



Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington Street

Easton, Maryland 21601

(410) 822-0293

www.thirdhaven.org

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

‘All must first know the voice crying in the wilderness in their hearts’ --

George Fox Einstein sought a unified field theory - one capable of describing nature’s forces - within a single coherent framework, one to reveal the wonder of its simplicity and the power of the principles on which it is based, allowing us all to stand in awe of its sheer beauty and elegance... Now, long after his articulated quest, physicists believe they have found the framework of how the universe works –the Superstring theory. *–by Brian Green*

Readers Report

-I want to thank you for sending out your wonderful, colorful in both photos and words, spirit-filled, cheerful, informative newsletter. The clerk of Westfield Meeting copied it to show others last week, inspiring me to read all the way through this morning. Thank you for inspiring us to do better at communication. *Suzanne Day, Cinnamison NJ*

-As always, you have produced a wonderful newsletter; I am particularly thankful for the photo and very well written article on Godly Play. I had a wonder filled day, and remember the moment in the photo exactly! Peace to All. Love, *Helen Fields*

Correction - I read that PYM raised their goal of \$450,000. The goal was \$435,000 and we exceeded it by just under \$30,000. I

don't know how important this is, but you might like to correct Minutes. *E. Foley, Director Development committee PYM*

The Memorial Service for Ellen

Schoffner, who passed away on Saturday, December 4, 2004, was held on December 11th at 2 pm attended by friends and family. The clerk read the first Psalm, a favorite text of Ellen’s, at John’s request. Many members of meeting as well as the Shoffners’ friends and relatives received warm words of appreciation given by John Shoffner at the close of the meeting. Ellen was a long time Member of Third Haven Friends. Ellen, whose maiden name was Bilbrough, was born and raised in the Greensboro area of Maryland. The Memorial Service was followed by a gathering in the Common Room where John Schoffner greeted those who attended. *by Paige Bethke*

What's New? Letter from Jenny Van

West to Marsie Hawkinson, Clerk -
November 12, 2004

Dear Marsie:

About five years ago at Christmastime I attended meeting for worship at Third Haven Friends and felt surrounded with warmth. The welcome extended to me was truly extraordinary, the spiritual history of the old brick meetinghouse palpable, and the generosity of spirit of the people clear to me. It was sitting in meeting that day that I decided after ten years of soul-searching that I was a Quaker.

Back in Seattle, where I lived at the time, I ultimately became a member of Salmon Bay Friends, a delightful, lively small meeting which met in an old schoolhouse at the top of a hill with views of the Cascade Mountains. While the meeting did not have a long history, beautiful buildings of its own, or a peaceful graveyard, it had a strong community centeredness, a deep commitment to children, vibrancy and diversity. In particular, gay men and lesbians made up a significant portion of the membership at Salmon Bay. Like others who had helped found and support the meeting, these people held important service positions (including the clerk while I was there) and were treated as equals by everyone. How they might have been different from any other member of the meeting—like the color of eyes or skin—was a non-issue. In fact, there was no "they". There was only "we".

During the last year I lived in Seattle, the community rallied to support our clerk Peg, who lost her beloved partner Betsy to cancer in December of 2002. We all supported Peg and Betsy however we could — by holding meeting at their house, by washing dishes, by grieving and rejoicing and laughing and crying alongside them as Betsy spent her last months at home and Peg was widowed for a second time.

One day, close to the end of Betsy's life, when she was spending much of her time asleep, she awoke suddenly and said she was ready to marry Peg. Peg had proposed to her many months before but it was only at this moment that she had become clear about it. In the room were members of Salmon Bay Friends, including members of all the right committees to hold a clearness committee and witness a marriage. They decided together that, circumstances being what they were, they would witness the marriage right there and then. This was on a Saturday. We were all informed the next morning of what had happened, and gave our heartfelt and joyous support right on the spot, taking their marriage under the care of the meeting. Many of us, including myself, cried as we felt the passage of God's spirit through these two brave and loving women. As I write this the memory of that powerful moment in my old Quaker meeting brings back tears. To deny anyone a sacrament I believe is inhumane. Today in Third Haven it is not possible for two devoted persons of the same gender to receive this sacrament. I cannot continue to associate myself with a community that will not, as a group, recognize these unions. I do not want my children growing up to believe that it is alright to deny people the blessing and community they crave because of anything. To block anyone because of prejudice is to block out not only those people, but the gifts they bring to the community. To block them out is to turn away some of us who cannot stand to see them treated that way, and with us you lose our gifts as well.

The welcome we received as a family at Third Haven when we arrived one Sunday in June of 2003 was warm and wonderful. It saddens me very deeply to think what might have happened had I been partnered with a woman, or if we were a family with two male parents. I transferred my membership because I remembered what Third Haven

was like the day I realized I was a Quaker — warm, inviting, welcoming. I was thrilled at the thought of being a part of the meeting that had given me this insight. But the meeting has changed in spirit, or so it would seem.

I thank all of you whom we have loved and continue to love, and who have loved us, especially those of you who cherish and have nurtured our children, Charlie and Baxter. Many of you are dear to us; I regret very deeply that we no longer share Sunday mornings each week with you. I can no longer ignore my conscience.

Please remove my name from Third Haven's membership rolls and change my status to attender. In the light *Jenny Van West*



Announcements for Third Haven Monthly Meeting

January 2 (first day) meeting for worship
January 8 (seventh day) 1 pm – All clerks meeting in the common room

January 9 (first day) meeting for worship:
Query 1 'Meeting for Worship' found on page 206 of Faith and Practice
(online)

<http://www.pym.org/publish/fnp/> At meeting for business the following annual reports will be presented: Overseers and Library and Outreach

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 17, (second day) 8 am Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast at the Easton Fire Hall sponsored by Talbot Association of Clergy and Laity, the Talbot County Branch NAACP and P.E.A.C.E. Buy ticket by January 8, donation \$5.00. Contact Ralph Young after meeting or phone 410-819-0050.

For those who may have a child or grandchild looking for a liberal arts college Winslow Womack has left information in

the common room concerning Guilford College. Guilford is a small, coeducational, liberal arts college in Greensboro, North Carolina, founded in 1837 by the Religious Society of Friends.

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

Check out the new Third Haven Website updates at www.thirdhaven.org

Consider representing your church in helping Habitat for Humanity: the Interfaith Social Action Committee of Easton, This committee plans to gather volunteers to work with Habitat for Humanity. If there were four volunteers from each church, each individual would be assigned to one Saturday every two or three months. Contact: Bruce Butler, Valerie Mazur, or Jim Richardson at 410-745-5001.

When sending **financial contributions**, 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

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting notices: for complete text see <http://www.thirdhaven.org/> Use the Quaker Network link, left side of the home page

to August 15, 2005. Contact: Christina Repoley (215)241-7295 or crepoley@afsc.org

The Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends dates are March 31 to April 3, 2005. Information: www.pym.org/pm/ann.php Materials will be mailed February 1. Seek and Find will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2005, from 4:15 to 6:00 PM. 50th anniversary of PYM's Reunification - Contact Fran Beer: 610-388-1886 or franbeer@udel.edu 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 American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Mexico Summer Project –June 26

Quaker Public Educators Gathering is January 8; speaker is Penny Colgan-Davis, Principal of Russell Byers Charter School. Contact: Elke Muller elkem@pym.org 215-241-7223. 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

Third Haven Computer Images If anyone would like to use any of Ralph's photographs as computer backgrounds, tell him which photos you wish (using the numbers in the portfolio located in the

Common Room) and you will receive a CD with instructions on how to install the photo as a background on your computer. This is a gift for your generous contributions to the Meeting.

Please Fund the Monthly Meeting, The Yearly Meeting (PYM) and Friends General Conference(FGC)

Third Haven Friends Meeting-- Minutes of the 12th Month 12th, 2004 Meeting for Business

Attending – Leonard Baynham, Ken Carroll, Larny Claggett, Lorraine B. Claggett, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Joe Davis, Doreen Getsinger, John Hawkinson, Marsie Hawkinson, Bob Marshall, Cathy Marvel, Sumner Parker, Jim Paul, Peggy Paul, Anne Rouse, Jim Rouse, Candace Shattuck, Norval Thompson, Meredith Watters, Ann Williams, Winslow Womack, Frank Zeigler and Joyce Zeigler.

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

12th Query – During the meeting for worship, Tom Corl read the 12th Query on Integrity and Simplicity. During the meeting for worship, Friends spoke to the Query. A Friend noted the difference between the testimonies and queries in the Religious Society of Friends and the creeds of other faiths. A Friend noted that although Faith and Practice offers guidance, the testimonies and queries place the burden of responsibility for interpreting and responding to queries on the Meeting and individual Friends.

Minutes of the 11th month 14th meeting for business – The minutes of the 11th month 14th meeting for business were APPROVED without change, as published in the 12th month Newsletter and distributed electronically to Friends with e-mail addresses and mailed to others.

Clerk's correspondence – Marsie Hawkinson provided a written summary "Update: Quaker Burial Ground – Millington, Maryland by Neil Holzman". The condition, ownership, maintenance responsibility and other considerations with

respect to the Quaker burial ground in Millington were discussed briefly. The matter of the Quaker burial ground in Millington will be taken up at the next Southern Quarterly Meeting meeting for business. The Committee on Friends Education can provide some financial assistance to Quaker children in Friends schools. Marsie Hawkinson will post this information.

Treasurer's report – Treasurer Joe Davis presented the financial report for Third Haven for 10th - 11th months. The total income for the period was \$7,422; the total expense was \$5,264; with the net income for the period was \$2,158. The total income for the fiscal year to date was \$11,951; the total expense was \$16,852; with the net income for the period negative \$4,899. Friends are encouraged to make financial contributions to Third Haven before the end of 2004. \$803 from the carriage shed sale remains to be allocated and expended. The net equity is \$46,209. The Meeting APPROVED the Treasurer's financial report for Third Haven, with thanks to Joe Davis for his report.

Nominations – In the absence of Mary Cotton who sent her regrets, Meredith Watters distributed copies and presented the 2004 Nominating Committee report and recommendations for 2005. The Nominating Committee tried to reach out and involve all members and attenders in the work of the Meeting. The Committee reminded Friends that the officers and committee clerks customarily serve up to 3 2-year terms, and committee members serve up to 2 3-year terms. The Committee's more detailed information notes these terms. Friends suggested a few additions and corrections, which the Nominating Committee noted and agreed to incorporate in the final 2005 Nominating Committee report. There followed some further

discussion. The Meeting APPROVED the final 2005 Nominating Committee report and thanked the Nominating Committee for its excellent work on behalf of the Meeting. The approved Third Haven appointments for 2005 will be published in the 1st month Newsletter.

Worship and Ministry Committee – Bob Marshall, Clerk of the Worship and Ministry Committee presented the 2004 annual report of the Worship and Ministry Committee. He described the process of Committee discernment that produced the report. The report explained the role of Worship and Ministry Committee in the Meeting Community, described what the Committee did in 2004 and what the Committee is planning for 2005. The Worship and Ministry Committee seeks to nurture the spiritual life of the Meeting, both corporately and individually. Though extremely sensitive, the Worship and Ministry Committee will counsel Friends who engage in inappropriate behavior during the Meeting for Worship, after careful corporate discernment by the Committee, lovingly in the manner of Friends. In 2004 the Committee offered several adult religious education discussions: 4th month, vocal ministry, facilitated by Bob Marshall; 5th month, to love and to disagree, Bob Marshall; 7th month, decision-making in the manner of Friends, Tom Corl; 10th month, Quaker faith and practice and the Bible, Jim Rouse; and 11th month, Quaker faith and practice and the Bible, Lorraine B. Claggett.

In 2005, the Committee foresees the continuation of adult religious education discussions, and welcomes the input of Friends and other committees. The Committee plans to continue the discussions of Quaker faith and practice and the Bible, and schedule discussion on the peace

testimony, simplicity, harmony, equality, clearness committees, clerking and the many organizations of the Religious Society of Friends. The Meeting APPROVED the 2004 annual report of the Worship and Ministry Committee and thanked the clerk and the Committee for their excellent work for the Meeting. The 2004 Annual Report of the Worship and Ministry Committee will be published in the Newsletter.

Hospitality – Ann Williams, Clerk of the Hospitality Committee reminded Friends that the Meeting will have a pot luck lunch following the children's program at the rise of meeting for worship 12th month 19th. The Meeting will host a pot luck lunch for members of the Friends General Conference (FGC) Development Committee, who will meet at Third Haven 1st month 30th. A member of that Committee will give a brief talk on Friends General Conference at the rise of meeting for worship.

First Day School – Candace Shattuck encourage Friends to stay for the First Day School Christmas program at the rise of meeting for worship 12th month 19th.

Brighter Christmas Fund – Ken Carroll reported that members and attenders had contributed a total of \$875 to the local Brighter Christmas Fund. The Meeting has received a thank you letter. Marsie Hawkinson thanked Ken Carol for organizing this on behalf of the Meeting.

Testimonies and Concerns – Lorraine B. Claggett, Clerk of the Testimonies and Concern Committee, offered coffee for sale, from the Quaker community in Monteverde, Costa Rica. She showed several gift catalogs with selections in keeping with Friends' testimonies. She provided a petition from American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) to President Bush for

Friends to sign. Valerie Mazur reminded Friends that the Afghan Women's Fund, an Afghan charity, needs winter clothing and cash contributions. Contact Valerie for more information. The Testimonies and Concerns Committee wants the Meeting to appoint a camp committee for next summer, so the Committee will propose nominees at a forthcoming meeting for business, for Meeting approval.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting – Cathy Marvel reported on Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Interim Meeting.

The **fiscal year 2006 (FY06) budget** process is beginning. A balanced budget will require either program cuts or additional income. Services valued by Friends may have to be cut. The Financial Stewardship Committee may recommend using \$100,000 from the membership Development Fund. A Friend compared the scale and expense of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to Baltimore Yearly Meeting. There was some discussion of the financial condition and challenges of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Overseers – Clerk of the Meeting Marsie Hawkinson reported. Helen Goldsborough died 7th month 21st, 2004. Because this occurred in the summer, Helen's passing had not been duly noted in the minutes.

Ellen Shoffner died on 11th month 30th, 2004. Third Haven Friends, family members and other friends gathered at Third Haven to celebrate the life of Ellen Shoffner at a memorial meeting for worship on 12th month 11th. Friends noted that the Meeting was pleased to see John Shoffner back at Third Haven. The memorial meeting for worship for Ellen had been very supportive for John.

Letter from Jenny Van West – Jenny Van West wrote a letter to Marsie Hawkinson as Clerk of the Meeting asking that the letter be read at the meeting for business. Third Haven had influenced her decision to become a Quaker. As a member of Salmon Bay Friends Meeting, she came to admire gay members in that Meeting's leadership positions and celebrated a same gender union there. She wrote of Third Haven that "I cannot continue to associate myself with a community that will not, as a group, recognize these unions." She continued in part "I thank all of you whom we have loved and continue to love, and who have loved us, especially those of you who cherish and have nurtured our children Please remove my name from Third Haven's membership rolls and change my status to attender." The Clerk indicated that she would write a letter to Jenny Van West accepting her decision and pass the letter on to Overseers, asking Overseers to form a committee to meet with Jenny.

A Friend suggested that the letter be published in the Newsletter; several Friends agreed with this proposal. The reading of this letter prompted a long and heartfelt discussion about the contents of the letter, Jenny's decision to leave membership, the history of the Meeting's struggle in discernment on same gender ceremonies of commitment, the divisions within the Meeting and the efforts to heal the Meeting community. The Clerk and other Friends tried several times to determine and test the way forward. Friends were divided on whether the letter should be published, some wanting the voice of the letter to be heard throughout the Meeting community, others feeling the publication of the letter would adversely affect the healing process now unfolding in the Meeting, through meetings with Caroline Packard from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and other developments.

The Clerk proposed alternatives about how the communication or availability of the letter might be handled, but the meeting for business could not reach unity on any proposal offered. In response to various proposals, different Friends objected or offered to stand aside. Feelings ran high; feelings were hurt. Friends were reminded that members and attenders have become disengaged from the Meeting, on different sides of this issue. The discussion reproduced the division in the Meeting.

A Friend noted that those who show up, attend the meeting for worship and do the work of the Meeting find it difficult to find ways to bring together and heal the Meeting community. After more difficult discussion the Meeting AGREED that these minutes would attempt to describe the nature

of the discussion, and the Clerk will contact Jenny Van West to determine if Jenny wants the letter published in the Newsletter. If Jenny wants the letter published in the Newsletter, that will be done. The letter will not be part of the minutes of this meeting for business. A Friend noted that such meetings make the work of the Clerk very difficult; he noted his deep appreciation for Marsie Hawkinson's calm tender manner and good work for the Meeting.

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 1st month 9th. --- Respectfully submitted, *Tom Corl* --Recording Clerk

Annual Report of Worship and Ministry -12th day, 12th month, 2004

Committee: Bob Marshall (clerk), Laura Bode, Ken Carroll, Tom Corl, Tom McCall, Jim Rouse, John Shoffner, Norval Thompson, Meredith Watters, Irene Williams, Ralph Young

Dearly Beloved Friends of Third Haven Monthly Meeting, Before delving into the details of the committee's business, it should be noted that both Ken Carroll and Jim Rouse are coming off the committee at the end of this year after many years of service. Friends of this weight and seasoning are rare. It is likely that our future meetings will be longer and more deliberate as we attempt to overcome the loss of their insight and discernment. This report contains three sections that address three questions.

· What should the role of Worship and Ministry be within the Meeting Community?

· What has Worship and Ministry done in 2004?

· What does Worship and Ministry anticipate doing in 2005?

Role of the Worship and Ministry Committee

Normally an annual report does not begin with a section about the function of the committee within the Meeting community. For example, to have such a statement by Property and Grounds in their annual report would seem odd. However, there is a perception by the committee that such a statement would be beneficial to the Meeting community, and it is something that the committee has discussed during the year. Faith and Practice (2002) contains a description of the role and responsibilities of Worship and Ministry on pages 180 to 182. Also, on pages 182-183 there are several important queries regarding worship and ministry. The Committee has reviewed the guidance provided on these pages and

concur that these are indeed our responsibilities to the Meeting Community.

Overall, the committee is responsible for nurturing the spiritual life of the Meeting, both corporately and individually. Committee members have a sense that we have been least good at providing encouragement and guidance to members and attenders on an individual basis. There is a feeling by some members that they are not sufficiently seasoned or even worthy to offer such guidance. Yet, to accept the guidance provided in Faith and Practice regarding the role of the committee in the Meeting Community is to rise above these cautionary feelings and become more active in reaching out individually to those at Third Haven with encouragement and nurturing insights. (A corporate step in this direction has been taken by the committee in sponsoring adult discussions which will be discussed later in this report.)

It is also the function of Worship and Ministry, as described in Faith and Practice, to counsel Friends who engage in inappropriate behavior during the Meeting for Worship. This is an extremely sensitive and important issue for the Meeting Community. Two points are worth making in this regard.

After careful corporate discernment by the committee, all communications must be offered as loving counsel. Members of the Worship and Ministry Committee must discharge this responsibility to the Meeting Community consistent with the manner of Friends.

Activities in 2004

Three members were added to the committee at mid-year – Norval Thompson, Irene Williams, and Ralph Young. The committee discussed the use of the PYM survey, “Making New Friends Meeting Survey”, but neither the committee nor the Meeting reached resolution on this.

The committee discussed its role with regard to visitors. There was agreement that the greeter should indicate as part of announcements, at the rise of Meeting, that they are available for discussions with visitors who may have questions about Quakerism or Quaker practice. It was recognized that this was a shared responsibility.

With regard to the actions of the committee in 2004, the central positive measure was the creation of adult discussions. The committee perceived the following issues in the Meeting, many of which became obvious through episodes of discord during the previous years.

Although it has always been possible for diverse discussion groups to form among Third Haven Friends, in practice, with rare exception, only like-minded individuals had substantive discussions with one another outside of the Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business.

The Meeting for Worship, the Meeting for Business, and Specially Called Meetings were insufficient for Friends to share the totality of their views regarding important issues. Perhaps more importantly, these standard meetings did not provide a forum for Friends to discuss basic, foundational topics where lack of clarity in understanding was at the heart of some of our discord. The concept of unity is an example.

There were specific topics that members and attenders were anxious to flesh out with one another in an open discussion forum. For newcomers to Quakerism these were perceived to be potentially valuable learning experiences.

The following adult discussions have been offered in 2004: 4th month – Vocal ministry (Bob Marshall), 5th month – To love and to disagree (Bob Marshall), 7th month – decision-making in the manner of Friends (Tom Corl), 10th month – Quaker Faith and Practice and the Bible, Part 1 (Jim Rouse),

11th month – Quaker Faith and Practice and the Bible, Part 2 (Lorraine Claggett).

Attendance has been quite good – between 16 and 25. The provision of child care and lunch for the children has made the attendance of parents possible, which the committee views as both positive and important.

Facilitating adult discussions is an important task. The facilitator should provide guidance regarding readings prior to the discussion. They should not advocate a cause or an agenda. They should pose queries and reveal their own thoughts so as to best start and encourage discussion. If the discussion drifts the facilitator should gently move thoughts back to the announced theme for the session.

At the Meeting for Business in 10-th month it was agreed that the last first day of each month would be reserved for adult discussions. This does not mean that they must occur each month. On the other hand, if demand for more than one per month becomes obvious then that can be brought before the Meeting community as well.

Activities Planned for 2005: For 2005 the Committee foresees the continuation of our work with regard to adult discussions. We have already met with Overseers and welcome their input to the adult discussions. We welcome the input of all committees of the meeting. In fact, adult discussions are not the property of Worship and Ministry.

The Committee simply acts as a coordinator and seeks input from the entire Meeting Community.

Continuation of the series “Quaker Faith and Practice and the Bible” may require two to four more sessions before completion. An alternative is to use Jim Rouse’s handout, “Quaker Faith and Practice and the Bible”, as supplemental reading for specific themes that form the basis for future adult discussions. A few possible topics for adult discussions in 2005 are: The peace testimony, Simplicity (scheduled for 3rd month, Tom Corl to facilitate), Harmony, Equality, the many organizations of the Religious Society of Friends (primarily through the work of Overseers, a presentation regarding FGC is scheduled for 1st month), Clearness committees, and Clerking.

A second adult discussion series may be possible as well. We are tentatively thinking of a series that would meet in the afternoon of 7th day before Meeting for Business. We have begun to coordinate this series with several other committees of the Meeting (Library and Outreach, Overseers, as well as Testimonies and Concerns). Several of the local churches would be invited to attend. The series would be focused on the writing, speeches, and sermons of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. Respectfully submitted, *Bob Marshall*, Clerk, Worship and Ministry 2004

**Report of Interim Meeting,
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
(PYM)12/2/04**

For Meeting for Business 12/12/04
Jackie Bowers, Clerk of Financial Stewardship reported that the budget is in process for Fiscal Year '06(that is the year that begins 7/1/05). She states that it has become clear after much work by the

Standing Committees, that the Financial Stewardship Committee will not be able to present a balanced budget unless either of two things occur,“ Either we must make drastic cuts which will severely affect the ability of PYM to provide programs and services, or we must find another source of income.”

There is nothing peripheral left to cut. If we do not locate additional revenue, services such as the use of Arch Street Meeting House for evening meetings, any interpreter's program at Arch Street, reduction of library services, staff support for Worship and Care programs, degree of financial support for Quarter Coordinators, to name a few, would be reduced or eliminated.

She doesn't recommend this route. Instead, she recommends balancing the budget by using up to \$100,000 from the Membership Development Fund, a fund that was created for programs and services related to Membership Development. That fund has a balance of \$150,000 of which no more than \$40,000 is ever used in any single year.

This was approved by the Interim Meeting with the caveat that:

1) An ad hoc Committee of volunteers be formed to examine ways in which the Yearly Meeting could work with the Monthly Meetings to increase their participation in funding the Yearly Meeting, and

2) That a separate group would assess the needs and vitality of existing programs to discern if there is inefficient use of funding. An ad hoc group of eight Friends was formed for these purposes and they will meet sometime in January at 4th and Arch. Respectfully submitted *Cathy Marvel and Norval Thompson*

Getting to Know Friends - Anne and Jim Rouse



Anne and Jim Rouse of Grasonville, MD, have been members of Third Haven Friends Meeting for nine years. Previously, they had been members of the Friends Meeting of Washington (also known as Florida Avenue Meeting), where they were married in June 1956. Their families had known each other for many years - both sets of parents were also members of Florida Avenue, as were Anne's maternal grandparents and Jim's paternal grandmother, along with many of Jim's aunts, uncles, and cousins. Family lore has it that Jim's older brother was the first person to break the silence in the very first Meeting

for Worship held at Florida Avenue almost 75 years ago - with an infant's cry.

Jim and Anne represent different parts of Quakerism. Anne's family had been affiliated with the more liberal, Hicksite tradition, coming from the Baltimore/Harford County area of Maryland. Jim's ancestors were a part of the Conservative branch of Quakerism, coming from the Barnesville, Ohio, and Perquimans and Pasquotank counties of eastern North Carolina. Both Anne's family and Jim's family have been linked to the early years of Quakerism --one of Jim's direct ancestors was married, in North Carolina, in a Quaker ceremony more than 320 years ago.

Jim and Anne met through Young Friends while Jim was in Muskingum College and Anne was attending Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. Anne went on to Earlham College where she became acquainted with "programmed" meetings; i.e., with ministers and choirs. She proudly wrote to her grandfather that she had joined the

meetinghouse choir. He wrote back that she may have joined a church choir, but, as meetinghouses don't have choirs, she couldn't have joined one. However, Anne appreciated this opportunity to learn about other forms of Quakerism.

After graduating from college, Jim joined the Navy. Most of his working career, however, was spent with the training organization of the Internal Revenue Service. As well, Jim taught shorthand in the evening division of Strayer College for 16 years. Anne spent twenty years in Fairfax County Public Schools as a school secretary.

Jim and Anne have five grown children (four daughters and a son - all married) and 16 (!) grandchildren. They feel that they are truly in the "good times," enjoying the friendship of their children and doting on their grandchildren. The highlight of this past year was when their oldest grandchild, Hannah, was married on the beach in Florida, in a ceremony that was based on our Quaker wedding ceremonies.

Retirement gives them time to give back to the community by volunteering - Anne in the local schools and the jail program, Jim in our homeowners association, and both in the Meeting.

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