clerk suggested that the All Clerks' meeting on Saturday 10/14/17 address these questions in detail. The meeting APPROVED.

Hurricane Assistance: The clerk brought up an issue that has arisen several times in recent weeks: assistance for people affected by the recent hurricanes. Both PYM and Fidelity Charitable Trusts have ideas for ways to help. A Friend reminded the meeting that several years ago THFM discussed a similar issue: the earthquake in Haiti. Surplus from the budget was sent. Therefore, precedent exists for treating the surplus this way.

It was suggested that this issue be addressed at the All Clerks' meeting as well. We do have a budgetary surplus, but the Charitable Committee's requests over the usual amount were not approved. The meeting APPROVED moving this issue to the All Clerks' meeting.

New Business: A Friend asked that we remember a business meeting run by Monimia Barker which was run quickly and efficiently; he thanked the clerk for her running this one in a similar fashion.

Meeting closed with silent worship at 12 noon.

Nancy C. Robbins, co-Recording Clerk

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>

November 4 (Saturday)

FALL CLEAN-UP DAY

Fall clean-up day is Saturday, November 4, from 8:30- 2:00 Rain date is November 5 from 1:00 to 5:00. Tasks include the usual winterizing of the Old Meeting House and raking and policing the grounds. Additionally, we have leaves being delivered by the town of Easton which need to be spread along the stream, and MANY plants to get in the ground. Contact Ben Tilghman with any questions or suggestions. Hope to see you all there. Thanks.

bctilghmanjr@earthlink.net

November 5 (Sunday)

First Day Conversation will meet Nov. 5, 8:50 am - 9:50 am, in the Common Room. The topic is "Integrity Everyday". Everyone is welcome. Join us for coffee and conversation.

Daylight saving time ends 2:00 am Sunday, November 5

November 12 (Sunday)

Meeting for business follows meeting for worship.

November 17-19 (Friday through Sunday)

Pendle Hill's annual Clerking Workshop with Arthur Larrabee is just around the corner, November 17-19. The title says it all: Clerking: Serving the Community with Joy and Confidence. For many years, Arthur has led incoming and seasoned clerks of monthly meetings and Quaker organizations in the art of clerking -- listening and guiding Quaker meetings for worship with attention to business towards a sense of the meeting. In addition to Arthur's excellent modeling of clerking skills, participants will gain insights from each other in this nuts-and-bolts workshop, as well as walk away with a volume of Arthur's accumulated written work on clerking.

November 23 (Thursday)

Thanksgiving Meals

Thanksgiving meals prep and delivery: Third Haven is part of a larger group of faith communities who are preparing and delivering thanksgiving meals for 160 people in need in our community. Third Haven's share of the food is as follows: 4 turkeys, cooked and sliced, 2 large lasagna-style pans of each of the following: green beans, sweet potatoes and stuffing. The food is to be delivered at 9am on Thanksgiving Day to Asbury Methodist Church, 18 S. Higgins St., Easton. The food needs to be cooked but does not have to be hot so it could be prepared ahead of time and left with someone else who could deliver it to Asbury on Thanksgiving Day. If you are able to help or have questions please contact Cynthia Quast at quast@goeaston.net or 410-934-4138. Also if you are available to help deliver the food beginning at 9:30am on T Day please contact Ralph Young at rmyoung@goeaston.net

Advice on Worship and Ministry

The Worship and Ministry committee discusses the quality of meeting for worship at its meetings each month. We encourage members to read and reflect this Advice on Worship and Ministry (1998), which includes guidelines for preparation and participation in silent worship and vocal ministry. Worship and Ministry committee members are interested in your reactions and your thoughts on the spiritual quality of meetings for worship at THFM and we invite you to speak with any member or to attend a committee meeting. Contact Gwen Beegle (clerk) or any member of the committee

This Advice is offered to those attending the meeting for worship at Third Haven Friends Meeting. The advice will help the visitors and new attenders understand the (unprogrammed) silent Quaker meeting for worship. The Worship and Ministry Committee provides this Advice to the members and attenders to nurture, guide, and support silent and spoken ministry in the meeting for worship at Third Haven Friends Meeting.

The meeting for worship is the heart of the Religious Society of Friends. It draws us together in the enlightening and empowering presence of God, sending us forth with renewed vision and commitment. . . . When Friends worship, we reach out from the depths of our being to God, the giver of life and of the world around us. Our worship is the search for communion with God and the offering of ourselves -- body and soul – for the doing of God’s will. (p 17)

The Meeting for Worship: Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice, 1997

Our worship is a deep exercise of our spirits before the Lord, . . . but we wait in silence of the fleshy part, to hear with the new ear what God shall please to speak inwardly in our own hearts, or outwardly through others, . . . and we pray in the spirit with a new understanding, as God pleaseth to quicken, draw forth, and open our hearts toward himself. –Isaac Pennington, 1661 (pp 102-103)

Worship: Faith and Practice item 54

Preparation and Opening

The first that enters into the place of your meeting. . . turn in thy mind to the light, and await upon God singly, as if none were present but the Lord; and here thou art strong. The next that comes in, let them in simplicity of heart sit down and turn in to the same light, and wait in the spirit; and so all the rest coming in, in the fear of the Lord, sit down in pure stillness and silence of all flesh, and wait in the light. . . Those who are brought to a pure still waiting upon God in the spirit, are come nearer to the Lord than words are. . . it is good to be here; and this is the end of all words and writings – to bring people to the eternal living Word. –Alexander Parker, 1660 (p 100)

Worship: Faith and Practice item 45

The Worship and Ministry Committee advises:

Come to meeting for worship prepared to worship, clear of any predetermination either to speak or to remain silent. Arrive punctually, before the hour of worship is scheduled to begin. The meeting for worship begins as soon as the first in the place of worship has entered into the silence. Enter quietly. Do not speak to others or otherwise disturb the silence. If you arrive late,

enter quietly so as not to disturb the silence. Do not enter or leave the meeting for worship when someone is offering a message.

Discernment and Vocal Ministry The Worship and Ministry Committee advises: Attentive silence is essential to the ministry of Friends. Await the movement of the Spirit in the meeting for worship. Listen openly in the expectant silence and to vocal ministry. Seek to be present in the moment for both the silence and vocal ministry.

Be open and attentive to leadings of the Spirit. Spiritually discern your leadings for vocal ministry. Try to discern the Will of God, for yourself, for the meeting for worship, and for the Meeting community. The inspiration of the meeting for worship depends upon each of us, to discern and offer vocal ministry, as led by the Spirit of God. We are all called to be ministers.

Wait until you have been moved by the Spirit and discerned that your message is to be shared before speaking. It is customary to wait until the meeting has settled-in and centered-down before offering vocal ministry.

If a message is to be spoken, it should be heard. Stand when offering a message. Speak clearly and loudly, so as to be heard throughout the meeting house, even by those who may not hear well. One may speak to or build upon an earlier message which may have inspired one's leading. In doing so, it is better to refer to the message than to the name of the speaker. Speak only once. Release your message to the Spirit at the center of the meeting.

Speak briefly and clearly as led by the Spirit. A message may not be for everyone, but each message is for someone. If you are not clear on your leading for vocal ministry, you may offer your message as an afterthought at the rise of meeting. Partisan political messages are not appropriate in meeting for worship or afterthoughts. Save messages that are personal or on activities for announcements at the end of our gathering.

Worship and Ministry Committee
Third Haven Friends Meeting
10th month 11th, 1998

Common Room “Functional Update” Nears Completion

Structural elements of the Common Room update approved at the June Meeting for Business were completed over the summer, so we have been enjoying those for several months now. Highlights include fresh paint all around, acoustic ceiling tile, light emitting diode (LED) lighting, a space and sound defining archway, new kitchen floor tile, countertops, stovetop, sinks, faucets and water heater.

Two new cabinets at the corners of the east wall accommodate the need for display and storage space. The intent is to give committees what they need to do their work, at the same time reducing clutter. One cabinet offers display space for brochures, newsletters and other printed materials as well as some bulletin board space on the inside of the doors. The other contains the

digital display screen to share photos, a shelf for the library and, on the bottom shelf, two canvas bags to collect books for donation to the Detention Center library.

A large rolling kitchen cart, assembled and finished on site, is being used mainly for beverage service and can be moved around the room as needed. A number of stackable armchairs with upholstered seats expand our seating capabilities. Window darkening shades will be installed shortly. A valance at each window is there to hide the shade when it is not in use. Under consideration are replacement of the large old sofa with a newer, firmer smaller one, and hanging of artwork.



Spiritual Journeys



After meeting for worship and hospitality time, Gwen Beegle shared her spiritual journey with interested friends. With her we traveled to Bedford, Pennsylvania; Tennessee, and Kansas as she attended the United Church of Christ, United Methodist and other denominations which inspired her growth and inquiry. Doc Watson's hymn "Down in the Valley to Pray" offered variety and insight into her experiences. Worship and Ministry continues to sponsor the sharing of Spiritual Journeys among our members and attenders.

Hospitality Nurtures Our Community

Thanks to the efforts of many members and attenders our hospitality time after Meeting for Worship continues to foster connections among us. Whether you can bring a food offering, help to set up, or clean up afterwards, every effort is appreciated and enhances life for all of us. Spontaneous participation is welcome or you can sign up on the schedule posted on the refrigerator in the kitchen. Part of the fun is working together for the benefit of all of Third Haven. Many hands make light work, and merry too!

