

THIRD HAVEN FRIENDS MEETING

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December, 2023 Newsletter

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Business 11th Month, 12th, 2023



Opening silent worship: Clerk Tom Corl opened the Meeting with silent worship at 11:50 a.m.

Attending: (hybrid) Mia Brown-Echerd, Larny Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Stephanie French, Marsie Hawkinson, John Hawkinson, Janet Kemp, Bill Lane, Marie Leonard, Connie Lewis, Steven Meixner, Beth Mufson, Marian Murphy, Clinton Pettus, Cynthia Quast, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, John Schreiner, Priscilla

Sener, Jonathan Slocum, Joan Wetmore, Winslow Womack, Mary Yancey

Comments on Eleventh Query: Education (read at Meeting for Worship) Thoughts included what might be done to support public education. Perhaps outreach would encourage field trips to our grounds about local history. Also, a tuition free local private Polaris academy might be supported individually and by the Meeting.

Approval of minutes from 10th Month, 8th meeting for business **Approved** (distributed with the Newsletter)

Clerks Desk

Sandra (Sam) Steffens request for membership transfer, referred to Pastoral Care. Kerry Colin requests conducting a Shore Lit gathering to read nonviolence poetry the week of December 11. Mary, Susan and Beth will help. Larissa will explore with Kerry and arrange if appropriate.



Treasurer's report – *Bill Lane*

We are about 1/3 into our fiscal year (July 1-June 30th). Our income is about 22% and our expenses are about 38% of annual budget. This is tracking similar to past years. We are off in all categories except the use of facilities. Expenses are in line as projected. We would like to see member and attender financial contributions increase in order to catch up. End of calendar year giving from our generous members and attenders will help us reach our goals. Questions may be addressed to Bill Lane.

Nominating Committee, preliminary report – *Marsie Hawkinson* Accepted The Nominating Committee has been communicating with Friends about their committee assignments and will present a final report at the December meeting for business. 2024 Nominations draft report and current list committees of Third Haven Friends Meeting was circulated in announcements November 11th.

Members and clerks are being consulted on committee participation for finalizing by the committee and the report.



Testimonies and Concerns Annual Report – *Paige Tilghman, Mary Yancey presenting* **Accepted**

Testimonies and Concerns (T&C) Committee maintains interest in several key projects to provide community involvement options for Third Haven members. T&C is served by Mary Yancey, Stephanie French, Beth Mufson, Lorraine Claggett and Paige Tilghman, Clerk. The T&C Committee organizes a monthly dinner delivered to the Talbot Interfaith

Shelter (TIS) through its partnership with Talbot Association of Clergy and Laity (TACL), of which THMM has been a partner. T&C invites members to contribute food supplies, prepare the dinner and deliver the meal to the shelter, feeding approximately 18 adults and children monthly. Friends also continue to donate food supplies weekly for local the Neighborhood Service Center food pantries. T&C supports Cynthia Quast and her work with Asbury United Methodist Church for the coordination of the annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Several members volunteered to provide food and to deliver over 200 dinners on Thanksgiving Day. T&C provides oversight for members and attenders who volunteer library services to detainees of the Talbot County Detention Center (TCDC). The book lending system was updated this year and the collection of over 5,000 books has been purged with more current books added to the library. The maintenance of the library system is provided for by Stephanie French and Jeanne Halpin with approximately 12 volunteers. Many members of THMM volunteer with the Chesapeake Multicultural Center, providing English as a second language training and tutoring students. The Chesapeake Multicultural Center celebrated 10 years of service to

immigrant families and children on April 20th with a wonderful exhibit in Easton. This year several members reached out to representatives of the Pocomoke American Indian Tribe to learn more about our early Quaker history and interaction with native peoples. T&C hosted a visit to TH for our Quarter from Peace Team representatives in May.

Our Meeting embraced several environmental initiatives throughout the year to improve our ability to buy bulk food, reduce waste and take better care of our grounds. Mary Yancey led many environmental initiatives including Meeting's participation with Faithful Green Leaders training. Dona Sorce continues to monitor Quaker Voice on behalf of Meeting to keep us apprised of legislative issues. T&C Committee continues to make an annual recommendation to Meeting for Charitable Giving contributions and produces a Giving Guide that outlines local and Quaker organizations as suggestions for individual charitable giving in keeping with our testimonies. Members of the Meeting continue to participate in a weekly Peace Vigil at the Talbot County Courthouse in Easton led by John Turner.

Question: How has the Shoffner fund for international education for world understanding been executed? Discussion ensued concerning past uses under T&C. Better coordination of all Meeting donations might be considered.

Annual Giving Guide: compiled and to be circulated with recommendations for Meeting and members for charitable contributions, organized by our testimonies with local and Quaker organizations.

Testimonies and Concerns recommended the following organizations receive \$3000 from our contributions to demonstrate our Quaker values in our community and the world: Originally proposed: \$500 to United Palestinian Appeal, \$500 to Ukraine Red Cross Discussion concluded with sending this \$1000 through the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) for humanitarian assistance to people affected by the Israel Hamas conflict. **Approved**

\$400 to Multicultural Center, MidShore Council on Family Violence, For All Seasons, Lifetime Wells, and Choptank Habitat for Humanity. **Approved**

Draft State of the Meeting Report-Tom Corl

This report has been compiled from reports from committee clerks and circulated with announcements. The final State of the Meeting report will be presented at the December meeting for business for approval then sent on to Southern Quarterly Meeting (SQM) and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM). PYM also asks for a Spiritual State of the Meeting report usually due in April. The latter has focused on racism and climate change in the last few years. There was some discussion about the differences, the overlap and the need for the 2 reports.

Comments: Missing is the Outreach report, which would be helpful if submitted. Some reports may be edited down to shorten. Additions and corrections were noted for amendment.

Update Planning Committee- Tom Corl

Diagram of architectural drawing was sent out prior to business meeting. It is one of 4 alternative designs that the PC reviewed and went on to choose the preferred one. The design, called SK3, calls for the existing second floor window to be made into a door, but

no other destruction of the brick meetinghouse (BMH) wall would be required. Obstruction of the first floor windows is minimized in this design, and the landing of the stairway would easily meld into the ADA-compliant ramp. Average use of the stairway and ramp seems to be most optimized by the SK3 design.

A friend asked the committee to consider the addition of a roof or cover at the BMH back doorway to protect people using the ramp from weather. Another friend asked for clarification regarding the obstruction of windows and earlier concepts that enclosed the stairway. It was clarified that the stairway is not merely a fire escape and that enclosing it would have been cost prohibitive. One member of the PC explained that she is still not comfortable with this particular design, and will stand aside in the event that the meeting approves it. Another member of the PC explained that the choice of SK3 was supported by the cohesive aspect of the ramp and the way that the supports for the stairway are more practical and less expensive. The question of number of turns required to be made was addressed: there are 3 turns per plan. Another friend asked about the use of the stairs by children; are there too many steps? Also, it was asked whether the first floor windows could be closed off. It was clarified that in SK3, the 2 stair runs are most equal in length. One design cannot address each and every concern. The architects designed something that would address as many of them as is possible. A Friend echoed the architect's competence and asked that we approve the design. SK3 APPROVED with one member standing aside.

1684 (Old) Meetinghouse (OMH) Restoration Update Bill Lane

The OMH has been washed! We expect some milled lumber to possibly arrive by the end of next week. We have been concentrating on the window sills and bottom siding boards. Corner boards may arrive first. We are still waiting on proper nails -both T-head and rose head nails. They need to be wrought iron and then coated to minimize rust.

There is an issue of rotten sills behind both steps on the west side. Various solutions have been discussed with brick layers and carpenters. The northern most brick steps need to be removed. We propose replacing with wood. (Akoya is a NZ pine that is treated and has a 25 year warranty against rot) The wood takes paint and does not move or swell. The steps would have railings and all would be done to code.

The solution on the ramp entrance is to cut away the brick from the building and put in a grate that is level with the top layer of brick and the door entrance, still working on details. The current railing will adjustments have been done by Eric Harvey. Moisture monitoring and management strategies are in process. The restoration is progressing.

Closing Silent Worship 1:19 p.m.

Recording Clerk D. Rein

Donations

At this time of year, we often donate to worthy causes in keeping with our Quaker values. 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) of the Religious Society of Friends. We do not "pass the basket" at meetings for worship, nor do we ask Friends to pledge an amount each year. The

expectation is that all will prayerfully discern what they consider to be an appropriate contribution and act accordingly. All contributions are tax-deductible. Testimonies and Concerns also offers the 2024 Giving Guide shown below for vetted organizations that provide services consistent with Quaker values.

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 <u>website</u>. 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 OR: **P.O. Box 2379, Easton, MD 21601**

Meeting Building Fund:

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 <u>thmmtreasurer@gmail.com</u> for assistance.

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. The Trustees encourage all to 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 for historic preservation, capital improvements and the long-term care of the Third Haven property can be made to:

Trustees of Third Haven Meeting, Treasurer, Diana Rein, 9249 High Banks Drive, Easton MD 21601

Scholarship

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

Around the Grounds:

It's been an interesting Fall for mushrooms around the grounds, which we have spied as we have been doing the tree survey. Attached are some photos.

Our friend Traveler the box turtle might eat some of these mushrooms, but the rest of us do not! *Mary Yancey*



Fall Clean Up Day Young and old, agile and slow, we all helped, clean windows and shutters, beat back the creeping vines and corral the leaves. Thank you all who helped!





Community Thanksgiving

Third Haven members and attenders participated at Asbury Methodist church with members of other congregations in providing Thanksgiving meals for folks less fortunate. People provided turkeys, sweet potatoes, green beans, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce and pie for dessert. The assembly line efficiently dished up these delicacies in individual serving containers for later distribution by delivery drivers. Good humor and hard work were a joy to all involved.



Mary and Cynthia, our coordinator for Third Haven's participation, discuss logistics while Priscilla and Ben await more stuffing and green beans to dish out.



Stephanie helping box Thanksgiving meals for delivery.

The Third Haven Art Show & Sale held Saturday, December 2nd from 11am-3pm was again a success. Many visitors enjoyed the grounds as well as the artists displaying their artwork & crafts. Paintings, prints, pottery, glasswork, baskets, photography, wooden puzzles, knit items, jewelry, gifts, baked goods and were for sale with the artists donating some of their proceeds to Third Haven.



Lanie Wrightson Photography



Marian Murphy Polaroid Transfers



Carol Allen and Christopher Niles



Lorraine and Susan Children's art



Mary Yancey graphite art



Nancy and Marie Marie's knit hats

Quakerism 101 continued on Sunday November 26

The Worship and Ministry Committee continued its program of Quakerism 101, at the rise of meeting for worship on November 26. Quakerism 101 continued with consideration and discussion of *That of God* in everyone and related issues from a Quaker point of view. Tom Corl introduced a paper, "That of God and So On,", and facilitated the discussion. We considered the following Queries: How is *That of God* central to the faith and practice of the Religious Society of Friends? Quakers have many different views about and names for God, the Divine, Spirit and so on. Why is that? What does it mean? How do we think about the role of Jesus and The Holy Bible in our Quaker Faith and Practice?

Announcements

Our newsletter circulates during the first week of each month to enable readers to review the minutes of the most recent meeting for worship with attention to business. Additional articles of interest to the Third Haven community are always welcome.

Announcements with calendar events circulate Monday and Friday each week. Please submit ready to post announcements by the preceding day.

 Full list of announcements may be found at

 <u>http://www.thirdhaven.org/announcements.php</u>

 Calendar of Activities
 <u>http://www.thirdhaven.org/calendar.php</u>

 Online directory
 <u>http://www.thirdhaven.org/members/dir.php</u>

Weekly Fridays Zoom Happier Hour 7 PM

Zoom happier hour conversation is scheduled on Fridays at 7:00 pm. Typically, about 7-10 people use the hour to reconnect, share news and again, offer fellowship. *Please consider joining our group this evening*.

Weekly Thursdays PEACE Vigil – Come join us Thursdays in front of the Talbot County Courthouse at 5PM. Third Haven sponsors this vigil and we welcome more participation from the community. Come and go whenever you like. Peace is our testimony all the time.

December 7 Reading the Gospels as Friends continues from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. in the common room

The Worship and Ministry Committee will continue its program of "Reading the Gospels as Friends," with Chapter 2 and 3 of John. Terry-Thomas Primer will facilitate the discussion in the common room.

December 9, Saturday, 9:30-11 Campaign Committee, in the common room

The Campaign Committee will meet on Saturday, December 9, 9:30 - 11:00 am, in the common room. We will discuss fundraising for the Building Fund, for the 4 Phase 1 projects: 1) external stairway to the brick meetinghouse (BMH), 2) ramp to the BMH, 3) improvements to the 2nd floor of the BMH for First Day School (FDS), and 4) tree succession planning and implementation. Zoom will be available

December 13, Wednesday, 9:30 - 11:00 am, Planning Committee in the common room

The Planning Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, December 13, 9:30 - 11:00 am, in the common room. We will discuss planning and implementation for the 4 Phase 1 projects. John Milner Architects (JMA) is working on 1) the construction drawings for the external stairway to the brick meetinghouse (BMH), and the 2) ADA compliant ramp to the BMH. JMA will provide an opportunity to review progress sometime in December. The Clerk will communicate the timing of that opportunity. Members of the Planning Committee can participate in the design review on Zoom.

December 17 Sunday Invitation to the Third Haven Holiday Children's Potluck Celebration

After the Rise of Meeting & Annual First Day School Holiday Performance members and attenders are invited to friendly hospitality with a Quaker potluck lunch.

Menu Ham and Quaker Made Potluck

Bring your favorite side, dessert, bread, etc.

No RSVP required. Join the fun!

Manonoakin Indian Town On November 17th Mary Yancey and Lorraine Claggett traveled to Princess Anne on November 17th to commemorate *Manonoakin Indian Town* at an unveiling of the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) new Historic Marker. This sign recognizes one of the Pocomoke Paramountcy's historic subtribes and villages, and is the first Indigenous MDOT sign in Somerset County.

The unveiling represents the culmination of two years of collaboration with MDOT, Maryland Historical Trust, and the Pocomoke Indian Nation Inc., providing a long-lasting heritage connection for these homelands. The sign acknowledges efforts to preserve the heritage and way of life of the Pocomoke People whose villages and resources encompassed the Annamessex, Manonoakin, Monie and Pocomoke watersheds and hinterlands; the sounds of Tangier and Pocomoke and their islands, and the coastal bays and island of Chincoteague.

Below is a link to the coverage from WBOC TV. Be sure to notice Mary strolling along the banks of the Manokin watershed and on the grounds of the Manonoakin People as the clip ends. The second link is a radio interview that followed on November 24th. Use control+click to follow the links.

Manonoakin Tribe Commemorated with Historical Marker | Latest News | wboc.com

Delmarva Today: 11-24-23 "Pocomoke Indian Nation Celebrates New Historical Marker in Princess Anne" (delmarvapublicmedia.org)

2023 has been a very exciting year for the Pocomoke Indian Nation, Inc. We have enhanced our website with a new video section, completed a technology grant from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, completed a consultation and programming grant with Delmarva Discovery Museum, and added several initiatives to equip local educators as they convey our heritage. One aspect includes funding from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Beach to Bay to create an on-loan exhibit to be available to schools and other public spaces. **Third Haven Meeting 2024 Giving Guide** Recommendations for contributions to organizations that support values and priorities in keeping with our Quaker Queries.

Meeting for Worship: To support a place where friends can wait in silence and open themselves to the Spirit; the opportunity for all present to be connected in community.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting info@pym.org

As members, we are asked collectively and individually, to contribute to PYM which provides support and resources for the monthly meetings.

Friends General Conference: <u>fgcquaker.org</u> made up of 16 Yearly Meetings. Friends World Committee for Consultation: fwccamericas.org — encourages fellowship among all branches of the religious Society of Friends. Pendle Hill pendlehill.org - A Quaker retreat and conference center in Philadelphia

Simplicity: Avoiding over dependence on possessions and self-indulgence would better enable us to open ourselves to God. "... a way of organizing one's life and setting priorities." Earlham College Community Principles and Practices. Third Haven Friend Meeting: 3rdhaven@gmail.com Peace:

Peace can only last when human rights are respected, where people are fed, and where individuals and nations are free. "The place to begin acquiring skills and maturity and generosity to avoid and resolve conflicts are in our homes, our personal relationships, our schools, our workplaces and wherever decisions are made." Yearly Meeting of Aotearoa, New Zealand, 1987 **American Friends Service Committee: afsc.org** is a convening power to mobilize for a big response in communities working for change. **Friends Committee on National Legislation: fcntl.org** A nonpartisan Quaker Lobby for public interest in Washington DC **Friends Peace Teams:** friendspeaceteams.org develop long term relationships with communities in conflict for healing and peace building. **United Palestinian Appeal: upaconnect.org** provides clean water, food & medicine. **Mid Shore Mediation Center: midshoremediation.org** free service to manage conflict. **Ukraine Red Cross Red Crescent** <u>redcross.org</u> partners assisting those vulnerable **World Food program secure.wfpusa.org** United Nations World Food program

Integrity: Our devotion to truth, honesty, authenticity and wholeness is made apparent in how we conduct our life. "Integrity asks the individual to consider how, our outward lives bears witness to the truth discerned inwardly." William Cooper, The Testimony of Integrity, Pendle Hill 1991. THF Scholarship Committee: provides assistance to THF children to further their education and attend Quaker led schools. Quaker Elementary and Secondary: Sandy Spring Friends, George School, Friends School, Friends Select. Quaker Colleges: Earlham College, earlham.edu; Guilford College guilford.edu Talbot Hospice: info@talbothosipce.org supports care and service for end of life Compass Regional Hospice:

<u>info@copassregionalhospice.org</u> supports care and service for end of life. **Quaker House:** <u>guakerhouse.org</u> assistance to military personnel, their families and those contemplating military services. **Channel Markers:** <u>channelmarkers.org</u> a regional mental health provider for those with severe mental illness with on site, residential and community programs. **Chesterwye Center:** <u>chesterwye.org</u> an opportunity for life enhancements for adults with disabilities to be as independent as possible in the community of their choosing **Chesapeake Center, Inc.:** <u>chesapeakecenter.org</u> to assist adults with disabilities for safe independence in residence, career and friends.

Community: A discipline in which we practice the other testimonies. Community is the field in which we work. We know ourselves as we are reflected in the faces, actions, and attitudes of each other. Janet Scott 1980. **CASA**: <u>casa@midshore.org</u> regional court advocates for children and their rights Building African American Minds: baamboys.com to identify 1st grade at risk male youth and address their barriers to success with after school programs. Habitat for Humanity Choptank: <u>habitatchoptank.org</u> partners with families to build places to call home in the Mid-shore. Lifetime Wells International:

<u>lifetimeewellsinternational.org</u> empowering local partners to design, install and maintain safe drinking water systems in Africa. **Maryland Food Bank:** <u>mdfoodbank.org</u> a statewide network that meets immediate need of food insecurity in our region.

Neighborhood Service Center: <u>nsctalbotmd.org</u> a Community Action Agency that provides services and assistance for low income and elderly residents in Talbot Co **Talbot Interfaith Shelter:** <u>talbotinterfaithshelter.org</u> a shelter for families w/o a home

Equality: How can we be human together? "My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together." Desmond Tutu 1994. *Chesapeake Multicultural Center: chesmrc.org* resources to immigrant families and children. *Mid Shore Pro Bono: shorelegal.org* legal services to underserved people. *Right Sharing of World Resources: www.rswr.org* encourages fair distribution of world resources by encouraging fair trade. *NAACP: naacpmd.org* ensures political, social and economic equality

Stewardship: That we care for and make wise use of the world's resources. To be good stewards in Gods World calls on us to examine and consider the ways in which our testimonies for peace, equality, and simplicity interact to guide our relationships with all life. OPYM 1997, 2002. Quaker Earthcare Witness: quakerearthcare.org Largest network of Friends to inspire Spirit-led action toward ecological sustainability and environmental justice Chesapeake Bay Foundation: info@cbf.org to restore the health of Chesapeake Bay to ensure clean water for our children. Shore Rivers: shorerivers.org protects and promotes Eastern Shore waterways through science based advocacy, restoration and education for cleaner watersheds. Eastern Shore Land Conservancy: eslc.org promotes land conservation and planning that provides public access to open space. Chesapeake Climate Action Network: chesapeakeclimate.org dedicated to fighting global warming in Maryland, VA and DC and to promote action for climate stability Sierra Club (Maryland) sierraclub.org largest grass roots environmental advocacy organization in the USA advocating for renewable energy and 0 waste Citizen's Climate Lobby citiesnsclimatelobby.org International environmental group that trains and empowers volunteers to build relationships with their elected leaders to influence climate policy

Query (a poem by *Mary Yancey*) If Jesus came, who, really, would follow Him Shedding all to walk along the moonlit shore? Who would embrace the naked Truth, burning as it does to skin and bone? Who would allow the upending, the loss of home, the merging of I with They? Who would abide the Peace beyond differences, Once and for all?