



## Third Haven Friends Meeting

405 South Washington Street

Easton, Maryland 21601

(410) 822-0293

Info@thirdhaven.org

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

“ Force never yet made a good Christian or a good subject ”... “ nothing can be more unreasonable than to compel men to believe against their belief or to trouble them for practicing what they believe when it thwarts not the moral law of God”

--William Penn's *The Concessions and Agreements of the Proprietors, Freeholders and Inhabitants of the West New Jerseys In America*

“ No where else in all the world could there be found such a liberal religious spirit Neither the great charter of Virginia, nor the Mayflower compact is comparable in liberty, tolerance, and protection of individual rights. There we lay a foundation for after ages to understand their liberty as men and Christians, that they may not b brought in bondage , but by their own consent; for we put the power in the people, that is to say, they to meet and choose one honest man for each propriety who hath subscribe the concession s; all these men to meet as an assembly , there to make and repeal laws , to choose a governor , or a commissioner , and twelve assistants to execute the laws during their pleasure; so every man is capable to choose or be chosen, no man is to be arrested ,condemned , imprisoned or molested in his estate or liberty but by twelve men of the neighborhood no man is to lie in prison, for debt, but that his estate satisfied as far as it will go , and he be set at liberty to work ; no person shall be called in question or molested for his conscience; or for worshipping according to his conscience; with many more things mentioned in the said Concessions”

-- W.W. Comfort's *William Penn and Our Liberties*

## What's New



### Welcome to **new Clerk of Third Haven Meeting:**

Anne Rouse of Grasonville, MD, who has been a member of Third Haven Friends Meeting for nine years. Previously, she and husband Jim had been members of the Friends Meeting of Washington (also known as Florida Avenue Meeting), where they were married in June 1956. 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. They 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. They 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. Retirement gives them time to give back to the community by volunteering - Anne does so in the local schools and the jail program.

A special thanks to our departing clerks and committee members for your service to our faith community

Larry Claggett and Winslow Womack look over the one hundred and one **Thanksgiving dinners** which went to deserving families in the Easton area. The dinners were donated by, packed by and will be distributed by a local Men's Prayer Group who requested the use of the Common Room for that purpose. The recipients received both the bag of groceries shown in the photo and a turkey. Larry coordinated the group's activity with the Meeting.



Doreen Getzinger is a subscribing Gold Life member of the NAACP. Here she's shown working at the recent Carriage Shed sale, an effort typical of her involvement at Third Haven and in the community. An award was presented to her at the annual Freedom Fund banquet for her commitment, dedication, and unselfish contribution to the Talbot County NAACP. Bravo, Doreen!



This November 12, 2005 photo shows the **Habitat for Humanity house** which is in the process of being built. Third Haven partnered with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Easton and Scotts United Methodist Church in Trappe to commit to \$8,000 toward the construction cost and to provide volunteers to help with the construction.

## **Third Haven Friends Meeting Minutes of the 11th Month 13th, 2005, Meeting for Business**

Attending – Paige Bethke, Cindy Browne, Ken Carroll, Larny Claggett, Lorraine B Claggett, Tom Corl, Mary Cotton, Doreen Getsinger, John Hawkinson, Marsie Hawkinson, Bob Marshall, Beth Mufson, Sumner Parker, Peggy Paul, Jim Paul, Dee Rein, Anne Rouse, Jim Rouse, Candace Shattuck, John Schreiner, Cathy Thompson, Norval Thompson, Ann Williams, Irene Williams, Winslow Womack and Frank Zeigler.

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

11th Query – During the meeting for worship, Tom Corl read the 11th Query on Stewardship of Resources. Friends spoke to the query, emphasizing the need for environmental stewardship, particularly with respect to the Chesapeake Bay and our own property and grounds, indicating that we should be more “green” and environmentally friendly. Friends noted that our response on the fuel talk and boiler problems showed good stewardship of our immediate environment and our financial resources. Another Friend reminded all to manage energy by closing the doors and turning off the lights. A Friend added that the 10th Query is mostly about our financial resources, but most of the comments emphasized stewardship of the environment.

Minutes of the 10th month 9th meeting for business – with a correction adding that “the Meeting asked the Budget and Finance Committee to bring a recommendation to the Meeting on how to respond to this request for an increased contribution to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting”, the Meeting APPROVED the minutes of the 10th month 9th meeting for business, as distributed electronically to Friends with e-mail addresses and mailed to others.

Clerk’s correspondence and announcements – Clerk Marsie Hawkinson reported a request from George Merrill, minister at Trinity Cathedral, to use the meetinghouses for quiet reflection, on Saturday 12th month 10th, from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Ann Williams will attend and serve as liaison for Third Haven. Friends are encouraged to attend and participate. The Meeting APPROVED this use of the meetinghouses.

As previously arranged, the confirmation class from the Episcopal Church on Kent Island will attend the meeting for worship on 12th month 11th. The Meeting received a note of thanks from William O. Miles from Stony Run Friends Meeting on Third Haven's letter of support for the meeting between the Indian Affairs Committee at Stony Run and the Maryland Department of Corrections. Marsie has information about a Quaker pilgrimage to England 7th month 6th – 20th, 2006.

Third Haven will have regular meeting for worship at 10:00 am on 1st day 12th month 25th and 1st month 1st, though there will be no First Day School on either date. The Meeting agreed to have a special meeting for worship on 12th month 24th at 3:30 pm.

Treasurer's report – There was no Treasurer's report.

Budget and Finance – Winslow Womack, Clerk of the Budget and Finance Committee, presented information about the financial shortfalls of Third Haven in fiscal year 2004 (FY04) and FY05. With respect to the approved budget the shortfalls were \$6,243 and \$7,143 in FY04 and FY05 respectively. The actual net shortfall for income and expenses (given more income and less expense than budgeted) was negative in both years \$1,140 and \$907 respectively. Based on this information, the Budget and Finance recommended that the Meeting lower its financial contribution to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting in FY07 by \$1,000 to \$13,190 for the "covenant" to be reported to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting in 1st month 2006. There followed a very long discussion, with many views expressed, and little agreement about -- the financial condition of the meeting, the nature of the annual financial shortfalls, the best ways to increase the financial contributions of current non-contributors, understanding of the funding of the Meeting, the resources and responsibilities of the Trustees and related matters. After more such discussion, with several different proposals made and Friends' patience wearing thin, there followed a moment of silence. The Meeting then agreed to defer action on this matter until the next meeting for business.

Testimonies and Concerns – Lorraine B Claggett, Clerk of the Testimonies and Concerns Committee, presented the annual report of the Committee, published separately and fully in the Newsletter. Other members of the Committee are Norman Hackland, Valerie Mazur, Nancy Mullen and Ralph Young.

The Testimonies and Concern committee "holds in its care the translation of Friends' testimonies deeply held and historically rooted, into how we live our lives." Individual members with leadings work for social and criminal justice, world peace, food programs, prison and offenders programs, Christmas giving funds and affordable housing. The committee continues to work on the death penalty in Maryland and the Iraq war. The Meeting has joined more fully in coalition with other community and faith groups, sharing concerns for ending war, militarization of our schools, nonviolence and lunches for elderly shut-ins. The committee offered, for a second year, an earth stewardship camp for youth, strengthening the spirit of our children and adults in ecology, our bodies, minds and spirits. The Committee asked the Meeting community to love and respect our differing strengths, weaknesses, and gifts, and to find ways to discern that our conflicting opinions may not be appropriate to our Religious Society of Friends.

The Meeting APPROVED the Testimonies and Concerns annual report with thanks to Lorraine and the Committee. Lorraine also reported on the progress in the Apostle's Build program. There will be no more Friday night family movies in the common room until after the holidays. The next simple meal is scheduled for 1st month. Lorraine has reports from American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL).

Nominations – Mary Cotton, Clerk of the Nominating Committee, reported that due to the time taken in wide consultation with members and attenders, the preliminary report of the Nominating Committee is not ready. Mary encouraged Meeting members and attenders to contact members of the Nominating Committee to with their preferences for committee service and Meeting leadership positions. Other members of the Committee are Meredith Watters and Bob Kemp. The Nominating Committee report will be e-mailed and mailed to members and attenders prior to the next meeting for business, 12th month 11th. A Friend thanked Committee for all of its efforts to contact members and attenders directly with so much care.

First Day School – Beth Mufson, reported that the First Day School will make wreaths on 11th month 27th and discuss “getting ready for Christmas”. There will be a pot luck lunch following the First Day School program at the rise of meeting for worship on 12th month 18th. Beth reminded Friends that there will be no First Day School on 12th month 25th or 1st month 1st.

Worship and Ministry Committee – Bob Marshall, Clerk of the Worship and Ministry Committee reported that the Committee continues its work on the 2nd Query on the meeting for business.

Overseers – Paige Bethke, Clerk of Overseers reported that the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting emergency fund had granted \$1,000 for a family in need at Third Haven. The carriage shed sale earned around \$4,200, which will be disbursed as previously approved in the meeting for business. Jessica Lecompte [sp?] has asked to be married in Jewish ceremony, with about 150 guests, at Third Haven on 6th month 24th. The Meeting APPROVED this use of the meetinghouse.

Property and Grounds – John Schreiner, Clerk of the Property and Grounds Committee reported that the trim on the brick meetinghouse has been repainted. The Committee continues to work on the furnace issues and the roof repairs on the old meetinghouse. Communications – Norval Thompson reported that the Newsletter will be distributed next week. Friends noted their appreciation of John Hawkinson’s announcements and Ralph Young’s photographs.

Library and Outreach – Anne Rouse, Clerk of Library and Outreach, thanked Paige Bethke, Larny Claggett and Susan Liebman for assisting with the open house connected to the Waterfowl Festival on 11th month 12th. The Committee is beginning to work on how to celebrate 350 years of Quakerism on the Eastern Shore in 2006.

Other business – Larny Claggett is s new board member on Inter-Faith Housing, which Third Haven helped to found some years ago and where attender Paul Washo now serves as director. Larny asked the Meeting to approve a minute in support of the mission of this organization. The mission of the organization is – “To provide decent, safe, affordable housing and supportive services for those in need.”

There followed some discussion of the financial needs of the organization and what Third Haven “support” might come to mean. After some further discussion, the Meeting indicated its appreciation the mission of Inter-Faith Housing Development Corporation, but did not want to commit any financial support at this time. The Meeting then APPROVED a minute to be communicated to Inter-Faith Housing by the Clerk of the Meeting – “Third Haven Friends Meeting appreciates the mission of Interfaith Housing Development Corporation. The Meeting may be interested in supporting Inter-Faith Housing but does not agree to be a guarantor of the proposed line of credit at this time.”

Lorraine B Claggett asked that the Meeting make either the common room or the brick meetinghouse available to a men’s prayer group on either the Sunday or the Monday before

Thanksgiving to distribute food to needy families. Larny and Lorraine T Claggett will participate and serve as liaison this. The Meeting APPROVED this minute. 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 11th.

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

The **Budget and Finance Committee** would like to remind all who receive this Newsletter that this is a good time to make a financial contribution to the Meeting. For the past two years the Meeting has failed to meet its budgeted amount for contributions by approx. \$5,000. Your contribution at this time will not only help the Meeting with its ongoing programs but as you know may have some tax benefits for you as well. At this time of renewal it is hoped that those who have not financially supported the Meeting in the past few years will give serious thought to making a contribution at this time.

**Contributions should be sent to Third Haven Monthly Meeting, P O Box 2379, Easton, MD 21601.**

## **Annual Report of Worship and Ministry** 11th day, 12th month, 2005

Committee: Tom Corl, Bob Marshall (clerk), Jim Paul, John Shoffner, Cathy Thompson, Meredith Watters, Irene Williams, Ralph Young

Dearly Beloved Friends of Third Haven Monthly Meeting,

Worship and Ministry has primarily engaged in three activities in 2005. First, there have been several adult discussions. Topics have included the peace testimony, simplicity, spiritual journeys, "loving your enemies", and poverty as violence. Overall, the adult discussions have been well attended and seem to offer a venue for friends to both share their thoughts and learn more about one another.

Second, per the request of Library and Outreach, and in cooperation with Testimonies and Concerns, Worship and Ministry assisted with educational materials for our open house on 1st day 10th month.

Third, per the request of the meeting community, Worship and Ministry has attempted to propose responses to the second query. These are offered as an addendum to this report. In addition, the committee continues to work on a concise set of advises for members and attenders, and especially clerks of committees and members of committees, regarding the meeting for business. We anticipate this being available to the meeting community by 3rd month 2006.

Respectfully submitted, *Bob Marshall, Clerk*

Worship Addendum to Annual Report of Worship and Ministry 2005: A Response to the Second Query

Dearly Beloved Friends of Third Haven Monthly Meeting,

Earlier in the year, the worship and ministry committee had been asked by the meeting to suggest responses to several queries. We have focused our attention on the second query since we felt the meeting community would most benefit from our deliberations regarding the meeting for business. Our queries often produce deliberations that are expansive in nature, and this has been the case for worship and ministry with regard to the second query.

The meeting for worship is at the core of our Religious Society, but the meeting for business should be no less of a worshipful activity. Brinton writes about the two as follows.

“Among Friends the meeting for the transaction of church business is as distinctly a religious exercise as is the meeting for worship, but it has a different objective. The meeting for worship is focused upon the divine-human relationship and the meeting for business is mainly concerned with the interhuman co-operation, the two being interdependent. From another point of view, the meeting for worship concerns being while the meeting for business concerns doing. What is implicit in worship becomes explicit in action.” (Brinton, Friends for 350 Years”, page 129)

If our meeting for business is supposed to be a spirit-led activity of great importance to our religious community then why do many of us have the following feelings regarding the meeting for business?

It is boring.

It takes too long.

People repeat what others have said.

People stray off of agenda topics in a meandering way.

Committee reports are often too long and/or ambiguous. Proposed actions for meeting consideration are often not clearly articulated by committee clerks.

Discussion is not spirit-led.

Topics are raised and discussed without any reference to our testimonies and concerns.

Accompanying each of these are feelings of irritation and frustration.

Contrast the above enumeration with the advice from the Elders of Balby, Yorkshire, 1656.

- “Dear Friends, keep all of your meetings in the authority, wisdom, and power of Truth and the unity of the blessed Spirit. Let your conduct and conversation be such as become the Gospel of Christ. Exercise yourselves to have a conscience void of offense toward God and toward all people. Be steadfast and faithful in your allegiance and service to your Lord, and the God of peace be with you.”

Whatever the current deficiencies of our meeting for business, it has the potential for being a major source of great spiritual fulfillment for the meeting community. We should embrace this potential.

Perhaps we should all first recognize that we have a plethora of riches at Third Haven, and with riches come significant custodial responsibilities. Our meetings for business will be longer, and

entail more, than a meeting of twenty families who gather in borrowed space and sit on folding chairs. Our riches and numbers require that we maintain a steadfast adherence to certain core principles in the meeting for business.

Remain centered in the Spirit, with love and tenderness in your heart for all, prepared to release words of others that are not of the Spirit.

Speak once to an issue, knowing that the community has listened. If another has spoken your mind, and there is no apparent need to note that fact, then remain silent, knowing that the Spirit has already spoken through another. There is no need to repeat what has already been said. If you sense a need to note your agreement, simply express the fact that a friend has “spoken your mind”.

Be concise with offerings. A meeting for business attended by twenty-five, that is lengthened by five minutes unnecessarily, is equivalent to the unnecessary use of one person’s time for over two hours.

Committee clerks should be prepared to offer concise reports.

- o Clerks should not overstep the deliberative process of their committees. If a topic has not yet been reviewed by a committee then, barring an urgent matter, it should not be brought to the attention of the meeting community.

- o If a committee is recommending an action be taken by the meeting then the clerk of the relevant committee should pose a clearly stated potential action item to the meeting, and then offer salient components of the committee’s deliberations so that the meeting community can appreciate the context for the proposal.

The W&M committee believes that many of the discussions in the meeting for business that “go astray” reflect an ongoing need for venues for informal discussions among Friends. In this regard, we propose that Friends stay after meeting for worship each first day and partake in discussions, beyond expressions of fellowship in the common room, regarding the meeting community, individual’s spiritual journeys, or any other topic that helps nurture the meeting community. Worship and ministry committee members will attempt to be available to partake in and facilitate these discussions.

Our response to the second query would be incomplete without an historical acknowledgment that the tone and manner of our discussions regarding the same gender issue in our meetings for business caused disquiet. As we look back at that those meetings, what principles should we keep in mind for the manner and tone of our future interactions?

All people, regardless of how their viewpoint aligns with others, must receive genuine love and tenderness from each member and attender of the meeting. Any other reaction is not Spirit-led, is inconsistent with the pursuit of truth in unity.

We must acknowledge that the search for truth in unity involves what God requires. We must be open to personal transformation as the community arrives at the sense of the meeting. We must be teachable.

We must keep from obstinancy and harshness of tone or manner; admit the possibility of being in error.

As a meeting community, we did none of these well during our deliberations on the same gender issue. Perhaps many no longer want to attend our meetings for business because we did not do these things well. The W&M committee recommends that this report be sent to all who have attended our meetings for business in the past few years with explicit mention of our commitment to the principles above for all future meetings for business.

Sincerely, *Committee members of worship and ministry*

## **Testimonies and Concerns 2004-2005 Annual Report**

The Testimonies and Concern committee holds in its care the translation of Friends' testimonies, deeply held and historically rooted, into how we live our lives. We are mindful that Friends from the first have testified "that our lives are not meant to conform to the world, but. . . are meant to be lived in obedience to the light of the truth within". (Faith and Practice)

This report will take the form of responding to the Queries as the means of discovering how faithful our Meeting is to our testimonies.

In committee and as a Meeting we find that individual members with leadings to work for social and criminal justice, world peace, food programs, prison and offenders programs, Christmas giving funds and affordable housing are supported. We would wish to hear from Friends who act in their lives for causes such as eliminating the wasteful consumption of resources, the use of money and assets in right sharing, adoption of simple lifestyles, or witness against preparations for war and other forms of violence.

The committee continues to hold concern for the use of the death penalty in Maryland, as the issuance of a report on its fairness within our state is overdue. It has responded to the continued Iraq war by preparing a letter to Congressman Gilchrest, as suggested by the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

The committee planned the second year of an earth stewardship camp for youth. Valerie Mazur, the director, reports: "Our Camp brought a strengthening of spirit to our children and adults by the lessons of attention given to the ecology of our youth, our bodies, minds and spirits. Each day presented its own gift through the variety of teachers who gave hands on lessons of the value of nature, our interconnectedness to it and the possibilities of expanding balance and restoration thru the quiet work of walking like a crane, creating brick borders or painting prayer flags. We honed our skills at compass reading and used observation skills to note guide posts as we walked our property at Third Haven. Taking care to nurture the creative forces along with developing the observances of how we impact the earth, we send our young people forth into the world: a world in need of balance and a vision to restore our roles as stewards.

We have asked Property and Grounds to work on a checklist for green buildings and use of technology, the presence of hazardous substances, and sustainable use of energy. We plan simple meals to support the Quaker program "Right Sharing of World Resources". Financial donations were sent to the Women for Afghani Women's project, Talbot County Channel Markers, and the 2005 World Gathering of Young Friends.

This year our Meeting has joined more fully in coalition with other community and faith groups. With these groups we have a shared concern for ending war, for the militarization in our schools, for nonviolence as a subject in school curricula, for providing lunches for elderly and shut-ins, for multicultural celebrations, and building a Habitat for Humanity house. There is great need to

support the Second Chance effort started by our member –a project which will work with released prisoners to prevent recidivism, now greater than 80% for the Talbot detention center. While there is much acceptance, love and concern for one another within the Meeting, the committee holds that the acceptance is exclusive and, by being exclusive, is not in the spirit of the Quaker testimonies of equality and integrity.

We ask that the Meeting community, as we love and respect each of us in our differing strengths, weaknesses, and gifts, find a way to discern that some conflicting opinions may be appropriate to individual life styles in society in the wider world, but not to the religious community that is the Society of Friends. This way to discernment could be found by putting our testimonies to searching reexamination so that we may become faithful to them. This examination would be done as an exchange of deep searching for the light of the truth within - for God's will rather than for human opinion.

As a community in unity we can effect a transformation in the world; without it, we cannot.

*Norman Hackland Lorraine Claggett Nancy Mullen Ralph Young Valerie Mazur*

## **Announcements for Third Haven Monthly Meeting**

December 28 (fourth day) 5:30pm meeting for worship

January 1 (first day) 10am meeting for worship (no first day school)

January 4 (fourth day) 4:30pm Budget and Finance Committee meets in common room

January 4 (fourth day) 5:30pm meeting for worship

January 7 (seventh day) 10am Tour of the Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington DC, by Friends from our Quarter. Cathy Guthrie has agreed to take us on this tour. This will also allow time to tour the American Indian Museum. Car pool plans and more details will be distributed when we know how many people are planning to go from each Meeting. All ages are welcome; children should be accompanied by a parent. Please be sure this is announced at your meeting and a head count gets back to me Dana Kester-McCabe - [sqm@friendsmedia.org](mailto:sqm@friendsmedia.org) or 410-352-5827 by December 19th. Contact for Third Haven is Frank Zeigler (410)634-2491.

January 8 (first day) 10am meeting for worship and meeting for business.

January 14 (fourth day) 5:30pm meeting for worship

January 15 (first day) Southern Quarterly Meeting at Wicomico River Friends Meeting  
Program: "Experiment With Light"

January 29 (first day) 10am meeting for worship. Ruben Chandrasekar will talk about the Border Project, which is an AFSC immigration project and is willing to answer our questions. Soup-and-sandwich lunch will follow in the common room.

February 8 (fourth day) 4:30pm Budget and Finance Committee meets in common room

### **Reminders**

- Volunteer for the Apostles Build program which will start in January. To sign up for Saturdays January 7, 14, 21 & 28 and February 4, 11, 18, & 25, the Contact is [kencourt@goeaston.net](mailto:kencourt@goeaston.net) (Ken Court). Our Apostles Build Coalition will work the afternoon shift (12-4) in January and the morning shift (8-12) in February. Lunch and snacks will be served.
- Sign up with a friend to provide Hospitality following meeting for worship.
- Place book donations for the detention center in the chest in the common room.

- A new Third Haven directory will be printed and distributed shortly after the first of the year. Please send address changes to [hawkjm@goeaston.net](mailto:hawkjm@goeaston.net)
- List all scheduled committee meetings or gatherings on the common room calendar.
- Send a contribution payable to: Third Haven Monthly Meeting  
Mail to Third Haven Treasurer, PO Box 2379, Easton, MD 21601
- Donate non-perishable food for the Neighborhood Service Center
- Overseers have requested that we all review and update our declaration of intentions (see the November newsletter for the form)

"Lawyer wanted to help a fledgling non-profit get off the ground. Talbot 2nd Chance, an organization dedicated to helping the ex-offender return to society, is in need of a pro bono lawyer to help with the incorporation and 501(c)3 processes. Please contact Ralph Young, 410-819-0050. "

Specific details of many forthcoming events may be found at our website

<http://www.thirdhaven.org/> please look at this site and click on Complete Text Material which was updated 12/6/05.

## **Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Library** ~ A capsule sketch, 11-30-2005

### Background

The PYM library, formally known as the Henry J. Cadbury Library, is approximately 46 years old, dating from the time it had a named librarian and paper records. By the year 1960, the library had formed from several collections of books that had been housed in various areas in Friends Center, including the balcony and the basement. The collections included the Frances Ferris Collection of books to help children with problems in school, and the library of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting. In 1974, during construction of the Friends Center office building, a special place was prepared for the library at the front of the building. Over the years since then the library grew to around 24,000 items. Many of the old Quaker books were donated by monthly meetings. It was trimmed back by one third in 2004 and now holds about 18,000 items in Friends Center. Other items are stored off site.

### Present

The Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Library is now in an exciting time of transition, preparing for relocation back to the balcony in Friends Center during the renovation process. This is an opportunity to rethink the library services and to set up the new space to support the library's mission most effectively for many years to come. Library services are rather evenly divided between direct service to walk-in visitors and mail service to distant meetings. Plans are being made to accommodate both aspects of service and we believe the new space will offer improvements, particularly in lighting, work flow and accessible seating/study room.

A primary mandate of Yearly Meeting for PYM staff is to focus on support of monthly meetings. To fulfill this mission, the Library offers many services to meetings, particularly to librarians and First Day School teachers. Last year, around 7500 items were circulated to members in 85 of the Monthly Meetings and to attenders in 49 meetings. Some items were borrowed for months at a time for long term FDS classes. In the middle of this year, supervision of the library was transferred to the Religious Education department. This has increased collaboration with the RE

staff and increased demand for services. For a listing of services to meetings, see reverse side of this page.

#### Future

The future looks full of exciting possibilities for service to meetings through new ventures, or developing and publicizing past services more widely:

--Building a larger network of library service via Interim Meeting representatives (Presently several meetings use Interim Mtg. for pick up and drop off of boxes of books.)

--Developing and expanding electronic technology services

--Providing a special place in Friends Center where members can do research, meet each other, or gather for events.

#### PYM LIBRARY SPECIAL SERVICES to Monthly Meetings

PYM LIBRARY STAFF: Rita Varley,

1515 Cherry St., Philadelphia PA 19102

(215) 241-7219 or 7220, [library@pym.org](mailto:library@pym.org), [www.pym.org/library](http://www.pym.org/library)

**BOOK EXHIBITS:** Meetings may request boxes of books, even multiple copies, for extended periods of time, on any subject needed. Many meetings request books and videos for First Day School terms. Some meetings ask their Representative to Interim Meeting to pick up and drop off the boxes regularly.

**AUDIOVISUALS, DVD's, CD's AND AUDIO CASSETTES:** There are over 200 cassettes available and CD's and over 150 videos, DVD's, slide shows and films available. You can schedule to have videos sent to you for scheduled showings at your meeting for up to a year ahead.

**LIBRARY CATALOG ACCESSIBLE ON INTERNET:** The library home page is at [www.pym.org/library](http://www.pym.org/library). To reach the catalog online, click on "search catalog." You can order items directly from the catalog record via e-mail to the librarian. You can order a box of books

**QUAKER LIBRARIANS' LISTSERV:** A special listserv has been created to serve our monthly meeting librarians. If you are trying to bring the ministry of books to your meeting, you qualify to join this listserv as a meeting librarian. Special features of the listserv include links to Quaker electronic books, data bases and services on Internet. To request membership:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PYMLSG/>

**CONSULTATION VISITS TO MEETING LIBRARIES:** In depth consultation visits can be arranged to address personally the needs of your library.

**VISITS TO PYM LIBRARY:** You can schedule your FDS or library committee meeting in PYM Library to explore the library resources together. If you cannot come during regular library hours, it is possible to schedule an appointment to open the library for your group. Or, if you are meeting a Friend in Center City, the library is a great place to wait for each other, or to have tea and read the latest Quaker books and news.

REFERENCE QUESTIONS: The library staff enjoy answering reference questions. Encourage your members to call in, or offer to call for them. Chel Avery at the Information Center also is prepared to answer many Quaker questions in depth. Her direct phone number is 215/241-7024.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES: (all available on the PYM web page): If you cannot come to the library and do not know what titles you want, you may ask for book lists. There are over 250 prepared lists in the index at this time. You can also find the booklists on a link to the PYM Library web page at: [www.pym.org/library](http://www.pym.org/library)

BOOK PROCESSING SUPPLIES: Supplies can be ordered directly from Gaylord (1-800-272-3412) or DEMCO (1-800-356-1200). PYM Library keeps supplies on hand. If you want very small amounts, PYM Library can send them to you. Prices charged will be cost listed in latest catalog plus postage.

FREE BOOKS: The PYM Library keeps for monthly meetings a list of duplicate books which have been donated or discarded from the regular collection.

## **PYM INDEX OF EVENTS**

GENERAL (undated)

PYM Requests Proposals for Urban Youth Ministry

Putting faith to action: the Peace Tax Fund Bill

Teachers Workshop on Bullying

Join the PYM Library Services Group

Quaker Parenting Project offers Discussion Series

Apply for Quaker Youth Pilgrimage

PYM Reunification Documentary for Sale on DVD

Friends Counseling Service

Is this your year for Pendle Hill?

Meetinghouse Paintings at Airport

Elaine Pagels Lecture Now on CD

“Silent Witness” Panels Featured in Abington Art Center 's “Lost Meeting” Exhibit

Retreats for Friends, Winter 2006 (January, February, March)

### **JANUARY 2006**

January 15 (first day) Southern Quarterly Meeting at Wicomico River Friends Meeting

January 28 (seventh day) 9:30am Threshing Session on PYM Budget

### **FEBRUARY 2006**

February 4 (seventh day) 9am Meetinghouse Maintenance Workshop

February 18 (seventh day) Earlham Program on Bible

### **MARCH 2006**

March 3-5 (sixth day) Women’s Retreat

March 31 (sixth day) Conference for Racial Justice and Equality

## Quaker Job Openings

1. Be a Volunteer Guide at Arch Street Meeting House
2. PYM Seeks Coordinator of Marketing & Hospitality for Meetinghouse
3. Two Positions Open with Friends Center Capital Campaign
4. FGC Seeks Conference Coordinator
5. Friends Fiduciary Seeks Senior Accountant
6. Pastoral Care Newsletter Seeks Editor