



Third Haven Friends Meeting
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May 2014 NEWSLETTER

I saw also that there was an ocean of darkness and death, but an infinite ocean of light and love, which flowed over the ocean of darkness.
George Fox

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Business Minutes for the 4th Month, 13, 2014

1. Call to order: Dee Rein, Assistant Clerk of Meeting, gathered together the meeting for worship with attention to business at 11:30AM after a brief period of silence.



2. Attending: Dawn Atwater, Molly Burgoyne, Lorraine Claggett, Deborah Cox, Catherine Cripps, Debbie Danser, Ed Danser, Doreen Getsinger, Tania Harrison, Rick King, Larissa Kitenko, Bill Lane, Sumner Parker, Aiyana Paterson-Zincand, Cynthia Quast, Dee Rein, John Schreiner, Cathy Thompson, Norval Thompson, Meredith Watters, Elizabeth Winslow, Ralph Young.

3. Query; "Care for the Meeting Community"- Additional Thoughts: A Friend commented that caring for others in the community means visiting others. Another Friend reminded all that the query asks us to concern ourselves with making sure the Meeting is accessible to all.

4. Minutes from previous Meeting for Business: One Friend asked that the sentence regarding our caretaker not being responsible for clean-up post outside group use of the Common Room be prefaced by, "The Clerk of Property and Grounds commented that...". Friends approved the minutes with this change.

5. Interim Meeting Report: Yesterday, Dawn Atwater and Donna Sorce traveled to Philadelphia to attend Interim Meeting. A new General Secretary was selected, Christie Duncan Tessmer, a member of Chestnut Hill Meeting. She will begin her term in August. The budget was discussed and the financial situation of PYM has improved. Full information is available for review on PYM's website.

6. Clerk's Desk- Ken Carroll's Birthday: A 90th Birthday celebration for Ken Carroll is planned for Saturday, May 10th from 12 to 2 in the Common Room, sponsored by Allan Mielke, Sumner Parker and their spouses. There will be a lunch provided. All are welcome to attend and wish Ken well.

7. Communications Committee Annual Report: A member of committee read the full report as printed below:

Communications

"Members are Ralph Young, Tatiana Harrison, Molly Burgoyne, Dee Rein and John Hawkinson, whose roles are: Tatiana Harrison: Prepares and posts all text and images on the Third Haven Website. Molly Burgoyne: Records and prepares minutes of meeting for business for publication. Ralph Young: Photographs meeting activities and cares for printed newsletters. Dee Rein: edits newsletter contents for publication and checks the meetinghouse answering machine. John Hawkinson: Monitors e-mail addressed to 3rdhaven@gmail.com, assembles and edits other material.

We update the meeting's website <http://www.thirdhaven.org/> at least weekly including the online meeting directory which augments the biennial printed directory. Monthly newsletter circulates by e-mail and by U.S. Mail to those computer-free. Weekly announcements of meeting events circulate by e-mail and are featured on the website. It is advised that respondents refrain from use of the 'reply' key in addressing 3rdhaven@gmail.com

Questions brought to the meeting via e-mail to our website address are conveyed to the appropriate individual within the meeting for response.

Our goals remain to keep members and attenders of the meeting in contact with one another, informed of future events, provide vital meeting information, and to record the current history of Third Haven. We encourage all members and attenders to submit text or images.

Current year budget: \$850, spent to date \$798.64, of which \$399 was for website expenditures which not recur for two and four years. We request that our budget stay the same, which would allow for a new edition of the printed directory if that is requested by the meeting. "

After the reading was complete, a member of committee explained the website expenditures. The Domain name was renewed for 4 years for \$138 and the Website hosting fee was renewed for 2 years. Others asked questions about how John Hawkinson is covered when he is out of town. John still handles some issues but Tania handles the email questions so there is no lapse in coverage. Ralph takes care of the printed newsletters as there are still 35 printed per month. Twenty eight of these are mailed out and 7 are left in the Common Room. The Meeting approved the annual report.

8. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's quarterly report includes Income and Expenses Budget vs Actual-YTD from July 2013-March 2014, the Balance Sheet, and the Income and Expenses-Prior Year Comparison. These will be available online. At this point in the year, our Member contributions are 86.9% of budget. Attender contributions are now at 53.6% of budget but other contributions are up. This is due to some money received from the estate of John Todd. We have only spent 58% of our budget so our net income is up but there will be more expenses coming up in the last months of the fiscal year. Our Queenstown CD has matured and most of the money from this CD was placed in Friends Fiduciary Fund. The amounts shown in the Shoffner Fund and in the Scholarship Fund are up to date. The year-to-year comparison shows that the Attender contributions and expenses are down from last year. The Facilities use is also down. There are not clear reasons why. The Clerk of Budget and Finance reminded all Clerks of committees to turn in their annual budget projections as soon as possible as the B&F committee will present the preliminary budget for next fiscal year at meeting for business in May. B&F will be discussing the merits of an annual "ask" letter to go out to members reminding them of their commitment to Meeting. He also mentioned that he was grateful for the great job Cynthia Quast has been doing for us as Treasurer.

9. Update from Trustees: A member of Trustees gave the report below:

"The Trustees of Third Haven Monthly Meeting of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting was incorporated in 1948 when the meeting was at a low point. There was fear that the meeting would be put down and that ownership of the buildings and property would revert to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Friends felt it would be better to retain it in the hands of local Friends whose families had worshipped, been married, and buried here for over 250 years. There are seven Trustees, all Meeting members. When there is a vacancy, the Meeting's nominating committee is asked to bring forward two or three names. From this list a replacement is chosen. The current Trustees are Kenneth Carroll, Allan Mielke, Diana Rein, Laurence Claggett, Jr., Sumner Parker, Adrienne Rudge, and Martha Hawkinson.

At the time of the restoration of the 1684 building (1990-92) the Meeting received a financial grant from the Maryland Historic Trust which made that project possible. Eligibility for that grant necessitated easement to the Historic Trust of the exterior of the Old Meeting House and specific portions of adjoining property where changes or improvements are subject to their approval. This includes such things as paint, a roof, repairs to siding or shutters, and handicapped access. They have approved the proposed railings at the front entrance of the building.

In September we met with a representative from The Town of Easton who requested easement through a strip of our property next to the old railway right of way – along the road to the pump station off Washington Street. It includes a parcel of between 500 and 1000 square feet. We granted this with the written proviso that on the rare occasion when the Meeting needs to use that approach for car access to the street, we can have it. This would be a time such as a funeral, or some celebration when we experience an unusually large number of vehicles on the property.

The financial relationship between the Meeting and the Trustees has been as follows: the Trustees expect to pay for major capital expenses, for example a new roof, a new heating system, removal of hazardous trees. The Meeting covers operational expenses such as heating bills and salaries.

In 2013 the Trustees have covered the cost of the maple tree removal, the new mower, and the oil to gas heating conversion for a total of \$11,317. We contributed \$1000 to the Scholarship fund, which will be reduced to \$500. for the coming year. Trustees participation in Scholarship, initially intended to help the fund get started, is no longer our responsibility.

The Trustees continue to approve the concept of handicapped access to the 1684 building, but feel that it should be a Meeting project, supported by the Meeting.”

10. New Business: Aiyana Paterson-Zincand and Rick King are planning their marriage under the care of Meeting this summer. A clearness committee has just met with them so we will expect to receive a report on this from Overseers next meeting for business.

Meeting for business was adjourned at 12:15pm

Respectfully submitted, *Molly Burgoyne*

IMPORTANT POINTS:

- A Celebration of Ken Carroll’s 90th Birthday will take place on May 10th.
- Communications Annual Report Approved
- 3rd Quarter Treasurer’s Report given
- Update from Trustees given

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting news

Following a thorough and extensive discernment process over eight months, gathering input from members and meetings and considering and interviewing a number of applicants, the General Secretary Search Committee united on its recommended choice. The search process, approved by Interim Meeting, was confidential as were all candidate inquiries and applications. The committee expressed its confidence that Christie Duncan-Tessmer is the right person “to move our community forward together in the Light”.

Christie has served as the Associate Secretary for Programs and Religious Life for PYM since 2008 and was the Children’s Religious Education Coordinator from 2005 to 2008. Prior to her tenure with PYM, she held positions at Friends General Conference and Newtown Friends School as well as leadership roles at several Delaware Valley social service nonprofit organizations.

Christie looks forward to assuming the administration of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, which “is ready to trust the solid foundation we have built in recent years, to trust in the Spirit and to leap into new space where the vitality and potential among us can find new expression.” She envisions “an integrated, deliberate approach to our corporate work and life as opposed to a string of programs and resources.” She wants members to experience a “large vibrant community manifesting Truth and Spirit.”

A native of Canton, OH, she is a graduate of Ohio University with a degree in Psychology and studied in the doctoral program in Clinical Human Development at Bryn Mawr College. She is married to Zach Duncan-Tessmer and has two children, Moxie and Ezra. She and her family reside in the East Mt. Airy neighborhood of Philadelphia.

The General Secretary is the chief administrator of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, responsible for executive leadership and oversight of all staff operations, and for the support and integration of all PYM projects, services, and activities. Ms. Duncan-Tessmer will succeed Arthur M. Larrabee, the retiring General Secretary, on August 25, 2014.

Census of Attendance for PYM Report

In 4th Month 2013, Connie Lewis—a member of the Third Haven Worship and Ministry Committee (WMC) and Third Haven Southern Quarterly Meeting (SQM) Representative—conducted a census of attendance for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM). The PYM report arrived at Third Haven recently. There census was based on observations at 4 meetings for worship in 4th month 2013, counting adults and children separately.

A few findings may be of interest to Third Haven Friends:

There are 105 Meetings in PYM.

Average attendance at a meeting for worship was 25.8.

The adult attendance at Third Haven was 64, about 2.5 times the average, ranking 10th, about the 9th percentile.

35 meetings (1/3) showed growth in attendance. Third Haven was 1 of these.

According to these data Third Haven adult attendance at meeting for worship has grown: 41 in 2004, 53 in 2007, 58 in 2010 and 64 in 2013.

Ad Hoc Committee on Donations

In an effort to improve the Third Haven Friends Meeting donation process, the meeting has charged an Ad Hoc committee with reviewing and revising our donation process. The results of these deliberations will be presented at the May Meeting for Business.



From First Day School

Many thanks to all the members and families that arrived Easter Sunday with hard boiled eggs and children to enjoy our annual Easter Egg hunt on the Meeting grounds. We had almost 20 children participate with lots of donated eggs by our members. We had warm enough sunshine and the grounds were beautiful. Hospitality had some wonderful treats. Thank you all for making Easter extra special for our younger friends and families.

May 4 will be a story about Obadiah, a young Quaker boy from Nantucket, read by Catherine Cripps. Enjoy the Springtime. All the best, *Susan Claggett, Clerk FDS*



Bunny cake and cup cake decorating and Easter egg dying led into the annual Easter Egg hunt.



But it says so in the Bible

By Bob Marshall

About a month ago, a young Christian asked me about Quakerism. The query was one of genuine curiosity and tender in origin. I explained that Quakers are primitive Christians whose spiritual journey is inward, unmediated, and experiential. I explained that we are not evangelists, but act upon leadings from the Holy Spirit, often being led to service in assistance of those in less fortunate circumstances.

The questions then focused on what I meant by characterizing Quakers as primitive Christians. I was quickly confronted with quotations from the Bible, noting that, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (John 3:16), as well as, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but must endure God’s wrath.” (John 3:36) The questioner then drew the logical conclusion – so all other religions are false and there is only one true religion, Christianity. I was then asked if I agreed, and if this is what I meant by “primitive Christianity”.

The questioner was genuine in their curiosity. But, it was also clear that they had come from a church where they had been recently taught the gospel according to John as Pure Truth, each and every word. It was also clear by the tone of the question that the questioner was confused. They had been taught that Jesus was the only son of God, and that anyone who disobeys the Son will endure God’s wrath, and yet they clearly felt that something was unsettling about this.

I explained as follows. For me, Jesus is the greatest teacher. His window to God was completely clear at all times. The Holy Spirit lived with full vibrancy within him and that was conveyed in all he did and said. I explained that very few have ever received this gift from God with such strength and clarity. I explained that the pathway to the Kingdom of God is most clearly illuminated for me by the life and teachings of Jesus. For others, the pathway may be best illuminated by the teachings of Mohammed. I explained that the Torah and the Psalms are common to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Thus, same Kingdom of God for all three. Each is just describing a different pathway to the Kingdom. I asked why we should insist upon one pathway to the same place when there were several.

I was immediately queried, “So you do not believe that Jesus was God’s **only** Son?”

I replied that much weight was being placed on the word “only”. I do not believe that Jesus was God’s **only** Son. I believe that we are each the children of God, and the only certainty I have in life is that the Holy Spirit is within each of us. I also explained that Jesus’s decision to die instead of renounce his life and teachings is a sacrifice for which I am grateful each and every day. But, Jesus did not teach exclusion, as the word “only” implies. Jesus taught inclusion. So when I read scripture I must hold the words in the Divine Opening and discern if the words are Pure Truth, or something else. I explained that I discern John 3:16 to be Pure Truth, except for the word “only”. That word was not part of what Jesus taught.

I am hopeful that this conversation helped this young Christian. But my desire to convey this discussion to our meeting community is more than just one of sharing a part of a spiritual journey. I have heard many Quakers through the years express uneasiness with regard to references to Jesus, and uneasiness about the foundations of Quakerism being the life and teachings of Jesus. In part, I believe that this exclusion by Quakers comes from their desire to distance themselves from Christians who assert that “Jesus was God’s **only** Son” – implying that if you are not on our team, the good team, then you are on the opposing team, the bad team. But

the exclusion of the life and teachings of Jesus from the spiritual life of a meeting community is exclusion, and exclusion is contrary to our testimonies, because exclusion is contrary to the teachings of Jesus.

Loving one's neighbor is a great teaching. Another great teaching is the meaning of love – what it is and what it is not. "Love does not insist on its own way." (1 Corinthians 13:5).

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

Calendar of Third Haven activities <http://www.thirdhaven.org/calendar.php>

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

Username is 3rdhaven Password friends (all lower case)

We welcome notes, photos, questions and address information at 3rdhaven@gmail.com

Gwen Beegle writes, "Dear Friends, Bob and I would like to thank you for holding us and our family in the Light during my mother's last days and after her death. It is difficult to describe the feeling of gratitude and sense of grace that I've felt, knowing that so many Friends prayed for my mother and for me. I greatly appreciate your kindness and loving support."

Edwin Hesse writes, "Please, I hope you recall our name and could post this information to your web site and community. My parents were involved with the Quakers in this area. Although it's been over a decade, perhaps you remember this wonderful couple. I'm sorry to let you know that my Dad [Robert "Bob" Hesse, a member of our Meeting] passed away early this morning. His passing was peaceful and without pain."

Brief financial report from the treasurer for the 3rd quarter of 2014 (ended March 31)

Member Contributions = \$41,720 = 87% of annual budget

Total Income = \$51,733 = 89% of annual budget

Total Expenses = \$33,996 = 58% of annual budget

Net Income = \$17,737

May 4 (Sunday) 12-2PM: Final session of "The Essence of our Faith and Practice" Religious Education; "History and Beliefs of the Religious Society of Friends", presenter Thomas Swain.

May 29 (Thursday) 6:15 pm: Worship & Ministry Adult Discussion series, "Metanoia: A gross misinterpretation from the Greek as "Repentance"

If you would like to make a public statement of your commitment to our Peace Testimony, the opportunity to do so exists each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. Peace Vigils are held each Tuesday and Thursday from 5 to 6 p.m. The Tuesday vigil is held in Centerville in front of the Queen Anne's County Court House and the Thursday vigil is held in Easton in front of the Talbot County Court House. You are welcome to come at any time during the vigil and stay as long as you wish.

May 18 (Sunday) Chester River Meeting will host Southern Quarterly Meeting. Please note this on your calendar and plan to help welcome Friends from Camden, Lewes, Third Haven and Wicomico River on that day. Bob Denison has generously offered to present "Splendor in the Night: An Unexpected Gift," a meditation on a small book of that name which he discovered in the library at Pendle Hill during his recent sojourn there. The schedule for the day will be:

- 10 am: Continental breakfast
- 11 am: Meeting for Worship
- 12:15 pm: "Splendor in the Night: An Unexpected Gift"
- 1:00 pm: Simple meal

Please remember to greet visitors to meeting—answer what questions they have about Friends, our buildings, our programs and activities. We are all emissaries of Third Haven.

Contributions to the meeting can be made by way of the contributions box in the Brick Meetinghouse entranceway. Checks can also be sent to THMM, P.O. Box 2379, Easton, MD 21601; or by clicking on the button below:

Are your names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail listings all correct in the Third Haven Directory? Please review your information at Directory. The online directory remains protected: please e-mail taniahharrison@gmail.com or hawkjm@goeaston.net if you need the password. If you have corrections for the Directory, please send them to 3rdhaven@gmail.com.

Faith and Practice can be read and portions extracted from the PYM website at this link.

If you have material for the newsletter, additional announcements, or added information about any of these posted events, please send it to 3rdhaven@gmail.com



Testimonies Witness and Action

John Andrew Gallery of the Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting presented a talk on "Testimonies Witness and Action" as part of the four-part series of talks and discussions on the subject "Essentials of Quaker Faith and Practice" sponsored by the THFM Worship and Ministry Committee.

Clean Up Day drew many hard workers.

The 1944-46 Army football team had Glen Davis and Doc Blanchard as Mr. Inside and Mr. Outside. 2014 THFM clean up crew has Tom Corl and Larnie Claggett in the same positions.



Quaker Meeting as a Faith Community

Patty Levering of Davidson Meeting in North Carolina presented an outstanding lecture and discussion arranged by the committee on Worship and Ministry, Sunday, April 27, entitled *Quaker Meeting as a Faith Community*. She listed as the foundation stones the following: "We are a faith community because we are bound together by and in God. We know this experientially. Individually and corporately we have the capacity to hear the direct, unmediated, and perceptible guidance of the Holy Spirit. A Friends Meeting will have the spiritual gifts necessary for the group because the Spirit will call and empower individuals to serve as they are needed."



Participants held group discussions of our Spiritual Gifts referring to I Corinthians. 12 and 13.

Each group identified and discussed the Nurturers, the Conservers and the Challengers within our meeting.

Lastly we all discussed the consecutive stages, or "rooms" of the Meeting Meeting as a place of acceptance and belonging.

Meeting as a place of shared values.

Meeting as a place

Meeting as a place of obedience.



Easter Camaraderie

