



JANUARY 2004 NEWSLETTER

*As you Grow older your puzzle gets bigger.
Your puzzle is filled with family and Friends.
Once a puzzle piece goes away it can't be replaced.* Submitted by Ellie Bode

Robert Lee Bethke died at 1:25 pm on January 11th after a brief battle with lung cancer. We all grieve his untimely departure. A heart-warming memorial Meeting was held in the old Meeting House at Third Haven Monthly Meeting at 1:00 pm, Saturday January 17th. The Meeting House was at near capacity, filled with friends and loved ones. His immediate family, Paige Bethke and sons Jeff, Todd-Cliff and Brandt Bethke, received hundreds of friends and family members in the Common room afterwards.

-- Editor



-- My story of Robert will be a story of love. We found in each other all that had been missing in ourselves and laid down ourselves to be for each other...our love holds our story. -- Paige Bethke

-- When I remember my Dad, I think about how much he loved me. His favorite food was watermelon. We liked to watch cartoons together. -- Brandt Bethke



Paige and Brandt Bethke

“For sharing your hearts, hands, cookies, sandwiches, love and caring, the Hospitality Committee extends to all the meeting many, many thanks.” -- Anne Williams and John Hawkinson- clerks

What's New ?

Third Haven Friends met at the Union United Methodist Church in St. Michaels on January 8, 2004 for a breakfast fellowship in memory of Dr. King.

“I still believe that one day mankind will bow before the altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed, and nonviolent redemptive goodwill will proclaim the rule of the land. Most of these people will never make the headlines and their names will never appear in Who's Who. Yet when years rolled past and when the blazing light of truth is focused on this marvelous age in which we live—men and women will know and children will be taught that we have a finer land, a better people, a more noble civilization – because these humble children of God were willing to suffer for righteousness sake.”

--Nobel Prize acceptance speech by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Dec. 1964)

“The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you murder the hater, but you cannot murder the hate. In fact violence merely increases hate... returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.

-- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Third Haven Friends Meeting Minutes of the Meeting for Business 1st Month 11th, 2004

Attending – Laura Bode, Ken Carroll, Larny Claggett, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Joe Davis, Kristin Dickey, Doreen Getsinger, John Hawkinson, Marsie Hawkinson, Ginger Howell, Cathy Marvel, Nancy Mullen, Marcia Ormsby, Sumner Parker, Jim Paul, Peggy Paul, Anne Rouse, Jim Rouse, John Schreiner, Karen Stoker, Norval Thompson, Jennifer Van West, Meredith Watters, Ann Williams, Irene Williams, Frank Zeigler and Joyce Zeigler.

The Meeting opened with a period of silent worship. Marsie Hawkinson clerked the Meeting for Business. Minutes of the 12th month 14th, Meeting for Business – With the removal of an unclear sentence in the discussion of Southern Quarterly Meeting, the Meeting APPROVED the minutes of the 12th month 14th Meeting for Worship, with appreciation to the assistant Recording Clerk, Susan Leibman.

1st query -- During Meeting for Worship, Meredith Watters read the 1st query on the Meeting for Worship. A Friend noted his appreciation for the emphasis on the corporate part of this query. The Meeting appreciates the reading of the queries by the Worship and Ministry Committee each month.

Clerk's Correspondence– Clerk Marsie Hawkinson read a letter from Ginger Howell and another Cathy Marvel (formerly Cathy Roberts), each asking to become members of Third Haven Friends Meeting. The clerk passed these on to Overseers to form clearness committees for membership. The Meeting welcomes such interest in membership.

The clerk read a thank you note from Mary Ellen McNish, the head of *American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)*, to the Meeting for their contribution. She read a letter from *President George Bush* in response to the Meeting's letter sent to the President, prior to the US war on Iraq. The Meeting's letter raised questions and stated opposition to the war on Iraq. Some discussion of the President's response followed.

The meeting for all Third Haven committee clerks will be on Wednesday 1st month 21st, at 6:00 pm. Soup will be provided. *Friends General Conference* sent a book catalog. The *Friends General Conference* annual gathering will be at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, 7th month 3rd – 10th. *The Philadelphia Yearly Meeting* annual sessions will be 3rd month 25th – 28th at 4th and Arch Street Meetinghouse in Philadelphia. The clerk has received newsletters from *Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)* and the *Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)*. The clerk indicated that she had information on Cadbury, a Quaker retirement community in Lewes, Delaware. A representative of Cadbury would like to visit Third Haven in 3rd month.

Treasurer's Report -- Treasurer Joe Davis reported that in 12th month, the Meeting received \$13,755 in financial contribution and \$216 from sales and the cash box. As of the end of 2003, the Meeting had \$31,620 in income, 62% of the budget, and \$19,823 in expenses, 39% of the budget. Total financial assets are \$69,071, with liabilities of \$5,172; the Meeting has \$63,899 in net funds available. The bill for the new heat pump for the common room will be paid this month. After a little discussion, the Meeting APPROVED the Treasurer's report with appreciation to Joe Davis.

Southern Quarterly Meeting – Southern Quarterly Meeting will meet next First Day, 1st month 18th, at Chester River Meeting. The theme will be "Peace Through Creative Works." Meeting for worship will be at 11:00 am, Southern Quarter Meeting for Business at noon, lunch at 1:00 pm, and the program on creative works at 2:00 pm. Dana Kester-McCabe is the paid coordinator for Southern Quarter. Susan Claggett is the Third Haven representative to the Quarter. Laura Bode, Susan Claggett, Marsie Hawkinson, Jennifer Van West, and Frank and Joyce Zeigler will attend and represent Third Haven at Southern Quarterly Meeting. The Meeting revisited the discussion of renaming Southern Quarterly Meeting to Delmarva Quakers. Views were divided. The quarter is a Quarterly Meeting, a part of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and so needs to preserve a quarterly meeting name.

Library and Outreach – Frank Zeigler, clerk, presented the 2003 annual report for the Library and Outreach Committee (attached). He also presented a small packet of information to welcome newcomers, including information on Third Haven and a brochure, "Your Guide to Quakers", published by the Outreach Committee of the Religious Society of Friends in Britain. The Meeting APPROVED the annual report on the library and thanked Frank Zeigler and the Committee for their excellent work.

Worship and Ministry Committee – Bob Marshall, clerk, reported that the committee was discussing the foundations of Quaker faith and practice, and has had enriching conversations. The committee is exploring its roles and responsibilities for the Third Haven Friends Meeting community. The committee will work with Overseers to sponsor

worship sharing opportunities for members and attenders to explore the current condition and the future of our Meeting community. The Worship and Ministry Committee will approach its work with Overseers and the Meeting community in the spirit of joy and love.

Overseers – Anne Rouse reported that Overseers will sponsor the annual lunch for new members and attenders on 2nd month 22nd. Norval Thompson reported that he, Cathy, Sarah, and Cassie, Frank and Joyce Zeigler, and Ann Williams had welcomed the Mullen family – Nancy, Mike, Jacob, Sam and Nathan -- into membership in the Meeting. This event was described as “wonderful.” Marsie Hawkinson reminded the Meeting that Nora Caldwell, the granddaughter of Jane Caldwell, will marry Greg Wojcikewych at Third Haven on 4th month 10th.

Testimonies and Concerns – Ralph Young reported that the Testimonies and Concerns Committee is meeting with the corresponding committee at the Unitarian Church and the Church of the Brethren. They will next meet on 4th month 21st. A woman from Afghanistan will speak and sell Afghani crafts at the event.

First Day School – Candace Shattuck reported that the First Day School is beginning a new curriculum, “Growing in the Light,” There were 20 children in the First Day School this day.

Property and Grounds – Clerk John Schreiner reported that the new dishwasher had been installed, but both the heat pump and the water heater for the common room have failed. The replacement heat pump will cost around \$1700. The tractor will likely have to be replaced soon, at a cost of \$5000 – 10,000. A Friend indicated that she may be able to help on the tractor. John Schreiner will follow up.

Communications – Norval Thompson reported the Communications Committee continues to work on the Meeting website and publishing the newsletter. A Friend asked about access to the protected parts of the website. Norval Thompson provided the user name and password. Friends noted their appreciation for the newsletter, especially the fine photographs by Ralph Young. The Communications Committee is working to get the newsletter out more quickly. Friends noted their appreciation to John Hawkinson for getting all the Third Haven Friends Meeting announcements out by e-mail each week and making paper copies available on First Day for Friends who are “computer free.” Friends are encouraged to get complete announcement information to John Hawkinson in a timely manner.

Nominating Committee – Marsie Hawkinson reported that she had named Bob Kemp to the Nominating Committee. In her 3rd year, Susan Leibman will serve as clerk and Mary Cotton will serve her 2nd year on the Committee.

Other Business – Ann Williams has tickets for the Martin Luther King Jr, birthday event on 1st month 19th. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting interim meeting will be on 1st month 22nd, at 4th and Arch Street Meetinghouse. Ken Carroll reported that the Meeting had contributed \$907.25, the most ever, to the local Brighter Christmas Fund.

Closing -- In the closing silent worship, Marsie Hawkinson asked Friends to hold the Bethke family, John and Ellen Shoffner, and Bill Lane in the Light. The meeting for business closed in silent worship.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Corl, Recording Clerk, Third Haven Friends Meeting

Announcements for Third Haven Monthly Meeting

- **February 1, 2004** (first day) First Day School Committee meets following Meeting for Worship
- **February 8, 2004** (first day) Meeting for Business follows Meeting for Worship
- February 15, 2004 is the target date for the new directory - now is almost your last opportunity to review your listing in the sample directory in the common room
- **February 22, 2004** (First Day) Luncheon for new members and attenders (all welcome) follows Meeting for Worship. Featured speaker will be J.O.K. Walsh.
- **March 10, 2004** (Fourth Day) Meeting of Property and Grounds Committee
- **April 24, 2004** (Seventh Day) Annual Friends Spruce Up Day (Property & Grounds) -There is a school bench in the classroom upstairs in the brick Meeting House. Please notify the First Day School committee if you know the owner of the bench

Announcements Continued on page 4

- **Testimonies and Concerns Committee** is preparing a summary of the community outreach programs actively engaged in by Third Haven members and attenders
- Sign up to participate in Hospitality, Visit Our web site at www.thirdhaven.org
- Please send all announcements material to John Hawkinson at hawkjm@goeaston.net

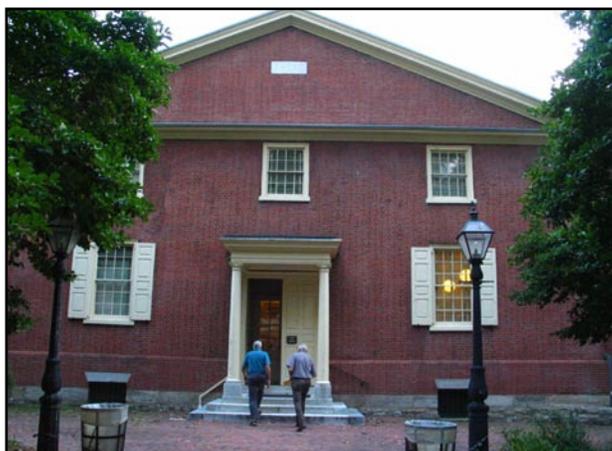
-- **The First Day School** would like to give thanks to Marcia Ormsby for her donation of a copy of the **Annapolis Meeting Songbook**. We welcome any Quaker singers upstairs on second and fourth first days.

Please make your financial commitment by sending checks to the organizations that work to sustain Quaker vitality:

- 1) Third Haven Monthly Meeting, P.O. 2379, Easton MD 21601
 - 2) The Annual Fund (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1515 Cherry St., Philadelphia PA 19102)
 - 3) Friends General Conference (our national Quaker organization), 1216 Arch St.#2B, Philadelphia PA 19102
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The Talbot County Humane Society reminds us that there are **loving pets for adoption**. They provide financial help with spaying & neutering of strays and adoptees. Please stop by or make donations. They send along their heartfelt gratitude to all who have adopted and contributed this past year.

-- Submitted by Valerie Mazur



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) staff and standing committee members will be visiting many monthly meetings this year. Its staff exists to be of service to members and meetings; and to connect and support Friends in a larger network. Each meeting will host two PYM representatives, who will make a 15-minute presentation after Meeting for Worship and then be available to discuss concerns, questions and comments about PYM. The purpose of the visits is to help Friends understand what the Yearly Meeting is and does, and to help PYM know how to serve them. "We think this could be a great first step in improving communication between monthly meetings and PYM," said PYM General Secretary Thom Jeavons.



Philadelphia Yearly Meetingcalendar of events are posted on the web at www.pym.org. PYM General Information Line is 215-241-7230 (toll-free 1-800-220-0796) or email maryc@pym.org
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting sessions will run from Thursday morning, March 25, to Sunday morning, March 28, at the Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia.
Friends School Tuition Aid Available From PYM: Application forms contact Elke Muller www.pym.org/education/Pages/TuitionAid.htm, elkem@pym.org or 215-241-7223

OUTREACH QUERIES: Have you ever told a friend, "I am a Quaker?" Invited a "likely" friend to join you at Meeting for Worship? Offered to share your Quaker literature with a friend? Invited your friend to a social activity at your Meeting? Sought publicity about Quaker related activities? Or exposed the public to the fact that Quakerism is alive and present? (To be continued) ----- submitted by Joyce Zeigler

Newsletter--The Communications Committee is publishing the Third Haven Newsletter in two formats, printed and digital. The digital format is emailed as a PDF file for viewing with Adobe Acrobat Software. Acrobat is a free download from Adobe.com. The electronic version of the newsletter saves postage, paper and printing costs. You should receive both mailed and emailed versions. To request only 1 version, please contact Norval Thompson at norval@goeaston.net

Library and Outreach Committee -Annual Report -- January 14, 2004

The Library Committee started the new year by processing 50 Faith and Practice booklets for sale. To date all but 7 or 8 of them have been bought. This means that the new ones (which cost us \$7, only \$6 before) need to be tagged with their price. We have not decided what to charge. Probably the general public should be paying \$10 and members and attenders the \$7 cost.

As in previous years, we have received gifts of books from members for which we are thankful. At the same time, we have shelved only those books which would add to the goals of our limited library space. Books for the library should meet our criteria of being helpful in basic information about Quakerism.

One of our members brought us Bethesda Monthly Meeting's Welcome Information forms for new attenders which we are using as a guideline for a welcome form of our own. We searched and searched for a proper flyer on Quakers. Finally, one of our members brought one from Great Britain that is excellent. They have given us permission to use it and after 7 weeks, they arrived Friday in surface mail.

We have envelopes with "Newcomers Welcome! Please Take" on them on the table next to the guest book where visitors sign in. If you are curious, please look at them but please put them back for visitors since the supply is limited at present.

On Outreach, we used the Saturday of Waterfowl Festival in November as an Open House and talked to 42 visitors to whom we gave or sold pamphlets and booklets. We did find there are other areas of publicity that we can use next year.

The Committee wants to remind all committees that we are a source of information. Please ask us to get you the materials you desire. The Clerk of Worship & Ministry asked and I recognized the use of some of our resources in his annual report.

We are accepting suggestions for improvement that any one can offer.

-- Submitted by Frank Zeigler, Clerk



John sculpts another piece for a recent project, a Bug-Eye log boat.

Getting to Know a Friend

Brief Bios "How Our Lives Speak" – from Testimonies and Concerns

John Hawkinson – You know him as the friendly frequenter of the inner kitchen serving up hospitality of a First Day. He's been a member/attender for about 40 years now since he first came to town to practice obstetrics/gynecology. Doing hospitality is the best way to get to know people at Meeting; participating in Food Link gets him out in the community; and at his amateur radio post, he connects with folks worldwide. John is a teacher both at the Detention Center working on GED and the computer learning programs with prisoners (where he has participated longer than anyone else in Meeting). He teaches others the theory of ham radio operating. Boating is a lure - expeditions off shore in the past and lately around the Bay. Most of his free time goes to building a small bug-eye-type log boat. As for being married to Marsie, the clerk, "she has to put up with me," he says. Spend a moment with John to get some of his quiet, but humorous, comments on life. "Make this bio as short as a 25-cent-a-word telegram," he says.

--Submitted by Lorraine Claggett

-- **The Editor** shares the following because, as Marcia Ormsby puts it “This dissertation seems extremely fitting in view of recent controversies:”

The Pastoral Care Committee, Annapolis Monthly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends

Re: Love & the Law: the Roles of the Meeting in Marriages & in Ceremonies of Commitment between Same-sex Couples “under the Care of the Meeting”

Dear Friends,

On March 5, 1995, Annapolis Friends met for the conduct of business. The Minutes for that meeting related to ceremonies of commitment in same sex relationships declare:

MINUTES - THIRD MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS

Annapolis Friends met for the conduct of business on the fifth of third month, 1995. Present were Joan Alspaw, Jim Bradford, Mary Brighthaupt, Philip Caroom, Jean Christianson, Stephanie DeAbreu, Nan and Schuyler Elsbree, Dwight Fee, Steve Gere, Dorothy Kinsman, Lee Lougee, Fran Palmeri, Leo Pickens, Ted Riley, Patty Robinson, Pat Schenck, Mary Waddington Smith, John Trout, John Sisk. [Other minutes not applicable to issue of same sex relationships] Steve Gere then presented the issue of ceremonies of commitment in same sex relationships. A Friend expressed some concern over the use of the word marriage and said he would be more comfortable with wording along the lines of that used by Stony Run. There was some further discussion of the question of the word ‘marriage’ and the relationship of legal marriage to the religious ceremony. Other Friends spoke of the need to support loving relationships. A Friend asked that we clarify the distinction between marriage and ceremonies of commitment. There was general support for recognizing same sex unions, but questions were raised as to procedures and wording. This was referred to the Committee on Pastoral Care. Friends with concerns in this area should work with them. Friends approved the following statement as the basis for further work by the Pastoral Care Committee:

Friends approve, in principle, ceremonies of commitment for same sex couples. ... We still need to clarify what “under the care of meeting” means for marriage and ceremonies of commitment. Gene Hillman, Recording
As the Pastoral Care Committee undertakes these considerations, I will attempt to assist that effort by offering the following general perspective on love and the law. Hopefully, this perspective will clarify some of the legal questions noted in the Minutes.

The Relationship of Legal Marriage To The Religious Ceremony

Historical Background

Originally marriage was a matter of personal contract: Among the Romans and other ancient Western peoples, marriage was not a public legal matter; it was established and carried out by contract between families. Catholicism converted marriage into a sacrament: Many commentators suggest that the Christian idea of an officially sanctioned marriage derived ultimately from an ancient Judaic notion that sex should be confined to marriage. To define and also to enforce sanctions against the sin of adultery, the church first had to determine that the accused married person was in fact married. The response of Catholicism was to ritualize marriage by converting it into a sacrament. Derived from the Latin root meaning “sacred” [L. sacer], in ancient Rome a sacrament [L. sacramentum] originally was a military oath of allegiance taken by every Roman soldier, pledging him to obey his commander and not to desert his standard. As adopted by Catholicism, the religious rite of marriage was, and remains, one of seven “sacraments” held to have been ordained by Jesus (the other Catholic sacraments being baptism, confirmation, the Eucharist, penance, extreme unction, and holy orders).

Marriage subsequently was incorporated as a matter of public law: Not until the Middle Ages, when much church usage was codified as canon law, did marriage become associated with legal codes in the Western world. In the West, from the Middle Ages until today, marriage is predominantly a matter of public family law, not the law of individual contracts. Family law dictates whom one can marry and sets forth minimum ages for marriage. It governs the law of divorce and, to some degree, of property. The Reformation negated marriage as a sacrament but affirmed the legal institution: During the Reformation, Martin Luther negated the papal notions about marriage as a sacrament. To this day, most Protestants acknowledge only two “sacraments”, baptism and the Lord’s Supper. It is my understanding that Friends do not acknowledge any religious oaths or rites (i.e., no “sacraments”). Luther did uphold the institutional

connection of marriage with the law. In his view, marriage was something that the secular government should control - which the public law does to this day.

Clergy were subsequently appointed officials of the state authorized to perform marriage ceremonies: In colonial New England, all marriages were performed by justices of the peace until 1692, when clergy were made officials of the state for that purpose. Maryland law is in accord. A valid, public marriage ceremony is a legal prerequisite to attaining the legal status of marriage. In this state, a marriage ceremony may be performed either by a Circuit Court clerk or by "... any official of a religious order or body authorized by the rules and customs of that order or body to perform a marriage ceremony." FL, § 2-406(a).

Despite absence of clergy, marriage ceremonies conducted under the rules and customs of unprogrammed meetings of the Religious Society of Friends came to be authorized by **Maryland law**: The formal legal requirements of the Friends marriage certificate are set forth by Maryland statute, varying from the form utilized by religious orders with clergy; the form of the marriage ceremony is a purely religious matter. See, FL, 2-404(b)(2); 2-406(g); and 2-409. Although the form of religious marriage ceremonies is left by Maryland law to each denomination, the public law of Maryland reserved to itself the determination of who may validly marry: Maryland law precludes certain people from attaining the legal status of marriage: people who are already married to someone else, people who are related too closely, and people who are not of different genders. Any "marriage ceremony" involving persons so legally disabled has no legal effect on their marital status (i.e., is "void" or "invalid"). Maryland's statutory law expressly denied the "validity" of same sex "marriages", a legal policy of nonrecognition which continues to this day:

The Maryland statutory law of marriage provides that: "Only a marriage between a man and a woman is valid in this State." FL, § 2-201. Thus, no ceremony will alter the legal status of same sex couples.

Discussion: the Ceremony - Legal Rules

The short answer to questions about the relationship between religious marriage ceremonies and the legal status of marriage is this: for eligible participants, participation in a marriage ceremony conducted in accord with the rules and customs of the religious order is both legally sufficient and necessary to transform the marital status of the marriage-eligible participants. Although Maryland marriage statutes contain directive requirements (e.g., the requirements related to the marriage license and the recording of the marriage certificate), and although violation of those directives may result in criminal misdemeanor fines (for the participants and, perhaps, for members of the Meeting), these violations do not invalidate an otherwise valid marriage.

As I have already noted, however, a legally-valid marriage can arise in Maryland only if both participants in the marriage ceremony are legally-eligible as a matter of secular law; and, clearly, same sex participants are not legally-eligible to be married.

In contrast to the licensing and recordation requirements of Maryland law, moreover, the mutual, attested, affirmations of the marriage ceremony (whether religious or civil) are required in Maryland (no common law marriages arise in this state). In short, the legal rule is: no ceremony, no marriage, even if the couple is eligible and licensed to be married.

Discussion: The Importance of Obtaining Legal Advice prior to the Marriage Ceremony

Although the criteria for legal marriage are simple and straight-forward, the legal implications of marital status so achieved are serious, complicated, arcane, and socially controversial. The legal implications of marriage - I also should note - are evolving and, therefore, somewhat uncertain. Persons contemplating marriage are well-advised to seek competent legal advice. The caveat to first seek legal advice applies more than equally to same sex couples who wish to enter into "committed", "permanent" relationships.

Some of the legal underpinnings of marriage are available to long-term, same sex relationships. Nevertheless, the legal disabilities confronted by same sex couples, as such, are profound....I hope that this legal analysis, general though it is, will help the Pastoral Care Committee as it works to fulfill its assignment. I am willing to provide further consultation if requested to do so.

In peace,

Michael A. Christianson --- To Be Continued in next newsletter (Feb.04)
LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL ANTHONY CHRISTIANSON, P.A. ANNAPOLIS:

Meeting for Worship
Sundays 10-11 AM
Wednesdays 5:30 - 6:00 PM
Everyone Welcome



Thank You Sam!

Photo by Ralph Young