



Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington Street
Easton, Maryland 21601
(410) 822-0293
www.thirdhaven.org

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S NEW?



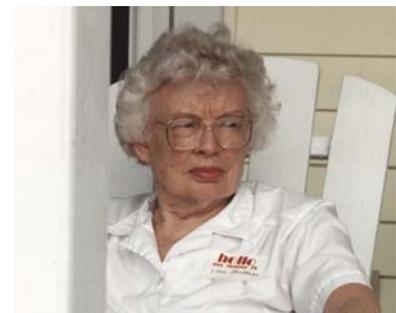
First Day School and Parenting were the topics of speaker Helen Fields, the First Day School coordinator for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. She demonstrated "Godly Play," a method of storytelling which involves use of simple props and bare-bones storyline to tell Bible stories. Rather than being analytical or didactic, it encourages the listener to wonder what the meaning of each story is, to take it in on a level appropriate to the individual, and to interpret it in drawing, writing or other art form. Godly Play, based on the work of Maria Montessori and further developed in the U.S.

by Episcopalian Jerome Berryman, is described as experiential, in that it speaks directly to the heart rather than to the intellect. It can be very effective with a wide range of ages ... even adults are drawn in to listen to stories which seem to touch something elemental in us all.

John & Meredith Watters: temporary address

622 Bay Ridge Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403
phone 410-267-7916. e-mail meredith@friend.ly.net
cell phones: Meredith: 410-310-0710 John: 410-829-4620

CONDOLENCES: Upon the death of **Ellen Shoffner**, the meeting sends its sincerest sympathy to John Shoffner on the loss of his wife. Born in Greensboro, Md., Ellen Bilbrough Shoffner was an active participant in the meeting as well as the League of Women Voters and the Denton Women's Club. Her letters to the editor were welcome reading in the Star Democrat. December 11th at 2p.m. Third Haven hosts a memorial meeting for worship followed by a brief reception. All are welcome.



FRIEND AFAR Third Haven sends greetings coping with health problems, continues to live a miss you, Jane! Cards or calls are surely



to Jane Caldwell who, while spirited Quaker life. We welcome!

ANNOUNCEMENTS week of December 5, 2004

December 5 (first day) 9 am: Overseers committee meets 10 am: meeting for worship

December 8 (fourth day) 6:05 pm: Property and Grounds committee meets in the common room

December 15 (fourth day) Testimonies and Concerns committee will meet at 7:00 pm at the home of Nancy Mullen in Trappe. Agenda will be a sharing on the testimony of simplicity.

December 11 (sixth day) 2p.m. memorial meeting for worship for Ellen Shoffner who died at Peninsula General Hospital in Salisbury, MD. She had suffered a stroke over the weekend. John needs our love and support. He has asked for our prayers, and a card or a phone call to him would be most welcome. 410-479-1028

December 12 (first day) meeting for worship, meeting for business: Query 12 Integrity and Simplicity page 214, Faith and Practice <http://www.pym.org/publish/fnp/> reports due: Nominating Committee, Worship and Ministry



December 19 (first day) meeting for worship, Christmas program. Please be in touch with Nancy

Mullen to bring food for the luncheon in the common room. 410-476-5392

January 16 2005 (first day) Southern Quarterly Meeting at Camden, Delaware 10:00am - meeting for worship, 11:00 am - meeting for business, 12:00 noon – lunch. Celebrate Camden's Historic Bicentennial with Ken Carroll & Mike Richards.

January 28, 29 & 30, 2005 Friends General Conference Development Committee to meet at Third Haven

January 30 (first day) meeting for worship followed by a session led by members of the Development Committee of Friends General Conference followed by luncheon in the common room.

Financial Contributions When sending, please designate the aim of your donation For the general meeting budget, make checks payable to Third Haven Monthly Meeting.

Mail to: Third Haven Treasurer, PO Box 2379 , Easton , MD 21601

For the Trustees' Fund, make checks payable to Trustees of Third Haven Meeting.

Mail to: Allan Mielke, Treasurer of The Trustees, 405 South Washington Street , Easton , MD 21601

For Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Make checks payable to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Mail to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1515 Cherry St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Donations:

Remember to contribute to the Brighter Christmas Fund

Donations (financial and material) are requested on behalf of the Women & Children of Afghanistan. Bring material to the common room each first day (shipping/transport provided) or checks

payable to: WAW, Women for Afghan Women AWF (Afghanistan Women's Fund)
Contact Valerie Mazur - see www.womenforafghanwomen.org
We are still collecting books for the detention center – the box is in the Common Room
Please donate non-perishable food for the Neighborhood Service Center
First Day School is looking for a couple of 2-drawer filing cabinets in good condition.

Please contact Candace Shattuck at 410-226-5787.

New announcements are always welcome - please send them to hawkjm@goeaston.net
The Third Haven Website is continually updated: www.thirdhaven.org. Please look at the Quaker Discussion Group written by Jim Rouse. Announcements, Annual Schedule and the Directory are complete and up-to-date. Nominations for the year as well as Quaker Organizations have been added.

PYM NOTICES: For complete text see PYM website www.pym.org/ Click on calendar of events.

Job openings:

- (1) Friends General Conference (FGC) one day per week office work. Contact Ellen Helmuth at 215-561-1700, or Ellenh@fgcquaker.org
- (2) American Friends Service Committee: Regional Director for Southeast region. Contact: Madeline Haggans AFSC e-mail: Jobs@afsc.org
- (3) A volunteer Friend (expenses paid) to serve as the PYM Non-Governmental Organization Representative to the Department of Public Information at the United Nations. Send resume by Dec. 1 to: Mary Anne Crowley, PYM, 1515 Cherry St., Philadelphia PA 19102.
- (4) A Director of Business and Information Services for PYM. If you are interested, call Connie Blood connieb@pym.org 215-241-7211 for complete details.

Open Forum on Urban Violence will be sponsor by Pendle Hill and Swarthmore on December 2, 2004 7:30 p.m. at Swarthmore College Room 101 in DuPont Science Center - contact: www.phpeace.net telephone 610- 566-4507, ext. 121

Important finance meeting - PYM Treasurers Planning Group workshop Saturday, January 29, 2005. Contact: Connie

Brookes 215-241-7272 or cabfidcorp@aol.com
or Kathy Reilly at 215-241-7205 or kathyr@pym.org
Teachers at middle-school level: PYM Middle School gathering February 4-6, 2005 at Swarthmore Meeting (PA). contact: Melanie Douty, 1-800-220-0796, ext. 7171, melanied@pym.org or <http://www.pym.org/youngfriends/MiddleSchool/index.htm>

Meetinghouse Maintenance Workshop February 5, 2005, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon at the Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia. Contact: Peggy Morscheck of the HABS (Historic American Buildings Survey) Working Group at (610) 642-4069 or morscheck@comcast.net

Adult Listening Pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine March 10-27 -2005 17 day Apply by Dec. 1 Cost \$2,600. Includes air fare. Leave voicemail message Chip Poston 215-579-6673 Contact chip_poston@georgeschool.org

Elaine Pagels Lecture - "Beyond Belief: The Secret Gospel of Thomas." Saturday, April 16, 2005, 9 to 12am at the Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia beginning at 9:15 am. Tickets \$10. contact: Sally Rickerman, 121 Watson Mill Road, Landenberg PA 19350; 610-274-8856; sshrr@earthlink.net

The World Gathering of Young Friends

August 16-24, 2005, in Lancaster, England.
Contact: Connie Blood, PYM, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia PA 19102.

connieb@pym.org

Business plan competition for Young

Adult Friends: Friends Institute is offering a competitive grant of \$5,000 in a (age 18-40) contact: Kareem Brantley at

k_brantley@yahoo.com

Volunteers Sought for Arch Street Yard

Clean-up: contact Brian Sullivan 267-254-0897.

PYM's Workcamp Working Group: contact Coordinator Arin Ahlum Hanson for more information on how to get involved. Call 215-241-7236 or email arin@pym.org

THIRD HAVEN FRIENDS

MEETING MINUTES of the 11th Month 14th, 2004 Meeting for Business

Attending – Paige Bethke, Ken Carroll, Larny Claggett, Lorraine B. Claggett, Tom Corl, Mary Cotton, Doreen Getsinger, John Hawkinson, Marsie Hawkinson, Bob Kemp, Bob Marshall, Cathy Marvel, Nancy Mullen, Sumner Parker, Jim Paul, Peggy Paul, Diane Proctor, Anne Rouse, Jim Rouse, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck, Norval Thompson, Ann Williams, Irene Williams, Winslow Womack, Ralph Young and Frank Zeigler.

Marsie Hawkinson, Clerk of the Meeting, clerked the meeting for business. The meeting opened with a period of silent worship.

11th Query – During the meeting for worship, Jim Rouse read the 11th Query on the Stewardship of Resources. The Clerk of the Testimonies and Concerns Committee suggested several ways in which Friends can share their resources, and directed Friends to gift catalogs on the table in the common room.

Minutes of the 10th month 10th meeting for business – The minutes of the 10th month 10th meeting for business were APPROVED without change, as published in the November Newsletter and distributed electronically to Friends with e-mail addresses.

Clerk’s correspondence and

announcements – Marsie Hawkinson noted a flyer for a new book by Elizabeth Brinton, My American Eden: Mary Dyer, Martyr for Freedom. Trinity Cathedral in Easton will hold an art fair and harp concert on 12th month 6th. There will be a world gathering of young Friends in Lancaster England 8th month, 16th – 24th, 2005. Michelle Burgoon will speak very briefly at rise of meeting 12th month 5th. Caroline Packard from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, will meet with 2 groups of Third Haven Friends on 12th month 5th. Friends are encouraged to attend to the information provided in the monthly Newsletter and the weekly Announcements.

Treasurer’s report – In the absence of the Treasurer, Larny Claggett, Clerk of the Budget and Finance Committee reported. He did not have the current financial report available for presentation. The Meeting is behind on financial contributions; many Friends make contributions at the end of the calendar year. There have been some sizeable expenses related to the repair of the doors and some brick work on the brick meetinghouse. There was a lengthy discussion about when and how to encourage financial contributions. In addition to these minutes, there will be a notice in the Newsletter. After the discussion, the Meeting referred the issue of a letter to members and attenders back to the

Budget and Finance Committee for action when and as the Committee deems appropriate.

Testimonies and Concerns – Lorraine B Claggett, Clerk of the Testimonies and Concern Committee presented the annual report. The Committee works to facilitate the Meeting's response to social concerns in the community, state, nation and world, guided by our Quaker Testimonies. The Committee reflected on the Testimonies as a way to examine same gender commitment ceremonies under the care of the Meeting. In this connection, the report offered 2 quotations:

“Community is a safe place precisely because no one is attempting to heal or convert you, to fix you, to change you. Instead, members accept you as you are. You are free to be you, to discard defenses, masks, disguises, free to become your whole and holy self.” -- Scott Peck

“What is true of God's love for us is also true of our love for one another in the context of the spiritual community that is Quaker meeting. We come together in community so that we can begin to reflect God's love back in the world and to each other.” -- Thomas Gates

The report detailed the many activities of the Committee giving witness to our Testimonies on behalf of the Meeting, including peace vigils and Prison Action. The full Testimonies and Concern Annual Report is attached and published in the Newsletter. In conclusion, Lorraine B Claggett invited the Meeting to help Testimonies and Concern put our testimonies to work in the world, to nurture and support members who put their beliefs into action, and to help prioritize among leadings. The Meeting APPROVED the report, directed that it be published in the Newsletter and thanked the Clerk and the members of the Committee for all of their good work for the Meeting.

Prison Action Program- Ralph Young and John Hawkinson elaborated on the Prison Action program. Access to library books is improved thanks to Anne Rouse. The group is beginning to work with people after release. Tutoring and the General Education Degree (GED) program are doing well. There was some discussion of the better use of available “incentives” at the jail and how the Meeting might seek to influence such incentives. The Meeting thanked the Prison Action group for its work.

Nominating Committee – Mary Cotton, Clerk of the Nominating Committee, presented the preliminary report. Meredith Watters and Bob Kemp are the other members of the Nominating Committee. The report proposes continuing service and new nominations for Meeting officers, representatives to Quaker and other organizations, clerks of committees and committee members. The Committee has tried to reach out to the entire Meeting community. The full preliminary report is attached and published in the Newsletter for the information of the entire Meeting community. Several committees could use some additional members. Mary Cotton encouraged members and attenders to recommend additions or changes, by contacting a member of the Nominating Committee directly. The Nominating Committee will present its final report to the Meeting for approval at the meeting for business 12th month 12th. The Clerk of the Meeting thanked the Committee for all of its hard work.

Talbot Association of Clergy and Laity – Ann Williams the Meeting representative to the Talbot Association of Clergy and Laity (TACL) presented the annual report. TACL meets at different places of worship and organizations. TACL sponsors various activities, including the Good Samaritan Fund and the inter-faith Thanksgiving service, this year 11th month 21st, at 7:00

pm. Ann requested a Meeting donation of \$100 to the Good Samaritan Fund. After some discussion, the request was referred to Testimonies and Concerns Committee for possible addition to the list of Meeting contributions. The Meeting APPROVED the TACL report and thanked Ann Williams for representing Third Haven.

American Friends Service Committee – Norval Thompson has been nominated by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting as a Philadelphia Yearly Meeting representative to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). Cathy Marvel presented the annual report on AFSC. She explained the purpose of AFSC – “To engage in religious, charitable, social, philanthropic and relief work in the US and other countries on behalf of the participating Yearly Meetings and other bodies of the Religious Society of Friends.” The AFSC “Corporation” appoints the Board members who manage the business of the Corporation through appointments to some 37 committees, which in turn oversee more than 200 subcommittees and over 2300 volunteers. Accordingly AFSC is seeking to simplify its organization. AFSC has about a \$40 million annual budget and \$200 million in assets. AFSC leadership has offered to come speak at Third Haven about the work of AFSC. The Meeting AGREED to invite an AFSC speaker at a time to be determined. There followed a discussion about the relationship between AFSC and the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in New York City and between AFSC “national” and the AFSC Mid-Atlantic Region (MAR). A member of the Worship and Ministry Committee noted that that Committee had discussed the need to educate the Meeting community about Quaker organizations, their purposes, programs and relationships. The Meeting APPROVED the AFSC report and thanked Norval and Cathy. The report is attached and published in the Newsletter.

Friends Committee on National Legislation – Frank Zeigler, the Meeting representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) presented the annual report on FCNL. Because FCNL makes its annual report in 2nd or 3rd months, Frank proposed that the FCNL to Third Haven follow that. The Meeting APPROVED this change in timing of the FCNL report. The 1st major FCNL project for 2004 was the restoration of the FCNL headquarters building in Washington DC, which was originally constructed just after the Civil War. It was redeveloped as a “green” building, using renewable natural resources like solar power, saving the environment and expense for years to come. This renovation was completely paid for by pledges and donation of Friends. The 2nd major FCNL project was “Your Vote Counts - Vote 2004”. FCNL continues to lobby on Capitol Hill, opposing armaments and war, helping minorities particularly American Indians, and supporting other positions inspired by Friends Testimonies. The Meeting APPROVED the FCNL report and thanked Frank Zeigler for all of his good work for many years for FCNL and Third Haven.

Worship and Ministry Committee – Bob Marshall, Clerk of the Worship and Ministry Committee reported that the Committee plans to continue adult religious education discussions of Quaker Faith and Practice and the Bible. These sessions will be at the rise of meeting for worship on the 4th First Day of the month. On 11th month 28th Lorraine B. Claggett will facilitate the next discussion and the following discussion will be on 12th month 26th. The Worship and Ministry Committee has discussed and reinforced the need for educating the Meeting community about Quaker organizations. The Worship and Ministry Committee continues its discussion of its roles and responsibilities with respect to the Meeting

community. The Committee takes guidance for its responsibilities from the very useful section of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice (1997) pp 180-182. The Committee seeks to nurture and support the spiritual life of the Meeting, its members and attenders. The Committee wants to contribute positively, helping Friends strengthen and use their spiritual gifts. The Committee hopes to bring a written description of its responsibilities with the next annual report to the Meeting.

Overseers – Paige Bethke, Clerk of Overseers, reported Overseers hopes that the Meeting will have at meeting for worship at the nearly restored Tuckahoe Neck meetinghouse next spring at a date to be determined.

Hospitality -- The Friends General Conference (FGC) Development Committee will meet at Third Haven 1st month 28th – 30th, 2005. Michael Wadja of FGC may be invited to speak at the rise of meeting for worship on 1st month 30th. Norval Thompson will arrange housing for the 12 FGC visitors. The Hospitality Committee and the Meeting community will support a potluck lunch for the FGC guests on First Day.

First Day School -- Candace Shattuck, Co-Clerk of the First Day School Committee reported on the visit and storytelling techniques of Helen Fields from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. The children and the adults that participated in a story session following First Day School appreciated the value of these stories. Members of the First Day School Committee plan to learn such storytelling techniques. The First Day School children will present a program with singing at the rise of meeting for worship 12th month 19th.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Annual Giving – Norval Thompson reported that the financial contributions from Third Haven Friends to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting have

increased from about \$1700 2 years ago to \$3600 last year, to \$6200 the most recent year. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Annual giving achieved its goal of about \$450,000 last year.

Communications – Norval Thompson, Co-Clerk of the Communications Committee, presented the annual Communications report. The objective is to inform members and attenders of Third Haven Friends Meeting and to encourage their interaction with the larger Quaker community. The Communications Committee has completed its first 10 months of work, facilitating communication among its members and attenders through: weekly Announcements, the monthly Newsletter, the Third Haven website, www.thirdhaven.org and the Bulletin Forum on the website. The weekly Announcements and the monthly Newsletter are distributed in paper copy for the “computer free”. Electronic distribution saves the Meeting a good deal of time and expense. The Committee has not yet formulated an “editorial policy” but strives to provide information relevant to Third Haven Meeting. The Committee has published 12 issues of the Newsletter and increased readership to over 200 e-mail recipients, with about 140 [107?] paper copies mailed monthly. Friends who do not want the paper copy should inform the Committee. The Committee recognized the remarkable contributions of Joyce Zeigler in producing the Newsletter over many years. The Meeting APPROVED the annual Communication report and thanked the Committee for its excellent work. The full annual Communications report is attached and published in the Newsletter.

Other Business – Ken Carroll reminded Friends to make financial contributions to the local Brighter Christmas Fund. All funds go to local people in need, as the program is run entirely by local volunteers. Last year, Third Haven Friends made

generous contributions. Ken will collect cash or checks to the Brighter Christmas Fund and transfer them on.

There being no further business, the meeting for business closed with a period of silent worship. The next Third Haven meeting for

business will be at the rise of meeting for worship 12th month 12th.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Corl
Recording Clerk
Third Haven Friends Meeting

FORUM PROGRAM: January 30, 2000

From Traveling Ministries to regional conferences to new initiatives in religious education, publications, and outreach, Friends General Conference continues to stretch and grow to meet the emerging needs of meetings and Friends. Hundreds of Quakers volunteer significant amounts of time and talent each year to nurture the Religious Society of Friends through FGC. They, and FGC's staff, serve Friends and meetings every week of year.

Come to the Forum on January 30 to hear FGC Development Committee members, who will be visiting our meeting that weekend, describe the many ways in which Friends General Conference nurtures Quakerism throughout North America, individual Friends, Quaker meetings, and the Religious Society of Friends as a whole. submitted by *Paige Bethke*

GETTING TO KNOW A FRIEND

Wayne Flanagan -



lives on the Eastern Shore in Denton and has worked for automotive dealerships in a variety of positions from salesman to general manager. He said that when he was a used car department manager, he went to many auto auctions to both buy and sell vehicles. He was intrigued watching and listening to the auction process and the auctioneers. A career change to auctioneer wasn't such a far fetched idea. In spite of very positive feedback in his five years of

charity and benefit work, he felt the need to refine his chant and breathing techniques as well as the business end of auctions. Formal education from the Mendenhall Auction School in High Point, NC was invaluable in the critical areas of appraising, advertising, contracts and much more.

Since graduating in August of 2001 Wayne has worked as a "contract" bid caller at Chesapeake Auctions in Linkwood, Denton Station Auction, and Dill's Agricultural Auction in Sandtown, DE. (Recently as Associate Auctioneer for the Baltimore Auction Co. and Shorebid Auction in Cambridge, Md.) He holds two auctions of his own each Spring & Fall and continues his benefit activities for worthy causes with no charges or fees!

Wayne specializes in "contract bid calling" and is available on short notice, traveling the entire states of Maryland & Delaware to fill in when needed. In addition he reports that " Accordingly, I would like to remind Friends that Auctions are the ORIGINAL MARKETPLACE.

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE Annual report

Purpose and Objectives

“To engage in religious, charitable, social, philanthropic, and relief work in the U.S. and other countries on behalf of the participating Yearly Meetings and other bodies of the Religious Society of Friends” in the U.S.A.

All decisions and procedures are made in the manner of Friends.

Members of the Corporation are to be members of the Religious Society of Friends. Each Yearly Meeting may appoint up to 5 members depending on the size of the Yearly Meeting.

The Corporation appoints the Board members who manage the business of the Corporation through appointments to some 37 committees, which in turn oversees another 200 plus sub- committees and over 2300 volunteers.

American Friends Service Committee has an operating budget of about \$140 million and has about \$200 million in assets.

International Program Committee – Geri Sicola, Associate General Secretary Does peace and humanitarian assistance work outside the country. A current focus is

the creation of a standardized relief kit because many countries are refusing the clothing and other items entry into their ports as they currently have an active market in clothing and they fear this would undermine their market activity.

The following persons have expressed an interest in visiting Third Haven to speak:

- Heather Foote – director of Public Affairs in Washington, D.C.

- Geri Sicola – Assistant General Secretary for International Programs

- Frances Cheeks – Director of Communications

Mary Ellen McNish, General Secretary, Paul Lacey, Board Clerk, and Mary Lord, Director of the Peace building unit will travel to Rome for a gathering of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates.

General Secretary, Mary Ellen McNish – “World events have reminded us of how much we are needed, of how much there is to be done. Again, I think, ‘If not us, whom? If not now, When?’ The burden of history has fallen upon us now as it has on so many Friends in the past.”

Respectfully Submitted by *Cathy Marvel and Norval Thompson*

PHILADELPHIA YEARLY MEETING Interim Meeting Summary of Minutes

28 October 2003 - Arch Street Meetinghouse, Philadelphia

(Full Minutes are available from Monthly Meeting clerks and Interim representatives and on PYM website at www.pym.org Interim Meeting.)

Minute # 1. Worship and Opening Exercises. The meeting settled into worship at 6:00 p.m. The clerk welcomed a substitute and 8 guests.

Minute # 2. Continuing Business (2.A.) Standing Committee Self Evaluation was presented and is positive. Working Groups are next.

(2.B.) Two Documents

(2.B.1.) Advisory Committee Job Description was presented and approved with some Friends standing aside.

(2.B.2.) Revised Responsibilities and Authority of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Committees was considered.

(2.C.) PYM Donations to Outside Groups for FY 06 were approved at a 7% reduction from this year.

Minute # 3. Financial Stewardship Budget Conference will be held at Arch Street on November 13.

Minute # 4 Report of the Nominating Committee Sue Makler, clerk, reported 8 nominations and 1 resignation. Standing Committees Conference will be at Gwynedd Meeting on November 20.

Minute # 5. Business of the Standing Committees

(5.A.) Peace and Concerns Standing Committee. Howard Cell, clerk, reported. (5.A.1) Minute on Contributions Peace and Concerns wishes to be consulted about any cuts in contributions to FCNL, PCC / PAAT, and AFSC. Clerk of Interim Meeting noted all outside groups have expressed concern about cuts.

(5.A.2) Pennsylvania Advocacy Action Team Alice Hoffman our representative reported. PAAT provides a presence before the Pennsylvania State Legislature.

(5.B) Education Standing Committee Debbie Lyons, clerk, reported several events under their sponsorship and care.

(5.C) Worship and Care Standing Committee Robin Meaker, a member reported a new name for the former Granting Group for Funds for Aging, which is now the Aging Granting Group, with eight newly appointed members.

(5.D.) General Services Standing Committee Paul Kester reported additional information on Woolman Trusts.

(5.D.2) Estate Planning Seminar. Elizabeth Foley reminded Friends of the estate planning seminar on November 6.

(5.E.) Support and Outreach Standing Committee Betty Gravatt, a member reported two appointments to the Friends Institute Granting Group.

Minute # 6. Clerk's Correspondence.

(6.A) Travel Minute for Thomas Swain was approved as he travels under Divine leading to the United Kingdom.

(6.B) Minute from Burlington Quarter on the place of Quarterly Meetings in our Yearly Meeting and the right use of the term Yearly Meeting, issues lifted up as being life-threatening to the spiritual health and good order of PYM.

Four Actions Proposed included 1. Restoring Quarterly Meeting sign-in books at annual sessions; 2. Change the term for staff now called "Regional Staff" to "Quarterly Staff"; 3. List Quarterly Meeting clerks and times and places of Quarterly Meetings on a separate page on the PYM web site; 4. Update Interim Meeting on how Quarters are being included in the next cycles for the Education Standing Committee and the Financial Stewardship Committee.

Minute Offers Additional Suggestions were made including a stronger role of Quarters in nominations and appointments to PYM committees, and a thought that PYM staff and committees be referred to as the Yearly Meeting Central Office and that the term "Yearly Meeting" be reserved solely for the collective membership of the Yearly Meeting and the annual and called sessions of those Friends.

Clerk's Response reported for the clerk of Yearly Meeting that the Quarter sing-in books are being restored, and that it would be a simple matter to create a page on the PYM web site to list the clerks and meeting details for Quarters.

Education Standing Committee Response was to note that the sequence currently in place was carefully discerned and is felt to be appropriate because it is both simple and timely.

Financial Stewardship Committee Response has been to work with Quarters to ensure their being included more fully in the budget cycle.

Other Responses came as Friends considered the Minute carefully; and suggested that we not confuse symptoms

with the basic condition since important issues are being lifted up. The first sentence, which asks for the restoration of the Quarterly Meetings in the role and governance of the Yearly Meeting, sums up the overall sense of the Minute. Friends approved asking the Quarterly Meeting clerks to report back after consideration at their November 7 meeting.

Minute # 7. General Secretary’s Report notes his ongoing work and shared an

abstract of a scholarly paper he has prepared rising up from the IRS suit last year.

Minute # 8. Minutes of 23 September 2004 were corrected and approved.

Minute # 9. Announcements and Adjournment Minutes of Interim Meeting are first made generally available on the PYM web site about a week after a session. Friends settled into worship and adjourned at 9:30 p.m. submitted by *Chris Mahon*, clerk, *Susan White*, recording clerk

TESTIMONIES AND CONCERNS Annual Report – November 2004

This committee works to facilitate the Meeting’s response to social concerns in the community, state, nation and world, guided by our Quaker testimonies. During the year we held reflections on these testimonies as part of the committee’s ongoing resolve to examine the controversy around same-gender commitment ceremonies under the care of this meeting,: Peace – through a quotation from the Buddha; Inner Light – to answer how we understand and practice “there is that of God in everyone”;

Community –to understand the meaning of this testimony, with two among the many rich statements we considered submitted here: Community is a safe place precisely because no one is attempting to heal or convert you, to fix you, to change you. Instead, members accept you as you are. You are free to be you, to discard defenses, masks, disguises, free to become your whole and holy self. Scott Peck

What is true of God’s love for us is also true of our love for one another in the context of the spiritual community that is Quaker meeting. We come together in community so that we can begin to reflect God’s love back in the world and to each other. Thomas Gates

Our activities in the community and wider world included: Participation in a soup kitchen at Asbury Church, Participation P.E.A.C.E., a local group promoting and teaching peaceful alternatives to violence, Participation in the Multicultural Fair, Membership on the Interfaith Social Action Committee of Easton, Movie nights at Third Haven, Evergreen Cove, Avalon Theater, Joint sponsorship of Fahima Vorgets and a contribution to her work in Afghanistan,

Weekly peace vigils in Easton, Circulation of a petition against the Patriot Act and Homeland Security laws, entitled Talbot Resolves 2004. In April, we asked the Meeting to respond to the FCNL’s request for input on its priorities for the next Congress. In May we asked the Meeting to help the committee with its consideration of the testimony of Community.

In June a list of organizations to receive a small donation was compiled for approval to become part of the Meeting’s budget. In July the Meeting worked together to realize a first week long Earth Stewardship day camp for young people. With 20 children enrolled, although with a smaller daily attendance, it was highly successful. It is recommended that a camp committee consisting of a member from each Third Haven committee be formed to begin plans for next year. In September we asked the Meeting to respond to a proposal from Southern Quarterly of various activities that would hold November’s election in prayer. We keep the welfare of the prison action work under our concern year round. Their reports are separate. We approve

distribution of funds, upon request, for the expense of attending Quaker events. A Read folder of newsletters we receive lies on the Common Room table. Nancy Mullen has received bereavement training at hospital workshops entitled “Hospice, Death and Dying” and will serve the Meeting with this training.

Ongoing, unrealized plans for this committee include Fair Trade Products sale and use,



especially coffee; more movie nights; considering Testimonies with our young attenders; AFSC projects; local community service work; support for needs in Afghanistan and Iraq; local racial relations concerns; support for released inmates; and a simple meal fund raiser.

We invite the Meeting to join us to help us to put our testimonies to work in the world; to lend nurture and support to our many members who are putting their beliefs into action; and to help us prioritize among a throng of leadings. –submitted by *Lorraine Claggett*, Clerk

Third Haven Friends Meeting
405 S. Washington Street
Easton, Md. 21601

Meeting for Worship
Sunday 10-11 a.m.
Wednesday 5:30-6 p.m.
Everyone welcome

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED